# UK’s regional tech hubs secure over €2bn in 2025, signalling shift in venture capital map



London still dominates UK venture capital, pulling in about €8.6bn so far in 2025, but startups outside the capital have already raised around €2.1bn — more than any European country except France, Germany and the Netherlands, according to Sifted.

Recent big rounds highlight the depth of regional innovation: Oxford’s OrganOx closed a $160m placement for its liver-preservation technology; GRIDSERVE secured £100m to expand its EV-charging network; and Cambridge’s CMR Surgical raised over $200m to support US growth.

Investor-nominated startups reflect strong regional specialisms. In the north-west, LiNa Energy is developing a safer ceramic battery for large-scale energy storage, while Manchester’s Vsim is creating a simulation OS to accelerate robotics and embodied AI. Belfast’s Cloudsmith raised $23m for its software-supply-chain platform; Cambridge’s bit.bio strengthened its IP in cell programming; and Glasgow spinout Chemify is digitising chemistry for faster molecule discovery. AI and data specialists such as Mindtrace, Sonrai Analytics and Edinburgh’s Wordsmith AI are also gaining traction.

Investors cite three drivers of regional growth: concentrated specialist talent, hybrid working models reducing reliance on London HQs, and increased availability of follow-on capital. Successes like Cloudsmith’s Series B and bit.bio’s patent defence are helping to attract experienced operators and corporate partners to these hubs. Challenges persist. London’s dense later-stage capital pool, specialist services and HQ pull still lure many scale-ups south. Sector-specific hurdles include clinical timelines for life sciences, manufacturing scale-up for hardware, and high-performance compute access for AI and robotics.

Analysts say targeted infrastructure, patient capital for deep tech, and closer university-industry links will be key to sustaining momentum. For advocates of responsible innovation, the regional picture is promising: the UK’s AI and deep-tech future may rest not on one megacluster, but on a connected network of specialised centres capable of competing globally.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://sifted.eu/articles/uk-startups-not-from-london> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://sifted.eu/articles/uk-startups-not-from-london> - Sifted’s article highlights 16 UK startups outside London that investors regard as ones to watch. It notes that non‑London startups have raised €2.1bn so far this year, while London firms attracted €8.6bn, and cites large rounds such as OrganOx, Gridserve and CMR Surgical. VCs from Praetura, Dawn, Octopus, Ada and JamJar nominated companies across regions, including LiNa Energy, ArCube, Silveray, Summize, Firenze, Cloudsmith, Vsim, Chemify, Mindtrace, Sonrai Analytics, Ochre Bio, bit.bio, Wordsmith AI, Love To Visit, Higlo and Epetome. The piece explores regional tech clusters and investor interest beyond the capital. It provides founders and investors with practical regional insight.
3. <https://www.organox.com/news/view/organox-announces-second-private-placement-closing> - OrganOx announced the closing of a private placement totalling $160 million in February and May 2025, with new investors including Intuitive Ventures, Terumo Ventures, HealthQuest Capital and others. The funding will accelerate commercial expansion of its metra® normothermic machine perfusion platform, support development for kidney applications and enable collaborations such as an FDA‑cleared study with eGenesis. OrganOx said its metra device has been used in over 5,000 liver transplants and the proceeds will help scale manufacturing, clinical trials and global market access. The release underscores investor confidence in organ preservation technologies and OrganOx’s growth trajectory and highlights commercial momentum globally.
4. <https://www.gridserve.com/pressroom/gridserve-raises-100m-in-new-capital-from-existing-shareholders-to-strengthen-platform-for-growth/> - GRIDSERVE announced a £100 million equity investment from existing institutional shareholders on 15 July 2025 to strengthen its platform and accelerate rollout of high‑power EV charging across the UK. Backers included TPG Rise Climate, Infracapital and Mitsubishi HC Capital, reinforcing confidence in GRIDSERVE’s Electric Forecourts, Super Hubs and Sun‑to‑Wheel model. The firm said the capital complements existing debt facilities and will support network expansion, improved uptime and customer experience. GRIDSERVE described itself as the UK’s most used network, operating over 200 locations and thousands of charging bays, aiming to scale infrastructure to meet growing EV demand and attract further investment.
5. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/04/02/3053949/0/en/CMR-Surgical-secures-more-than-200M-to-accelerate-growth.html> - CMR Surgical announced a financing round of more than $200 million in April 2025 to accelerate global commercialisation of its Versius surgical robotic system, with backing from existing investors and new debt from Trinity Capital. The company intends to fund expansion into the US market, support product development including Versius Plus, and scale deployments across hospitals. CMR highlighted that Versius has been used in over 30,000 procedures across multiple specialties worldwide. The financing combined equity and debt and represented a major vote of confidence in the company’s growth prospects and surgical robotics strategy as it targets broader adoption and international scale.
6. <https://cloudsmith.com/company/press/cloudsmith-raises-usd23m-series-b> - Cloudsmith announced a $23 million Series B in March 2025 led by TCV with participation from Insight Partners and existing investors, positioning the Belfast‑based company as a cloud‑native artefact management platform for enterprise software supply chains. The release highlights rapid growth, expansion of its enterprise customer base and use by large organisations, and explains how the funding will accelerate product, sales and customer success investment. Cloudsmith’s materials and customer stories reference clients such as PagerDuty and other major firms, and the announcement underscores the firm’s role in software supply chain security and Northern Ireland’s growing tech ecosystem and investor confidence.
7. <https://www.bit.bio/news/bit.bio-wins-landmark-patent-defence-for-groundbreaking-opti-ox-cell-programming-technology> - bit.bio announced successful defence of its foundational opti‑ox™ patent at the European Patent Office in October 2024, reinforcing its leadership in cell programming technology. The company’s opti‑ox platform uses transcription factor‑mediated forward programming and genomic safe harbour sites to convert induced pluripotent stem cells into defined human cell types rapidly and at scale. bit.bio’s patent protections in multiple jurisdictions and a complementary US patent underpin its commercial strategy for supplying standardised human cells for research, drug discovery and potential cell therapies. The announcement emphasises the firm’s Cambridge origins, its scientific credentials and the transformative potential of its technology, globally recognised.