

Press release

techUK publishes Tech Plan for next UK Government

- *Ahead of the General Election, techUK provides a roadmap for the next Government to work with the tech sector to boost the British economy, support the NHS, reduce the cost of net zero, and secure the UK's place as a global tech leader*
- *The tech sector could be adding £200 billion to the economy every year, but we need support and direction from government to get there, says techUK*
- *techUK members say the UK's leadership in tech is at risk and set out 18 opportunities to turn this around*

LONDON, 6 June 2023: techUK, the technology trade association, has today published its Tech Plan outlining how the Government can ensure the UK remains at the forefront of the global tech race ahead of the next General Election. With the UK already establishing itself as a competitive digital economy, the Plan aims to address concerns about complacency and push for a comprehensive, forward-thinking strategy for the next UK Government to realise the benefits of technology.

Over the past decade, the UK's tech sector has witnessed exceptional growth, growing the economy by over 25%. Currently adding over £150 billion to the UK economy every year, the tech sector is one the country's highest contributors.

However, techUK members, which include nearly 1,000 digital businesses, consulted on the UK Tech Plan said that the UK's ambition has faltered in recent years and there is a growing concern among the sector that politicians are not doing enough to guarantee the benefits that being a leader in technology will bring to the economy, people, society, and the planet.

As the UK faces an unprecedented set of challenges, including the long-term economic effects of Brexit, turbulent energy markets, supply chain disruption, and labour shortages, which have led to rising inflation and a cost-of-living crisis, it is crucial that the next UK Government is able to effectively embrace and deploy digital innovation to confront the major challenges that will reflect the needs of citizens and motivate voters.

The UK Tech Plan lays 18 opportunities that could be grasped by the tech sector and the Government through a strong working relationship. If these major opportunities are seized the next Government could:

- **Secure a £5.69 billion pay rise for the British people:** by changing our approach to upskilling and retraining through reforms to the apprenticeship levy and a new Digital Skills Toolkit to support lifelong learning. This will also help prepare the population for the increased use of automation and AI.

- **Ensure the NHS is ready for the future:** by better spending the £2.1 billion committed to NHS and social care digital transformation to reduce the pressures on hospitals, boost care in the community and move to a more preventative health care system.
- **Reduce the cost of net zero and cut energy bills:** by digitising the national grid to cut the costs of reaching net zero by £17.6 billion per year and reducing the cost of energy bills by enabling the smart charging of EVs and domestic batteries.
- **Boost the British economy:** if well supported the UK tech sector could be adding £200bn per year to the economy by the mid-2020s. By helping 600,000 SMEs invest in productivity boosting technology, delivering digital connectivity and leading a British 'Scale-up Sprint' to remove regulatory barriers and unlock investment into semiconductors, quantum technologies and AI we have the opportunity to deliver that growth.
- **Improve safety and trust in technology:** through a cross regulator online safety sandbox, new data sharing initiatives to significantly cut online fraud and developing a system of AI ethics, governance and regulation that will position the UK to lead the global debate on AI policy.

techUK urges the Government and policymakers to embrace these objectives and work together to ensure the UK remains a global tech leader, driving innovation and economic prosperity.

Julian David, techUK CEO, said:

"Whoever forms the next Government will face a number of challenges, from how to increase economic growth, to supporting our public services, to how we address climate change. The UK tech sector should be a key partner in addressing these challenges with the better use of digital technology viewed as the main opportunity for growth across all business sectors and how to transform public services from the NHS to policing.

"We can seize this opportunity if we see our tech sector as the engine of growth and change across our society and economy. However, to achieve this we need politicians to act, set out a long-term plan for the sector, provide a better approach to regulation and deliver on strategies for key technologies.

"That is why techUK has set out our UK Tech Plan, presenting 18 examples of how technology can build a better future for people, society, the economy and our planet and recommendations on how to ensure our regulatory system can cope with the faster pace of technological change and the AI revolution."

Sheila Flavell, COO of FDM Group and techUK President, said:

"The UK tech sector is Britain's modern economic success story, serving as one of the economy's higher contributors, but mounting economic and geopolitical challenges are starting to weigh heavy on the technology business community.



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“With the right support the UK tech sector has the potential to add £200 billion to the economy every year as well as supporting our society, citizens, and the planet. Our UK Tech Plan serves as the blueprint for the next Government to unleash the full potential of technology and establish the UK as the best place to do business in.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

The UK Tech Plan will launch at techUK’s [Tech Policy Leadership Conference](#) on 6 June. Media passes are available. Please contact Margherita Certo [margherita.certo@techuk.org] for more information.

The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

[techUK Digital Economy website hub](#)

About techUK

techUK is the technology trade association that brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve.

With nearly 1,000 members (the majority of which are SMEs) across the UK, techUK creates a network for innovation and collaboration across business, government and stakeholders to provide a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet.

By providing expertise and insight, we support members, partners and stakeholders as they prepare the UK for what comes next in a constantly changing world.