



**LANCASHIRE DEFENCE
AND SECURITY
SNAPSHOT 2025**

**INNOVATE
LANCASHIRE**

LANCASHIRE: STRONG, SECURE & RESILIENT

innovatelancashire.co.uk

As outlined in the Lancashire Combined County Authority's recently published Growth Plan, and reinforced by the priorities outlined in government's Strategic Defence Review and the Defence Industrial Strategy, Lancashire has the potential to play a pivotal role in the future security of the nation.

Our defence capabilities, both physical and digital, are at the heart of this opportunity, anchored by world-class organisations including BAE Systems and the National Cyber Force.

Underpinning such assets we have a deep and thriving ecosystem, with leading edge R&D assets, diverse supply chains, targeted SME growth programmes, and employer-led skills initiatives, all calibrated to support the county's defence and security offer.

Further, Lancashire has the potential to add significant value to the defence economy by maximising its expertise in dual-use technologies, such as nuclear, robotics, material science and electech.

This sector profile has been produced by Innovate Lancashire to give you a snapshot of our strengths within these sectors.

It also includes details of industry clusters, commercial and academic research facilities, funding and finance schemes - and other useful information - which are relevant to the defence and security community in Lancashire, the north west, and beyond.

We hope you find it helpful.



INNOVATE LANCASHIRE

Part of the Business Growth Service,
Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE: MULTI-DOMAIN DEFENCE & SECURITY CAPABILITIES

From advanced combat aircraft to the nation's cyber frontline, Lancashire plays a pivotal role in the UK's defence and security economy.

■ BAE Systems

Employing over 90,000 people globally, BAE Systems is one of the world's leading defence, aerospace and security companies.

Its two sites in Lancashire – at Warton and Samlesbury – are home to BAE Systems' advanced aerospace operations. These are helping to deliver global defence programmes such as the F-35 Lightning II - a multinational initiative led by the US - and the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), a trilateral collaboration between the UK, Japan, and Italy, to develop a next-generation combat air system.

According to recent research by Oxford Economics, BAE Systems' military air sector – which is largely based in Lancashire - supports nearly 20,000 high skilled jobs in the North West. BAE Systems also contributes over £5 billion to UK GDP, with £2.5bn being invested back into local supply chains.

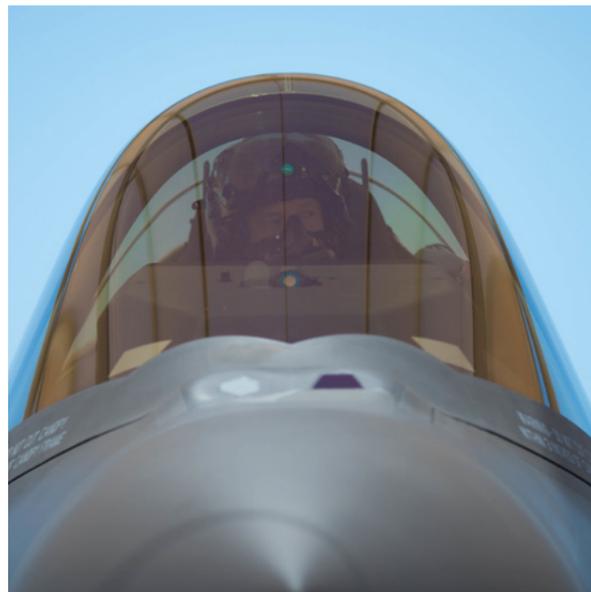
■ The North West Aerospace Alliance

BAE Systems' operations at Samlesbury and Warton have helped the county become the largest cluster of aerospace production in the UK, with over 13,000 employees.

As a result, Lancashire now supports SMEs working across multiple future flight disciplines (including UAVs, space and satellites), as well as more traditional aviation manufacturing, in both military and civic arenas.

Many of these businesses are members of the North West Aerospace Alliance (NWAA), which has its headquarters in Lancashire. The

NWAA enables supply chain development, collaboration and funding opportunities for Lancashire's aerospace community including innovation-led programmes such as the [Watchtower](#) programme.



■ The National Cyber Force

National Cyber Force (NCF) will be operational from its new facility in Samlesbury, Lancashire in 2025, and is planning for several hundred personnel to be based there within the first 12 months, including wider partners. It will continue to have some personnel working from other locations in the UK.

A partnership between defence and intelligence, the NCF was established in 2020. It develops,

integrates and delivers responsible cyber effects operations in and through cyberspace to counter and contest those who would do harm to the UK or its allies, to keep the country safe and to protect and promote the UK's interests at home and abroad.

The NCF combines MoD's operational and planning expertise, Dstl's scientific and technical capabilities, GCHQ's global intelligence and SIS's skills in recruiting and running agents alongside delivering clandestine operational technology.

■ The Lancashire Cyber Partnership

The Lancashire Cyber Partnership (LCP) is a strategic collaboration between BAE Systems, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster University, the National Cyber Force (NCF), and the University of Lancashire. Bringing together both public and private sector partners, the Lancashire Cyber Partnership's mission is to establish Lancashire as a world-leading destination for cyber businesses, investors, careers, training, academia, and innovation.

