techUK
FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Industrial Strategy One Year On:

Digital & Tech Sector Plan Tracker

June 2026

The Industrial Strategy's Digital & Technologies Sector Plan: 1 Year On

Methodology

techUK's tracker is intended to inform government, industry and other stakeholders about the delivery of the Industrial Strategy's Digital and Technologies Sector Plan.

The tracker monitors what the D&T Sector Plan refers to as "interventions", the government commitments that conclude each of the Plan's sections. The Plan has 13 of these sections: one for each of the six pillars to improve the operating environment for digital and technology businesses; one for each of the six frontier technologies; and one for interventions in the UK's city regions and clusters.

The dashboard is formed of three columns:

(1.) Intervention summarises the D&T Sector Plan's interventions.

(2.) Implementation assesses the extent to which the government has delivered this intervention. Assessment is based primarily on a review of government announcements and press releases etc. It *does not* assess the impact of the intervention; it only assesses whether the government has implemented the intervention in the way that the D&T Sector Plan describes.

- Green shading represents full implementation
- Yellow represents partial implementation
- Red represents no or very limited implementation

(3.) Impact assesses the extent to which the government's interventions have had a tangible, real-world impact on the digital and technology sector. It goes beyond narrow implementation and considers the outcomes arising from that implementation. Assessment is based primarily on feedback from techUK's members and the impact of the policies they have already noticed or expect to notice.

- Green shading represents strong positive impact
    - Based on member feedback that suggests policy interventions are already having a positive impact or are expected to have a positive impact very soon
- Yellow represents limited positive impact
- Red represents no or negative impact

Parts of the dashboard refer to polling commissioned by techUK and conducted by Public First between 24 February and 6 March 2026. Public First polled 531 businesses (275 tech businesses and 256 non-tech). Although this polling cannot be used to monitor the impact of the Industrial Strategy, it provides some indication of the types of policy interventions that are likely to be well received by the technology sector.

Boosting R&D Investment

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Commit to long-term investment by establishing 10-year R&D budgets for key institutions, including the National Quantum Computing Centre.	The government has committed to ten-year budgets for the National Quantum Computing Centre and the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology. The government has also announced that the DRIVE35 programme and Aerospace Technology Institute have ten-year funding commitments. Most other R&D spending continues to be structured around shorter multi-year Spending Review cycles, with the 2025 Spending Review covering only four financial years to 2029/30.	techUK members express enthusiasm for the £4 billion allocated to the six frontier technologies and £86 billion committed to R&D overall until 2029/30. However, they note that the 2026/27 financial year only recently began, so these R&D interventions have not yet had significant impact. They also note that the 10-year R&D budgets – while a positive signal – need to be maintained over the long term. According to techUK-Public First polling, these kinds of R&D interventions are likely to be welcomed by the tech sector: 39% of tech companies identify R&D support as the most impactful form of government support (the fourth most favoured policy intervention).
Investing in priority frontier technologies through the government's record Spending Review settlement for R&D	UKRI has allocated almost £4 billion to the six frontier technologies until 2029/30. This forms part of the government's total £86 billion investment in R&D between 2026/27-2029/30.	
Invest in scale-up infrastructure for frontier technologies to support businesses to conduct critical R&D and scale-up products	Scale-Up Infrastructure Programme for Engineering Biology has been allocated greater investment than the £184m initially earmarked in the D&T Sector Plan. Other examples include investment in AI compute infrastructure (including the AI Research Resource), quantum facilities such as the National Quantum Computing Centre, the National Cyber Innovation Centre (not yet built), and new semiconductor design and innovation centres.	
Innovate UK will change its rules to allow R&D grants and loans to be used to purchase specialist equipment.	Innovate UK updated its policy for Innovation Loans in July 2025 to include capital equipment and production scale-up assets. UKRI grants will now fund all equipment purchases at 80% of their full economic cost.	
Reform and streamline UKRI funding routes to make it easier for businesses to navigate different funding streams.	UKRI has simplified its top-level funding structure, moving to a more outcomes-focused model aligned to strategic ('bucket') priorities linked to national objectives.	

