

Innovate UK: Talent and Skills

Annual Community Conference

10 September 2025 | 09:00-16:00

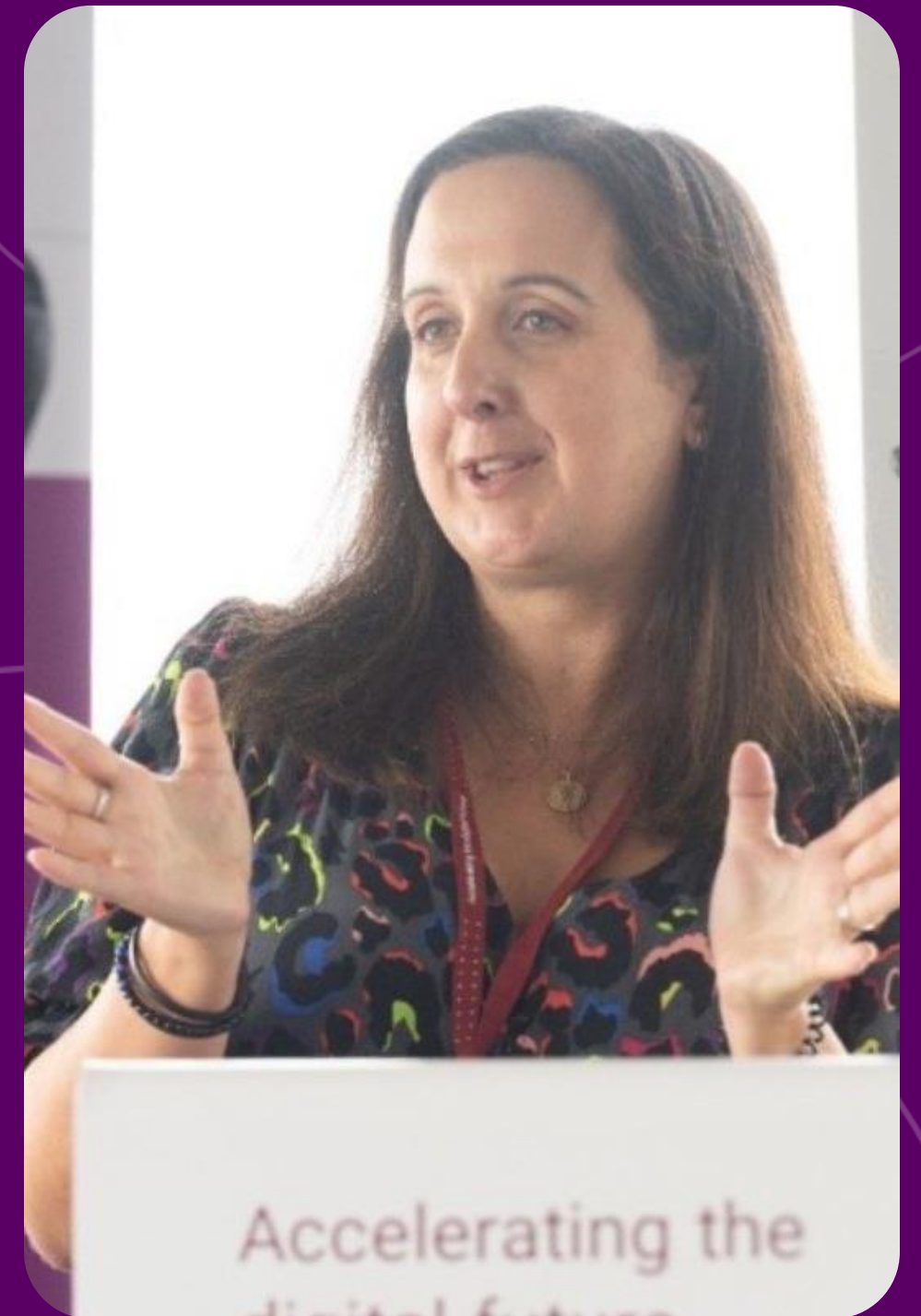


Welcome & Reflections on 2025

Debbie Johnson

Head of Innovation Talent & Skills

Innovate UK



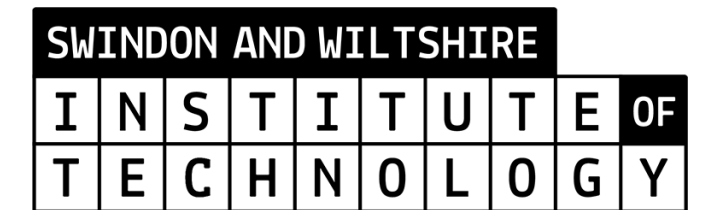
Agenda

09:30 - 09.45	Welcome, housekeeping, reflections on the year
09.45 - 10.15	In conversation: the value of getting it right
10.15 - 11.00	How to keep moving in the right direction with Talent & Skills Connect
11.00 - 11.20	BREAK
11.20 - 12.00	Moving forward: priorities and considerations for talent and skills
12.00 - 13.00	LUNCH
13.00 - 13.10	Introduction to, and intent of, workshop sessions
13.10 - 13.45	Provocation and discussion with Enginuity
13.45 - 13.50	CHANGE
13.50 - 14.30	Provocation and discussion with Cogent Skills
14.30 - 15.00	BREAK
15.00 - 15.40	Provocation and discussion with Tech Skills
15.40 - 16.00	Summary and next steps

