Digital Industries Fact Sheet

Plymouth is home to a dynamic and diverse digital sector, which includes advertising, design, digital and ICT music publishing radio and television software, computer games, electronic publishing, video, film photography, visual and performing arts

Sector Overview

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- 1,983 FTE jobs in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) (2019)
- £121.2m GVA across ICT (2019)
- £61,150 GVA per FTE (2019)
- £22,300 average advertised salary (2021)
- 270 count of enterprises (2020)

Digital Technologies

- 1,342 FTE jobs in Digital Technologies (2019)
- £78m GVA across Digital Technologies (2019)
- £58,040 GVA per FTE in Digital Technologies (2019)
- £22,300 average advertised salary (2021)
- 220 count of enterprises (2020)
- £77.9m digital tech business turnover (2019)
- 70 ICT apprentices in 2018/19
- 890 students in Computer Sciences in University of Plymouth and Plymouth College of Art (2018/19)
- 7th best ultrafast broadband in the UK (Centre for Cities)
- The Local Full Fibre Network project will enable the infrastructure for 5G applications from 2021

Invest in the digital sector

Specialist Companies

- Acronyms
- Archilime
- Argans
- BluescreenIT
- DATA Play
- Elixel
- Ginium
- Goss Interactive
- Helm Squared
- Imployable
- Magic Seaweed
- Magicka Interactive
- Pixalytics
- Plymouth Software
- Silverstream
- Sponge
- The Market Hall, by Real Ideas Organisation
- The Moment
- Vualto

Shared Workspace

University of Plymouth Formation Zones

With two locations, one on the University's campus and one at Plymouth Science Park, Formation Zones nurture and develop new, high-value businesses by providing a dynamic environment encompassing the knowledge, facilities and resources to inspire and enable successful business ideas.

Formation Zone have an in-house support team and run on site business training and workshops with partners from across the region, as well as offering free monthly appointments with expert business advisors.

The Market Hall

The Market Hall is a world-class space for digital, situated in the heart of historic Devonport.

Building on Devonport's incredible heritage of innovation and exploration, the Market Hall is home to an awe-inspiring immersive dome as well as providing space for people to learn, work, develop new ideas and have fun!

The 15m diameter immersive dome – the first of its kind in western Europe – allows you to explore a virtual world, without the need for a VR headset, opening up a world of immersive experiences.

The project is led by local social enterprise, Real Ideas Organisation, in partnership with Plymouth City Council, the Institute of Digital Arts and Technology (i-DAT at Plymouth University), City College Plymouth and Devonport High School for Boys.

In addition to providing work space, lab and teaching spaces for the partners, the Market Hall will also offer space for events and meetings, a range of education programmes and a digital arts visitor centre.

To find out more visit https://realideas.org/market-hall/

iMayflower

iMayflower is a £6m Cultural Development Fund project that is developing the use of immersive and digital technologies to drive growth in the local economy and pride in the city. It aims to support digital creative makers and doers, unlocking innovation and supporting a positive change in every sector whilst showcasing Plymouth as a leading light in all things creative.

Research, Skills and Innovation

University of Plymouth

The University provides a range of degree level programmes in creative and digital tech, including 3D design, the built environment, digital media design and creative media and filmmaking. All programmes are currently for full time study with the exception of a degree level apprenticeship which is for employed digital trainees.

iDAT

A research and design collective at the University. It co-creates and shares technological prototypes and practices, that push and challenge the boundaries of digital arts and creative media practice. Its main focus is on making 'data' tangible, playable and readily available as a material, to generate new meaning and inform participation, audience engagement and innovation in the arts. For more information, visit www.i-dat.org.

Plymouth Marjon University

Full and part time degree courses with focus on digital media and broadcasting. Journalism students are based at The Workshop on the BBC campus and work with professionals in digital media and learn to tell unforgettable stories online.

City College Plymouth

The College's Regional Centre of Excellence for STEM provides state-of-the-art facilities for the high tech and digital industries. With a wide range of apprenticeships and full and part-time digital courses on offer from level one to degree programmes, the College is well-placed to provide the skills and ongoing support businesses need for a sustainable, digital future.

