

# Successful Tech Incubators in Manchester and Leeds

In 2016, Manchester Science Partnerships (of which Bruntwood SciTech is the majority shareholder), successfully bid to Manchester City Council for £2m to establish a tech incubator designed to accelerate the growth of Manchester’s digital economy by creating over 2000 highly skilled jobs by 2028.

The Data Science and Technology Innovation incubator is designed specifically for entrepreneurs and startups working in the areas of AI and machine learning, FinTech, and cybersecurity. £1.5m of capital investment was made into the development of high specification coworking space, small offices, and communal event and lounge spaces, together with the establishment of a specialist business growth services programme. The programme includes access to finance and funding, business advice and mentorship, talent attraction and retention, and sector skills development, is delivered in partnership with the largest digital sector trade body in the North - Manchester Digital, and university partners - Manchester Metropolitan University and The University of Manchester.

The success of the tech incubator has already exceeded expectations being fully let within less than 12 months of opening, providing a home for over 25 disruptive tech startups employing over 120 people. Several businesses are already looking for expansion opportunities.

It was the success of the Manchester tech incubator bid that led to Bruntwood SciTech successfully receiving £2m of funding from Leeds City Council’s Tech Hub fund to establish

and run a tech incubator in Leeds which would accelerate the growth of the city’s creative and digital technology sector, drive international investment and provide a focal point for the wider regional tech community to come together.

The Leeds tech incubator opened in April 2018 at Platform, Bruntwood SciTech’s landmark redevelopment above the city’s railway station. The city’s only dedicated technology hub specifically focuses on accelerating growth in the city’s key strengths- software development, FinTech, gaming, and ehealth, and does so utilising the expertise of a dedicated innovation and partnerships manager who delivers targeted, specialist business support programmes. These include mentor networks, access to investors, academic connections, professional service advice, and wider meet-up events and social programme.

Having exceeded expectations with take up from tech startups in Big Data, AI, gaming, digital health and cybersecurity, the Leeds tech incubator is now home to over 80 businesses and is on track to deliver the project’s objectives of 1000 new jobs by 2028.