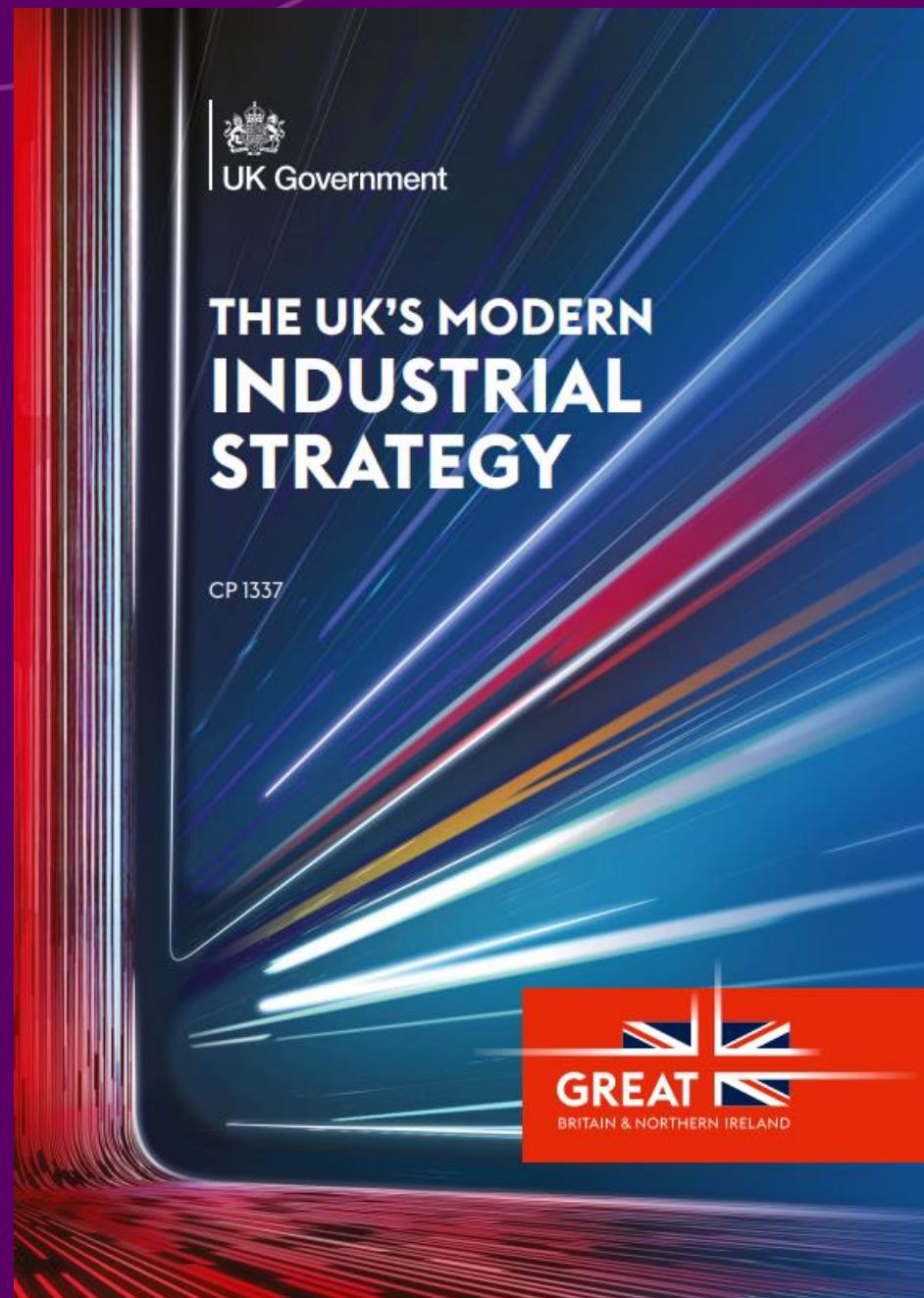
First Year Achievements

- Over 100 partners
- Five online focus events
- Three in-person events
- 40+ partner contributions
- Over 500 participants
- New online partner collaboration directory
- Online resources added





The Nation's Priorities



GOV.UK



Guidance

Assessment of priority skills to 2030

Published 12 August 2025

Applies to England

Contents

Foreword

Executive summary

Introduction

Employment demand to 2030

Education supply for priority occupations

Conclusion

Annex: methodology

– **The second is an engineering package, recognising that engineering skills are at the heart of several of the IS-8.** We will provide investment of over £100 million over three years to support engineering skills in England, working with Skills England to determine how this can increase the pipeline of skills through further and higher education and apprenticeships. With capital funding provided via the Skills Mission Fund, this will include launching Technical Excellence Colleges to address shortages in engineering, which is critical to the skills needed in priority sectors including Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy Industries and Digital and Technologies. Skills England will ensure that training and qualifications remain aligned with shifting workforce needs, including looking at funding bands to ensure they reflect delivery (working with key partners like Make UK). We will work

Press release

PM launches national skills drive to unlock opportunities for young people in tech

Pupils across the country will be given the skills and tools needed to get the AI-powered jobs of the future thanks to a new skills programme launched by the Prime Minister.

From: [Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street](#), [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology](#), [Department for Education](#) and [The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP](#)

Published 8 June 2025



- 1 million students in secondary school to be given an unprecedented chance to learn and develop their skills in tech and AI
- £187 million investment in national skills programme to bring digital skills and AI learning into classrooms and communities

Further initial investment includes:

