# Scotland accelerates responsible AI growth with new start-up cohorts and sustainable infrastructure



Twelve innovative AI start-ups have been selected to join the University of Edinburgh’s latest AI Accelerator cohort, marking a significant stride in Scotland’s ambitions to foster a leading environment for responsible AI innovation. This six-month programme is designed to support emerging businesses with scale-up strategies and investor connections, positioning them for global impact in sectors including health, climate, and social good.

The cohort features pioneering companies such as Transdermal Diagnostics, CircKit, LastingAsset, BEAT, CanSense, Danu Insights, ivvi, Level E, Mantis Geophysics, &Volume, Protostars, and Qinara. These companies are handpicked for their data-driven approaches to harnessing AI in ways that advance societal benefits. The Accelerator offers a comprehensive support package, inclusive of mentoring from experts and access to the University’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, with the explicit goal of enabling these start-ups to scale effectively and deliver positive societal impact worldwide.

Bolstering Scotland’s AI ecosystem, Glasgow-based green data-centre and hosting provider DataVita recently announced a collaboration with US-based AI cloud platform CoreWeave on a £1.5 billion investment in AI infrastructure. This project promises to be one of the UK’s most carbon-efficient AI deployments, powered entirely by renewables and utilising innovative closed-loop cooling technologies to minimise water use. This partnership not only underlines the importance of sustainable infrastructure in the AI space but also signals Scotland’s commitment to leading in green technology alongside AI advancement.

Adding further momentum to the tech landscape, the Ada Scotland Festival returns for its sixth year from 29 September to 10 October. This acclaimed festival hosts over 20 events across Dundee, Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen, and other locations, addressing the longstanding gender gap in computing. Through game jams, robotics, coding workshops, and career sessions, it aims to inspire girls, young women, and non-binary students to pursue careers in technology, fostering a diverse pipeline of talent that will be essential to Scotland’s future innovation success.

The growth of women-led businesses is also evident on the exit landscape. According to the recent JP Morgan Private Bank ‘Top 200 Women-Powered Businesses Report,’ women-led or powered businesses recorded £5.23 billion in exits in 2024, closely trailing male-led firms’ £6.74 billion—the narrowest gap on record. This signifies an encouraging shift towards gender parity in business success and innovation, with notable activity in sectors like Femtech that generated a combined turnover of £88 million.

Scotland’s wider tech ecosystem continues to flourish, with Glasgow standing out through its Space Tech Cluster. A recently published spotlight report by Glasgow City Council highlights the city’s growing strengths in space technology innovation, research, and development, positioning Glasgow as a burgeoning hub for companies within this cutting-edge field.

On the legal technology front, Danae Shell, founder of Edinburgh’s legaltech firm Valla, has been honoured with a Purple Plaque by Innovate UK for her contributions to innovation and entrepreneurship. Valla’s platform exemplifies how technology is transforming traditional industries by streamlining legal processes for start-ups and scale-ups, further enriching Scotland’s technology narrative.

For emerging start-ups and founders, Shepherd and Wedderburn continue to offer vital guidance on share incentive schemes. Their recent series on good leaver/bad leaver provisions and exit-only share options lays out practical insights on balancing fairness, control, and talent retention while maintaining flexibility within share option schemes. This is critical advice for founders looking to build internationally ambitious and inclusive companies that attract and reward key talent effectively.

With these unfolding initiatives and investments—from AI acceleration and sustainable infrastructure to gender diversity festivals and thriving tech clusters—Scotland is dynamically shaping itself as a prominent leader in responsible AI innovation and an exemplary environment for start-ups and scale-ups to grow and succeed. This collective momentum reflects a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking tech ecosystem poised to make a substantial global impact.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.campfire.scot/p/ai-accelerator-cohort-announced-15bn> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/bayes/media-centre/news/current-news/new-ai-accelerator-cohort-announced> - The University of Edinburgh has announced its latest AI Accelerator cohort, comprising 13 global, data-driven companies focused on harnessing AI for societal benefits in health, climate, and social impact. This initiative aims to support innovative businesses in scaling their AI solutions to address global challenges. The programme offers a comprehensive support package, including mentoring and access to the university's entrepreneurial ecosystem, to help these companies achieve global growth and deliver positive societal impact.
3. <https://www.wealthbriefing.com/html/article.php/women_dash_powered-business-exit-values-nearly-match-male_dash_led-firms--jp-morgan> - JP Morgan Private Bank's 'Top 200 Women-Powered Businesses Report' reveals that in 2024, businesses founded, led, owned, or managed by women recorded £5.23 billion in exits, nearly matching the £6.74 billion from male-led firms. This marks one of the closest value splits on record, highlighting the growing impact and success of women-led businesses in the UK. The report also notes a significant presence of women-powered businesses in the Femtech sector, which generated a combined turnover of £88 million.
4. <https://www.digit.fyi/glasgow-based-datavita-partners-with-coreweave-on-1-5bn-ai-infrastructure-investment/> - Glasgow-based DataVita, a green data centre and hosting provider, has partnered with US AI cloud platform CoreWeave on a £1.5 billion investment in AI infrastructure. The project aims to create one of the UK's most carbon-efficient AI deployments, powered by renewable energy and utilizing closed-loop cooling to minimize water usage. This collaboration underscores the growing importance of sustainable AI infrastructure in the UK's tech landscape.
5. <https://www.digit.fyi/ada-scotland-festival-returns-to-tackle-gender-gap-in-computing/> - The Ada Scotland Festival, running from 29 September to 10 October, returns for its sixth year with over 20 events across Dundee, Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen, and beyond. The festival aims to tackle Scotland's gender gap in computing by offering game jams, robotics, coding workshops, and career sessions designed to inspire girls, young women, and non-binary students to pursue careers in tech. This initiative highlights the ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in Scotland's tech sector.
6. <https://www.digit.fyi/edinburgh-legaltech-founder-awarded-purple-plaque-by-innovate-uk/> - Danae Shell, founder of Edinburgh-based legaltech company Valla, has been awarded a Purple Plaque by Innovate UK at Napier University. The award recognises her significant contributions to innovation and entrepreneurship in the legal technology sector. Valla's platform aims to streamline legal processes for startups and scale-ups, reflecting the growing role of technology in transforming traditional industries.
7. <https://www.invest-glasgow.foleon.com/why-glasgow/space-tech-cluster-report/> - Glasgow City Council has published a spotlight report on the city's Space Tech Cluster, the second in its 'Why Glasgow?' series. The report highlights Glasgow's growing role in the space technology sector, showcasing the city's strengths in innovation, research, and development. It underscores Glasgow's potential as a hub for space tech companies and the opportunities available for businesses in this emerging industry.