


pro-manchester

TRAILBLAZING TECH



Friday 23rd June
The Lowry Hotel

#TT23

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Welcome to the **pro-manchester** Trailblazing Tech Conference 2023

“We are delighted once again to welcome you back to the annual pro-manchester Trailblazing Tech Conference 2023 – a staple event in the Manchester calendar.

As with previous years, today promises to be packed full of new and exciting innovations entering the market. We will explore the challenges and opportunities this fast-paced sector creates and we will demonstrate just why Manchester is best placed to lead the way in the world of technology.

We will take a look at how technology is changing operations across different sectors and how the supportive ecosystem in the region is an essential component in the success of these inspiring innovations. We even have some live demos from some of the region's very latest innovators who will be in with a chance of walking away with the prestigious pro-manchester Trailblazing Tech award for 2023.

We would like to offer our most heartfelt thanks to all of our speakers and sponsors for sharing their insight and making events like this possible and of course a huge thanks to the amazing pro-manchester team who work around the clock to bring live events like this to our doorstep.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Booth".

Sam Booth
Chief Executive, pro-manchester

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola McCormick".

Nicola McCormick
Chief Operating Officer

Agenda

-
- 08.50 - 08.55 **Welcome by Sam Booth, pro-manchester CEO**
-
- 08.55 - 09.05 **Birds eye view of Manchester's tech landscape**
Sherelle Fairweather - Manchester City Council
-
- 09.05 - 09.35 **The Future of Artificial Intelligence: What's Next for Businesses**
Natalie Tillet - Yzen AI, Gareth Oldale - TLT LLP, Martin Keelagher - Agile Automations, Tom Cheesewright - Applied Futurist, Dr Amin Akhavan Tabassi - Manchester Metropolitan University
-
- 09.35 - 09.55 **Navigating the tech galaxy for early-stage start-ups**
Rob Bowley - Pragmatic Partners
-
- 09.55 - 10.25 **Retail Revolution: How Tech is Driving Customer Experience**
Danny Simpson - MID Communications, Les Yates - eComplete, John Allen - Bruntwood, Sarah Ewens-Smythe - N Brown
-
- 10.25 - 10.50 **Coffee Break**
-
- 10.50 - 11.10 **Who do you trust with your digital identity?**
Paul Knight - Mills & Reeve
-
- 11.10 - 11.40 **Cyber Crime: The Do's and Don'ts to Keep Your Company Safe**
John Toon - Beaver and Struthers, Paul Knight - Mills & Reeve, Harman Singh - Cyphere, Niomie Haynes - North West Cyber Resilience Centre
-
- 11.40 - 12.25 **Trailblazing Tech Award Finalists - Live Demos**
-
- 11.40 - 11.55 **Boodil**
Sam Owens
-
- 11.55 - 12.10 **GigPig**
Kit Muir-Rogers
-
- 12.10 - 12.25 **Leafyard**
Caroline Welsh
-
- 12.25 - 13.15 **Lunch**
-
- 13.15 - 13.35 **Healthtech: Virtual Wards**
Charlotte Lewis - Mills & Reeve, Dr Saif Ahmed - Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS FT
-
- 13.35 - 14.05 **FinTech on the Rise: Inclusivity and Pushing Boundaries**
David Gardner - TLT LLP, Tom Livock - AccessPay, Lee Stratton - Monevo, Natalie Tillet - Yzen AI
-
- 14.05 - 14.25 **How video game technology is redefining our digital world**
Simon Benson - IN4 Group
-
- 14.25 - 14.55 **Panel Session: Manchester Start ups 2.0**
Jonathan Symcox - BusinessCloud, Chris Maguire - BusinessCloud, Eleanor Harry - HACE, Amy Whitell - Collctiv, Felix Robinson - Pet Trust UK, Sam Marshall - Snippet
-
- 14.55 - 15.25 **Fiery Founders: What I Wish I Knew Then**
Mo Isap - IN4 Group, Susanna Lawson - OneFile Ltd, Danny Manu - MyManu, Tania Rahman - Praetura
-
- 15.25 - 15.30 **Trailblazing Tech Award Winner & Close**
-



