# UK launches multi-billion tech push to anchor global leadership in AI and advanced research



The UK has launched a major expansion of its science and technology investment strategy, aimed at cementing its global leadership in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and advanced therapeutics. Backed by new funding pledges and the continued growth of a £10 billion innovation ecosystem, the effort signals a shift from momentum to acceleration.

At the heart of the plan is a £250 million commitment from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), channelled into a series of targeted 'technology missions'. These are designed to drive progress in areas such as disease diagnosis, sustainable manufacturing and healthy ageing, while positioning the UK as a global hub for frontier research and development.

The new strategy arrives at a moment of strength. Over the past decade, early-stage ventures have grown into global businesses, supported by a vibrant venture capital market and a consistent flow of talent from British universities. London remains the centrepiece of this success, attracting more than 1,700 foreign direct investment projects since 2014 and rising to become the world’s second-ranked city for tech FDI. Its tech ecosystem grew in value from $70 billion in 2014 to $621.5 billion in 2023, outpacing Paris and Berlin.

Yet the growth story now extends far beyond the capital. In the face of global headwinds, regions such as Yorkshire and Humber recorded a 20 percent rise in venture capital investment last year, while Welsh tech firms posted an 8.7 percent increase. The UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund (UKI2S), which has now invested over £100 million in more than 90 companies, continues to draw private sector co-investment at scale, with £700 million raised to date.

This wave of investment is underpinned by a clear industrial strategy. The UKRI Technology Missions Fund, which will invest £320 million over three years, represents a long-term commitment to capability building in fields that promise both economic and societal impact. The fund targets global challenges—such as achieving net-zero emissions—through a framework that pairs research excellence with commercial application.

Government backing, institutional capital and an entrepreneurial base are now aligned around a single objective: global leadership in transformative technologies. With new funding in place and nationwide growth gathering pace, the UK is entering its most ambitious phase yet as a science and tech superpower.

Created by [Amplify](https://www.hbmadvisory.com/amplify): AI-augmented, human-curated content.

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.uktech.news/opinion/mansion-house-accord-boost-for-uk-innovation-and-pension-funds-20250513> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ukri.org/news/250m-to-secure-the-uks-world-leading-position-in-technologies-of-tomorrow/> - In March 2023, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) announced a £250 million investment to bolster the UK's leadership in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and engineering biology. This funding aims to advance sectors such as disease diagnosis, sustainable manufacturing, and energy security, ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of transformative technologies. The initiative is structured into 'technology missions' targeting global challenges like net-zero emissions and healthy ageing, with a focus on long-term capability development in these fields.
3. <https://media.londonandpartners.com/news/london-leads-the-way-for-international-tech-investment-over-past-decade> - Over the past decade, London has emerged as a leading global destination for tech companies, attracting more than 1,700 international tech foreign direct investment projects since 2014. In 2022, London secured 175 new tech companies, ranking second globally for tech FDI. The city's tech ecosystem has grown significantly, with its value increasing from $70 billion in 2014 to $621.5 billion in 2023, surpassing other European cities like Paris and Berlin.
4. <https://www.ey.com/en_uk/newsroom/2024/06/uk-remains-europe-s-leading-destination-for-fdi-in-tech> - In 2023, the UK attracted 255 digital technology foreign direct investment (FDI) projects, accounting for 27% of all European digital tech projects. This marks an 8.9% increase from 2022, solidifying the UK's position as Europe's leading destination for digital technology FDI. London continues to be the top European city for digital technology investment, reflecting the UK's strong appeal to international tech investors.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-regions-buck-trend-of-global-investment-drop-in-science-and-tech> - In 2023, science and technology start-ups in regions across the UK defied global investment trends by increasing private sector funding. Notably, Yorkshire and Humber saw a 20% uplift in venture capital investment, reaching over £200 million, while Welsh companies attracted £112 million, an 8.7% increase. This regional growth highlights the UK's resilience and the expanding appeal of its tech start-up ecosystem beyond traditional hubs.
6. <https://www.ukri.org/news/uki2s-tops-100-million-to-provide-uk-economic-boost/> - The UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund (UKI2S) has surpassed £100 million in investments, supporting over 90 companies since its inception in 2002. Managed by Future Planet Capital, UKI2S has attracted more than £700 million in private sector investments, demonstrating its effectiveness in fostering high-impact businesses and contributing to the UK's economic growth.
7. <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/ukri-technology-missions-fund/> - The UKRI Technology Missions Fund is investing £320 million over three years (2022–2025) to enhance capabilities in artificial intelligence, engineering biology, future telecommunications, and quantum technologies. This initiative aims to address global challenges such as net-zero emissions and healthy ageing, reinforcing the UK's commitment to leading in transformative technologies.