The LCP works collaboratively to implement initiatives and strategies – such as the Lancashire Cyber Festival and Cyber Education Week - which facilitate and boost cyber-led economic growth across the county's digital industries, technology supply chains, and broader disciplines.

With Lancashire named in the government's Industrial Strategy as one of the UK's leading hubs of cyber security excellence - alongside a commitment to making cyber one of the country's most important 'frontier technologies' – Lancashire's cyber capabilities are set to complement its physical defence strengths as part of an overarching and integrated security offer.

■ The Electech Innovation Cluster

Headquartered in Lancaster, and covering North Lancashire and South Cumbria, the Electech Innovation Cluster (ETIC) is a pioneering coalition of specialist and high-skilled electrical engineering businesses which bridges the gap between industry, government, academia and skills.

Cluster members who work extensively within the regional, national and international defence sector include Oxley, Teleplan Forsberg, OTAQ and Marl.

■ Altitude

Altitude is the University of Lancashire's pioneering interdisciplinary air and space innovation hub. Located within the Warton Enterprise Zone adjacent to BAE Systems, Altitude offers a host of world-class facilities and resources, including one of the UK's biggest indoor flight-testing zones. As well as facilitating academic research and study opportunities, the hub has been developed to support both primes and SMEs businesses with prototyping, flight testing and payload R&D.

Altitude – which has been highlighted as a transformational project in Lancashire's Growth Plan - also offers SME incubation spaces, consultancy services, help with grant funding, KTPs, and other innovation-led opportunities.

■ The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre North West (AMRC North West)

Part of the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) cluster, AMRC North West plays a key role in driving growth, productivity and innovation across a wide range of industry sectors, including defence and security.

Located close to BAE Systems' Samlesbury site, much of the AMRC's provision is calibrated towards supporting SMEs. It does this through facilitating advanced R&D opportunities for manufacturers wanting to increase levels of innovation, working with extended local supply chains to embed new technologies thinking into their operations, and spearheading specific programmes to tackle industry-wide technological challenges.

LANCASHIRE: MULTI-DOMAIN DEFENCE & SECURITY CAPABILITIES

■ The Lancashire Innovation Hub

Opening in 2027 in Samlesbury, the Lancashire Innovation Hub will be a flagship innovation facility and high-tech industry cluster for the whole of the county. Located adjacent to BAE Systems and the AMRC North West within the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone, the development will provide over 20,000 sq ft of flexible, modular and premium workspace.

Anticipated occupiers include tech startups and scaleups, advanced research and development organisations, high-growth SMEs, and corporates seeking high quality space in an innovation setting.

■ The Lancashire Digital Bursary Programme

Launched in 2024 by the MOD's Strategic Command (now named Cyber & Specialist Operations Command), the Lancashire Digital Bursary Programme offers 16-18 year olds studying STEM subjects an opportunity to access cyber training which is aligned to the needs of the county's defence and security sectors.

Initially piloted by four Lancashire colleges, and delivered in partnership with the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, local colleges, the National Cyber Force, and industry partners, the programme is now being extended across Lancashire.

■ Lancaster University

Lancaster University is recognised nationally for its cyber security expertise. Home to an NCSC/EPSRC Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research, its work supports both government and industry, spanning areas such as secure systems, data protection, and cyber-physical security. The University is also home to Security Lancaster, one of the UK's largest interdisciplinary security research institutes which tackles a wide range of complex security challenges.

Further, Lancaster University is a designated NCSC/EPSRC Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Education. This reflects its delivery of high-quality teaching and training across cyber disciplines, from undergraduate programmes to advanced professional development. Facilities which support both cyber teaching and research at the University include a Data Immersion Suite, specialist teaching laboratories, testbeds for cyber-physical systems, and a dedicated co-working space for research initiatives, industry collaborations, and education programmes.



LANCASHIRE: AT THE HEART OF THE NORTH'S DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Lancashire's proximity to Greater Manchester, the Liverpool City Region, Cheshire, Cumbria, and Yorkshire, places it at the heart of the North's wider defence cluster. The county is also actively involved in several pan-regional initiatives focused on the defence and security agenda.

The North West Regional Defence & Security Cluster

Many Lancashire technology, advanced manufacturing, cyber and digital businesses are members of the North West Regional Defence & Security Cluster (NWRDSC). Part of a national network of regional defence and security clusters – which are supported by the MOD – the NWRDSC's mission is to facilitate more defence and security innovation, facilitate more partnerships, and drive sector growth at scale.

It does this through actively promoting the North West's defence and security interests and capabilities; enabling collaboration between industry, academia and government; facilitating sector knowledge exchange and increased commercialisation; and influencing national policy and securing investment in support of its aims. The NWRDSC further has a remit to help innovative businesses not currently in the defence supply chain to access new opportunities.

The North West Cyber Corridor

The North West Cyber Corridor is a growing cluster of cyber businesses, specialist centres of excellence, governmental agencies, digital innovation hubs, hi-tech co-working spaces, and critical infrastructure providers, which are all based in and around the North West.

As home to the National Cyber Force, Lancaster University's Cyber Security Research Centre (recognised as an NCSC/EPSC Academic Centre of Excellence), and the University of Lancashire's Cyber Solutions Centre, the county is set to play an integral role in the Corridor's evolution.

