

pro-manchester

TRAILBLAZING TECH



Friday 24th June
The Lowry Hotel

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TECHBLAST

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Welcome to the **pro-manchester** Trailblazing Tech Conference 2022

The speed of change never ceases to amaze me. Just reflecting back 12 months to our last Trailblazing Tech Conference and despite the ongoing issues caused by the pandemic, so much has moved on already. Today, at this year's conference, we are excited to take you through some of those developments, to debug the new buzzwords and demonstrate just how Manchester continues to innovate and lead the way in the world of technology.

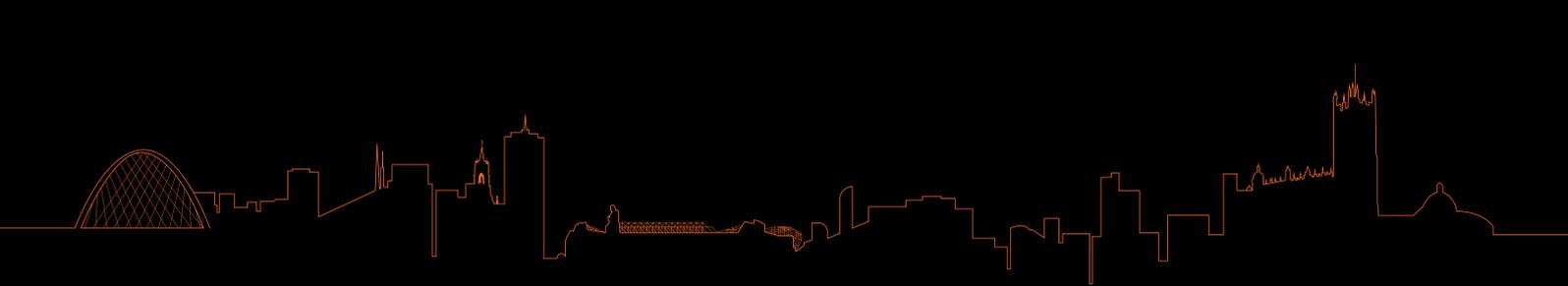
We will take a look at how technology is changing operations across different sectors and how the supportive ecosystem in the region is an essential component in the success of these inspiring innovations. We will even have some live demos from some of the region's very latest innovators who will be in with a chance of walking away with the prestigious pro-manchester Trailblazing Tech award for 2022.

I would like to offer my 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.

Sam Booth,
Chief Executive, pro-manchester

Agenda

08.50 - 08.55	Welcome by Sam Booth, pro-manchester CEO
08.55 - 09.05	Trailblazing Tech at the heart of Greater Manchester <i>Anthony Morrow - OpenMoney</i>
09.05 - 09.35	Debugging the Buzz Words - Metaverse and Web3 - and what they mean for business <i>John Toon - Beever and Struthers, Vlad-Andrei Porumb - University of Manchester, Clair Wescott - Fresh Digital, Dapo Ajisafe - Spac3d-VR</i>
09.35 - 09.55	Digital Marketing - Who Controls the Data? <i>Paul Knight - Mills & Reeve</i>
09.55 - 10.25	Talent in Tech - Recruitment Robots and Interviews with an Algorithm <i>Zoe Wallace - Agent Academy, Amul Batra - Northcoders, Ruby Melling - GSI, Graham Donoghue - Sykes Cottages</i>
10.25 - 10.55	Coffee Break
10.55 - 11.25	Tech for Good - A Greater, Greener Greater Manchester <i>Rachel Kenyon - University of Manchester, Alex Colman - HGF, Toby Nolan - Candle, Paul Jepson - Ecosulis, Azhar Quaiyoom - Q Sustain Ltd, Tom McGillycuddy - Circa 5000</i>
11.25 - 11.55	Retail - Embracing Omni and Multi Channel <i>Martyn Barrow - MID Communications, Sarah Bianchi - Arighi Bianchi, Emma Ford - Asda, Elizabeth Clark - Dream AI, Angela Gaskell - N Brown</i>
11.55 - 12.05	Innovation GM - A blueprint for success <i>Lou Cordwell, Chair - GM LEP & Chief Creative Officer - Magnetic</i>
12.05 - 12.50	Trailblazing Tech Award Final - Live Demos
12.05 - 12.20	Spac3d-VR <i>Dami Akinbolue & Dapo Ajisafe</i>
12.20 - 12.35	Dream Agility <i>Elizabeth Clark</i>
12.35 - 12.50	Candle <i>Toby Nolan</i>
12.50 - 13.45	Lunch
13.45 - 14.15	Fintech - Payment has never been easier, but is it safer? <i>David Gardner - TLT, Gareth Cleverly - Dacxi, Andy Taylor - Payful, Nicola Weedall - Hydr, Laura Pomfret - Financielle</i>
14.15 - 14.35	Can urban innovation districts be more inclusive? <i>Elvira Uyarra, Professor of Innovation Studies - Alliance Manchester Business School</i>
14.35 - 15.05	Cyber Security - There's no such thing as too much security <i>Chris Maguire - TechBlast & Business Cloud, Ed Hayes - TLT, Harman Singh - Cyphere, Daniel Dresner - University of Manchester, Elvira Uyarra, Alliance Manchester Business School</i>
15.05 - 15.25	Future of us - where next? <i>Ant Morse - Virgin Media O2</i>
15.25 - 15.30	Trailblazing Tech Award Winner & Close



Conference Speakers

Alex Colman

Senior European Patent Attorney • HGF



Alex is an engineer-turned-lawyer, specialising in protecting inventions relating to building technologies and construction products, including green technologies embodying energy reduction and decarbonisation, and producing renewable energy. Alex is also experienced in medical

devices, particularly injectables and wound care, automotive technologies and textiles.