The commitment of £54 million to bring the world's top science and tech talent to the UK. As the UK competes for the highest skilled individuals in priority industries, the launch of the government's Global Talent Taskforce signals a greater focus on targeting and attracting the brightest and best talent to supercharge growth.

A new UK Semiconductor Centre, backed by up to £19 million, will serve as a single point of contact for global firms and governments to engage with the UK semiconductor sector, helping our ambitious firms to scale-up, form new partnerships and strengthen the UK's role in global supply chains – benefiting us all in helping to grow the economy.

£35 million to scale up the recently announced Semiconductor Talent Expansion Programme – including new chip design courses for students, bursaries, schools outreach, and a proposed master's conversion course to help more people move into the sector.

Press release

Major skills boost at the heart of transformative new Defence Industrial Strategy

UK jobs and skills will be the driving force behind making the country a defence industrial leader under a transformative new strategy to be launched next week.

From: [Ministry of Defence](#), [Department for Education](#), [The Rt Hon John Healey MP](#) and [The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP](#)

Published 6 September 2025



- £182 million boost for defence talent pipeline, delivering on economic growth through the Plan for Change.
- In-demand defence technical skills to be boosted through five Defence Technical Excellence Colleges, offering new opportunities into defence jobs.
- Landmark Defence Industrial Strategy set to back British business and

Creating the space for collaboration

Talent and Skills Partners

The Talent & Skills Connect (TaSC) Partner Directory brings together businesses and organisations from across the innovation ecosystem. It's your one-stop destination to accessing products and services designed to support the Talent & Skills pipeline for innovative businesses.

Home > DIRECTORY > TALENT AND SKILLS PARTNERS

A gateway to a connected community

Developed by Innovate UK as part of Talent & Skills Connect (TaSC), the directory brings together partners from across the innovation ecosystem who are actively working to reduce fragmentation, improve access, and foster collaboration in the skills landscape.