Increasing Access to Finance

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Commit £4bn of Industrial Strategy Growth Capital through the British Business Bank. Double investment in new fund managers. Make direct investments of up to £60m in strategically important companies.	The BBB has confirmed the £4bn Industrial Strategy Growth Capital (ISGC) in its statement of strategic priorities and five-year plan. The ISGC has expanded the BBB's investment arm, allowing it to invest £2 billion annually in VC funds, private debt and direct equity. The five-year plan commits to doubling the BBB's investments into funds supporting growth-stage funds.	The BBB made its largest direct investment into a British company (£100m into Oxford Quantum Circuits), surpassing the £60m ceiling implied in the Plan. Additionally, BBB has invested £50 million each into two venture capital funds, Epidarex Capital (life sciences) and IQ Capital (deep tech). BBB is also working with deeptech VC Playground Global to make a cornerstone commitment of up to £150m to their new UK-focused fund. There appears to be some progress in unlocking pension funds, with pension capital invested into companies like techUK member Wayve and Elliptic. The NSSIF fund is being deployed with recent commitments including Seraphim Space Ventures II. This impact appears to be broadly consistent with techUK-Public First polling, which found that a majority of UK tech businesses found access to finance easy (54%), although this varied between large businesses (67%) and SMEs (42%). Despite this initial positive impact, more work remains to be done on access to finance.
Commit up to £330m through NSSIF to drive investment in dual-use technology businesses.	Ministers have confirmed that the NSSIF has been allocated up to £330m at the Spending Review, to be deployed across 2026/27 to 2029/30 in dual-use science and technology companies.	
Launch a second year of the Science and Technology Venture Capital Fellowship scheme	Applications for the second cohort closed in September 2025. The scheme is running from Nov2025-Sept2026.	
Reform public markets and the pensions system to encourage investment at scale, including through the Pensions Schemes Bill	The Pension Schemes Act 2026 received Royal Assent in April 2026, providing the legislative framework to consolidate DC pension funds and unlock investment at scale. The Act includes a reserve power for the government to set targets for pension schemes to invest in a broader range of private assets. This is intended to support the voluntary Mansion House Accord.	
Facilitate access to global capital through an enhanced Office for Investment and expand UK Export Finance support to reach over 1,000 SMEs per year by 2029.	Office for Investment has expanded and is structured around the 8 Industrial Strategy sectors. Ministers confirmed OfI has bolstered its regional presence, collaborating with Mayors and Devolved Administrations. UKEF has introduced new products to support SME exporters, including the Small Export Builder insurance product.	
Establish a working group to address barriers to lending for IP-rich SMEs, with the BBB and IPO exploring how to support and encourage IP-backed lending.	A cross-government working group and the IPO's Industry IP Finance Advisory Group are exploring measures to improve lending to IP-rich SMEs. The Entrepreneurship Prospectus published alongside the November 2025 Budget asked the BBB to explore using its existing guarantee capacity to support IP-backed lending, but next steps and timeline remain unclear.	