Alex has worked for HGF in Manchester since 2013, supporting clients based all over the world in drafting and prosecuting patent applications, and advocating on their behalf before the European Patent Office Opposition Divisions and Boards of Appeal.

Amul Batra

Chief Operating Officer • Northcoders



Before Northcoders, Amul spent 20 years in the music industry, running a record label and managing a number of successful bands. He left music to set up a tech startup and a chance meeting with Northcoders CEO ended up with him learning to code himself on Northcoders' first ever cohort.

There, he saw first-hand how valuable a skill coding was becoming whilst at the same time fell in love with the values and ambition of Northcoders: diversity, community, excellence and helping to change lives through securing rewarding, fulfilling careers in tech.

He became an early investor in Northcoders and a key member of the leadership team. Northcoders has now graduated over 1000 new software developers in the last 6 years and has helped guide 94% of them into their first roles at over 320 businesses across the country.

Andy Taylor

CEO, Co-founder • Payful



Andy is CEO and Co-Founder of Payful, who are on a mission to end late payments in B2B by 2032.

Andy started in Fintech joining SME lender DueCourse as Head of Partnerships before joining London based startup Indigo as Head of Growth. Here Andy worked with the teams.

After working with multiple businesses trying to end late payments through finance and failing, Andy started work on a new approach, one to solve the age-old problem of late payments by connecting payment performance data and making it visible.

Angela Gaskell

Group Sourcing, Sustainability, Quality and Fit Director • N Brown



Angela joined N Brown in 2016 as Head of Sourcing before becoming the Group Director of Sourcing, Sustainability, Quality and Fit in October 2020. She is responsible for the Group's sourcing strategy and delivering N Brown's sustainability plan, #sustain.

N Brown is a digital fashion and homeware retailer, whose strategic brands are JD Williams, Simply Be, Jacamo, Ambrose Wilson and Home Essentials.

Prior to joining N Brown, Angela was Head of Sourcing and Continuous Improvement at Boohoo and has over 25 years experience within the retail/supply chain sector. Angela is also a member of the UN Global Compact Advisory Board – UK.

Ant Morse

Head of Innovation • Virgin Media O2



Ant is the Head of Innovation at Virgin Media O2 and Chair of the Customer Innovation Board. He works closely with a wide range of UK and Global brands, advising and supporting them in understanding and evaluating new innovative technologies, and the wider societal drivers of change within the ever-evolving Digital Revolution.

Ant sits on a number of governance boards and advisory committees, with research focus on societal transformation & trends resulting from progresses in technologies such as AI, IoT and XR developments. He is also a Trustee and Chair on the Birtenshaw Organisation Charity Board, who provide a range of support services for children and young adults with disabilities and special educational needs.

Anthony Morrow

Co-founder • OpenMoney



Anthony is co-founder of OpenMoney, passionate about making financial advice accessible and affordable to everyone.

He has considerable experience of the financial services industry, most recently as founding partner of discretionary fund manager Tatton Asset Management.

Previously, he was a consultant at both Arthur Anderson and KPMG specialising in regulatory, performance and strategic issues for the life and pensions sector.

Azhar Quaiyoom

CEO, Founder • Q Sustain Ltd



Azhar is the founder and CEO of Q Sustain Ltd, a specialist Manchester based Engineering & Sustainability company that is using tech and producing App products that will help the construction and rail industry to reduce its capital (embodied) and operational carbon. Azhar has 20

years' experience within sustainable design and delivery across different sectors such as mix use, commercial, healthcare and rail, and creating first of its kind achievements across complex projects. This is coupled with invaluable experience in practical major Infrastructure and build projects, with extensive knowledge of the feasibility, design and implementation stages. With this experience, Azhar runs this fast growing consultancy that is well placed to continue expansion and diversify. Q Sustain are also specialising in Smart Buildings for monitoring and reducing energy and carbon.

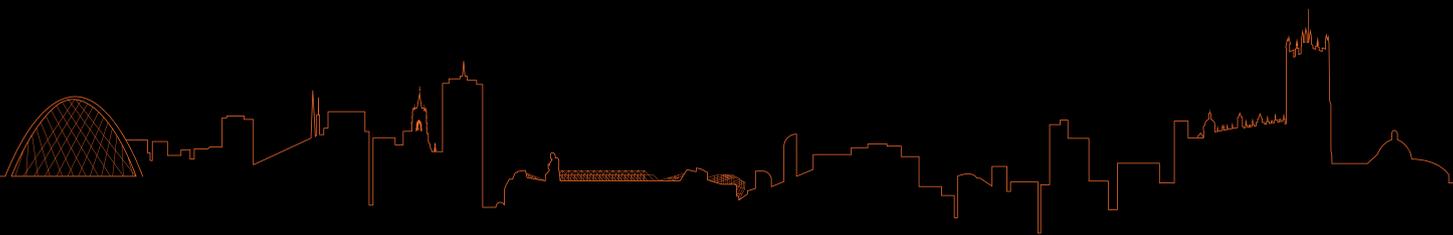
Azhar is also non Executive Director for the Greater Manchester Climate Change Agency, and supports local initiatives such as the GM City of Trees.

