



BOOSTING OPPORTUNITY,  
SKILLS & GROWTH  
THROUGH COLLABORATION



THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF

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# WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of the National Network of Institutes of Technology, I am proud to share how our collaborative approach – uniting education and industry – is uniquely positioned to ensure the UK’s skills system responds to learners’ needs and supports employers’ development.

Institutes of Technology (IoTs) are more than education providers. We are strategic partnerships between further education, higher education and industry. Together, we equip individuals with the advanced skills needed to succeed in sectors critical to the UK’s future, from clean energy and advanced manufacturing to digital and healthcare.

We are equally committed to widening participation and breaking down barriers to opportunity. IoTs open doors to underrepresented groups and career changers, helping to diversify the talent pipeline and create a workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

We are transforming skills in our regions, supporting critical industries, IoT anchor employers and aspirational businesses. Collectively, our commitment remains clear: to collaborate with government, industry and learners to ensure England has the skilled workforce needed to drive innovation, resilience and long-term economic success.

We invite employers and policymakers to partner with us to co-design, invest and ensure the country has the skills needed to achieve economic growth and regional development.

**Professor Rosa Wells**  
**Chair of The National Network of Institutes of Technology**





# THE NETWORK

**Our mission is to equip individuals with the advanced technical skills needed to drive growth and meet the evolving needs of industry.**

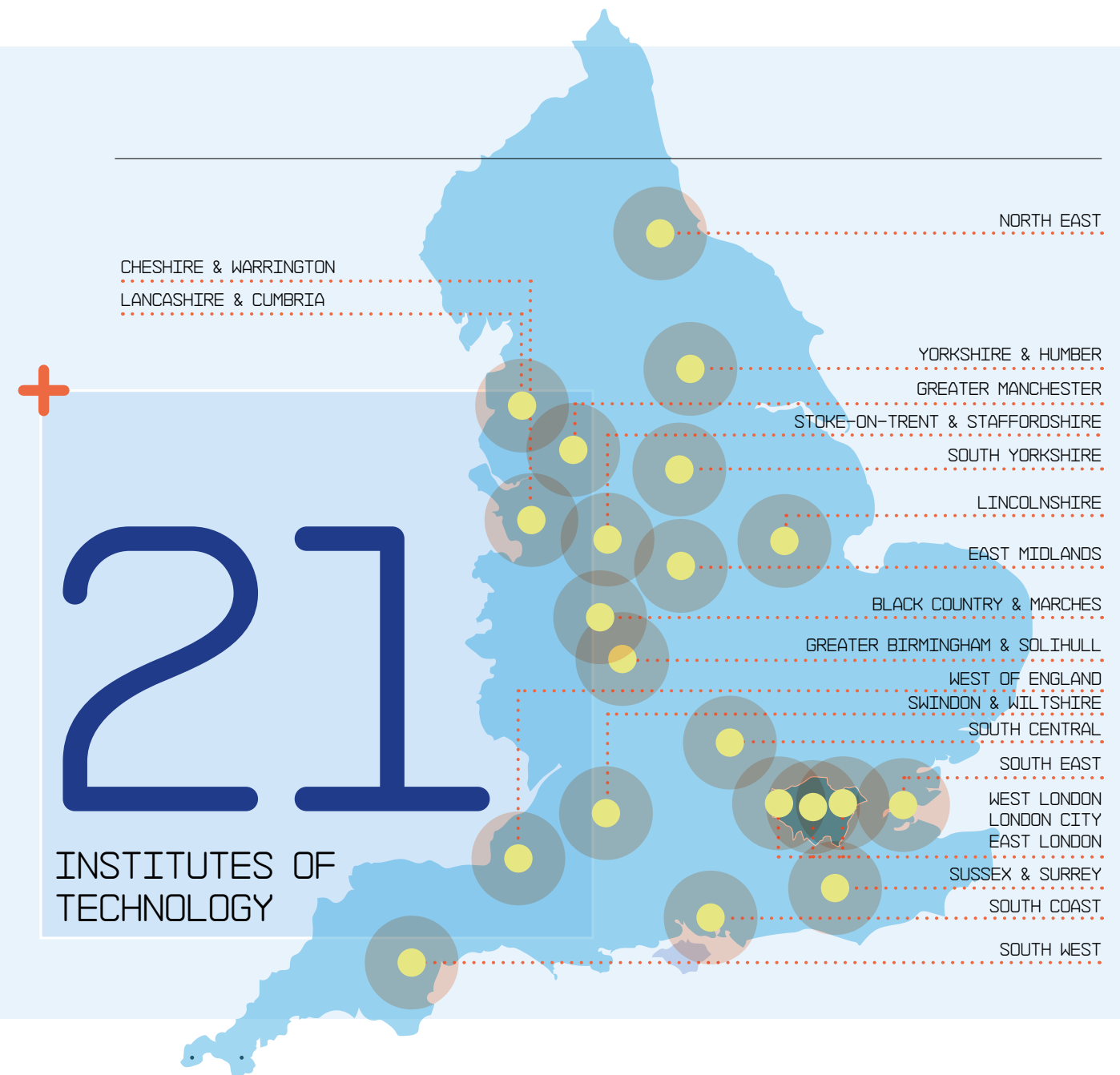
Each IoT is a coordinated regional partnership of education providers and employers sharing a common goal, and is also part of a national network that enables collaboration and collective action.