Plymouth College of Art

One of the few remaining independent colleges of art and design in the UK with a history dating back to 1856.

Provides unrivalled specialist learning in a range of Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Pre-Degree study across art, design and digital media.

The college is a UK Advisory Council Member of the Creative Industries Federation, a Member of the Crafts Council Advisory Group and a Steering Group Member of the Cultural Learning Alliance. In 2019, Plymouth College of Art was granted Taught Degree-Awarding Powers, and conferred with International Baccalaureate World School status.

Achievement Training

ATL offer a wide range of IT user based programmes at further education level. Alongside their fulltime offer ATL have a suite of IT apprenticeships available.

BluescreenIT

A private cyber security consultancy and international award winning IT and cyber security training provider; with their HQ in Plymouth they continue to expand with new offices in London and the East of England. BluescreenIT have been operating for over 16 years in the global market place and are proven innovators, having recently won CompTIA's Global Innovation Award for preparing individuals for careers in technology. BluescreenIT have also successfully delivered a Government DCMS Cyber Security programme, backed by Amazon, National Crime Agency, Cisco and other partners.

DATA Play

Working with interested people, local digital talent and tech companies to explore how data and technology can help deliver services and solve problems in entirely new ways. Part of the city's commitment to opening data, developing smart systems and processes, and encouraging new ways of working with data.

The South West Creative Technology Network (SWCTN)

The South West Creative Technology Network (SWCTN) is a £6.5 million project to expand the use of creative technologies across the south west of England. The network is offering three one-year funded programmes around the themes of immersion, automation and data.

Impact Lab

The Impact Lab is a partnership of seven world class Devon based organisations. The partnership comprises the University of Exeter, Exeter City Futures, the Met Office, the University of Plymouth, Plymouth College of Art, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, and Rothamsted Research. The Impact Lab is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The heart of what the Impact Lab offers is resource for collaborative projects to help businesses solve a key technical challenge in the development of a new product, service or process. Project work is led by the core team of technical specialists and scientists, called the Innovation Support Team.
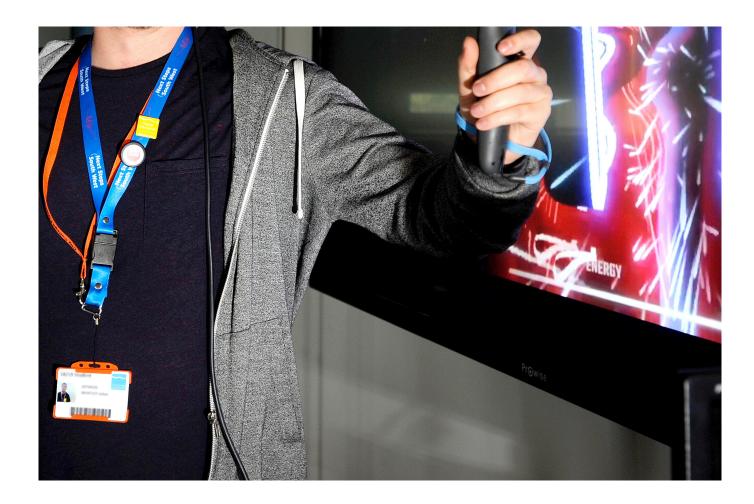
Co-operative Opportunities

Plymouth is a Social Enterprise City and is committed to supporting the growth of Social Enterprises and Co-operatives.

The Digital sector is one of the Strategic Growth Areas where we have existing strengths and are targeting support.

Email coop@plymouth.gov.uk for more information

Networks and Meet Ups

Plymouth Culture, Plymouth Design Forum, Digital Plymouth Meetup, Digital Plymouth Conference, Plymouth Web Meetup, DATA Play, Future Sync Conference, Cybercon Conference, Creative Juices (University of Plymouth and Plymouth Culture), Women in STEM Plymouth, Connected Plymouth Steering Group, Plymouth Digital Policy Alliance, STEM Plymouth

Take Action

To find out more about what Plymouth offers the digital sector, or to discuss how our business support service can help meet your business needs, please contact:

Enterprise and Inward Investment Team

invest@plymouth.gov.uk   investplymouth.co.uk

PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

Invest in the digital sector