The AUKUS Supply Chain

Complementing its combat aircraft activities in Samlesbury, BAE System's submarine division based in Barrow in Furness is set to be a major driver of new defence jobs and supply chain opportunities across the wider North West. Much of this growth will be generated by the AUKUS Submarine Programme, a trilateral agreement between the UK, US, and Australia to develop nuclear-powered submarines.

With the first AUKUS crafts due to be completed in the late 2030s, investment in the programme is set to have a significant impact on the local economy. For example, BAE Systems anticipates expanding its workforce from 10,000 to 17,000 to support AUKUS and the Dreadnought Programme, offering significant supply chain opportunities for Lancashire.

The Northern Security Corridor

Lancashire is one of the anchor regions named as part of a new northern security corridor initiative. Announced earlier this year by a coalition of Northern Mayors as part of the Great North economic growth and prosperity programme, the proposal would see the creation of an overarching defence and security investment zone – reaching down from Cumbria and the North East through Lancashire – which would bring together key industrial, engineering and cyber assets sited across the North.

LANCASHIRE: OUR DEFENCE & SECURITY STRENGTHS IN NUMBERS

Lancashire's prime contractors, supported by a skilled workforce and a broad base of SMEs, provide capabilities that align directly with the priorities outlined in the Defence Industrial Strategy.

The county's strengths across dual-use technologies – such as nuclear, cyber, advanced materials and environmental technology – also offer opportunities for Lancashire's wider industrial base and supply chains to pivot into defence markets.

And while traditional industrial classifications often undervalue Lancashire's dual-use capabilities, by using more sophisticated methodologies we can capture metrics which more accurately reflect the county's defence and security capabilities:

20,000
direct jobs

Lancashire is home to around 20,000 direct defence and security jobs, nearly half of the North West's total defence workforce.

£45k
average salary

Typically, these are highly skilled, well-paid positions with an average salary of £45,000.

700
firms

The county has 700 firms working within sectors directly aligned to the defence and security industries, including military equipment, aerospace, cyber and critical infrastructure.

3,200
companies

Based on dual-use technologies (as highlighted in the DIS), Lancashire has a further 3,200 companies with defence sector capabilities, a majority of which are SMEs.

LANCASHIRE: A DIVERSE & INNOVATIVE DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAIN

Lancashire is globally renowned for its strengths in defence sectors such as aerospace, and the region is home to many prime and tier one advanced manufacturers including BAE Systems, Safran Nacelles, Rolls Royce and Magellan.

But the county also supports hundreds of niche and specialist businesses which operate across every aspect of the defence, security and critical infrastructure supply chain. Here are just a handful which exemplify Lancashire's capabilities:

■ Airframe Designs

Working primarily across the defence, aviation and space sectors, Blackpool-based Airframe Designs undertakes complex engineering projects for some of the world's largest defence and aerospace organisations, including BAE Systems, AIRBUS, and QinetiQ. With extensive experience in system integration, mechanical design, structural analysis and certification, the business has worked on over 500 projects involving VIP, passenger, special mission and military platforms.

Delivering solutions for aircraft, helicopters and UAVs, recent projects include weapon integration onto heavy-lift drone platforms, conceptual and early lifecycle design for new uncrewed air-systems, and the development of a novel electronically steered SATCOM antenna terminal. The company also has its own industrial-scale additive manufacturing facility which produces novel polymer solutions for mechanical structures, cabin parts and radomes.

Airframe Designs has additional expertise in many other key industrial sectors – including nuclear, rail, medical and maritime – and helps customers navigate regulatory, security and environmental challenges as part of its wider service offer.

More information at airframedesigns.com

■ Teleplan Forsberg

Heysham-based Forsberg, which was acquired by the Norwegian defence group Teleplan in 2024 to become Teleplan Forsberg, develops precision technologies for positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) for both defence and civilian uses.

Within the defence market, Teleplan Forsberg has a strong focus on countering threats to PNT, and has developed a range of products which ensure the integrity of position and timing data in contested environments. Their technologies include MANTIS (MApping Navigation & Targeting Integrated Software) and GILD (GNSS Interference Locator and Detector), both of which enhance situational awareness and generate information to inform critical decision-making.

As well as developing world-class technologies in-house, Teleplan Forsberg has worked on R&D projects in partnership with the University of Lancashire's new Altitude facility. The company has also utilised R&D funding secured via the UKDI's DASA programme to enhance products and develop new capabilities.

More information at teleplanforsberg.com

■ Addison Precision

Based in Thornton Cleveleys, near Blackpool, Addison Precision specialises in the manufacture of high-precision machined components. Supporting both ariel and land systems applications, the company supplies a wide range of sectors, including aerospace, defence, utilities and critical infrastructure.

With Rolls Royce, BAE Systems, Héroux-Devtek and Cat Defence among its clients, the business has gained a strong reputation for agile and responsive Fast Make programmes. This enables the rapid development of innovative and bespoke defence-led products which are set to be critical to the future capabilities of the UK.

Addison Precision is also a pioneer of digitalised and smart manufacturing, and utilises multi-axis CNC machinery within its 'factory of the future' facilities. Operating a fully paperless shopfloor, and having made substantial investment in renewable energy infrastructure over recent years, the company is further committed to achieving Net Zero status for all of its activities by 2030.

