Technology in the UK



TECHNOLOGY IS GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND



"World No.1 in Science & Technology"

The Good Country Index 2016

Norwich, England



Welcome
to the home of world-leading technology

From the workplace to the smart home, how we communicate and organise our cities, across the world, technology is changing lives. Wherever you look – and whichever sector you look at – you'll find innovative UK tech companies leading the way.

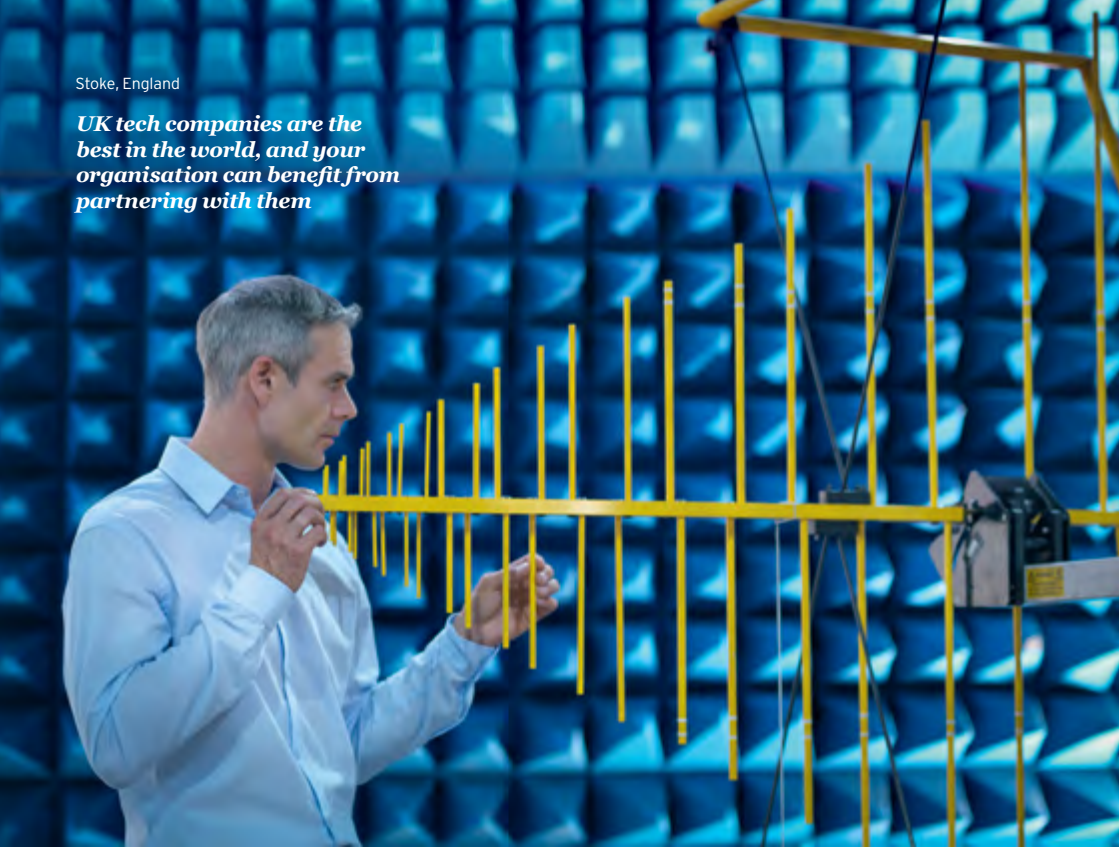
The UK is **one of the world's great technology ecosystems**. It is home to thousands of dynamic, high quality and innovative companies – from the most exciting new startups to global brands with centuries of history.

The UK was in the top three countries for total capital invested in digital tech companies from September 2016 to August 2017, behind only the US and China.

This guide will show you why

"The UK is a global leader in digital tech investment"

TechNation report 2018



Stoke, England

UK tech companies are the best in the world, and your organisation can benefit from partnering with them

A culture of innovation

The UK is at the forefront of a revolution. At the same time as consumer and business technology is rapidly changing the way we all live, the rise of our tech industry is also reshaping the way the UK works. It's an industry that's creating thousands of new and highly-skilled roles, and simultaneously transforming the workplaces, capabilities and practices of more traditional sectors.

This culture of innovation and entrepreneurial ambition continues to propel the sector to exciting new heights. The UK is experiencing **six years of continuous growth** (and no signs of stopping) and new tech jobs **being created 2.6x faster** than the rest of the economy. Wherever you look, it's evident the UK tech sector is really coming of age.

78%

The number of digital tech companies born in the UK has boomed with a 78% increase between 2009 to 2010.*

£4.5 bn

According to Pitchbook, UK digital tech companies raised £4.5 bn in venture capital; almost double the previous year.*

1.87m

Digital tech jobs in the UK.*

*TechNation 2018

Learning to excel

A sector doesn't achieve its success by chance. The technology industry is highly skilled – and needs a highly-skilled workforce to make it possible.

Computer coding is now part of the UK curriculum, being taught to children from the age of five. Along with a high level of general education the UK boasts an academic infrastructure that has long been the envy of the world. It's hardly surprising that many of our leading startups have strong connections to our universities and colleges.

The UK has also developed creative and scientific industries that contribute to the innovation, analytical expertise and original thinking that have become hallmarks of our tech industry. Because our universities and industries are truly international, we are able to attract the finest talent from across the world, creating a powerful mix of cultures, thinking and capabilities that together lay strong and flexible foundations upon which our tech industry can grow.

