# Yorkshire AI startups set for major lift with £100m fund launch



AI innovation in Yorkshire is gaining momentum with the launch of the Oberon Yorkshire AI EIS Fund, a multi-million-pound initiative designed to support and accelerate AI-led startups in the region. Developed by London-based investment firm Oberon in partnership with Yorkshire AI Labs LLP, the fund marks a concerted push to establish Yorkshire as a leading force in UK artificial intelligence.

The fund reflects rising investor confidence in Yorkshire’s potential, underpinned by its industrial heritage, strong tech ecosystem and world-class research institutions. Targeting early-stage AI firms across Northern England, the initiative plans to invest up to £100 million in sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, transport and financial services—industries set to benefit significantly from AI integration.

Yorkshire AI Labs, based in Sheffield, brings a distinctive model to the venture. As the fund’s operating partner, it combines capital with sweat equity, offering hands-on expertise from a team that includes Silicon Valley veterans and cloud technology pioneers. With experience across IPOs and M&A deals worth billions, the firm adds critical depth to Yorkshire’s growing AI scene.

Beyond investment, the fund promotes collaboration between entrepreneurs and investors, aiming to create a dynamic innovation environment that retains local talent and builds long-term capacity. At least four regional AI businesses are expected to receive funding within the next 18 months, highlighting a focus on quick, tangible impact.

The initiative mirrors a national shift towards supporting regional AI ecosystems. Rather than concentrating solely on established centres like London, the fund targets areas where AI can deliver practical, high-value solutions—whether by enhancing industrial processes, improving healthcare systems or transforming logistics and finance.

This strategy underlines a broader ambition: to make the UK a leader in responsible AI development by drawing on the strengths of its regions. Yorkshire’s rise as a centre of AI innovation shows the power of combining financial investment with deep technical expertise and collaborative networks.

While scaling AI ventures and sustaining long-term ecosystems remains a challenge, the Oberon Yorkshire AI EIS Fund offers a promising model. With the right mix of resources and support, Yorkshire is well placed to help shape an AI-driven future that delivers inclusive economic growth and real-world benefits.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.fintechinshorts.com/ai-up-lad-yorkshire-launches-ai-investment-fund/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.insidermedia.com/news/yorkshire/investment-fund-launched-to-support-yorkshire-ai-businesses> - A new fund has been launched to support AI companies in Yorkshire. The Oberon Yorkshire AI EIS Fund, developed in association with Yorkshire AI Labs (YAIL), highlights significant investor confidence in Yorkshire's potential to become a national centre of AI innovation and economic growth. It will target pioneering AI-driven companies across Northern England, capitalising on the region's industrial heritage, strong technology ecosystem, and leading research institutions. Investments will focus on sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, and financial services.
3. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/business/london-investment-firm-launches-new-yorkshire-fund-to-invest-millions-into-regions-promising-ai-businesses-5178646> - A new multi-million pound fund is to invest in promising Yorkshire AI businesses, with deals involving at least four companies on the cards in the next 18 months. London-based boutique investment management, wealth planning, and corporate broking group Oberon is launching a Yorkshire AI EIS Fund after meeting with promising businesses in the region. It has developed the fund in association with Yorkshire AI Labs (YAIL), which is run by Sheffield-based entrepreneur David Richards and specialises in building and scaling innovative regional companies that make use of AI to assist businesses working in fields like manufacturing and healthcare.
4. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/business/yfm-announces-ps3m-investment-into-ai-driven-esg-data-platform-4793143> - YFM Equity Partners (YFM) has announced a £3m growth capital investment, as part of a £3.4m total round, into Integrum ESG, an award-winning platform that provides live data insights for asset managers and their advisers. The investment will help London-based Integrum ESG to expand in response to growing demand for its platform. Integrum has a team of 20 staff across two offices based in the City of London and the financial district in New York.
5. <https://www.yorkshire.ai/yorkshire-set-to-lead-uks-ai-revolution-with-new-investment-fund/> - Yorkshire is positioning itself at the forefront of the UK’s artificial intelligence (AI) revolution, as the newly launched Oberon Yorkshire AI EIS Fund announces plans to invest up to £100 million into the region. The fund, supported by a strategic partnership with Yorkshire AI Labs LLP, highlights significant investor confidence in Yorkshire’s potential to become a national centre of AI innovation and economic growth. The Oberon Yorkshire AI EIS Fund will target pioneering AI-driven companies across Northern England, capitalising on the region’s industrial heritage, strong technology ecosystem, and leading research institutions. Investments will focus on transformative sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, and financial services, where AI integration offers substantial economic and societal benefits.
6. <https://www.yorkshire.ai/about/> - Yorkshire AI Labs is a Sheffield-based venture capital firm that takes a revolutionary approach to venture capital. The firm is a dynamic fusion of sweat equity and cash, supercharging early-stage companies to unprecedented levels of value and growth. The team comprises Silicon Valley luminaries, tech visionaries, fearless founders, and pioneers in cloud computing and artificial intelligence. The firm has been involved in 24 IPOs, 33 M&A deals, and has raised £4.3bn. Their portfolio includes companies like Intelliam, which harnesses AI through machine learning to revolutionise asset management within manufacturing, and PureTec Aligners, which uses AI to deliver superior, custom alignment treatment in orthodontics.