Chris Maguire

Executive Editor • Tech Blast UK & Business Cloud



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.



Conference Speakers

Clair Wescott

Managing Director • FreshDigital



Clair Wescott, managing director of Fresh Digital, has been a leading figure in the Manchester digital industry for almost 20 years. From leading large teams to delivering on digital strategy, mentoring and being a pioneer for digital change.

Clair has worked closely with development teams at Google to help shape products, worked with some of the largest brands to create innovative campaigns that deliver on objectives, and built up her own in-house teams of experts to help her on the way.

Dami Akinbolue

COO, Co-founder • Spac3D-VR



Dami has a long history of working in finance in multiple industries from healthcare to IT SaaS. He has lived, worked, and obtained academic degrees, including an MBA, in Canada and the UK and consequently holds passports to both countries.

He has an avid interest in technological innovations, film production, and extended reality. When he's not working, Dami is playing basketball #WeTheNorth or discussing topical issues in business, lifestyle and social issues on his podcast Different Roots Radio.

Dapo Ajisafe

CTO, Founder • Spac3D-VR



Dapo is a creative technologist with a traditional background in healthcare, having earned a Masters in Public Health. He is now a software developer specializing in both web and XR development and aims to create accessible immersive experiences for all.

He founded SPAC3D-VR in 2017 after being captivated by the Samsung Gear VR. Alongside co-founder Dami, SPAC3D-VR is now rooted in Manchester and looking to help elevate the innovative tech and business scene. Dapo has long embodied the sentiments encapsulated by the #WeTheNorth rally call of his country, Canada. He believes that Manchester embodies the same sentiments it carries, which are hospitality, progressiveness, and a strive for greatness.

Prof. Daniel Dresner

• University of Manchester



Daniel is the first Professor of Cyber Security at the University of Manchester which he joined after 22 years with The National Computing Centre. He takes a diverse community-based approach to cyber security, and runs exercises to help people learn how to cope with the risk of on line harms. He is a founder of The IASME

Consortium, championing cyber security for SMEs and the UK's Cyber Essentials Scheme. He also furthers the opportunities cyber security offers SMEs as part of the Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry and the DiSH - the Digital Security Hub in Manchester City Centre.

Daniel has regularly lectured about risk and cyber defence to cohorts from India and the Western Balkans at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom for the Chevening Programme. He contributes to books, conferences, and appears on the BBC explaining cyber security to the wider community. He was voted one of the top 20 cyber security influencers worldwide 2018-2021.

Daniel finds the threads that bind information together and mends them when they break

David Gardner

Partner • TLT



David is a partner in TLT's Technology team and leads the growing Fintech practice at the firm. He is a core member of TLT's specialist payments segment and leads TLT's Digital Banking and Open Banking campaigns, frequently securing national and specialist press coverage, speaking

slots and conference panel appointments to talk to clients and the wider industry about these new and interesting areas of law and technology.

David is ranked as a leading individual in the field of Technology law in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, the independent guides to the legal profession. With over a decade and a half working in Technology and Financial Service, he is an authority on technology-driven procurement, outsourcing and collaborations.

Ed Hayes

Partner • TLT



Ed is a Partner in TLT's Data, Privacy & Cybersecurity team. He regularly advises international companies and public sector clients on high value and strategically important IT projects and discrete data protection compliance issues, including on cybersecurity aspects. Ed also works closely with start-

up businesses, particularly in the Fintech space, supporting them with ensuring data protection compliance is built into their systems as a default.

As well as private practice law, Ed has experience working directly for businesses, including most recently in the compliance function for an international financial services company, and previously for a global retailer.

Elizabeth Clark

CEO, Founder • Dream Agility



Elizabeth Clark, Founder and CEO of Dream Agility started life as an Electro Hydraulic Armoured Umbilical Designer before moving into the Technology Transfer sector and being part of the team that Floated Tororak plc for £50m. A tangential move into Flirting/ Speaking and two book deals later,

including 'Flirting for Dummies' by Wiley, Elizabeth moved back into technology and set up Dream Agility. Originally building ecommerce feeds, due to the sheer size and complexity of the data sets Elizabeth found herself being one of the first to venture into building an AI and ML platform for Google Ads- whilst dealing with a surprise pregnancy with a 17 year age gap.