Conference Speakers

Dr Amin Akhavan Tabassi

Senior Lecturer - Manchester
Metropolitan University



Dr. Amin A Tabassi is the Head of the MSc Project Management Programme. Prior to joining MMU, he held the position of Associate Professor specializing in Project Management at University Sains Malaysia. With a Ph.D. degree in Project Management, Amin possesses a strong educational

background, complemented by a graduate degree in Project Management and an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering. He has accumulated over 16 years of extensive experience in engineering and project management. Amin's dedication to professional development is exemplified by his attainment of the globally recognized PMP credential from the Project Management Institute (PMI) in 2013.

Amy Whitell

Co-founder - Collctiv



Co-founder and CEO of Collctiv, will speak about the FinTech's plans to expand its app helping group organisers collect money for activities. To date, Collctiv - co-founded by former Twinkl CTO Pete Casson and selected to join the prestigious Techstars New York accelerator programme last year -

has helped 640,000 people in over 100 countries and processed over \$37 million of payments.

Charlotte Lewis

Principle Associate - Mills & Reeve



An award winning commercial and technology lawyer specialising in the health and care sector, Charlotte advises health and care organisations on legal, commercial and strategic issues relating to commissioning, contracting and collaborating. Having worked on a range of health and social

care projects from system and place based integration and provider collaboration to electronic patient record procurements and digital health platform development, Charlotte works in partnership with clients to help them to navigate complex issues in order to deliver the desired outcome.

Charlotte is an advocate for innovation and transformation in the sector and in addition to her legal role at Mills & Reeve she proudly chairs pro-manchester's healthcare committee, co-leads One HealthTech's Manchester hub and is an elected member of techUK's Health and Social Care Council.

Chris Maguire

Executive Editor - BusinessCloud



Chris Maguire has been a journalist for more than 30 years, with more than half his career spent working as an editor within regional and national press. Since 2012 he has specialised in business and hosted more than 700 events.

Alongside running his own PR company - iMeg Partnership -

he is the Executive Editor of technology publications TechBlast and BusinessCloud.

Danny Manu

CEO – MyManu



Danny Manu is the British - Ghanaian Engineer, Innovator and Serial - Entrepreneur behind Mymanu – the leading brand in live translation earbuds.

Danny founded his brand Mymanu in 2014, after spending over 10 years within the music and tech industries as an Aerospace

Engineer and running his own music production company working with many international labels and artists.

Danny endeavours to push technological boundaries and offers smart consumer electronics that enrich people's experience through the power of sound. Danny developed Mymanu CLIK, the world's first truly wireless earbuds with live voice translation to break down language barriers and make worldwide connections easier for all. In 2023, Danny plans to release Titan - the World's first screenless phone as described by the BBC. Equipped with the eSIM technology, Titan let users make calls, send texts, listens to their fav streams and speak in 37 languages without having their phone on.

Danny Simpson

CEO - MID Communications



Danny Simpson is the CEO of MID Communications Ltd, the largest independent franchise of Telefonica O2 UK, providing both B2B and B2C services across 17 retail stores throughout the Northwest and a business centre based in Rochdale.

The 15-year industry knowledge has seen Danny start his career

back when GPRS was the only form of mobile internet and he also experienced the launch and impact of both 3G and 4G.

He has also witnessed the release of the first ever iPhone in the telco marketplace along with many other tech gadgets like wearables, smart tech, innovative apps and especially tablets. Danny has seen how each of these have cannibalised the market in laptops to how the digital landscape has changed and works in our world as it is today.

David Gardner

Partner - TLT LLP



David is an authority on IT, outsourcing and technology-driven procurement, with a particular focus on clients in financial services and the technology sector. David regularly acts as lead advisor for customers and suppliers to deliver complex and strategic technology projects, collaborations

and commercial contracts of all shapes and sizes. He is ranked as a leading individual in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, the independent guides to the legal profession. David is a published author and speaker who is regularly sought out for his industry insights. In 2018 David co-authored a ground-breaking research report on Open Banking, which is shaping the future of financial services.