More information at addisongroup.uk

■ Carrington Textiles

Carrington Textiles is a global workwear textiles manufacturer based in Adlington which specialises in protective and defence fabrics. Made at their Pincroft manufacturing plant, the company's pioneering products – which include hi-tech camouflage materials – have been supplied to armed forces around the world for nearly a century.

Their customers include the Estonian army – which they have supported with a wide range of defence textiles for over 15 years – and the Dutch Ministry of Defence, who in 2022 ordered over a million metres of Carrington Textiles fabrics for new navy, army and air force uniforms.

Further, the company's Dakota fabric – a ripstop material designed for chemical, biological radiological and nuclear (CBRN) environments – has been used for over a decade by CQC Ltd, the UK's leading manufacturer of CBRN PPE.

CQC's clients include the MOD in the UK and armed forces in several international territories. It is estimated that around 350,000 metres of Dakota fabric has been used in CQC military kit since 2013.

More information at carrington.co.uk

■ Velocity Composites

Headquartered in Burnley, Velocity Composites manufactures advanced composite material kits for use in the production of carbon fibre aircraft parts. Earlier this year it announced that it has secured a three-year extension to an existing contract with a major global aerospace OEM to supply composite material kits for a number of fourth and fifth generation programmes. Velocity, which has been working with the likes of BAE Systems since 2010, has also worked with primes and Tier 1 aerospace companies including Airbus, Boeing, Safran and GKN.

As well as manufacturing capabilities, Velocity's Burnley site hosts a R&D centre which enables them to design, engineer and test new products and technologies without impacting on capacity. In 2023, the company opened a manufacturing hub in Tallassee, Alabama. This supports aerospace programmes across U.S. civil, military and business jet aviation sectors.

More information at velocity-composites.com

Discover more on Dealroom

You can find details of additional Lancashire businesses active within the defence and security sectors on the county's dedicated Dealroom website.

[Click here for the latest list.](#)

Lancashire's **Dealroom portal** also offers insights and data covering the of the whole Lancashire tech and innovation economy, including details of startup and scaleup funding rounds, recent mergers and exits, sector analysis, and geographical hotspot tracking.

ACCESSING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE DEFENCE SECTOR

Historically, there have been a number of different pathways open to innovative businesses seeking to work with the UK defence sector. These include the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA), the Defence Innovation Unit (DIU), Command Innovation Hubs, and Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S).

However, earlier this year it was announced that a single, unified organisation – **UK Defence Innovation (UKDI)** – would bring together these previously separate innovation organisations. UKDI, which was formally established in July, is currently undertaking a period of development, design, transition and implementation work. It will become fully operational by July 2026.

UKDI - a unified gateway for innovative businesses

Announced as part of the Defence Industrial Strategy, the UKDI's mission will be to accelerate the delivery of cutting-edge innovative capabilities so the UK is both secure at home and strong abroad. Economic and industrial objectives will shape its operations, and its priorities will include solving critical capability gaps, fostering collaboration with SMEs and non-traditional defence suppliers to promote civilian-military technology overlaps, and applying the lessons learned from recent operational experiences to increase pace and efficiency.

Its objectives include:

- Rapidly exploiting internal and commercially available technology to enhance military capability and deliver battle-winning operational advantage
- Increase Defence spending's impact in the UK technology sector to drive economic growth through increased production, export opportunity and job creation
- Provide the confidence for SMEs, start-ups, academia, non-traditional defence suppliers and VCs to invest in technology development for the benefit of Defence. International Influence
- Enhance the UK's global influence and strategic partnerships, with a particular emphasis on NATO and AUKUS

An integrated approach to innovation-led investment

UKDI is part of a wider 'whole-of-government' coordination on all aspects of defence and security innovation between the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Department for Business and Trade (DBT), Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and wider security departments.

The MOD has further announced plans to spend at least 10% of its equipment procurement budget on novel technologies in the next financial year, together with an increased number and scale of deep tech and dual-use suppliers in the UK.

This is linked to an overarching government commitment to use 'the power of the new UKDI and the Novel Technologies ringfence to pursue Rapid Commercial Exploitation to build a vibrant and competitive defence tech ecosystem, crowding in private capital by demonstrating clear pathways to scale for innovative SMEs and startups'.

SMEs are also set to benefit from the establishment of a new **Defence Office for Small Business Growth**.

The Defence Office for Small Business Growth – a new dedicated support hub for ambitious SMEs

