# London Tech Week 2025 embraces bold growth but faces inclusivity challenges



Having attended London Tech Week for five years—three as a journalist and the last two as the founder and editor of TFN—I have witnessed a remarkable transformation. What began as a relatively formal event rooted in British tradition has evolved into a vibrant gathering that celebrates global talent, innovation, and ambition.

This year, held at Olympia London, the atmosphere felt distinctly more energetic and dynamic. From the quick-moving queues to the bold branding, with striking blues and pinks punctuated by the “Green Innovation Stage,” the event bore more resemblance to a European festival of innovation than a conventional industry conference. Yet, with such growth come challenges, as highlighted by the incident on opening day. Entrepreneur Davina Schonle faced humiliation when she was refused entry for attempting to bring her eight-month-old child. This discordant moment underscored the need for the event’s policies to align better with its stated values of inclusivity and progressivism.

Despite this setback, the event showcased substantial momentum. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's unexpected presence alongside Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia, sent a clear message: the UK is prepared to take the lead in the tech sphere. Starmer articulated a vision for the UK's ambitions in artificial intelligence, announcing a significant £1 billion investment to enhance the nation's computing capacity by twentyfold. This funding aims to bolster initiatives such as the UK AI Research Resource launched earlier in 2023, emphasising a collaborative approach to AI advancement across sectors.

With approximately 30,000 attendees hailing from 125 countries, London Tech Week felt like the nucleus of European technology. High-profile figures from industry giants, including Darren Hardman, CEO of Microsoft UK, and Niklas Zennström from Atomico, reinforced the notion that London aspires to be a leader, not just a participant, in the ongoing AI revolution. However, Huang noted that despite the UK's strong AI research capabilities, significant improvements in digital infrastructure are necessary if it aims to catch up with the likes of the US and China.

The event featured remarkable initiatives, such as the UK–Ukraine TechBridge Investment Accelerator Demo Day, where ten promising Ukrainian startups showcased their innovations after undergoing an intensive programme aimed at global expansion. This initiative, backed by 1991 Ventures, the UK government, and Ukraine’s Ministry of Digital Transformation, served as a poignant reminder that innovation persists even amid conflict.

The diversity of startups at the event was also noteworthy. Founders and teams from Singapore, Turkey, Pakistan, India, and Malta contributed to a robust exchange of ideas that characterised London Tech Week's international scope. Homegrown talents, like Strolll, an AR-powered neurorehabilitation platform, and CipherX Tech, which offers AI-driven painless tattoo technology, highlighted the UK's innovative potential. Another crowd favourite was Ameca, a humanoid robot that captured the attention of attendees and showcased the whimsical side of technological advancement.

Additionally, the event focused on innovative solutions aimed at empowering SMEs, predominantly within sectors like AI, cybersecurity, fintech, and HRtech. Matthew de la Hey, co-founder and CEO of Inploi, explained how their platform seeks to revolutionise the hiring process with features like AI CV scoring and natural language search, making recruitment faster and more efficient—a stark contrast to traditional, time-consuming Applicant Tracking Systems. “We’re bringing Netflix to the game,” he remarked, touching on the obsolete nature of many hiring tools today.

The Founders Stage Panel I participated in tackled critical topics, including the UK’s challenges in producing more global tech brands and the structural changes necessary for supporting startups on an international scale. While the UK’s startup ecosystem appears to be improving, gaps remain—particularly concerning growth-stage support and scaling talent.

No discussion of London Tech Week would be complete without acknowledging the influential side events. Among these, VC Padel proved a popular forum for fostering connections between investors and founders, reflecting on the sentiments that side events often facilitate deeper conversations. Adrian Love, General Partner at Love Ventures, remarked on the relaxed atmosphere necessary for meaningful networking.

Another noteworthy gathering was the Mountside Ventures Unofficial After Party, offering a glimpse of Europe’s vibrant venture ecosystem. There, conversations ranged from the UK’s AI talent gap to the pressing need for enhanced digital infrastructure. Jon Steinberg, Founding Partner of Mountside Ventures, pointedly observed that while the UK is making strides, it must also overcome significant hurdles to implement AI initiatives successfully.

Amid these discussions, innovations came to the fore. For instance, Applied Computing, a British AI firm, recently secured a £9 million seed round to develop foundation models aimed at enhancing energy efficiency in heavy industries. CEO Callum Adamson shared insights into their mission, stating that the transition to sustainable practices must also consider hydrocarbon industries.