Creating a Skilled Workforce

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Invest in Technical Excellence Colleges to increase specialist and practical skills, informed by the Industrial Strategy priority clusters.	Evidence of investment across two waves: £100 million for 10 colleges announced in August 2025 focused on construction, followed by £175 million invested to open 19 new colleges in April 2026 covering advanced manufacturing, clean energy, defence and digital technologies, aiming to train 65,000 learners in Industrial Strategy priority sectors.	techUK members have noted that while the impact of these interventions is too early to be felt, this will likely have a positive impact in the medium-to-long term New technical colleges are in the process of being established across advanced manufacturing, clean energy, defence and digital technologies. There has been strong collaboration with industry on these. For example, Siemens and other industry partners supported Newcastle and Stafford College Group (NSCG)'s successful bid to lead an advanced manufacturing technical excellence college, collaborating around areas such as curriculum design, equipment donation and skills training. On the Digital and Technology Sector Jobs Plan, techUK is pleased to be working closely with DSIT and the Digital Skills Council to develop the Plan. The first wave of research talent is being brought to the UK through the Global Talent Fund. The House of Lords Science & Technology Committee notes that "the scale of resources allocated to the Fund is tiny compared with the scale of the opportunity." techUK-Public First polling found that 56% of tech companies view AI and digital skills training as the most impactful form of government intervention, the highest of any measured.
Deliver a clear skills strategy through Skills England, co-designed with employers and the Digital Skills Council, bringing together local authorities, universities, education institutions and devolved governments to address sector skills needs.	Skills England has published an analysis on sector skills needs in the Digital and Technology Sector and an assessment of priority skills. Government has moved away from a whole-of-economy skills strategy and is developing instead a Digital and Technology sector jobs plan. Publication is likely to occur in Autumn 2026.	
Attract top tech talent through a new Global Talent Taskforce and Global Talent Fund to bring world-class researchers to the UK.	Global Talent Fund launched as a £54 million fund, awarded to 12 selected UK research organisations, enabling them to rapidly recruit and embed teams of international researchers by covering relocation, visa and research costs. Grants start in 2025/26 and run for five years, aiming to attract 60 to 80 leading researchers across Industrial Strategy priority sectors. Global Talent Taskforce also established in 2025.	
Introduce short courses in digital, AI and engineering in England funded through the Growth and Skills Levy, working with Skills England to prioritise rollout.	Short courses funded through the Growth and Skills Levy have begun rolling out from April 2026 as planned, structured as short "apprenticeship units" drawn from existing standards. Skills England, now established as an executive agency, is responsible for developing further standards and determining subsequent waves	

Enhancing Infrastructure

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Introduce the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme from 2027 and increase Network Charging Compensation from 60% to 90% proposed transmission investment for 2026-2031.[1]	BICS will exempt eligible energy-intensive manufacturers from Renewables Obligation, Feed-in Tariff and Capacity Market costs from April 2027, with eligibility determined by SIC codes and electricity intensity. Despite the expansion covering a further 3,000 businesses, strategically important sectors including digital infrastructure – such as data centres and telecoms networks – remain excluded.	techUK members cite high energy costs and slow grid connections as a major challenge, which confirms that these interventions have not had the desired impact. Reinforcing this feedback from members, techUK-Public First polling suggests that energy costs are the greatest weakness of operating in the UK, as 37% of tech businesses chose this as their biggest challenge. 35% of tech businesses say reducing energy prices is among the most important decisions government could take in the next five years. With only 12 data centres projects expedited through the Connections Accelerator Service, this is unlikely to make a material difference.
Launch a Connections Accelerator Service to prioritise grid connections for high-value demand projects, building on £30 billion of secured strategic investment.	Although the government states that priority projects worth over £2.5bn were expedited over the last nine months as part of the Connections Accelerator Service, we understand that only 12 projects within the CAS are data centres, so this will not make a material difference to the overall queue. There is also a mismatch in timing, as DESNZ recently consulted on criteria that will be used to determine strategically important demand projects; however, some projects have already been informed that they are part of the CAS before DESNZ has responded to the consultation or clarified criteria.	
Refresh the NSIP regime to include data centres and fast-track 150 major infrastructure planning decisions by end of Parliament through the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.	The Infrastructure Planning (Business or Commercial Projects) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 formally recognised data centres as eligible for consideration under the NSIP consenting regime. The amendment came into force in January 2026 However, to support this amendment, DSIT also committed to a National Policy Statement for data centres, which has not been released.	

[1] Intervention was not part of the Digital & Tech Sector plan but was a combination of interventions from the Modern Industrial Strategy document. It has been included in this tracker as it is a key concern for techUK members