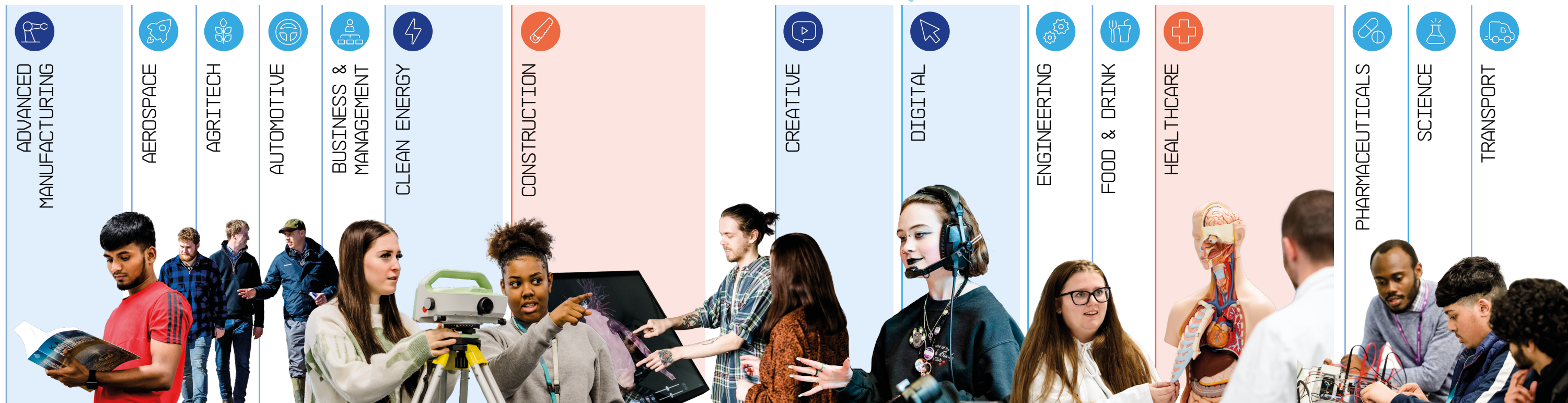
36  
UNIVERSITIES

100+  
EMPLOYER  
PARTNERS

87  
FE COLLEGES



## SECTORS







Leyland Trucks is working in partnership with Preston College, part of the Lancashire & Cumbria Institute of Technology, to shape the curriculum in the automotive sector.

“Industry has to provide a mirror to education to shake things up and make sure the skills being taught are the most relevant to what we need. We’re all capable of becoming insular and just focusing on our own business needs, but this is a way we can shape the talent pool and create the workers we all need now and in the future.”