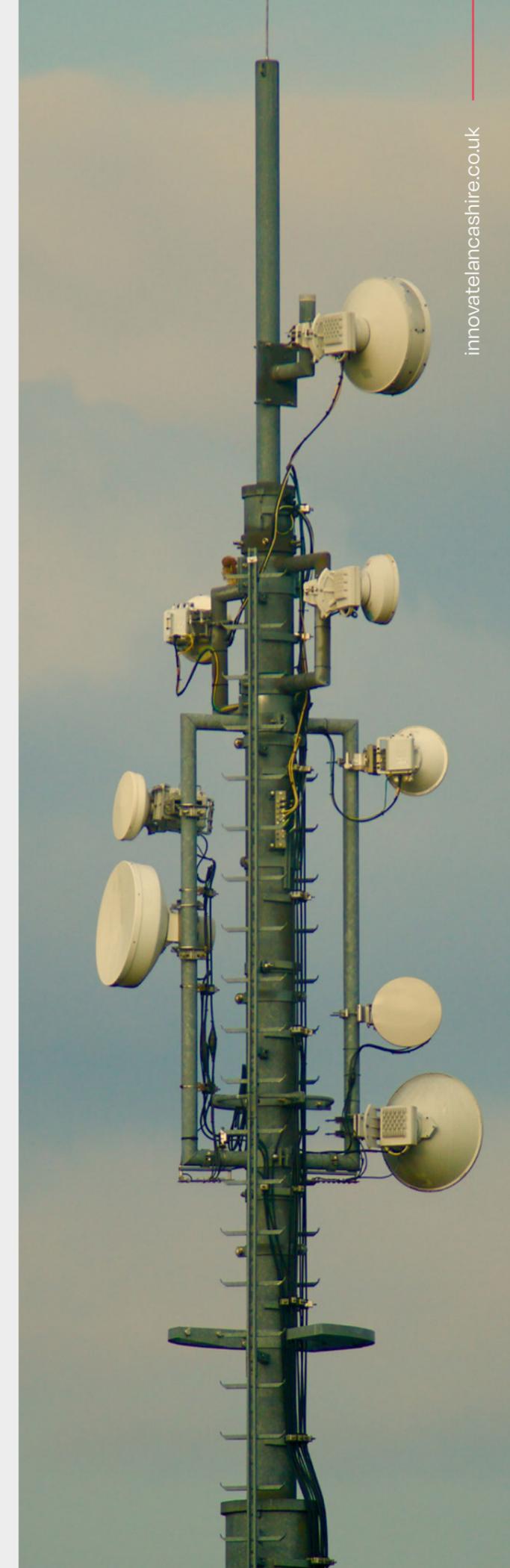
Due to start operations in January 2026, this initiative aims to help SMEs and startups to access the defence supply chain, and scale up to meet defence challenges and maximise growth, through:

- Implementing procurement strategies that provide opportunity for SMEs to win work within the supply chain
- Helping prime suppliers provide a more consistent and supportive experience for SMEs within their supply chains
- Provide better access to opportunities through equality of information and market engagement
- Improve advice and support to SMEs on export matters
- Better cohere UK Defence Sector Supplier Development and scale up support across government, trade associations and prime suppliers
- Support SMEs to gain access to financial and growth capital

More information and staying updated

For more information on **UKDI**, and how it aims to help SMEs interested in innovation-led defence opportunities, [click here](#). For more information on the **Defence Office for Small Business Growth**, and additional information on government defence procurement more generally, [click here](#).

You can also follow the [North West Regional Defence and Security Cluster on LinkedIn](#) for updates on these and other government initiatives. In addition, the [UKDI's Defence and Security Accelerator](#) programme has two representatives based in the North West who work directly with regional businesses.



INDUSTRY CLUSTERS & NETWORKS



North West Regional Defence & Security Cluster (NWRDSC)

One of a national network of regional defence clusters, the North West Regional Defence & Security Cluster (NWRDSC) is supported by the MOD and other government agencies. With over 200 members and growing rapidly, the NWRDSC's mission is to enable more defence and security innovation, facilitate more partnerships, and accelerate the commercialisation of both defence and dual-use technologies [More details can be found here.](#)

North West Aerospace Alliance (NWAA)

The North West Aerospace Alliance (NWAA) is a membership organisation which supports the North West's aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors. With over 200 members the NWAA provides a platform for networking, supply chain development, and skills enhancement. It does this through funded business support initiatives and a regular programme of networking and knowledge sharing events. [More details can be found here.](#)

Make UK Defence

Make UK Defence is a not-for-profit, member owned defence trade association. Part of Make UK – the national manufacturers' organisation – Make UK Defence supports the defence manufacturing supply chain. It does this through a range of activities including engaging with government, connecting members with other suppliers and buyers, and helping companies prepare for new defence-led opportunities. [More information on Make UK Defence can be found here.](#)

