

Digital Twin Academic R&D Accelerator 2.0 FAQs

How long do I have to apply for this programme?

Applications open on 08 September 2026 and close on 20 October 2026 23:59. Applications must be complete and submitted by this deadline in order to be considered

When will I find out if my application has been successful?

We aim to make a decision and notify successful applicants for progression to interview by mid-November 2026

What are the key dates for the accelerator?

The accelerator is expected to start February 2027 and conclude in December 2027

Which kinds of projects could be successful?

We will fund feasibility projects, industrial research projects and experimental development projects

What funding is available to successful applicants?

Digital Catapult will grant a maximum of £225,000 to each successful applicant. The funding will be provided on a full economic costs basis. This means that the funding from Digital Catapult will cover 80% of the project costs – for example, if your project costs total £281,250, you will be able to claim for the maximum of £225,000 from Digital Catapult.

Are there projects that wouldn't be funded by this accelerator?

We are not funding projects that:

- do not demonstrate the potential to positively impact on the UK economy.
- do not demonstrate clear advancement of technology and potential application or novel application of existing technology to solve challenge
- request substantial funding for non-UK based partners or subcontractors
- do not meet the competition eligibility or scope

- do not address the size, potential and access to market for the innovation
- do not evidence the potential for their idea or concept to lead to significant return on investment (ROI), positive economic impact, growth and scale-up of a business
- do not commit to sharing their knowledge and outputs with the Digital Catapult through the UKDTC programme and wider industry.

We cannot fund projects that are:

- dependent on export performance
- dependent on domestic inputs usage

What is this accelerator looking to address?

The UK's Digital Twin opportunity depends on closing two gaps:

- Capability Gap – Many businesses lack the tools, partnerships, and funding to adopt or supply digital twin technology.
- Knowledge Gap – Tier 1 industry needs validated, research-driven approaches for scalable digital twin solutions.

Academic & R&D lays the long-term foundation, building standards, frameworks, and innovative approaches to shape future working practices and methodologies.

Two specific gaps are targeted through this call:

- Complex Live Digital Twin Interoperability
- Digital Twins for Social Innovation

Can Academic Institutions/RTOs submit multiple applications?

RTOs/academic institution applicants are encouraged to prioritise and submit one strong, focused application. Where an RTO has multiple distinct and high-quality proposals, additional applications may be submitted.

What could help my application be successful?

For proposals targeting Complex Live Digital Twin Interoperability, those exhibiting the following features will be looked upon positively:

- Use of open standards, shared information models, or semantic approaches that enable interoperability beyond bespoke, proprietary integrations.
- Practical demonstrators showing multiple Digital Twins collaborating to support end-to-end operational outcomes.

Digital Twin Academic R&D Accelerator 2.0

FAQs

For proposals targeting Digital Twins for Social Innovation, those exhibiting the following features will be looked upon positively:

- Meaningful embedding of co-design, participatory, or human-centred methods within the Digital Twin lifecycle.
- Demonstrable stakeholder or community participation in collective decision-making, with a clear route to public value.

Key target industry sectors of interest are **Maritime, Aerospace, Defence**

These are examples of potential application areas. We will consider all proposals that address the challenge areas and meet the criteria for eligibility.

Are partners or joint applicants permitted?

Only a single applicant institution is permitted to receive funding from Digital Catapult on this programme. If there are other academic institutions or industry partners that form part of your proposal, these will need to be costed appropriately.