Eleanor Harry

Founder & CEO – HACE



Founder and CEO of HACE, will explain the startup's data-driven solutions to eliminate child labour from company supply chains and beyond. Recognised as a Rising Star by Computer Weekly, HACE – behind the prototype Child Labour Index – is plotting a funding round to build an AI-assisted auditor tool

which also has the power to benefit other fields.



Conference Speakers

Felix Robinson

Co-founder & CEO – Pet Trust UK



Co-founder and CEO of Pet Trust UK, will discuss her online platform for the responsible buying and selling of pets. The startup's forthcoming AI screening platform prioritises pet welfare and secure transactions, while verifying a dog's breed lineage and health history. eCommerce features are also in the works.

Gareth Oldale

Head of Data Privacy and Cybersecurity - TLT LLP



Gareth is a partner at TLT and head of Data Privacy and Cybersecurity. He provides commercially strategic advice to a range of clients across the private and public sectors, with the core to much of his work being a focus on technology projects. He specialises in data protection, privacy and information law matters, having advised in this area throughout his career. Gareth acts as external Data Protection Officer for a number of clients.

Gareth advises on business process and IT outsourcing projects, digital transformation projects, software development and sales, cloud solutions, collaborative R&D projects and all aspects of public procurement processes and commercial contracts. His practice also extends to media and entertainment clients. Gareth is regularly instructed to advise on cybersecurity and cyber breach issues.

Harman Singh

Director – Cyphere



Harman Singh is a security professional with more than 10 years of consulting experience across private and public sector organisations. His day job involves serving his consulting business customers at Cyphere to reduce their security concerns. Cyphere's primary expertise lies in technical

risk assessments across traditional networks and cloud computing threat landscapes. Besides delivering pen testing, he has also delivered talks and training at Black Hat and regional conferences. His favourite security topics are Active Directory, Azure & Networks.

Heather Gray

Director of Sales – Clockwise



Heather is Director of Sales for Clockwise, a rapidly growing Flexi Office space provider that creates environments and experiences that are as personal as they are professional. With sites across the UK and Europe, Clockwise are scaling rapidly. Heather's role is to drive the strategy and performance of Clockwise's commercial activities. She has advised at 10

Downing Street on how to better support female entrepreneurs and won multiple awards for her work in connecting and supporting fast growth businesses to drive the local economy.

John Allen

Digital Director – Bruntwood



John Allen is a digital transformation specialist and commercial strategist of some 25+ years. Starting at IBM in the early 90's he was part of an early IBM task force to explore the commercial opportunities of the internet. He went on to form some of the first Software-as-a service

and per-per-use operating models for leading technology integrators, before switching to in house roles. He specialises in purpose-driven, high growth, customer-facing retail, distribution and services organisations, with focus on strategic vision, product / service development and fundraising.

Through his program delivery, John evangelises three key principles: That none of us have the skills we need to do the job of tomorrow. That there is no such thing as a digital strategy, only a business strategy. That all business is all about the people. He has held CTO, CDO and CEO positions and is an investor and mentor alongside his current role at Bruntwood.

John Toon

Technology Strategy Lead -
Beever and Struthers



As Technical Strategy Lead at Beever and Struthers, Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, John grows and manages a portfolio of clients based across the UK and internationally. He deals with a diverse range of sectors and specialises in the Innovation, Communication and IT sector.

John is a firm believer that whilst every business is unique, many business issues are common and unique solutions can be found in other sectors – you just need to find the software to do so!

Jonathan Symcox

Editor – BusinessCloud



Jonathan Symcox is a long-standing editor and journalist who has led online teams at publications including Eurosport & the Daily Mirror. Part of the original founding team at BusinessCloud alongside Chris Maguire, he is now the co-owner of BusinessCloud Publishing Ltd.

Les Yates

Strategic Director – eComplete



As the Strategy Director at eComplete, Les leads strategy across all divisions, including data insights, due diligence, and the growth agency. With his comprehensive understanding of the eCommerce landscape, Les takes charge of developing strategies at both a singular level and the

overall holistic business level to drive efficient and sustainable accelerated growth for clients.

