# UK government launches TechFirst to train 7.5 million workers in AI by 2030



During London Tech Week on 9 June 2025, the UK government unveiled an ambitious initiative aimed at upskilling 7.5 million workers—approximately 20% of the UK workforce—in artificial intelligence (AI) by 2030. This government-industry partnership includes contributions from notable tech companies such as Google, Microsoft, and IBM, all of which have committed to providing accessible training materials for businesses of all sizes.

The announcement coincided with a £187 million programme intended to integrate digital skills and AI training into schools and communities. This initiative echoes the AI Opportunities Action Plan published earlier in the year, which proposes nine key strategies to cultivate the next generation of AI experts. Julian David OBE, CEO of techUK, remarked on the government’s mission, emphasising, “techUK stands ready to support… in achieving its ambition to upskill 7.5 million people with AI skills by 2030.” The focus now shifts towards fostering industry cooperation to simplify the retraining process for employees at all levels.

The newly introduced TechFirst package comprises four distinct strands—TechYouth, TechGrad, TechExpert, and TechLocal. Each aims to tackle specific educational and developmental needs within the technology sector. TechYouth, with £24 million allocated, seeks to engage one million secondary school students in tech learning over three years. Meanwhile, TechGrad will support 1,000 talented domestic students annually with scholarships in critical areas like AI and cyber security, backed by a total investment of £96.8 million. On the PhD level, TechExpert will offer financial support to 500 domestic researchers, while TechLocal will focus on regional innovators, providing £18 million to assist small businesses in adopting AI technologies.

Despite these efforts, concerns were raised regarding the existing digital infrastructure necessary to support AI initiatives. Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia, underscored these deficiencies while advocating for increased investment in computing capabilities, which Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer pledged to enhance with an additional £1 billion. This funding aims to increase UK computing power by twentyfold, supporting broader AI adoption across various sectors, including government training programs. Notably, Nvidia plans to launch an AI Technology Centre in Bristol, contributing to this burgeoning initiative.

Moreover, the UK government announced the AI Accelerator Programme, a twelve-week bootcamp designed to transform civil service data scientists into AI specialists through collaborative projects aimed at improving public services. In tandem with this, techUK’s ongoing engagement with the government focuses on the pressing labour market challenges posed by evolving technology landscapes.

Evidence suggests a significant gap in AI investments when comparing the UK with global powerhouses like the US and China. To address this disparity, the government’s objective includes expanding its computing capacity to accommodate up to 100,000 Nvidia GPUs by 2030.

In this wider context, all these efforts highlight the essential need for strategic collaboration and sustained investment in AI to secure the UK’s position as a leading player in this transformative field. The TechFirst initiative, along with other strategic alliances between government and tech firms, is geared towards fostering an AI-ready workforce capable of driving innovation and enhancing quality of life across the nation.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Turning%2Bour%2BAI%2Bskills%2Bambition%2Binto%2Baction%2B10062025162500?open), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/985fd9d6-cd07-4bf0-8993-bbe160d43379)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Turning%2Bour%2BAI%2Bskills%2Bambition%2Binto%2Baction%2B10062025162500?open), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/cc04adfb-81b2-477f-b85c-ce042e8f83a8), [[3]](https://www.techradar.com/pro/live/london-tech-week-2025-day-one-all-the-news-and-updates-as-we-see-them)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.civilserviceworld.com/professions/article/new-ai-bootcamp-will-turn-whitehall-coders-into-ai-specialists), [[7]](https://www.aboutamazon.co.uk/news/aws/aws-skills-to-jobs-tech-alliance-uk-launch)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/cc04adfb-81b2-477f-b85c-ce042e8f83a8), [[5]](https://www.civilserviceworld.com/professions/article/new-ai-bootcamp-will-turn-whitehall-coders-into-ai-specialists)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Turning%2Bour%2BAI%2Bskills%2Bambition%2Binto%2Baction%2B10062025162500?open), [[6]](https://www.techuk.org/what-we-deliver/events/techuk-dsit-ai-cyber-security-workshop.html)