Delivering Pro-Innovation Regulation

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Commission the Regulatory Horizons Council to develop a framework for regulators to take more proportionate risks with respect to technologies and innovation	Department for Business & Trade published in February 2026 the Core Regulatory Skills Framework, which appears to be a step towards supporting regulators to take more proportionate risks. (The Regulatory Horizons Council became part of the Regulatory Innovation Office in October 2025.)	Although members are broadly positive about the direction of travel, many feel that implementation has been slower than expected, with DBT and DSIT yet to move at the pace needed to drive regulatory innovation at scale. Having said this, real progress is being made with the Smart Data Strategy, published in March 2026 and backed by at least £36 million over four years. It sets a meaningful framework for data-sharing across the economy. The first UK Digital Standards Summit in March 2026 also brought together domestic and international stakeholders to explore the role of digital standards across AI and quantum. According to techUK-Public First polling, the kinds of interventions on regulation set out in the D&T Sector Plan are likely to be welcomed by the tech sector and could generate some tangible impact: 30% of tech businesses say that simplifying regulations around new technologies is something government could do in the next five years to help their business grow. A further 28% say that developing clear guidelines around AI tools would also help.
Deliver the regulation recommendations in the AI Opportunities Action Plan in full, working with regulators to identify AI capability needs and report publicly on AI innovation activity.	According to the AI Opportunities Action Plan: One Year On (January 2026) 38 of the 50 key recommendations had been met within the first twelve months. However, progress on the regulation recommendations specifically has been more limited, with only 50% of those commitments delivered.	
Invest up to £12m in UK Data Sharing Infrastructure Initiatives from April 2026 to improve data governance, interoperability and trust across sectors.	The £12 million Data Sharing Infrastructure commitment was reiterated in the UK's Smart Data Strategy (March 2026). This is supporting £3.75 million in funding in 2026/27 for the National Digital Twins Programme and it will be used to support the data-related aspect of the AI Champions' AI Adoption Plans through 2028/29. The Smart Data Strategy is backed by at least £36 million over four years and sets a wider framework for data-sharing across the economy	
Launch a call for evidence on Smart Data regulation	DSIT launched the call for evidence on Smart Data opportunities in digital markets on 28 July 2025, which closed on 15 September 2025. Findings were summarised in the Smart Data 2035 strategy published in March 2026, and the full government response was subsequently published.	
Encourage innovation and adoption of technology by developing and implementing a Digital Standards Strategy to improve coordination and coherence around objectives	No Digital Standards Strategy has yet been published. However, DSIT hosted the first UK Digital Standards Summit on 17 March 2026, bringing together domestic and international stakeholders to explore the role of digital standards across technologies including AI and quantum, indicating the strategy is in development.	

Securing International Partnerships

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Build international digital and technology partnerships, including through the UK-US economic deal, the Science & Technology Network and the next phase of the International Science Partnerships Fund.	The UK and US signed the Technology Prosperity Deal MoU in September 2025, but implementation stalled in December 2025. The UK also launched an Industrial Strategy Partnership with Japan. The Science and Technology Network was relaunched in February 2025, before the Industrial Strategy. The government also provided additional funding to the International Science Partnership Fund.	Members have pointed out that it is important for members UK to remain open to working with likeminded partners, to convene international partners (states and companies) to tackle security, adoption and skills challenges and to remain at the forefront of a pro-innovation approach. On market access, the Government must make it an immediate priority to secure the UK's position within the EU sovereignty arrangements. It should also recognise that the lapsing of the e-commerce moratorium requires the UK to pursue greater digital partnerships, continue sponsoring the plurilateral e-commerce agreement, and work to reinstate the moratorium to maintain free and open digital trade. According to techUK-Public First polling, there is a clear appetite for more government action on trade. 29% of tech companies want new international trade agreements, placing it in the top five most desired government interventions, while 28% want better access to EU markets specifically and 26% want improved access to markets outside the EU.
Invest in critical supply chains to strengthen domestic capabilities through a whole-of-government effort including, from the next financial year, MoD spending at least 10% of its equipment budget on novel technologies.	This commitment was reinforced in the Defence Industrial Strategy published in September 2025. The 10% novel technology commitment is backed by UK Defence Innovation's £400 million ringfenced budget, but delays to the Defence Investment Plan means there is considerable uncertainty about how the £400m will actually be spent.	
Supporting UK regulators, expert bodies and our overseas trade teams to shape the international operating environment and open markets to growth-driving sectors, including digital and technologies, through the new Trade Strategy.	The Trade Strategy was published in June 2025. The Ricardo Fund, set out in the Strategy, is intended to support UK regulators and trade teams, and digital and technologies is one of the priority sectors	