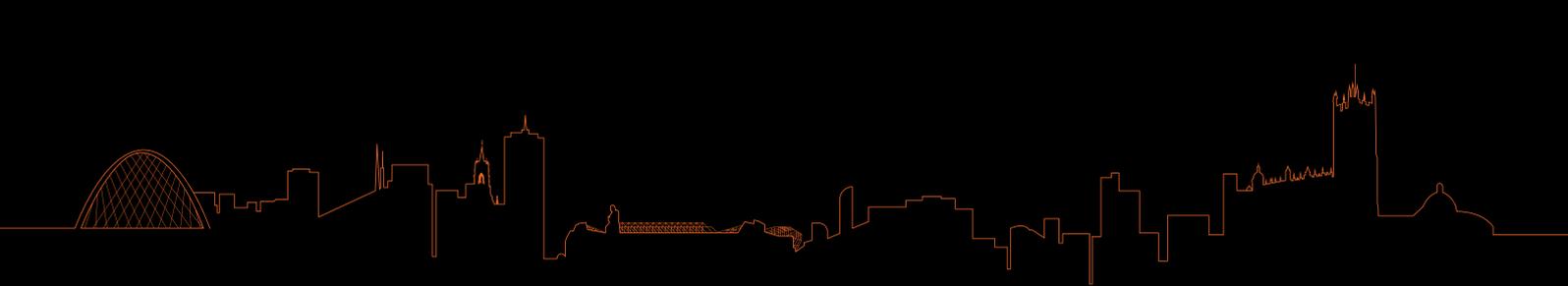
Elvira Uyarra

Professor of Innovation Studies • Alliance Manchester Business School



Elvira Uyarra is Professor of Innovation Studies at Alliance Manchester Business School (University of Manchester) where she is also co-director of the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research. Elvira is also adjunct professor at the Mohn Center of Innovation and

Regional Development at the University of Western Norway and visiting fellow at the Centre for Innovation Management Research (CIMR) of Birkbeck, University of London. She teaches and conducts research on science and innovation policy and management and on regional innovation. She is fellow of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) and Chair of the North West of England branch of the RSA.



Conference Speakers

Emma Ford

Senior Director - E Commerce • Asda



Emma Ford has 20 years' experience in Retail with the last 10 in ecommerce/omni channel roles. She is currently leading one of the largest ecommerce transformation programs in Europe following the divestment of Asda from Walmart. Her remit spans the replatform of the entire ecommerce business

whilst also revolutionising the Customer experience. Her previous roles at Asda have delivered double digit growth (pre Covid) and led the addition of Asda groceries to 3rd party platforms. Previously she worked for Walmart International as an internal consultant on ecommerce and started her career with Waitrose in numerous roles including developing a new convenience format in London.

Gareth Cleverly

Director of Education & Business Development • Dacxi



Gareth is responsible for developing relationships with clients and professional firms who introduce clients to Dacxi. With a wealth of experience and a passion for all things Crypto, it's Gareth's mission to ensure all of Dacxi's clients and strategic partners have access to the education and information they need to develop their crypto wealth journey.

Graham Donoghue

CEO • Sykes Cottages



Graham is the CEO of Sykes Cottages, one of the UK's leading and fastest-growing independent holiday cottage rental agencies.

Graham has worked in digital for over 20 years. He has helped create and grow some of the most successful digital led businesses across financial services and travel,

both in the UK and across Europe. Graham has been a board member of TUI Travel PLC, MoneySupermarket and a non-executive of Brightside Insurance. Passionate about technology, data and customer experience. Graham joined PE backed Sykes Cottages as CEO in July 2016 with a \$500m exit to Vitruvian Partners in 2019. Graham continues as the CEO and manages over 20,000 properties.

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 (<https://www.thecyphere.com>) 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 trainings at Black Hat and regional conferences. His favourite security topics are Active Directory, Azure & Networks.

John Toon

Tech 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!

Laura Pomfret

Co-founder • Financielle



Laura Pomfret is Co-founder of Financielle, a female-focussed financial wellness platform helping women take control of their money and be financially well.

Women are behind in every area of personal finance including pay, literacy and wealth and Financielle is on a mission to close the gender

wealth gap through tools, content and community. The company was a bootstrapped start-up until a month ago when Laura led the company through a pre-seed investment round to help scale and grow their product ensuring it reaches as many people as possible. Financielle's app was the first female-focussed finance app to launch in the UK.

Lou Cordwell

Chair - GM LEP & Chief Creative Officer
• Magnetic



Lou is the Founder of Manchester-based digital design studio, magneticNorth (mN). In 2021, mN joined forces with Fluxx, London's leading innovation consultancy to create an independently owned innovation powerhouse, Magnetic, where Lou continues to be involved as Chief Creative Officer.