With over 15 years of experience eCommerce. Les has worked with a diverse range of businesses, from startups to established companies generating over £100 million in revenue. His expertise spans multiple sectors and categories, allowing him to navigate the intricacies of different industries with ease. With a keen eye for identifying opportunities and implementing effective strategies, Les has played a pivotal role in driving digital transformations for businesses aiming to scale. He has a proven track record of delivering exceptional results.



Conference Speakers

Martin Keelagher

CEO - Agile Automations



As CEO of Agile Automations, a dedicated Intelligent Automations provider, he leads a passionate team of consultants and developers based in the heart of Manchester, with an international client base of diverse, forward-thinking clients. With years of experience in business development, finance and strategy

planning, Martin oversees the business, spearheading the breaking into new areas of automation opportunities, including sectors such as, financial services, legal and public sectors, building upon its core proposition of supercharging the workforce through the implementation of Intelligent Automation.

He also has a keen interest in technology, AI, and the future of business in a digital world. Especially its impact on organisational culture and the changing demands of the future workforce.

Martin is a NED to several diverse businesses and sits as a Charity Trustee to The Joshua Tree, supporting young people and their families touched by cancer.

Mo Isap

CEO - IN4 Group



Mo Isap is the CEO of IN4 Group, headquartered at MediaCity, Salford. He holds an MBA and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management and the Royal Society of Arts. Over a 30-year career as an entrepreneur, Mo has launched and scaled several successful start-ups and university spinouts. He scaled

his first business MPG in 1996, to one of the largest independent digital print companies in the UK and was listed in the Financial Times 100 fastest-growing UK companies.

Latterly, Mo was group director at Hobs Plc where he led group strategy and their 3D operations. In the space of 4 years, Hobs established itself as one of the UK's leading Prop-tech businesses, providing 3D printing, 3D laser scanning and Immersive solutions.

Natalie Tillet

CEO & Founder - YZen AI



Financier turned D.E.I.B Consultant & Tech Founder following a career shattering bias and barriers: from teenage mum to structured finance director, at Siemens, ABN, Barclays, and RBS often as the only woman or person of colour on the M&A deal team. 2 months after her 2nd baby arrived, at the height of the 2008

credit crunch, she co-founded, bootstrapped the UK's first private dental group in Sainsburys and Tesco, banking a 7-figure exit to BUPA within 4 years.

Currently fund raising for Yzen.ai a pre-seed stage B2B SaaS D.E.I tech – inclusive writing software and behavioural analytics tool that gets rid of the worry of finding right words in real time. YZen utilises AI & machine learning to work wherever you do to detect bias or harm, suggest inclusive, culturally sensitive language, and promote accessibility, accountability and belonging by integrating DEIB into individuals' daily communication workflow.

Niomie Haynes

Client Manager – North West Cyber Resilience Centre



Niomie is the client manager for the North West Cyber Resilience Centre, helping SMEs across the North West understand their cyber requirements and supporting businesses in improving their resilience against cybercrime.

Paul Knight

Partner - Mills & Reeve



Paul is a partner specialising in technology and commercial law, including data protection. He advises a range of organisations, including exciting technology businesses and government organisations, such as the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

Paul supports his clients with software licensing, e-commerce, direct marketing and GDPR compliance amongst other things, to help them achieve their objectives whilst remaining compliant with data law and protecting their business along with their customers' data.

Rob Bowley

CTO & Tech Advisor - Pragmatic Partners



Rob Bowley is an accomplished technology leader with over 23 years experience and 12+ in senior leadership roles (CTO or equivalent). Most of that has been in start-ups & scale-ups, but also large-scale enterprise organisations and he's led teams ranging in size from 4 to 200 engineers.

Based in Manchester he's working as CTO Consultant (or Fractional CTO) supporting start-ups and scale-ups, primarily in the North West, and also supporting investors with technical due diligence and other related activities. He's actively involved in the tech community. He's a member of Manchester City Council's digital advisory board and a mentor on multiple accelerator programmes. He's also an advocate for improving career pathways into tech and providing greater opportunities for underrepresented groups in our industry.

