



Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

DSIT Tech Secondeers: Project/candidate specification

Context:

We are offering an exciting opportunity for a member of the VC community to join us for a three month secondment at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. This role within the Tech Sector Team will offer the successful candidate substantial exposure to government policy-making and opportunity to be part of a team which is leading the government's engagement with the brightest and best innovators in the UK. The successful candidate will be part of a team which is dedicated to making the UK tech sector thrive.

This will also be an opportunity for government to learn from industry, including about barriers to growth and strengthening government's understanding of the tech ecosystem to ultimately enhance our commitment to ensuring the UK is the best place to invest in technology and innovation.

About the Tech Sector Team (TST):

The Tech Sector Team's role is to lead on engagement with the Tech Sector, whilst also developing, influencing and supporting policies that support the sector to thrive.

Through our engagement and policies, we are working to deliver against the Government's mission to be the most innovative economy in the world and to cement the UK's position as a Science and Technology Superpower by 2030.

Across government, the Tech Sector Team advocates for consistent engagement with the tech community and ensures that policies support digital and tech growth.

Our team has been working across government and industry to drive forward a set of actions to grow the digital workforce, tackle the digital skills gap and support a diverse range of people into digital roles. These actions include the launch of the **Digital Skills Council**, and supporting the Home Office with **visa routes for digital jobs**.

The Tech Sector Team also manages the **£12m Digital Growth Grant**, delivered by Barclays Eagle Labs, to accelerate the growth of tech startups and scaleups across the country. Support provided by Eagle Labs and their specialist partners includes accelerator programmes, research on the tech sector, mentorship opportunities, and learning resources for entrepreneurs and young people.

Externally, we engage with key stakeholders to better understand the opportunities and barriers facing company growth and success. We also utilise milestone moments, such as London Tech Week, to amplify and promote the UK's credentials to national and international audiences through milestone moments and a drumbeat of comms.

About the Tech Sector Growth Team:

The primary purpose of the Tech Sector Team's Growth branch is to:

- Support an environment where the UK is one of the most attractive countries for digital tech businesses to start, scale and stay.
- Effectively communicate the strengths of the UK tech ecosystem to key and influential investors.
- Understand the barriers to tech sector growth and where we can support in overcoming them, including working with other government departments.
- Build strategic relationships with a set of UK companies who are having a beneficial impact on society and the economy, as well as spreading regional opportunities.

Project overview (VC secondee):

The VC Secondee role will have three primary objectives. This list is not exhaustive and subject to change and discussion upon appointment:

- (1) Lead a project mapping the tech VC investor landscape in the UK.** The successful applicant will have a degree of freedom to shape the scope of this research project, however the main output would be a research paper which summarises the dynamics underpinning the VC tech ecosystem in the UK, and policy recommendations as to how this could be improved. **(40%)***
- (2) Deepen HMG's understanding of the VC landscape.** This will be done through informal shadowing and providing insights which shape our strategic approach to engagement and policy development. This will also take the form of 'teach-ins', workshops, and other lesson-learning opportunities. **(40%)***
- (3) Broaden industry's understanding of what HMG is doing to support the tech industry.** As part of DSIT's outreach, it is vital that we continue to cultivate a deeper relationship between government and industry to better understand the challenges our brightest innovators are facing. **(20%)***

**Percentages are estimates.*

Deliverables and outputs:

- An in-depth stakeholder map outlining the key players within the UK's tech ecosystem and pinpointing areas which require additional HMG support.
- Supporting policy development and providing additional layers of expertise and analysis.
- Prioritisation and recommendation of policy programmes to best suit the needs of the ecosystem.

Candidate specification

Essential:

- Currently working in a UK-based VC firm
- Experience of investing in high-tech high-growth high-impact tech businesses
- Deep understanding of the UK investment landscape

Desired:

- Experience managing complex projects
- Strong strategy, engagement and policy development experience.
- Excellent analytical and evaluation skills.
- Excellent organisational skills and ability to deliver high quality work at pace.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills. Ability to credibly engage with domestic and international stakeholders across government and industry;

Location

- Anywhere in the UK, with occasional travel to London or other tech hub locations in the UK.

Timing:

Approx 3 months - we are open to flexible and part-time working arrangements

Contact:

Interested applicant should submit an expression of interest to both:

techsectorgrowth@dcms.gov.uk and techsecondments@dcms.gov.uk