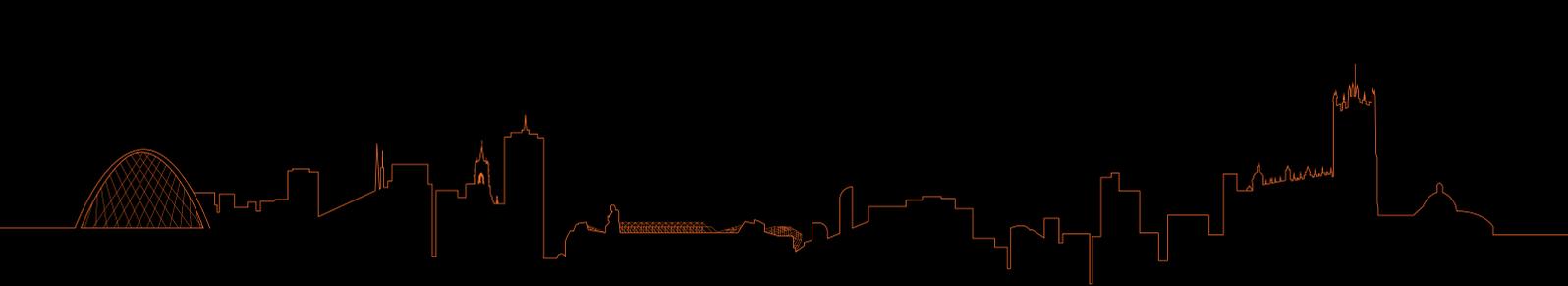
Lou is also Director of ID Manchester, Europe's most ambitious Innovation District project. Alongside the day job, she is Chair of Greater Manchester's Local Enterprise Partnership. She is also a founding investor in AllBright and a passionate campaigner for gender equality in business and the tech industry. Lou was awarded an OBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours for services to the creative and digital economy.

Martyn Barrow

Head of Business Sales & Retention
• MID Communications



Martyn is Head of Business Sales and Retention at MID Communications, Martyn has 20 years' experience working within the retail sector and in B2B with 10 years working for one of O2/Virgin Media's largest franchises in the UK, Martyn has seen how the evolution of tech can connect business and communities.



Conference Speakers

Nicola Weedall

Co-founder • Hydr



Nicola is a fintech expert with a career in lending and invoice finance, starting at GE Capital as a client and service lead. She moved into fintech start-ups, driven by a desire to work in solutions-led, agile environments where she could challenge briefs and ‘ask the questions that no one else would’.

Nicola felt passionately that the right digital product could completely revolutionise invoice finance for small businesses. This fuelled her idea to build a best-in-class digital proposition with Co-founder, Hector Macandrew, designed to help small businesses grow and thrive on their own terms.

Nicola is a proud Mancunian and vocal about getting more women into technology as well as championing entrepreneurs and the growing technology scene in Greater Manchester.

Dr. Paul Jepson

Head of Innovation • Ecosulis



Dr Paul Jepson is Head of Innovation with Ecosulis Ltd who are developing new green fintech analytics and financial instruments to make rewilding and nature recovery investable. He has over 40 years’ experience in nature conservation research, policy and management with cross-

sectoral experience in international, governmental, civil society commercial and academic organisations. He is a former director of Oxford University’s MSc/MPhil in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management and has held senior research fellowships with the Said Business School and Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment. Paul started his career in Greater Manchester on innovative projects to restore river valley tip lands to countryside recreational. His latest book “Rewilding: the radical new science of ecological recovery’ is receiving positive reviews.

Paul Knight

Partner, Technology & Data Lawyer
• Mills & Reeve



Paul is a partner specialising in technology and commercial law, including data protection. He advises a wide range of organisations, from some of the UK’s leading and most exciting technology businesses to high-profile charities and government organisations.

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.

Rachel Kenyon

Business Engagement Manager
• University of Manchester



Rachel is Business Engagement Manager for the Faculty of Humanities, within the University of Manchester’s specialist Business Engagement & Knowledge Exchange (BEKE) team; she is also the Business Engagement Lead across the University for FinTech, LegalTech, and Digital Trust &

Security themes. The BEKE function provides a mechanism for improved information flow between universities and the wider-world, facilitating collaboration with business partners, to inform research and increase economic & societal impacts.

Beyond this Rachel is a Non-executive board director for pro-manchester and a keen traveller and running nerd, acting as coach for her running club and as a regular Run Director for a local Parkrun.

Ruby Melling

Freelance Talent Strategy
Consultant - GSI



Ruby Melling is an award-winning freelance Talent Acquisition and Strategy Consultant who works with fast-growth businesses in the UK and Europe helping them to recruit, retain and engage the best diverse talent in an inclusive way.

Previously Talent Partner to one of The UKs largest tech incubators and a recruiter of 8 years across multi sector clients. She advises scaling businesses on long term talent strategy and has worked with people at all stages of their career development to build successful career pathways.

Ruby is also Community Engagement Associate for Manchester Tech Festival.

Sam Booth

CEO • pro-manchester



Sam has been an integral part of pro-manchester's 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 as managing all existing key partnerships and member relationships. Whilst providing support to her team, Sam looks after the strategic direction of the business.

Sarah Bianchi

Managing Director • Arighi Bianchi



Sarah Bianchi is Director of Arighi Bianchi - a well-established furniture shop near Macclesfield, Cheshire. Sarah has been working within the company for over 25 years - she is a 4th generation family member and director and currently occupies the Head of HR role.