Dr. Saif Ahmed

Clinical Digital Transformation Lead - Health Innovation Manchester

Associate Medical Director - Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS FT



Saif is the Clinical Digital Transformation Lead for Health Innovation Manchester and an Associate Medical Director at Tameside and Glossop ICFT. As a GP by trade, he has a particular interest in digital and sees it as a huge enabler to the future success of the NHS. In Tameside, he has

been involved in the development of the ground-breaking Digital Health Service and the introduction of Virtual Wards – providing hospital level of care for people from the comfort of home.

Saif's key expertise is linking the clinical problems with the technical solutions, with a strong emphasis on clinical leadership whilst being patient focussed too.

Sam Booth

CEO - pro-manchester



At pro-manchester, Sam has been an integral part of its growth from a small, effective membership network to a sophisticated business development organisation. A firm part of the Manchester business community, Sam is a familiar face to most, constantly and efficiently working to bring businesses together

in the city region.

As chief executive, Sam is responsible for the organisation's corporate engagement as well managing all existing key partnerships and member relationships. Whilst providing support to her team, Sam looks after the strategic direction of the business.



Conference Speakers

Sam Marshall

Founder & Managing Director – Snippet



Managing director of Snippet, will explain his plans for introducing smart mirrors into barbershops – and the company’s patent-pending tech. The mirrors, which provide entertainment and advertising, have been trialled by celebrity barbers HD cutz London, which cuts the hair of football stars Erling

Haaland and Karim Benzema.

Sarah Ewens-Smythe

Group Head of Sourcing,
Sustainability & Fit - N Brown



N Brown is an inclusive clothing and homeware digital retailer. We specialise in making clothes in a broad range of sizes that fit and flatter and serve a diverse and inclusive range of customers through our portfolio of brands. My role includes managing our supply base alongside risks and

opportunities, Driving forward our group sustainability goals and the quality and fit of all our products.

Sherelle Fairweather

Digital Strategy Lead -
Manchester City Council



Sherelle has worked within the inequalities and social change space across the public and community sector for over 10 years now and as Digital Strategy Lead at Manchester City Council, Sherelle is responsible for the implementation of the city's five-year strategy, which aims to enable

Manchester to achieve its digital ambitions for both people and place. Sherelle previously coordinated the council's response to reducing the digital divide during covid and is passionate about the role of technology in social change.

Simon Benson

Director of Immersive Tech - IN4 Group



Simon Benson is the Immersive Technology Director at HOST (the Home of Skills and Technology at Media City) and a leading technology consultant. He is a rare find outside of Silicon Valley with close to 30 years of commercial immersive development

experience, including military R&D, motorsports and consumer entertainment. Career highlights include leading multi-million AAA game projects, pioneering stereoscopic 3D console gaming and founding the PlayStation VR project. Previously, he held the role of Director of Immersive Technology at Sony and is cited as inventor on over 50 patents.

Susanna Lawson

Co-Founder - OneFile Ltd



Susanna started her career as a psychology graduate from the University of Manchester, and went on to work with adults with learning difficulties in the NHS. Susanna then had to complete a NVQ in care to prove her practical competencies – and her involvement in vocational training began.

OneFile developed from a back bedroom start up into the leading edtech software in the post 16 vocational training sector. OneFile has grown to a team of over 80 with over 1.3m users. OneFile received a Queens Award for Innovation in 2017 and 2022, SaaS Business of the Year and CIPD People Management. Susanna was awarded Outstanding Achievement award at the EVAs and was Institute of Directors regional winner for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. OneFile was also listed the Best Companies Top 100 companies to work for in 2021.

Tania Rahman

Investor Manager – Praetura



Tania Rahman is an Investment Manager at Praetura Ventures who is responsible for backing exceptional businesses, including future Northern success stories. A former entrepreneur herself, Tania has mentored ambitious start-up founders throughout her career, having spent almost a

decade spent running her own award-winning London restaurant chain Chit Chaat Chai. Outside of her work at Praetura, Tania continues to champion underrepresented entrepreneurs and has spearheaded initiatives aimed at making the VC landscape more inclusive, even speaking at 10 Downing Street. Tania was also previously VP of ESG & Community at the Alliance Manchester Business School.