Maria Rogers, Learning & Development Manager, Leyland Trucks

BOOSTING OPPORTUNITY, SKILLS & GROWTH THROUGH COLLABORATION

## OUR STRATEGIC VISION

Our vision as IoTs is clear:

- **Deliver high-quality higher technical education:** To be the leading providers of high-quality employer-driven higher technical education that equips learners with the skills and knowledge to excel in a rapidly evolving economy.
- **Anticipate and fulfil industry needs:** To respond dynamically to the current and future demands of local, regional and national industries, fostering a workforce ready to drive innovation and competitiveness.
- **Collaborate for impact:** To leverage the collective strengths of our employers, further education colleges and universities, creating partnerships that amplify resources, expertise and outcomes.
- **Drive regional and national growth:** To act as engines of regional economic development, empowering communities through skills development, innovation and knowledge transfer that leads to sustainable economic growth.
- **Promote inclusive higher education:** To ensure higher education opportunities are equitable, accessible and inclusive, reaching diverse learner communities and underrepresented groups to foster social mobility and opportunity.

By aligning our objectives with national priorities, such as net zero, digital transformation and automation, we aim to increase productivity, enhance employability and address industry-specific shortages to drive inclusive growth.



## DRIVING GROWTH THROUGH SKILLS

**At the heart of the UK's economic success lies a highly skilled workforce. IoTs are powering regional and national growth by delivering technical education that meets the evolving needs of industry.**

Through strong partnerships with over 100 anchor employer partners, IoTs equip learners with the advanced skills needed to thrive in growth-critical sectors like aerospace, construction, clean energy, advanced manufacturing and healthcare. Our programmes respond to regional priorities, ensuring that local communities have the talent pipelines needed to attract investment, drive innovation and create jobs.

### CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHT

#### **Leading the Future Energy Skills Hub**

The East Midlands Institute of Technology (EMIoT) partnership has been chosen to lead the development of the Future Energy Skills Hub with a £2 million investment from East Midlands Freeport. From September 2025, EMIoT will run Future Energy Skills Hub courses, providing higher technical skills tailored to meet the needs of businesses operating in advanced manufacturing and clean energy. As the project evolves, the partnership will work to develop additional short courses for rapid upskilling and ensure that sustainable and green energy skills are embedded in all existing technical qualifications.

IoT directly support national productivity and growth missions by building technical capability in high-demand sectors. For employers and policymakers alike, this is an opportunity to expand access to the talent needed for innovation, investment and competitiveness across every region.

## INNOVATING WITH INDUSTRY

**IoT is redefining the relationship between education and industry, building agile partnerships that drive innovation and meet the evolving needs of employers.**

Our employer-led model ensures learners gain hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment, emerging technologies and real-world projects.

Through joint investment, curriculum development and research partnerships, IoTs enable businesses to access skilled talent, adapt to market shifts and boost productivity. Together with our industry partners, we are building innovation ecosystems that power growth and secure competitive advantage for UK sectors.

### CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHT

#### **Supporting workforce transition from automotive to aerospace**

Following the closure of Honda's Swindon plant, the West of England Institute of Technology (WEIoT) and its anchor employer partner, GKN, played a key role in retraining displaced workers for aerospace roles. Weston College, WEIoT's lead college partner, delivered training in sheet metal turning and milling, enabling 31 individuals to transition into aerospace manufacturing. Participants continued hands-on learning at the GKN Aerospace Global Technology Centre, supporting aircraft production for Airbus. This programme highlights WEIoT's pivotal role in equipping workers with in-demand skills, ensuring regional resilience and growth in high-value industries.



## BUILDING THE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW

**IoT's are creating clear, accessible pathways to advanced technical careers, ensuring that today's learners become tomorrow's industry leaders.**

Through our unique collaborations between further education colleges, universities and employers, IoT's offer clear progression pathways from Level 3 qualifications to higher technical education at Level 4, 5 and 6. This structured approach equips learners with the skills needed for growth-value sectors like digital, engineering, healthcare and green energy, and helps employers develop and retain new talent.

The IoT Network is a national platform for social mobility and skills progression. By widening participation and breaking down barriers, IoT's open doors to underrepresented groups and career changers, helping to diversify the future workforce. Our flexible programmes, industry-aligned curricula and strong employer connections prepare learners not just for today's jobs, but for the careers of the future.

### CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHT

**Expanding higher education opportunities through partnership**

South & City College had not previously offered Level 4 and 5 engineering courses before becoming a partner of Greater Birmingham & Solihull Institute of Technology. The IoT facilitated a partnership between the college and the University of Birmingham to co-design a foundation degree in engineering, with a seamless progression route to a top-up degree at the university. This marked the first time the university accepted students from a Level 5 course onto a top-up degree.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND NET ZERO

**IoT's are equipping the workforce with the green skills needed to drive the UK's transition to a net zero economy.**

Across the country, IoT's are delivering training in modern construction methods, hydrogen and solar technologies, electric vehicle systems and retrofit skills, ensuring learners are ready to progress in clean growth sectors.

From hydrogen-focused qualifications in the South East to the Future Energy Skills Hub in the East Midlands, IoT's are preparing learners and industries to thrive in an environmentally conscious economy. By combining technical excellence with environmental responsibility, IoT's are powering a greener, more resilient future for the UK.

### CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHT

**A pioneering collaboration changing the retrofit training landscape**

North East Institute of Technology is transforming the landscape of retrofit training with lead construction partner, Esh Group. The partnership of education and industry has led to the development of bespoke courses (Level 3 and Level 5) that will provide an opportunity for those already employed in the construction sector to develop their skills in industry-critical technologies, as well as those looking to reskill in a new sector.

Green skills are essential to the UK's transition to a net zero economy. IoT's are building that capacity now – through industry-informed curricula, local partnerships and sector-leading investment in sustainable technologies.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Designing and delivering new qualifications

South East Institute of Technology, with support from Thames Freeport Skills Accelerator funding, is collaborating to design and deliver hydrogen-focused qualifications at Level 3, 4 and 5. This initiative meets the growing demand for hydrogen expertise in the UK's dynamic energy sector. The curriculum, developed in partnership with Hydrogen Safe, Plymouth University and Canterbury Christ Church University, will be offered by a number of IoTs. At Level 3, microcredentials will provide all engineering students with foundational knowledge in hydrogen technologies, while more comprehensive qualifications will be developed at Level 4 and 5.

### Bringing the construction site into the classroom

In partnership with Indurent, Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Institute of Technology is transforming how students learn modern methods of construction by embedding real-world industry scenarios directly into the curriculum. Using 360-degree digital footage – captured by Indurent at its Meaford development site in Staffordshire – students can now step into the construction process via the IoT's state-of-the-art immersive virtual reality environment. By blending immersive technology with employer-led content, this initiative enhances curriculum relevance and helps to close the gap between education and employment.

### Removing barriers and inspiring futures through industry partnership

A major new partnership with Quickline Broadband is opening up opportunities for learners across Yorkshire & Humber and Lincolnshire IoTs. Thanks to a £530,000 investment over three years, hundreds of IoT students will benefit from bursaries designed to remove financial barriers and support their success in high-demand technical fields.

This collaboration is not only helping more learners access advanced technical education, it's also sparking early interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers. Funding will support an annual programme of STEM challenges, designed to inspire the next generation of innovators across the region.

## PARTNER WITH US

We invite organisations of all sizes to join our national network to solve skills challenges, drive innovation and unlock new growth opportunities. Whether you're looking to fill talent gaps, co-design curricula, access cutting-edge training facilities or try-before-you-buy new technologies, partnering with an IoT puts you at the heart of the skills system.

### Work with us to:

- **Develop your future workforce** through bespoke training and technical programmes.
- **Co-design higher technical qualifications** and apprenticeships that respond to your industry's evolving needs.
- **Invest in innovation** by collaborating on research, facilities and new delivery models.
- **Support inclusion and social mobility** by opening opportunities to learners from diverse backgrounds.
- **Shape sector-wide change** by joining our advisory groups, pilot projects or curriculum initiatives.

IoTs provide education and training in STEM-based occupations to meet the needs of employers.

With 21 IoTs across England – each rooted in local industry while coordinated nationally – we offer scale, flexibility and impact.

Scan the QR code to find your nearest IoT, or get in touch.







Produced by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation

Gatsby is a foundation set up by David Sainsbury to realise his charitable objectives. This includes a commitment to strengthening the country's science and engineering skills by developing innovative programmes, commissioning research and informing national policy on technical education, skills and good career guidance.

The Gatsby Charitable Foundation  
The Peak, 5 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1AP  
T +44 (0)20 7410 0330  
[www.gatsby.org.uk](http://www.gatsby.org.uk)

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