As the event concluded, it was evident that London Tech Week is no longer merely a platform for tech engagement—it's a catalyst for shaping the future of technology. While the atmosphere was both bold and determined, reflecting an unyielding commitment to progress, challenges remain. The hope is that as the event continues to evolve, it will also become more inclusive and accessible. The future of UK tech appears bright, marked by resilience and a clear ambition to lead on the global stage.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://techfundingnews.com/tfn-at-london-tech-week-2025-whats-changed-whats-next-and-why-this-year-felt-different/> - 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 despite its strong AI research talent and significant private investment, ranking third globally behind the US and China. In response, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced a £1 billion investment to expand the nation’s AI computing capabilities, aiming to increase compute power twentyfold and position the country as an AI leader. The funding will bolster the UK AI Research Resource launched in 2023 and support wider adoption of AI, including training for all civil servants. Nvidia also announced several UK initiatives, including a new AI Technology Centre in Bristol and the formation of the UK Sovereign AI Industry Forum in collaboration with firms like BAE Systems and BT. Additionally, AI cloud companies Nscale and Nebius will launch facilities using thousands of Nvidia’s chips. Despite this momentum, UK AI investments remain significantly lower than those of the US and China. Plans are in motion to close this gap, including a long-term goal of expanding government computing capacity to match 100,000 Nvidia GPUs by 2030.
3. <https://www.techradar.com/pro/live/london-tech-week-2025-day-one-all-the-news-and-updates-as-we-see-them> - London Tech Week 2025 showcased the UK’s growing role in the global tech and AI landscape, with keynote speeches from Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer emphasizing AI as transformative infrastructure requiring substantial investment. Starmer announced significant initiatives, including a £1.5 billion investment from Liquidity for its European HQ in London, £1 billion for scaling compute power, and plans to train 7.5 million UK workers in AI by 2030, supported by Nvidia. Huang highlighted the UK’s strengths in academia and AI research but cited infrastructure as a limiting factor. Microsoft UK unveiled a deal with Barclays to deploy 100,000 Copilot agents, while companies like Dell, AWS, and Redbull illustrated AI's diverse applications across sectors. Discussions addressed AI's environmental impacts, worker displacement fears—especially among Gen Z—and the UK’s potential to lead in AI responsibly. Panels included insights on AI regulation, the skills gap, and sustaining tech firms in the UK. Smaller startups also showcased innovations in data management, cybersecurity, healthcare, and sustainable practices. The event highlighted AI’s integration across industries and the importance of collaboration between government, industry, and education to harness its full potential.
4. <https://londontechweek.com/experience-london-tech-week> - London Tech Week 2025 offered a comprehensive experience with various stages focusing on cutting-edge technologies and industry insights. The Innovation Stage delved into AI, fintech, supply chain transformation, and next-generation digital infrastructure, featuring thought leaders and pioneers. The Impact Stage spotlighted innovations addressing climate tech, healthcare, and sustainability challenges. The Founders Stage provided a candid space where global founders shared lessons from hypergrowth, fundraising, and international expansion. The Tech Horizons Stage explored emerging technologies, the future of quantum computing, and the evolving landscape of AI. The Startup Stage featured early-stage funding, scaling strategies, live pitch competitions, VC insights, and startup success stories. Attendees had opportunities for 1:1 meetings and curated networking, powered by AI-driven event apps, to connect with the right people for funding, partnerships, or exploring the latest tech solutions. The Country Pavilion Programme served as a gateway to emerging markets, global investment trends, and international collaboration, allowing attendees to expand their network, unlock new markets, and build global partnerships. The Rising Stars competition, with £3,000,000 on offer across regional and national levels, gave early-stage tech startups the chance to showcase their innovations, attract investors, and gain global exposure. Finalists competed for £1,000,000 in investment and exclusive opportunities. The VIP Space, an exclusive, invitation-only area, hosted high-impact discussions, private networking, and strategic collaborations among global policymakers, tech CEOs, and thought leaders.
5. <https://londontechweek.com/2025-agenda> - The London Tech Week 2025 agenda featured a diverse range of sessions across multiple stages. On Day One, the Main Stage included the UK Government Opening Address, discussions on how AI is redefining the modern enterprise, and debates on how the UK and Europe can compete with the US and China in developing transformative technology. The Impact Stage hosted panels on uniting to power women founders, emphasizing the importance of community, investors, and industry groups in supporting female entrepreneurs. The Tech Horizons Stage offered a livestream of the Main Stage, networking breaks, and the Tech Nation Rising Stars Grand Final pitches, where the nation's top early-stage startups delivered high-stakes pitches in front of expert judges. The Startup Stage featured a livestream of the Main Stage, networking breaks, and the University Showdown, showcasing innovative startups led by university founders tackling real-world challenges with cutting-edge tech.
6. <https://londontechweek.com/plan-visit-london-tech-week-2025> - London Tech Week 2025, held from 9-11 June at Olympia London, was the UK's most influential tech event, bringing together industry leaders, game-changing startups, and visionary investors to shape the future of technology, innovation, and global collaboration. The Expo and Content Stages were open from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm on Monday and Tuesday, and until 5:00 pm on Wednesday. Fringe events took place across London from 9-13 June, offering dynamic conversations, networking, and immersive activations in key tech hubs. The venue was easily accessible via public transport, with Kensington Olympia station just a one-minute walk away, and West Kensington and Barons Court stations within an 11-minute walk. Bus options included routes 9, 27, 28, N9, N27, and N28, with the closest bus stops at Kensington Olympia Station, North End Road, and Kensington Station.
7. <https://www.kreateforevents.com/tradeshows-exhibitions-database/london-tech-week> - London Tech Week is the premier global gathering for the technology ecosystem, uniting visionaries, entrepreneurs, investors, and enterprise tech leaders. This dynamic event fosters collaboration to accelerate the endless cycle of innovation. Designed to spotlight groundbreaking technologies of the future, it connects creators with investors who fuel their growth and enterprise leaders who drive adoption. The event featured 45,000 visitors from over 90 countries, with more than 400 speakers and 75 hours of content. Key event features included opportunities to meet future unicorns, top investors, and game-changing leaders of tomorrow, interact with people at the cutting edge of tech innovation, and discover how corporates are innovating and embracing emerging tech to become more productive, efficient, and competitive.