Advanced Connectivity Technologies (ACT)

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Drive ACT development through a four-year £240m research programme bringing together industry and academia, focused on commercialisation across defence, transport and telecoms.	UK's ACT R&D programme was launched in March 2026. Funding calls are live through UKRI and Innovate UK across secure and resilient networks, sustainable networks, non-terrestrial networks, RF-enabled applications and system-level integration.	Overall, there has been positive progress across commitments in ACT, with clear impact with GCOT expansion, the delivery of the D2D satellite framework and funding calls live as part of the UK's ACT R&D programme. These steps will provide access to facilities and resources to strengthen the UK's position in ACT development. Overall, the direction of travel is positive, but the impact of these interventions will become more evident over time.
Invest £130m to strengthen ACT lab infrastructure, including the UK Telecoms Lab and a new partnership across the Digital, Compound Semiconductor and Satellite Applications catapults.	Government suggests it has committed £110m in the UK Telecoms Lab through a four-year contract with the National Physical Laboratory, but there are few concrete details.	
Ensure spectrum availability to support ACT by collaborating with Ofcom and international counterparts ahead of World Radio Conference 2027.	Ofcom has taken a number of steps to deliver on commitment, notably the D2D satellite framework. WRC 27 preparations are also underway.	
Deepen international ACT collaboration with Japan, India, the US and EU and shape 6G technical standards through the Global Coalition on Telecoms.	GCOT has expanded with seven members and published concrete 6G Security & Resilience Principles at MWC in March 2026. The bilateral partnerships with Japan (which pre-dated the Industrial Strategy) and India have been confirmed.	

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Commit £1bn to scale up AI Research Resource capacity 20 times by 2030 and up to £750m for a new supercomputer in Edinburgh.	AIRR expansion is underway with investments in DAWN supercomputer and procurement underway for cloud capacity. Edinburgh supercomputer is expected to come online in 2027.	The impact of these interventions is mixed. On the one hand, AIRR expansion is well received. Full impact will be felt when infrastructure is operational but will position UK well in terms of R&D capability. The impact of Sovereign AI has been positive for the three AI start-ups that received direct equity investments and for the six further companies that received compute agreements for their work in areas such as biological foundation models, agentic AI and AI for national security. The long-term impact and success of Sovereign AI will depend on their criteria for supporting and procuring from firms. Conversely, the ongoing uncertainty around AI and copyright risks having a negative impact on the UK's operating environment. It was cited by OpenAI as a reason for pausing Stargate UK. A clear and enabling framework for AI innovation is required and getting the right approach around AI and copyright is key to this, particularly as international competitors are moving ahead. It is too early to tell the impact of the AI for Science Strategy and the recent AI Adoption announcements.
Invest £500m in a new Sovereign AI Unit to build UK frontier AI capabilities in partnership with the private sector, drawing on investment, data, compute and talent.	Sovereign AI Unit launched in April 2026.	
Deliver an AI and copyright framework balancing rightsholder licensing with AI developer access to creative material, informed by consultation responses, an economic impact assessment and expert working groups.	Government has delayed a definitive decision on AI and copyright. In March 2026, the government effectively parked the discussion on text and data mining. No timetable for resolution has been given. The government has brought forward other workstreams, including on digital replicas, labelling AI-generated content, a review of transparency measures for creators.	
Promote AI adoption through a new AI Adoption Fund and regional business support to help businesses integrate AI into their operations	Although no AI Adoption Fund emerged as a result of the Industrial Strategy, this proposal has since been superseded by the AI Adoption Summit in June 2026, where the government allocated some £200m for AI adoption.	
Accelerate AI-enabled scientific breakthroughs through targeted support for AI tool development and interdisciplinary research in UK strategic priority areas.	The AI for Science Strategy was published in November 2025 and earmarks up to £137 million to support AI-enabled scientific breakthroughs in the priority areas of advanced materials, fusion energy, medical research, engineering biology and quantum technologies. The strategy focuses on data infrastructure, compute access through AIRR, and training at least 1,000 AI-fluent researchers over five years.	