Tom Cheesewright

Applied Futurist



Tom Cheesewright is the Applied Futurist, helping people and organisations around the world to see the future more clearly, share their vision, and respond with innovation. Tom will help you and your audience to connect tomorrow's world to today's experience, and make sense of

what's happening next, and why.

Tom's clients include global 500 corporations, government departments, industry bodies and charities. Using a unique set of tools that he developed, and now teaches and licences to others, Tom finds the critical intersections between today's macro trends and the existing stresses in each client's organisation and sector. These are the points at which the greatest change will take place.

Tom Livock

Head of Enterprise Sales - AccessPay



Tom Livock is responsible for enterprise customers at AccessPay with responsibility for new business development and account management of the larger corporates. Before joining Access Systems, Tom worked for over 20 years in strategic business development across Europe and

has significant experience in Software as a Service companies. Tom is a Chartered Engineer CEng from the Institute of Engineering and Technology.

Media Sponsor



Technology is transforming all industries and sectors – and the UK is at the forefront of this innovation. BusinessCloud brings you news and views from the nation's tech scene, highlighting the businesses and platforms you need to know about. Our website and weekday morning email newsletter reports on funding announcements, deals, appointments and launches, while our Tech 50 innovation rankings are recognised as a validator of tech disrupters of all sizes. BusinessCloud also breaks down technologies from AI and the cloud to immersive platforms and wearables through in-person and virtual events.

Sister publication TechBlast, meanwhile, features long-read content focused on entrepreneurship and advice for startup growth. Building a business is hard – but, thanks to technology, the opportunities for growth are more numerous than ever before. TechBlast hears from the people who have been there and done it; those who are on the journey; and figures supporting the UK startup scene. Our website and Wednesday lunchtime email newsletter features a range of advice, features and profiles to help add fuel to your startup, and covers news about venture capital and private equity. The publications are edited by former Daily Mirror and Eurosport journalist Jonathan Symcox, while award-winning journalist Chris Maguire, former editor of North West Insider, serves as executive editor.

<https://techblast.co.uk/>



Premium Sponsors

Agile Automations

Agile Automations specialise in developing unique, custom coded, Intelligent Automations (iA) leveraging on the power of AI and Machine Learning, putting robotics and automation at the very heart of the organisation's infrastructure.

We offer our clients the access to skills and expertise of a proven, specialist, dedicated team, who are successfully creating and implementing bespoke Robotics across several sectors; creating savings of tens of millions of pounds, enhancing customer service improving staff retention and improving governance and risk controls, not to mention the level of efficiencies which Robotics offer an organisation.

Just as we have seen robots revolutionise the manufacturing industry by creating higher production rates, improved quality and cost savings, Intelligent Automations, such as Robotic Process Automation (RPA), Machine Learning (ML) and Ai, is revolutionising the way we think about and administer business processes, workflow, infrastructure, administration functions and customer service.

Agile Automations develops and writes its own software coding; we do not use any robotics platforms, which allows us to offer a truly complete, flexible, robotics solution for our clients; offering a bespoke solution, to their unique individual requirements, ensuring that you always receive the solution that you require, without any need to make a compromise in the end solution. Our development team is based in the heart of Manchester, and we do not outsource any of our development to a third party.

What we do and how we stand out from other RPA providers: We design and develop custom-coded bespoke RPA solutions, primarily with the aim of helping our client save resources, reduce risks or improve customer service, while unlocking the true potential of their teams. Working with our clients, we are able to identify automation opportunities through scoping, build the solution, test the automation, implement it and train users and provide proactive, maintenance and support.

Please reach out to our CEO, Martin Keelagher, speaking at the Pro Manchester, Trailblazing event or reach out to a member of the team.

<https://agileautomations.co.uk/>

BEEVER AND STRUTHERS

Beever and Struthers is an award winning firm of Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors in Manchester, Blackburn, Birmingham and London. We have been providing accountancy and financial advice to clients for over 100 years and currently rank in the Top 10 firms in the North West.