Innovate UK is committed to developing a strong and sustainable pipeline of innovation talent and skills. As a convener in the ecosystem, we bring together partners who can contribute to this goal, making it easier for innovative businesses to navigate and access the talent and skills needed to succeed.

This directory is more than a list – it's a gateway to a connected community of education providers, employers, training bodies and skills support. The directory highlights each partner's contributions – showcasing their resources and enabling businesses to discover and engage with organisations that align with their talent and skills needs.

Facilitated introductions

Innovate UK helps match opportunities for collaboration with education providers, training organisations, and other partners to create meaningful change. The directory

Home > DIRECTORY > TALENT AND SKILLS PARTNERS > TALENT AND SKILLS PARTNER DIRECTORY

Wales (51) Organisation type Clear Filters

Organisation Name	Organisation Type	Organisation Introduction	Details
Arts and Humanities Reasearch Council (AHRC)	Research Organisation	AHRC funds outstanding original research across the whole range of the arts and humanities.	More Info
Association of Colleges (AoC)	Sector Skills Body	AoC is the national voice for further education; sixth form; tertiary and specialist colleges in England.	More Info
Association of Employment & Learning Providers (AELP)	Sector Skills Body	AELP delivers training and vocational learning for business and learners at every level post-16 years.	More Info
Bioindustry Association (BIA)	Employer Representative Body	BIA is the voice of the innovative life sciences and biotech industry.	More Info
Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)	Research Organisation	BBSRC invests to push back the frontiers of biology and deliver a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future.	More Info
BRILLIANT	Other	BRILLIANT bring together experts from education; technology and industry to collaborate; enhance learning experiences and unlock new opportunities.	More Info
Cell & Gene Therapy Catapult	Catapult/Centre of Innovation	Advancing the cell and gene therapy industry through powerful collaborations.	More Info
Centre for Process Industries (CPI)	Catapult/Centre of Innovation	CPI is your deep tech innovation partner to make your ideas a reality.	More Info
Compound Semi-Conductor Applications Catapult	Catapult/Centre of Innovation	We provide access to state-of-the-art equipment and world-leading know-how; helping business and academia bring technologies to market.	More Info

We are the national strategic advisor on design ; with a mission to galvanise the £1.97m design sector to Design for Planet.

Regions Served

East Midlands, East of England, Greater London, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humber, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

Interventions Offered

- Creation of tools; frameworks and resources that help designers and non-designers Design for Planet.
- Marketing making for the desing sector and display of what is possible through sector-leading programmes that demonstration Design for Planet relating to built environmnet and products.
- Current ambition to upskill 1 million designers in green design skills by 2030 - working on a set of interventions to achieve this.

How can we Collaborate?

- Championing existing work that is building green design skills.
- Partnering on key system-shifting interventions in order to upskill designers from school through to industry.

Request Introduction

If you'd like an introduction to this organisation, use the link below.

REQUEST INTRODUCTION



Creating the space for collaboration

- **Online Events**

- Monthly webinar focus events - first Wednesday of every month, 10:00 to 12:00
- Three community takeovers up for grabs!

- **In-Person Events**

- March 2026 Annual Conference
- July 2026 Community Conference



In Conversation

Tom Adeyoola

Exec Chair, Innovate UK



Phil Smith

Chairman
Skills England



Panel Discussion:

How to keep moving in the right direction

Panel Chair



Dr Rosie Peacock
Lead Specialist
Innovation Systems



Alex Leadley
Skills Academy Manager
CSA Catapult



Richard Caulfield
Policy Adviser
GMColleges



Steve Meader
Director - Talent & Skills
UKRI



Hareklea Markides
Innovation Lead, Transforming
Medicines Manufacturing
Innovate UK

BREAK



Panel Discussion:

How to keep moving in the right direction

Panel Chair



Dr Jennifer Postles
Lead Specialist - Innovation Systems
Innovate UK



Gary Cutts
Exec Director - Digital Technologies
Innovate UK



Clare Porter
Director for Strategic Engagement
Workforce & Skills
HVMC



Dr Kate Barclay
Skills Strategy Consultant
Bioindustry Association

LUNCH



Innovate
UK