Cybersecurity

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Support commercialisation of cyber research through an initial £10 million to expand Cyber ASAP to support 25 academic teams annually and confirm £2 million for the Cyber AI Hub in Belfast.	Registration for Cyber ASAP Year 10 Cohort opened in early 2026, although precise funding allocation is uncertain. £2 million for the Cyber AI Hub at Queen's University Belfast confirmed in August 2025.	Cyber ASAP has completed Year 9 cohort. Investment in the CyberAI security hub will address gaps in AI-enabled cybersecurity research in Northern Ireland The Cyber Runway accelerator programme has helped 48 startups across five workstreams It is still too early to tell impact, but members are positive about the implementation of cyber interventions, seeing them as supportive of the sector's development in the UK. However, they have called for the expansion of certain elements, such as R&D frameworks and international collaboration, to further strengthen the UK's position and maximise the sector's potential.
Provide support to start-ups through an initial £6 million to build on the work of our Cyber Runway accelerator to support 60 start-ups annually across all growth stages.	Cyber Runway has expanded, although precise funding allocation is uncertain.	
Grow domestic cyber talent through CyberFirst bursaries and skills partnerships supporting the National Cyber Force and defence and intelligence communities.	CyberFirst has been absorbed into the broader TechFirst package, announced in June 2025 with £187 million of investment. The undergraduate scholarship will support approximately 600 students from Autumn 2026, with 250 transferring from the existing CyberFirst bursary and 350 new students. No evidence of new partnerships focused on the National Cyber Force or defence and intelligence communities beyond existing GCHQ placement arrangements.	
Promote the adoption of technologies that are secure by design through an initial £24 million to promote using the Capability Hardware Enhanced RISC Instructions (CHERI) blueprint for designing the next generation of secure chips.	Allocated £21 million in November 2025 to advance hardware-based cybersecurity through the CHERI architecture, channelled through Innovate UK and DSIT. The funding supports integration of CHERI into commercial processors and national infrastructure, with projects underway at EnSilica, SCI Semiconductor and LowRISC. Contracts were to support businesses to accelerate the availability of CHERI-enabled devices and to develop CHERI tools and software components	
Publish a Cyber Growth Action Plan in summer 2025 to provide a roadmap for future growth.	Cyber Growth Action Plan published in September 2025 setting out the roadmap for the UK to reinforce its position as a global leader in cyber resilience and innovation.	

Engineering Biology (EngBio)

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Invest £196m in a National Engineering Biology Programme to drive cross-economy R&D and researcher-led innovation in transformative engineering biology applications.	Details are limited, but close reading of UKRI's budget allocation suggests that £643m has been allocated to Engineering Biology, to be split between National Engineering Biology Programme and Engineering Biology Scale-Up Infrastructure. If correct, this would represent an increase on the Industrial Strategy funding commitment.	Limited impact observed. However, the 15 SPARK Awards provide early evidence of the Engineering Biology Network connecting researchers and innovators.
Invest £184m in an Engineering Biology Scale-up Infrastructure Programme to build and upgrade pilot and scale-up facilities connected to innovator needs.	As above.	
Partner with the RIO to accelerate responsible adoption for engineering biology through the Engineering Biology Sandbox Fund.	Regulatory Sandbox Round 2 closed in July 2025, with funding from RIO. Further collaboration on agile regulation with MHRA and Food Standards Agency.	
Connect all parts of the ecosystem by building networks of researchers, innovators and larger companies through new schemes like the UKRI Engineering Biology Innovation Network.	Engineering Biology Network launched in June 2025, led by Innovate UK Business Connect in collaboration with Innovate UK and UKRI's Technology Missions Fund. The Network has funded 15 SPARK Awards to accelerate development of new EngBio products or services.	
Take the next step on international leadership by working bilaterally and multilaterally with trusted partners to shape the global engineering biology research, innovation and business environment to ensure that the UK remains a priority destination for investment.	International collaboration is active with a UK-Japan bilateral engineering biology programme backed by £5 million through the International Science Partnerships Fund, and BBSRC committing £9.9 million to an NSF-led multilateral bioeconomy initiative spanning the US, Canada, Japan, South Korea and Finland. However, both commitments predate the Industrial Strategy and build on pre-existing frameworks, rather than representing new partnerships that have arisen directly from it.	