Toby Nolan

Founder • Candle

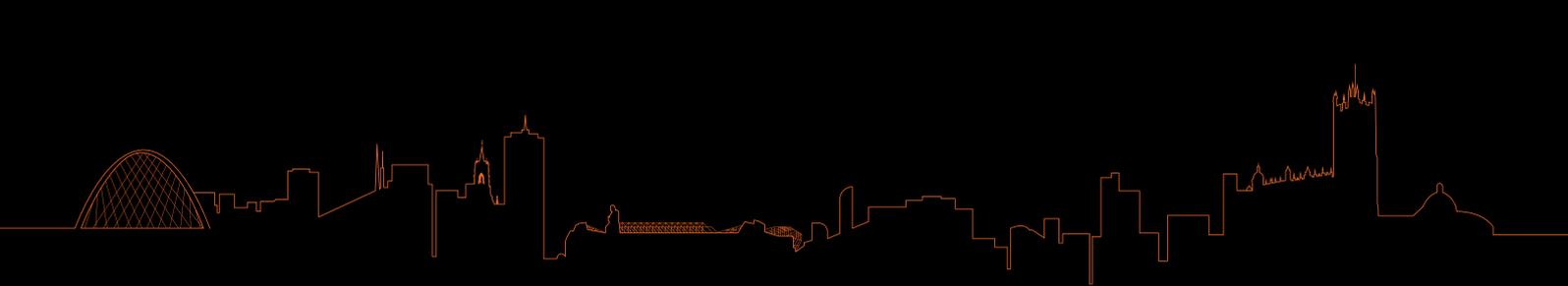


Together with our incredible team, I created Candle to make it easier and simpler for the world to help each other when we need it the most.

Because for most of us, asking for help is hard. It's got a stigma, it's painful and sometimes we just don't want to be a burden.

A unique time in my life, caused me to seek support - but actually getting it was difficult in ways that it didn't need to be.

I'm truly thrilled to be able to showcase our work with each of you at Trailblazing Tech22.



Conference Speakers

Vlad-Andrei Porumb

Lecturer of Financial Accounting • AMBS



Vlad-Andrei Porumb is a Lecturer of Financial Accounting in the Accounting and Finance Division of the Alliance Manchester Business School, which he joined in September of 2021. Previously, he was an assistant professor in the Accounting department at the University

of Groningen. He obtained his Advanced Master in Business Administration Research at ESSEC Business School and his PhD. from THEMA Research Center at the University of Cergy-Pontoise.

Zoe Wallace

Director • Agent Academy



Zoe is director at Agent Academy, a social business that was established to redefine skills development for young people, making sure they are prepared for emerging careers in the digital, creative and tech industries.

Zoe champions a people-powered approach to overcoming the

skills challenges faced by employers, that's why all of Agent Academy's programmes are practical and industry-led. Over 500 leaders and experts contribute to the design and delivery of curriculum and learning.

So far, more than 300 people have had the opportunity to start their careers with Agent Academy and many businesses have benefited directly by recruiting Agent Academy talent with over £3 million in salaries generated into the North West economy.

Tom McGillycuddy

Co-Founder • CIRCA5000



Tom is the Co-Founder of CIRCA5000, the impact investing app with over 160 thousand customers in the UK. Prior to Co-Founding CIRCA5000,

Tom started his career at Barclays before moving to Wellington Management where he was part of the founding team of their \$2B

Global Impact Fund. He is a CFA Charterholder.

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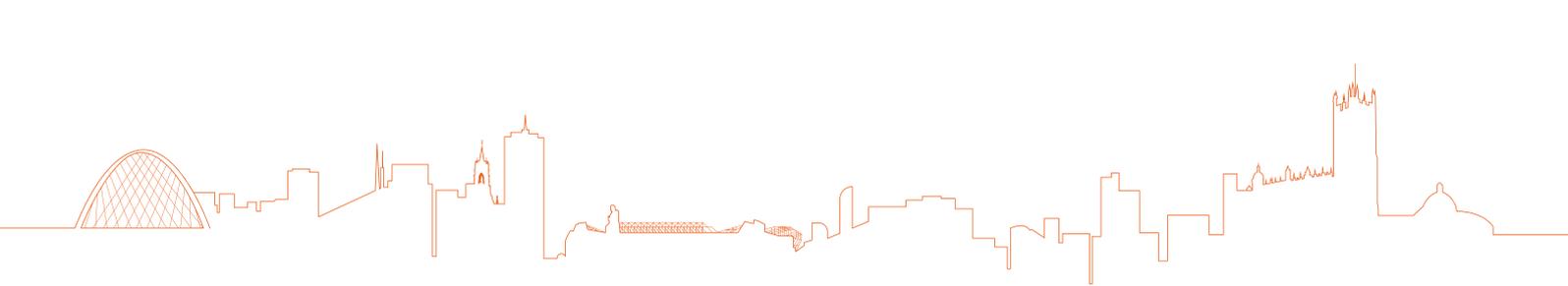
Building a business is hard, but thanks to technology the opportunities for growth are more numerous than ever before. TechBlast highlights the people who have been there and done it; those who are on the journey; and figures supporting the UK startup scene. Our website and Monday lunchtime email newsletter features a range of advice, features and profiles to help add fuel to your startup. We also bring you the stories behind successful businesses - and, equally importantly, failures - through in-person and virtual events.

The publication is 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.

Sister publication BusinessCloud features news, views and innovation rankings from the nation's tech scene, highlighting the businesses and platforms you need to know about.

Sign up for the weekly Monday lunchtime TechBlast here and the weekday morning BusinessCloud newsletter here.

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



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
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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>

bruntwood

The Bruntwood Group

We connect you, your team and your business with the spaces, support and people to help you grow. We own, let and manage outstanding buildings, workspace, innovation and science facilities.

bruntwood
SciTech

Bruntwood SciTech

We offer high quality office and laboratory space, a range of scientific services, and specialist business support which enables companies in the science and technology sector to form, collaborate, scale and grow.