Lancashire Digital Hub

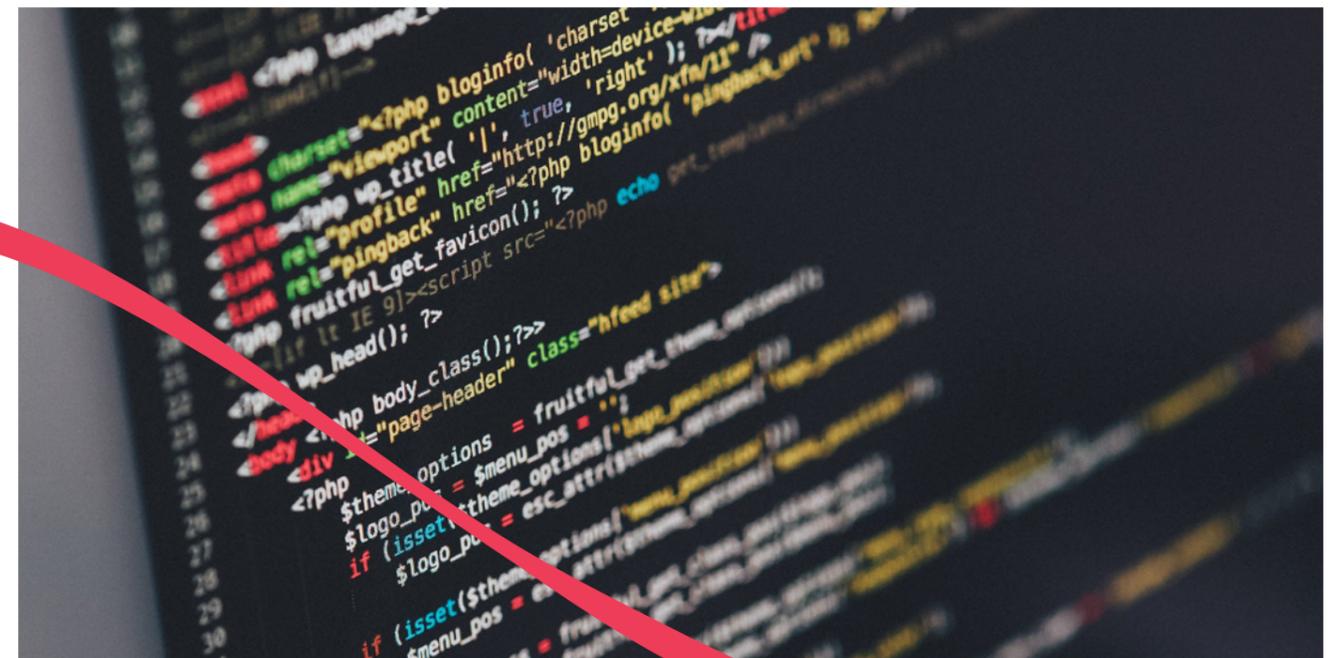
With a focus on peer-to-peer networking and collaboration, Lancashire Digital Hub helps to strengthen relationships between different technology clusters throughout Lancashire. It also connects early-stage businesses and scaleups together with key tech influencers and policymakers within Lancashire's wider business community. It does this through a programme of high-quality networking events, expert 'tech talks', industry workshops and informal drop-in sessions, hosted at venues across the county. [More details can be found here.](#)

The Electech Innovation Cluster (ETIC)

Covering North Lancashire and South Cumbria, the ETIC is a coalition of specialist and high-skilled electrical engineering businesses. Working across multiple sectors, including defence and security, the ETIC aims to enhance the region's electech offer by bridging the gap between industry, government, academia and skills. It does this through lobbying policymakers on behalf of EIC members - and the wider electech sector - to generate new opportunities and boost capabilities. [More details can be found here.](#)

Lancashire Cyber Alliance (LCA)

The Lancashire Cyber Alliance (LCA) is a collaboration of cyber security professionals businesses, skills providers, and policymakers, based in Lancashire. A member of the wider [North West Cyber Security Cluster](#), the LCA's core aims and objectives include supporting networking opportunities for SMEs and start-ups in Lancashire's cyber sector, improving cyber skills within all of Lancashire's communities, and working with public sector organisations to monitor, share and promote the latest cyber opportunities. [More details can be found here.](#)



GROWTH PROGRAMMES & PROCUREMENT

■ UKDI Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA)

Delivered via the new UK Defence Innovation initiative (see page 12), DASA finds and funds exploitable innovation to support the UK's defence and security sector. With an Innovation Partner based in the North West, DASA welcomes ideas from all kinds of Lancashire businesses, and can provide support to firms through a range of programmes including open calls for innovation funding, themed competitions and Defence Innovation Loans. [More details on UKDI's DASA programme can be found here.](#)

■ Innovate UK

Part of UKRI, Innovate UK is the national innovation agency which supports commercial innovation in all sectors and technologies. It has two core B2B support programmes: Innovate UK Business Connect and Innovate UK Business Growth. Innovate UK Business Connect – which helps founders link with academics, government and funding opportunities – has a team focused on delivering innovative solutions developed for, and applicable to, the defence and Homeland & National Security sector. Current defence focuses include Cyber Security and the Electromagnetic Spectrum. [More details on Innovate UK Business Connect's defence services can be found here.](#)

■ Research Cloud (R-Cloud)

Managed by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), R-Cloud offers organisations of all types a route to access the latest research opportunities in UK government defence and security. Areas of interest include AI & Data Science, Advanced Materials, Air, Underwater and Space Systems, CBR, Cyber and Robotics. As a first step, suppliers of research –

whether a sole trader, small to medium-sized enterprise, academic institute or large defence organisation – are welcome to [apply for a R-Cloud account by following these steps. More information on R-Cloud can be found here.](#)

■ UKDI Futures Lab Provider Network

The Futures Lab Provider Network currently consists of 280 commercial and academic organisations which have the chance to respond to strategic challenges set by the MOD's Frontline Commands. With an emphasis on SMEs, a new joiners briefing is held online every month for businesses wanting to learn more about how the Provider Network operates, the opportunities it presents, and how to participate. [More information can be found here.](#)

■ Neutral Vendor Framework for Innovation (NVFi)