Quantum

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Progress five National Quantum Missions, including deploying quantum navigation, sensing and networking, backed by £670m for quantum computing development and adoption.	In March 2026, the Government announced a quantum investment package worth up to £2 billion. This includes £1 billion for procuring large-scale quantum computers (ProQure) and an additional £1 billion over four years to invest in technology development, skills and facilities.	There is genuine enthusiasm and optimism from techUK members around this suite of quantum interventions. The £2 billion investment package represents a significant step-change in the UK's commitment to quantum and far exceeds the £670 million commitment initially set out in the D&T Sector Plan. While deployment is at an early stage, the scale of ambition and funding signals strong momentum, with impact expected to become increasingly visible over the coming years. Applications for ProQure closed in May and the first round of contracts is expected in October. Progress across infrastructure, regulation and international collaborations is expected to keep the UK on track to achieve its quantum ambitions and remain competitive globally. techUK members are positive about the 10-year R&D budget for the NQCC but caution it must stand the test of time. A skills action plan will be required, however, to develop the quantum skills pipeline and match skills supply with sector's needs.
Provide a 10-year funding commitment for the UK's flagship National Quantum Computing Centre (NQCC) to expand its work on quantum computing development, readiness and adoption.	In June 2025, Government published criteria for awarding 10-year R&D funding settlement to NQCC.	
Enable access to infrastructure, develop an innovative regulatory environment and deliver a series of deep international collaborations across research, industry and regulation.	The NQCC is operational and the ProQure programme launched in March 2026. The Regulatory Horizons Council published a pro-innovation quantum regulatory framework with 14 recommendations. International collaborations have been established with Japan, Germany, Singapore, Canada and California, including a UK-Japan MoU on quantum computing and a £6 million joint R&D call with Germany launching in 2026.	
Develop a skills action plan with the sector, informed by the recommendations and findings of the Quantum Skills Taskforce, to ensure we have the necessary skills to capitalise on the opportunities presented.	No standalone quantum skills action plan has been published. A £3 million EPSRC quantum skills and training programme was awarded to the Quantum Technology Hubs in April 2025. Moreover, government has made a number of interventions in this space including two new quantum-focused Centres for Doctoral Training in Scotland, up to £11.3 million for a new Centre for Quantum Commercialisation Skills, an additional £8 million over four years to expand the quantum apprenticeship programme, and TechFirst funding to support up to 100 industry internships and increased stipends for up to 50 quantum doctoral students.	

Semiconductors

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Establish a UK Semiconductor Centre with up to £19m to bring together industry, academia and government on semiconductor innovation, R&D roadmaps and ecosystem building.	The UK Semiconductor Centre launched its HQ at the Institute of Physics (London) in April 2026. UKSC's first CEO (Andy McLean) was appointed in May 2026.	Members have flagged that it remains unclear how IKCs will support industry or add to existing innovation infrastructure. However, they also recognise that it will take time for the UK Semiconductor Centre, new IKCs and new training programmes to have the desired effect. Members see value in the UK Semiconductor Centre and are encouraged by its ambition, particularly its potential to better coordinate clusters, which currently operate with limited visibility of one another. They also see value in it becoming a central resource to help businesses navigate and access funding opportunities. However, its role remains somewhat unclear at this stage, and impact has yet to be demonstrated. techUK members see the skills programme as a positive step but have pointed to the need for a broader scope and more funding to match that of international counterparts and address looming skills shortages. The AI Hardware Plan, announced in early June 2026, aims to increase government support for semiconductor innovation, skills, procurement and investment. Given how recently the Plan was published, techUK members are still assimilating its implications and expected impact.
Fund Innovation and Knowledge Centres (IKCs) to help bring chip technologies to market, with £25 million to launch two new IKCs in Neuromorphic Computing Hardware and Heterogeneous Integration System	Neuroware – the UK's first Innovation and Knowledge Centre dedicated to neuromorphic computing hardware – was launched in October 2025 with £12.8m funding from EPSRC and Innovate UK. under UCL's leadership. CHIMES – the IKC dedicated to heterogeneous integration – was established in March 2026 with about £16m funding.	
Launch a Chip Design Enablement Programme with up to £5m to provide tools, talent and expertise to boost chip design innovation including for AI and emerging architectures.	Further details on the Chip Design Enablement Programme are limited, but the University of Southampton and UKRI's Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC) appear to be collaborating on the programme.	
Invest £35m in a UK-wide semiconductor skills programme including bursaries, STEM outreach and a new Centre for Doctoral Training in Future Semiconductor Skills.	The £35 million skills programme encompasses multiple strands of delivery. Early delivery is underway through the Semiconductor Talent Award, delivered via the UK Electronics Skills Foundation as part of the government-funded Semiconductor Skills, Talent and Education Programme (STEP), which has supported over 300 undergraduates across 30 universities from September 2025. The Centre for Doctoral Training in Future Semiconductor Skills has been established, led by Swansea University in partnership with the University of Leeds and backed by £18 million in total investment, aiming to train up to 60 PhD students over five cohorts, with the first cohort of up to six studentships starting in October 2026.	