Our support provides unrivalled access to finance and funding, highly skilled talent, accelerated market access and direct new connections for your business.

bruntwood
Works

Bruntwood Works

Our workspace, retail and leisure is people driven, design led and socially responsible. We're committed to offering more than just outstanding office, coworking or retail space. Everything we do is tied into our vision of building vibrant communities, whilst providing businesses with the support and expertise they need to grow.

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

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Established in 1965 as one of the UK's first two business schools, Alliance Manchester Business School is part of the prestigious University of Manchester and the UK's largest campus-based business and management school. Ranked 2nd in the UK for research power their influential research impacts business locally, nationally and internationally and covers a broad range of areas across four divisions: accounting and finance; innovation management and policy; management sciences and marketing; and people, management and organisations.

With triple accreditation from AACSB International, AMBA and EQUIS, Alliance MBS provides industry-focused education across its undergraduate, Master's, MBA and Executive Education programmes. It also offers level 7 degree apprenticeships, funded by the Apprenticeship Levy, and postgraduate research programmes including the PhD.

<https://www.alliancembs.manchester.ac.uk/>



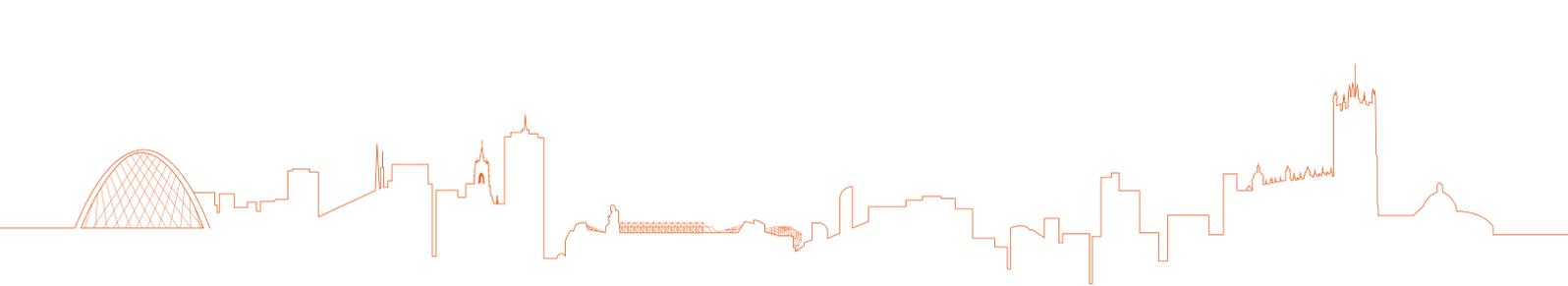
HGF is one of Europe's leading firms of IP specialists. The firm is one of only a few to offer a fully integrated IP solution, bringing together over 190 patent attorneys, trade mark attorneys, design attorneys, IP solicitors and attorneys-at-law.

The firm has 22 offices throughout Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

HGF offers everything you would expect of a world-class IP firm, including patent drafting, filing and prosecution, trade marks, design rights, copyright, oppositions and appeals, IP litigation, IP strategy, IP due diligence, freedom to operate, supplementary protection certificates and IP contracts, and licensing.

The firm has dedicated teams of experts working across key industry sectors with relevant experience who fully understand their clients' businesses and appreciate the significance of their brands, innovations and other IP assets.

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



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MID Communications are an independent franchise of Virgin Media O2 (Telefónica UK Limited). We provide Virgin Media O2 products and services under the VMO2 brand in line with Virgin Media O2's instructions.

We are a fun, energetic & most importantly a professional company, operating locally within several communities across Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire and the Fylde coast. In total, we operate 13 O2 retail stores along with our head office and business centre, based in Rochdale, servicing over 7,500 SME's.

As we are ambassadors of the latest tech, we pride ourselves on our mission to become the go-to organisation for mobile connectivity, tech insight and advice to support our Northwest community for both consumers and businesses.

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



Mills & Reeve are the legal advisers behind some of the UK's most successful and exciting technology organisations, as well as businesses, charities and government organisations utilising and leveraging off new technologies. Working with Mills & Reeve, you'll discover that our advice is not just about avoiding the challenges you'll inevitably face, but about working alongside you to provide solutions and risk analysis so that you can seize the opportunities open to you.

We have specialists advising on Corporate, commercial and financing; Patents and IP; Privacy and data; Regulation and compliance; HR, immigration and pensions; Dispute management; Tax and share options; Real estate and more.

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



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.

Creative, entrepreneurial, technology-led organisations need advice from a law firm that delivers entrepreneurial, creative solutions.

Your success is our responsibility. No half measures, part of your team and with you every step of the way.

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

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The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is part of the prestigious Russell Group of universities, with outstanding facilities and the widest range of courses. We are highly respected across the globe as a centre of teaching excellence and innovative research. With 25 Nobel Prize winners among our current and former staff and students, we have a history of world firsts and brilliant discoveries, from splitting the atom to giving the world graphene. We're committed to world-class research, an outstanding learning and student experience, and social responsibility in everything we do.