170

With 170 universities and higher education institutes the UK has the highest number of graduates annually of any Western European nation

The UK has four of the top five universities in Europe

1. **University of Oxford**
2. **University of Cambridge**
3. **Imperial College London**
4. ETH, Zurich
5. **University College London**

The UK has 7 out of 10 best universities in Europe

1. **University of Oxford**
2. **University of Cambridge**
3. **Imperial College London**
4. ETH, Zurich
5. **University College London**
6. **London School of Economics**
7. **University of Edinburgh**
8. LMU, Munich
9. **King's College London**
10. Karolinska Institute, Sweden

www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-europe



Oxford University

Growing stronger together

Our technology industry thrives on partnerships. It's at its most dynamic when cross-border trade and collaboration are encouraged. **The number of tech-related enterprises in the UK private sector has risen by 31% since 2010.** Through DIT, UKRI Research Councils and other partner organisations the government is using its expertise, extensive network and variety of tailored programmes to assist many of the UK's most exciting tech companies in taking the next step of exporting into international markets.

£116.5 bn

The Digital Sector contributed £116.5bn to UK economy in 2016, accounting for 6.7% of UK GVA

DCMS Economic Stats, 2017: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dcms-sectors-economic-estimates-2017-employment-and-trade)



No.1

The UK is Europe's No.1 market for software and IT services (approx. £58 billion a year)



16 towns

The UK's Silicon Suburbs and tech towns are booming with 16 towns showing a higher proportion of digital tech employment than UK average

TechNation 2018

Innovation across the nation

While the UK technology industry has a global outlook, it's also true many tech companies are thriving due to the strength and advantages of their own local clusters. These create different kinds of partnership, but ones where idea-sharing, concentration of skills and research, and minimal travel time are helping these dynamic 'ground-up' enterprises to thrive and grow.

From seaside towns to major industrial cities, areas of tech excellence have developed all across the UK, often down to local factors such as the presence of an academic institution or historical strengths in particular economy sectors.

Cambridge is a prime example of this, with its famous university playing a central role. It is home to one of the oldest and best-established clusters in the UK, and alone has given rise to 15 tech companies worth over $1 billion.

"If you start having one company, then two companies, sub groups for different applications, there is a very strong ecosystem created."

Martin Mignot, Index Ventures

But there are also others far from the populous South East. Up in Scotland, Dundee has built an enviable reputation as a tech centre including specialisms in app and software development and hardware.

This story is being replicated time and time again. Over the years, localised success stories from a few UK clusters have become a nationwide explosion.

Clustering provides competitive advantages through partnerships, ideas sharing, supply-chain efficiencies and a concentration of skills and research. Our technology clusters are playing a key role in supporting growth the length and breadth of the UK by generating products, services and expertise of a quality it's hard to replicate in another country.



A global tech city

A global city and financial centre. London is **Europe's fastest growing tech capital** and the booming UK tech industry's biggest and most important centre with over 155,600 tech-based employees.

Outside the US, London is unrivalled for major companies and contracts. London boasts **more European headquarters** than any other European city, is home to more than **42 of the UK's leading 100 tech companies** and offers **over 153 business incubators for UK startups, and 179 business accelerators in the UK.** Global tech companies choose to make London their International headquarters.

26

26 of the 69 European Unicorns* are in the UK. The UK has generated more $1bn companies than any other European country in the last year adding six to its collection of 26.

GB Bullhound

*So called because of their legendary rarity, a Unicorn is any tech startup worth over $1 billion.

Proudly made in the UK

The UK technology industry is at the vanguard of scientific and technological research. Yet many of the qualities differentiating UK tech from our competitors have been synonymous with British manufacturing and services since long before the digital age.

A global reputation for quality, reliability and ethics endures to this day. As the world changes, our uncompromising quality standards remain the hallmark of British-made goods wherever they're found. Whether it's tech products or services being purchased, if it says "Made in the UK" consumers across the world understand it's made properly.



"UK-based BSI is one of the largest providers of quality standards in the world"

7%

Consumers in developing economies are willing to spend an extra 7% for products with the "Made in Britain" label

Barclays

Garforth, Leeds, England



Selling to the world

Dynamic. Connected. Global.

UK technology products, services and expertise are making a positive difference to the way the world lives. Wherever you happen to be while reading this – and whichever model of phone sits in your pocket – chances are UK tech played an important role in creating it.

As an outward-looking nation, trade has always been integral to the UK. Many companies in the UK tech sector are already thriving internationally, and at the Department for International Trade we're focused on helping more British companies internationalise their business through trade and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Today's tech isn't constrained by national borders and, similarly, we're seeing that our ambitious tech companies refuse to let their potential markets be constrained either. They're busy forming trading partnerships with companies and governments the length and breadth of the globe. With a wide range of world-class tech specialisms to choose from, there are huge opportunities for international organisations to take advantage.

95%

Tech developed in the UK is in 95% of the world's mobile phones

ARM® technology

5 reasons to choose UK technology

1. **Extraordinary technology**
   A wealth of successful companies designing and making innovative, high-quality tech.
2. **Global expertise**
   Strong intercontinental ties, world-class servicing, supply-chain security and a focus on overseas markets.
3. **Ready to trade**
   Government policies and cultural attitudes that make it easy and competitive to trade with the UK.
4. **Consumer preference**
   The reputation of British-made helps sell to your markets on the basis of innovation, reliability and quality.
5. **Commercial help and support**
   Global support, advice and a range of focused schemes make it easy to source, switch to and buy British technology.

Discover how to partner with the UK's world-leading tech sector at great.gov.uk

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Department for International Trade

great.gov.uk

DIT
The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) has overall responsibility for promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our economy. We are a specialised government body with responsibility for negotiating international trade policy, supporting business, as well as delivering an outward-looking trade diplomacy strategy.

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Published August 2018 by Department for International Trade.

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