Developed as part of the MOD's Commercial X procurement programme, the NVFi framework connects government to SMEs with specialist expertise and capabilities. Focused on 14 science and technology disciplines critical to the national security and defence, the initiative aims to be a “marketplace of pre-accredited technology providers which the MOD and pan-government participants can access to drive innovation at pace and scale”. [For more information on NVFi framework - which is managed by procurement consultants Constellia - click here.](#)



BUSINESS SUPPORT & FINANCE

Lancashire County Council's **Boost** business growth service offers funded business support for Lancashire businesses, including those working in the defence and security sectors, looking to scale. It does this through a broad range of programmes, workshops and masterclasses. Helpful resources, case studies, and a B2B events directory, are also accessible via the Boost website. [More details can be found here.](#)

Lancashire County Council also has two early-stage finance and funding support programmes, **Fhunded** and **Rosebud**. Fhunded is dedicated to enabling access to equity investment – both VC and angel-based – while Rosebud is focused exclusively on debt finance. Both offer wraparound provision, including investment readiness support, and wider activities designed to help founders secure the right type of funding.

More information on Fhunded can be found [here](#). More details on Rosebud can be found [here](#).

Edge Hill University, **Lancaster University**, and the **University of Lancashire**, all offer extensive business development, commercialisation and Knowledge Exchange programmes which can support defence-led R&D and economic growth. In addition, they all run Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, facilitate student placements and internships, and can deliver Continuing Professional Development provision.

The **AMRC North West** at Samesbury – part of the University of Sheffield – offers advanced R&D opportunities for Lancashire manufacturers, including those working in the defence, security and aerospace sectors, looking to embed new technologies and innovative thinking into their operations. [More details here.](#)

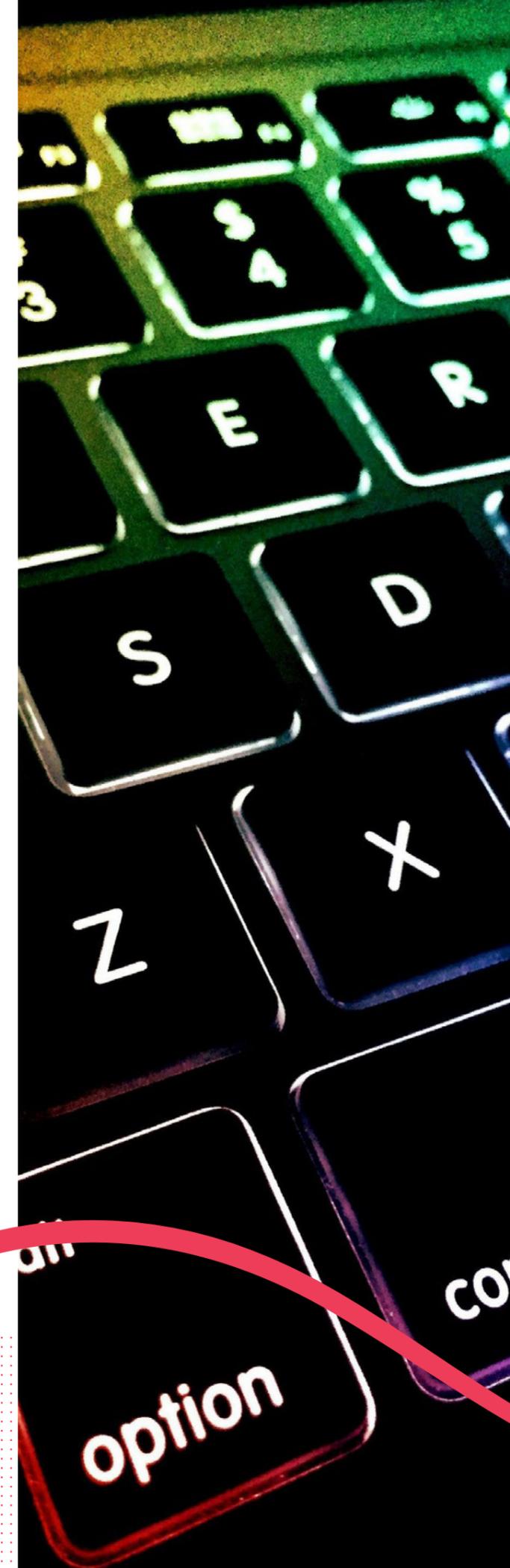
REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

The Lancashire Growth Plan – the Lancashire Combined County Authority's (LCCA) ten-year economic development plan. It includes details of the LCCA's long-term investment priorities including an ambitious growth strategy for Lancashire's defence and security sectors.

The Defence Industrial Strategy – the government's plan to make the UK a leading tech-enabled defence power by 2035, strengthening its industrial base through significant investment and reforms. Key components include increased defence spending, a focus on skills development, support for British businesses, and strategies to improve defence procurement and export opportunities.

The Strategic Defence Review – a strategy which positions defence as a 'whole society' governmental priority, the SDR outlines a commitment to adopting more technology and innovation-led approaches to defence – including the use of drones, data, cyber and electromagnetic interventions. Increased defence investment as an 'engine for growth' – generating new jobs and boosting prosperity through a more accessible partnership with industry – is another key theme.