Business Engagement & Knowledge Exchange services can direct contact with academic experts who can help your organisation achieve its objectives and face future challenges with confidence; from providing business solutions to nurturing talent, we will work with you to build a strategy for success.

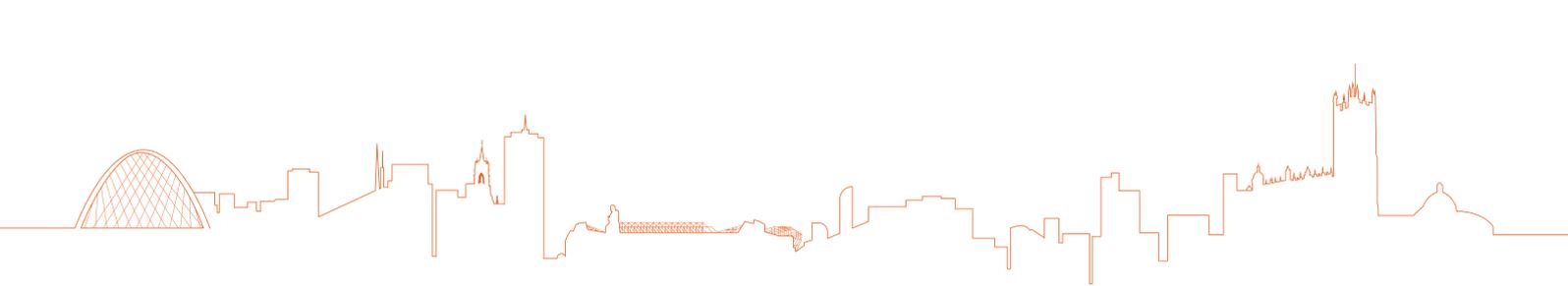
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VisionEvents Manchester (VEM) are a full event production company located in Manchester. We bring together various elements of event design under one roof, making our clients lives easier when organising often complex events.

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.

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Event Sponsors



UK

As one of the world's leading tax incentive and innovation management advisers, ABGI is the consulting arm of the French-listed technology business Visiativ.

We have a 30+ year heritage, 200 experts and advisers, and manage £1billion of global tax incentives annually for a broad range of clients including some of the world's best-known brands.

Our aim is to help clients accelerate and fund their innovations. We operate on the entire value chain of innovation through our multidisciplinary international teams.

We specialise in helping companies who are already claiming tax incentives but are looking to optimise their claim, experience a better service or pay a more competitive price – or all of the above of course.

<https://www.abgi-uk.com/>



Latitude Marketing is a strategic marketing and design consultancy based at the Bonded Warehouse, Enterprise City and in Clitheroe. Our dynamic, highly skilled and talented team provide strategic marketing advice and fulfil campaigns that achieve proven outcomes. Strategy, branding, rebranding, digital, social, websites, literature, advertising, content creation,

PR, exhibition, event management and promotion are our mainstays.

Our unique feature beyond our creativity is our ability to go the extra mile. We are passionate about what we do and live and breathe a project much in the way you do. We focus on delivering a 'Return on Investment' and in developing lasting working relationships based on understanding and empathy.

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



We provide entrepreneurial legal advice to medium-sized businesses, entrepreneurs, founders, and ambitious start-ups.

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

Trailblazing Tech Awards

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 by giving them the opportunity to do a live tech demo of their new products. 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 2022.

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 Martyn Barrow – MID Communications, Linda Stoddard – Mills & Reeve, Caroline Monk – Beever and Struthers, David Bleakman – Barclays Eagle Labs & Nicola McCormick – pro-manchester.



An immersive solutions company, specializing in creating interactive experiences with digital twins, 3D assets and XR technology. Spac3D-VR has cross-industry solutions from property management, retail, construction, healthcare and many more. Solutions such as 3D visualization/asset creation, virtual e-commerce and AR/VR marketing. Accessible through any internet-enabled device including mobile, desktop and VR headsets.

<https://www.spac3d-vr.com/>



Candle is a platform that quickly organises large groups into support networks for individuals needing help. Candle then makes reaching out for support as simple as a few taps on the screen. Candle also includes Meadow, a wholesome content feed free from ads and controversy. And lastly Lighthouse, our clinical listening skills content library. It's a progressive web app and also offers an employer dashboard with real-time usage data.

<https://www.candleapp.io/>



NW headquartered, female founded, family run, international award-winning, proprietary tech platform for managing advertising on Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Instagram. Serving ads in over 20 countries, with clients based in the UK, US, Aus and Europe, our versatile tech can help our clients to be market beating in their sector, from; Consumer Electronics, Beauty, Pharma, Gardening, DIY, Fashion, Footwear, outdoor equipment & entertainment, Engineering to gyms. Inflation busting results with an average client uplift of 48% increase in sales and 42% increase in Return on Ad Spend (ROAS). We've won technology awards in the UK, US, South Korea and France. As well as being on the Google Technology Partners Programme (only 200 companies globally accepted) and the Facebook first ever e-commerce accelerator, currently on the PWC Retail Executive Scale up, working with the PWC team to bring innovative tech to Retailers.

<https://dreamagility.com/>

TECHBLAST

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

With around 250 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

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