The Firm comprises of 17 partners, all of whom are specialists in their chosen field of expertise. They are supported by an enthusiastic team of directors, managers and support staff who work in partnership with our clients.

We have many areas of expertise, but one single minded focus. We judge our achievements on what we achieve for our clients, by striving to excel in everything we do, in every sector we operate in, every day.

For each sector we apply specialised knowledge and a very specific set of accounting tools. But we also apply something else; true business insight. Because we believe that the better informed you are, the better your business growth will be. You'll find our approach more personal and more proactive. Whatever your business model, we'll take the time to understand your organisation, the challenges you face and your future aspirations.

<https://www.beeverstruthers.co.uk/>

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bruntwood SciTech

SciTech is the UK's leading provider of office, lab and scientific services for the science and technology sector. Our network of innovation districts and 500+ businesses connects the UK's most ambitious cities, regions and science and technology communities together through collaboration and specialist support, offering access to finance, talent, new markets and a unique public, private, academic, clinical partner network.

<https://bruntwood.co.uk/scitech/>

CLOCKWISE

Clockwise Manchester offers fully serviced offices with monthly rolling contracts located in Linley House at the heart of the city.

Offering beautifully designed and fully serviced offices, Clockwise Manchester is the perfect solution for growing businesses who need professional workspaces and flexibility with monthly rolling contracts. A prestigious company address with one fee to cover everything; rent, reception cover, cleaning, maintenance, security, utilities and WiFi.

There are offices of varying size, from 1 person to a whole team. There are also Club Lounge and Dedicated Desk memberships for those who aren't yet ready for an office but need a professional workspace.

<https://work-clockwise.com/>



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The Manchester Metropolitan University have supported industry and commerce in the city since 1889. We have supported industry and commerce in the city since 1889. Today we provide apprenticeships, undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees, together with MBAs and professional qualifications for every stage of your career.

In addition to executive development, we provide bespoke commercial training and can work with you to deliver tailored solutions to your staff development needs.

We are a business support specialist, having worked with over hundreds of small firms to date. Our firms have created new jobs through working with us, and we are driven to support you to grow, through training and support. We incorporate cutting-edge research into our programmes, from the entrepreneurial mind-set to social and sustainable enterprise. We work closely with small and medium enterprises to offer practical support to encourage and aid business growth.

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/>

MILLS & REEVE

Achieve more. Together.

Mills & Reeve is centred on achieving more for clients, their businesses, and the wider communities we serve. Our clients and their industries benefit from our knowledge and learning – on everything from wellbeing, diversity, and inclusion to global trends. The wider community benefits from a focus on sustainability in client and business decisions.

Clients get a consistent experience with no surprises – we tell them what they need to know, when they need to know it. Our sector and market expertise helps us understand clients' issues. And our technology and innovations help them achieve more with less effort. We build personal relationships, with advice individually tailored to individual need. And if clients need things we don't offer, we draw on our network to give recommendations.

Our 1,100 plus people and over 600 lawyers share one vision – achieving more for clients.

<https://www.mills-reeve.com/>



RTC is a mission led company specialising in helping organisations to innovate, compete and grow. Founded in 1989, our advisors have worked with over 15,000 SMEs across the North of England helping them access new markets and commercialise new ideas, from design to manufacture.

Having supported over 15,000 projects, we have seen commercialisation in action, from proof of concept, business planning and funding innovation to manufacture and scale up. We will bring insight on what works and be there for you on your journey.

<https://www.rtcnorth.co.uk/>

Premium Sponsors



Named as Law Firm of the Year at The Lawyer Awards 2021 and Large Law Firm of the Year at the Manchester Legal Awards 2022, TLT is one of the fastest growing law firms in the UK. We're your business advisers as well as your lawyers, working in step with you to protect your interests today and progress your ambitions for tomorrow.

With local, national and international reach, we draw on our diverse expertise to find solutions and look ahead to create new opportunities. In an unpredictable world, your business adapts and evolves to succeed, and so do we. Bringing together our expertise with efficient processes and integrated technology, we'll anticipate change to keep you ahead of your challenges.