The National Security Strategy – the government's response to being in 'an era of radical uncertainty' which sets out a new Strategic Framework covering all aspects of national security and international policy. This includes three mutually reinforcing components: (i) security at home; (ii) strength abroad; and (iii) increased sovereign and asymmetric capabilities.



INNOVATE

About Innovate Lancashire

This Defence Sector Snapshot was produced by Innovate Lancashire, Lancashire County Council's (LCC) innovation economic growth initiative.

Part of LCC's Business Growth Service, Innovate Lancashire's mission is to accelerate innovation activity across Lancashire, connect and develop the ecosystem, and build Lancashire's reputation for innovation at a national and global level.

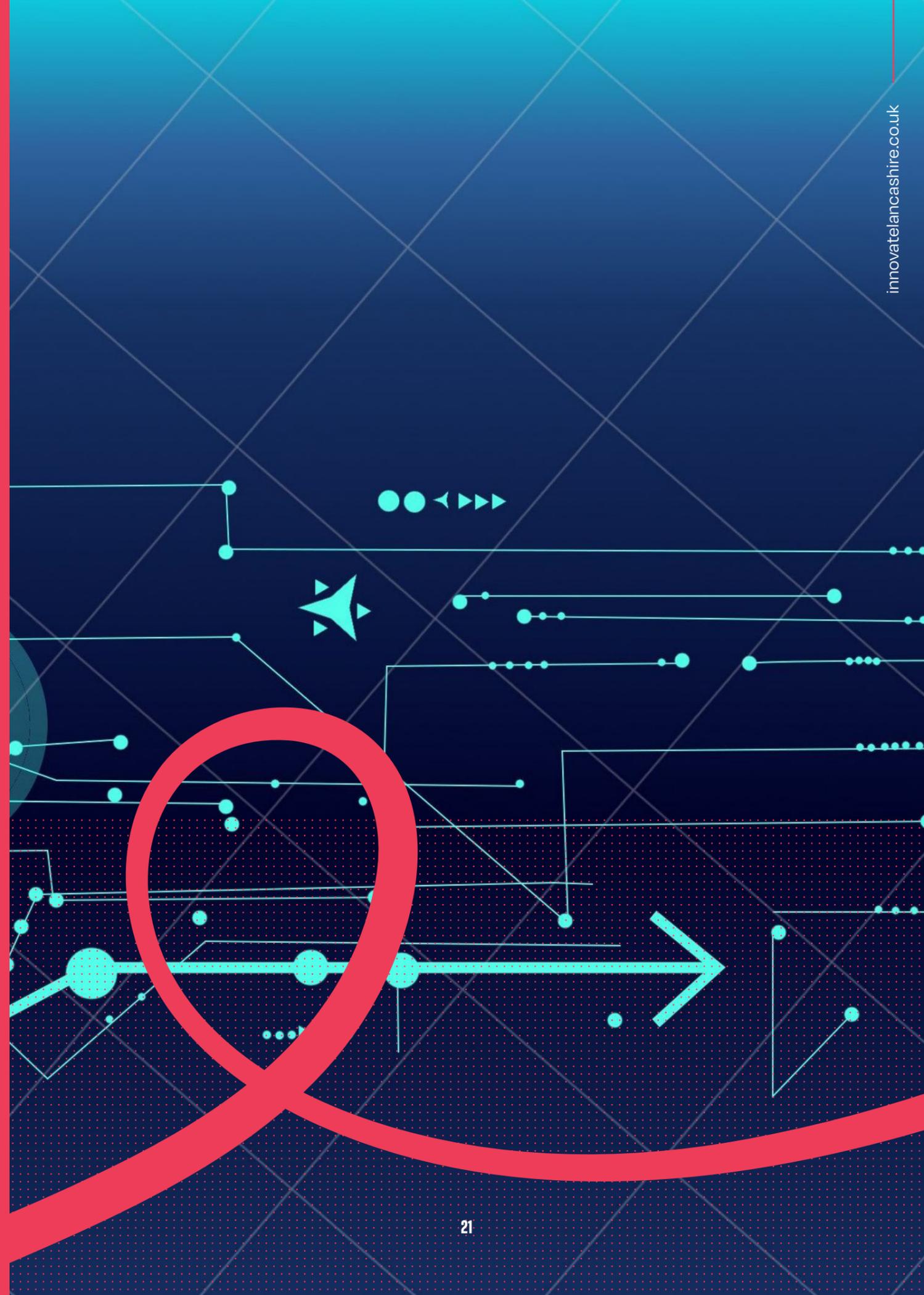
It does this by:

- Signposting and connecting – helping Lancashire businesses access innovation support, facilities, funding and workspaces
- Telling Lancashire's innovation stories – championing Lancashire's innovation activities, R&D capabilities, commercial successes and investment opportunities
- Developing specific projects and programmes to facilitate business growth – including [Lancashire Digital Hub](#), [Fraser House](#), [Fhunded](#) and the [LIFT festival](#).

In addition, Innovate Lancashire's website has a support directory for innovative companies looking for help, news articles, a resource library and more. Plus you can sign-up for updates and newsletters. Find it at innovatelancashire.co.uk

You can also keep updated with all of Lancashire's innovation news and from across the county by [following us on LinkedIn](#).

LANCASHIRE





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Lancashire County Council

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