Supporting City Regions & Clusters

Intervention	Implementation	Impact
Invest up to £500m in the Local Innovation Partnerships Fund to grow high-potential innovation clusters across the UK, with at least £30m earmarked for 10 regions and a competition for all other areas.	Fund launched and began accepting bids in October 2025, with both the earmarked and competed strands open for bids. Both strands closed in February 2026. Seven regions were confirmed through the competed strand in April 2026 (Tay Cities, Great South West, Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor, Greater Lincolnshire, South West Wales, East Midlands, Hull and East Yorkshire and Tees Valley).	Early indicators of impact are relatively positive, but with some significant gaps. The Local Innovation Partnerships Fund has started to disburse funding. For example, Liverpool City Region has announced two projects, led by the University of Liverpool, will receive £23.7m of its £30m allocation. On the other hand, members have pointed to the funding being difficult to access and have called for more funding that can go towards R&D and collaboration on local issues such as Local Government Reorganisation. techUK members report some optimism around the Newport Investment Zone. In contrast, techUK members have significant reservations around AIGZs concerning, for example, high energy prices and lengthy grid connection delays. OpenAI cited electricity costs as a reason for pausing Stargate UK in the northeast AIGZ. Members have highlighted that a lack of joined up policy interventions to support these projects prevents them from reaching their full potential and scaling into national models.
Establish AI Growth Zones in strategic locations across the UK to deliver on the AI Opportunities Action Plan.	Five AIGZs have been announced, but tangible progress appears to have stalled, and clearer implementation and delivery timelines would be welcomed.	
Invest £30m through in university-led place-based innovation ecosystems, including £4.8m for the Cambridge × Manchester Innovation Partnership.	Funding announced across five projects: The £4.8m Cambridge × Manchester Partnership was awarded June 2025, and the four CCF-RED projects (May 2025): SCENE (North East), Forging Ahead (Midlands), BRITE (Liverpool City Region), and ACE (Lincolnshire/East Anglia).	
Launch a Cluster Champions programme through the BBB, backed by £100m, to connect high-potential firms to investors across 10 clusters.	Cluster Champions programme was confirmed in the BBB's Five-Year Strategic Plan published November 2025. BBB is now deploying the cluster champions via its new Local Growth Team which will operate in all nations and regions of the UK with a particular focus on cluster areas.	
Showcase the Cardiff and Newport Investment Zone to grow the compound semiconductor cluster through a Newport manufacturing hub, Cardiff R&D science park, and support for supply chains and spinouts.	Investment has been made in establishing a manufacturing hub in Newport, with Cardiff Capital Region and Newport City Council committing £7 million to KLA Corporation's new 237,000 sq ft facility at Imperial Park, and Vishay announcing a £250 million investment supporting 500 jobs. The Zone was formally designated in June 2025, backed by £160 million of UK Government funding. However, a location for the Cardiff R&D Science Park has not yet been decided.	