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## Bibliography

1. [https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Turning+our+AI+skills+ambition+into+action+10062025162500?open](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/Turning%2Bour%2BAI%2Bskills%2Bambition%2Binto%2Baction%2B10062025162500?open) - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/cc04adfb-81b2-477f-b85c-ce042e8f83a8> - At London Tech Week, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang highlighted the UK's insufficient digital infrastructure for AI, despite its strong research talent and significant private investment. In response, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced an additional £1 billion to expand the nation's AI computing capabilities, aiming to increase compute power twentyfold and position the UK as an AI leader. The funding will enhance the UK AI Research Resource and support broader AI adoption, including training for all civil servants. Nvidia also unveiled plans for an AI Technology Centre in Bristol and the UK Sovereign AI Industry Forum with firms like BAE Systems and BT. Additionally, AI cloud companies Nscale and Nebius will establish facilities using thousands of Nvidia's chips. Despite these initiatives, UK AI investments remain significantly lower than those of the US and China, prompting plans to close this gap, including a goal of expanding government computing capacity to match 100,000 Nvidia GPUs by 2030. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/cc04adfb-81b2-477f-b85c-ce042e8f83a8?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.techradar.com/pro/live/london-tech-week-2025-day-one-all-the-news-and-updates-as-we-see-them> - Day two of London Tech Week 2025 featured major tech announcements, influential speakers, and innovative showcases. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang highlighted the UK's investment in AI, including a £1 billion boost to computing power and training 7.5 million workers in AI by 2030. Nvidia also announced plans for an AI lab in the UK. Microsoft UK unveiled a partnership with Barclays to deploy 100,000 Copilot AI agents, emphasising AI's role in productivity and inclusivity. Discussions addressed balancing AI development with sustainability, open-source accessibility, and reducing global inequality. Exhibitors showcased AI applications across various sectors, and panels addressed ethical AI development, cybersecurity challenges, economic disparity, and the UK's competitive positioning versus the US. The day underscored the transformative potential of AI and the need for strategic collaboration, ethical innovation, and sustained investment to lead in the AI-driven future. ([techradar.com](https://www.techradar.com/pro/live/london-tech-week-2025-day-one-all-the-news-and-updates-as-we-see-them?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/985fd9d6-cd07-4bf0-8993-bbe160d43379> - The UK Spring Statement of 2025, delivered by the Chancellor, focused on actions to ensure economic stability and a decade of national renewal. Key measures included restoring public finances, supporting the Bank of England to cut interest rates, investing in the NHS, increasing the National Living Wage, and addressing evolving global threats like Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The Chancellor highlighted fiscal rules such as the Stability Rule to control public spending and the Investment Rule to drive economic growth. He detailed steps to combat tax evasion, reform welfare, and increase defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027. Efforts to boost productivity and efficiency in public services with a new Transformation Fund were also announced. Additionally, reforms to planning policies aim to support housebuilding and economic growth, with forecasts of increased GDP and improved living standards. The Chancellor reinforced his commitment to supporting working people and making long-term decisions for enduring economic stability. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/985fd9d6-cd07-4bf0-8993-bbe160d43379?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.civilserviceworld.com/professions/article/new-ai-bootcamp-will-turn-whitehall-coders-into-ai-specialists> - The UK government has launched the AI Accelerator Programme, a 12-week bootcamp designed to upskill data scientists across the civil service into AI specialists. The programme aims to train 25 machine learning engineers through hackathons, where participants will tackle live government challenges. Officials from various departments, including the Welsh Government, Scottish Government, Ministry of Justice, UK Health and Security Agency, and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, will collaborate on cross-cutting projects to drive efficiency and innovation in public services. This initiative supports the Prime Minister's goal of doubling the number of digital experts in government departments by 2030, aiming to transform public services and achieve £45 billion in productivity savings from AI and digital technology. ([civilserviceworld.com](https://www.civilserviceworld.com/professions/article/new-ai-bootcamp-will-turn-whitehall-coders-into-ai-specialists?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.techuk.org/what-we-deliver/events/techuk-dsit-ai-cyber-security-workshop.html> - techUK, in collaboration with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), is hosting an AI Cyber Security Workshop from 6 to 8 May 2025 in Manchester. The event aims to bring together key players across the cyber security sector to promote leading-edge UK capabilities, build networks, and grow the sector. techUK members have the opportunity to network, share ideas, and collaborate, enabling the industry to address common challenges and opportunities together. The workshop is part of techUK's Cyber Resilience Programme, which focuses on enhancing the UK's cyber resilience and fostering innovation in the sector. ([techuk.org](https://www.techuk.org/what-we-deliver/events/techuk-dsit-ai-cyber-security-workshop.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.aboutamazon.co.uk/news/aws/aws-skills-to-jobs-tech-alliance-uk-launch> - Amazon Web Services (AWS) has launched the AWS Skills to Jobs Tech Alliance in the UK, aiming to provide 100,000 people with AI skills by 2030. The programme, in collaboration with educational institutions, government leaders, and enterprises, seeks to equip learners for entry-level technical careers. Research indicates that AI literacy will be a requirement for nearly half of new UK jobs over the next three years, yet 41% of UK organisations report struggling to hire individuals with the necessary digital skills. The initiative aligns with AWS's commitment to training and job investment, including plans to invest £8 billion over the next five years in building, operating, and maintaining data centres in the UK, supporting 14,000 full-time equivalent jobs annually at local UK businesses. ([aboutamazon.co.uk](https://www.aboutamazon.co.uk/news/aws/aws-skills-to-jobs-tech-alliance-uk-launch?utm_source=openai))