Whether it's building relationships or the sustainability of our actions, we think long term – working with you to put people, communities and the environment at the forefront. We are a top 50, full service commercial law firm built on ambition, innovation and a dedication to client service delivery.

<https://www.tlt.com/>



VisionEvents Manchester (VEM) are a full event production company located in Manchester. We bring together various elements of event design under one roof, making our clients lives easier when organising often complex events.

Our vast spectrum of highly specialised skills allows us to offer you the full events package. This means you have just one main contact for your project who will pull together all these various aspects - regardless how big or small they are. Put simply, VisionEvents Manchester can complete every element of your creative and technical project.

<https://www.visioneventsmanchester.co.uk/>



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LATITUDE
STRATEGIC MARKETING

When was the last time your marketing or design agency mentioned a return on investment? When did they last question whether you needed to spend as much as you are? At Latitude, these are the things we consider first. It's not what's best for us, it's what works for you.

Providing outstanding, forward thinking and insightful creativity with a big budget is easy. Doing it within a sensible budget, well that requires skill, and talent, and thought.

We're a strategic marketing agency that put our client's requirements first following it with impressive creativity and advice. We don't do marketing speak, we speak plainly and speak our minds. This approach to business has meant we have a high level of client retention and referral, working with clients both locally and internationally, in some cases for over 15 years. When was the last time an agency pitched to you in a language you understood?

<https://www.latitude.marketing/>

Trailblazing Tech Awards 2023

Manchester is the UK's biggest tech city outside of London, employing nearly 72,000 talented people in the region. We are celebrating our region's disruptors with our Trailblazing Tech Award. We had over 50 nominations that were carefully considered and shortlisted to just 10 companies. In May our shortlist presented in front of our expert judges and were then put through their paces during our quick fire Q&A. Judges included Jonathan Symcox, BusinessCloud, Nicola Bilner - TLT, Richard Williams – Beever and Struthers, Paul Knight - Mills & Reeve and Vikas Shah - Entrepreneur & Non Executive Director.

Our three finalists will showcase their tech product live on stage today where you, our audience, will decide who will win the pro-manchester Trailblazing Tech Award for 2023.



GigPig is a platform that helps venues manage the entire process of booking live musicians and DJs. Always free to artists, it allows you to get gigs, get paid, and do more of what you love.

We've worked in live music before autotune was a thing. So, we know the business like the back of our hands. That's why we can take away the uncertainty, barriers and bad practices that have gone before to reimagine how the hospitality industry books gigs.

<https://www.gigpig.uk/>



Leafyard is a web application that combines science and study to motivate people to take control of their own mental health. A series of regular videos that will teach you how to cope with stress, increase happiness, build resilience and confidence. Understand why your biology and chemistry make you feel the way you do, and most importantly what you can do to help change it.

Leafyard tasks you with making continual small changes and tweaks to your thought processes. Sometimes change can be hard but Leafyard's strategic approach means it's possible to make progress every single day.

<https://www.leafyard.com/>



Boodil are an alternative payment method and consumer engagement platform. You'll find our button at the checkout. You can't miss us.

Boodil was founded with the sole mission of improving the spending experience for consumers. We wanted to provide as much value as possible because let's face it, no one enjoys paying for things. Seeing a bank balance trickle down (or tumble down if you're anything like us), isn't fun for anyone. So we've created a moment of excitement at the checkout through our rewarding payments experience and prize draws.

<https://www.boodil.com/>

pro-manchester is the largest business development organisation in the North West. Often described as 'the gateway to the business community'.

With around 300 members from a huge variety of sectors, we are here to support the growth and development of businesses across the North of England. Established in 1986, pro-manchester is the member's organisation representing the business, financial and professional sector in Greater Manchester.

Our key success factors are membership, events, networking and business development. We host up to 150 events each calendar year and increase professional excellence through knowledge sharing, creating partnerships and staying ahead of the ever-changing business environment.

If you're interested in becoming a member or want to attend any more of our Events, head to www.pro-manchester.co.uk

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If you're interested in sponsoring any of our future events please contact Dominique.dempsey@pro-manchester.co.uk