

# WEST OF ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SKILLS FOR OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

WEST OF ENGLAND

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Further and Higher Education have come together to **lead a step-change** in the development and delivery of higher-level STEM education.



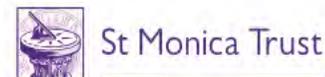
LEAD  
PARTNER



To deliver the **technical knowledge** combined with the **practical workplace skills** that employers are demanding, unlocking the potential for workforces of today and of the future.

The West of England Institute of Technology (WEIoT) is industry, education and research collaborating to design and deliver flexible, higher-level technical learning to equip people with the skills to fully participate in, and contribute to, economic growth driven by digital innovation and emerging technologies.

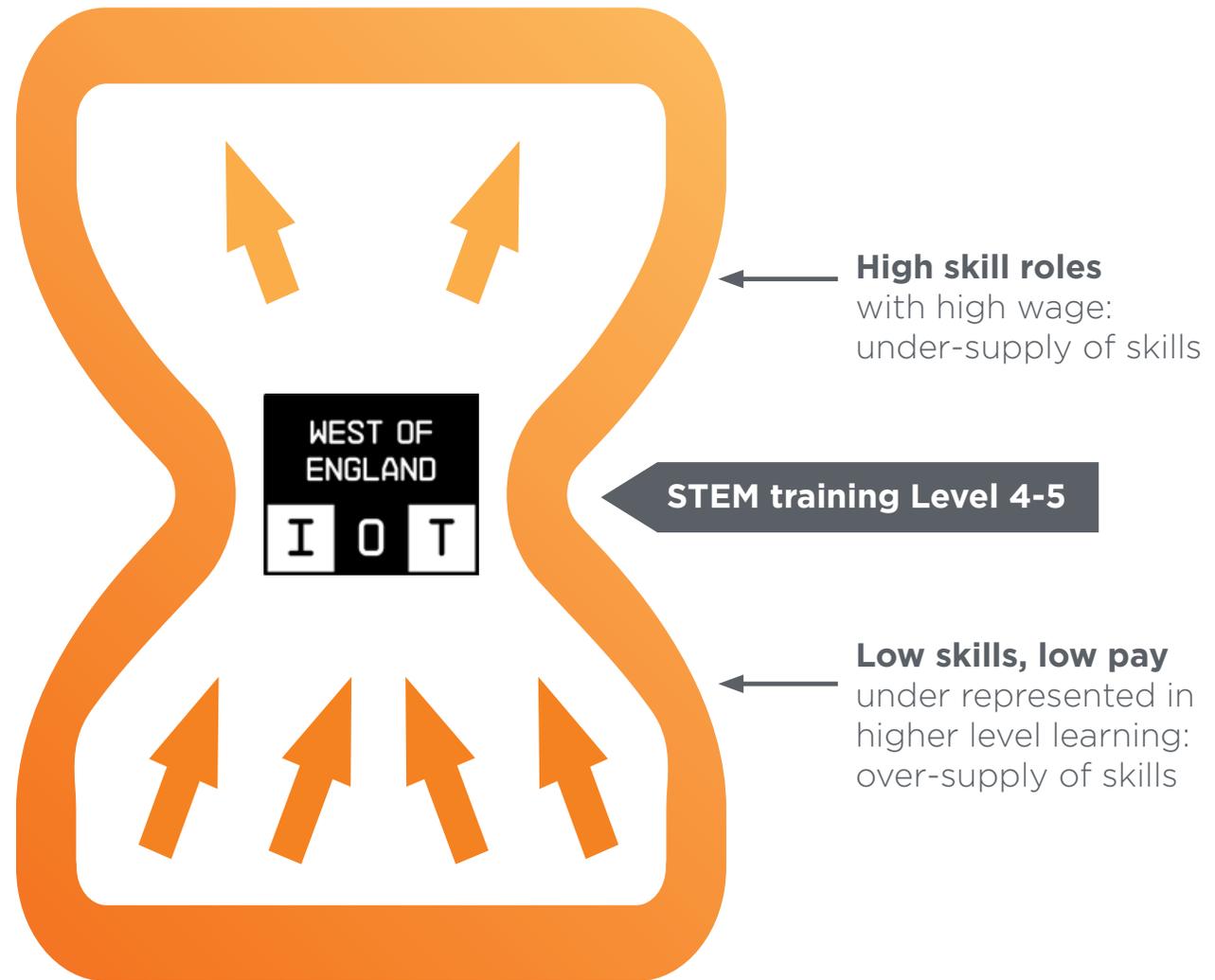
### Anchor Employer Partners



Designed and Led by Employers to Deliver Industry Skills.

The partnership shares a vision to combine our expertise to ensure a significant growth in the number and range of people able to acquire and utilise *Skills for our Digital Future*.

**WEIoT** will deliver **digital capabilities** to enable a distributed delivery model to extend learning beyond physical boundaries to maximise engagement of under-represented individuals, supporting them to become the **'creators and makers'** of the future.



**WEIoT** will attract young people and those already in work, supporting them to progress from low-skilled, low-paid jobs into high-skilled, higher-paid employment.

## What is the WEIoT - what does it mean for my business?

The world of work is changing fast, driven by new and disruptive technologies. As job roles change and new ones are created, businesses in many sectors increasingly need individuals with higher technical skills to improve their productivity and growth. Over the coming years, these skills will become more important if British business is to seize on the opportunities of technological change.



Institutes of Technology (IoT) are the Government's flagship programme designed to spearhead the delivery of higher technical education in STEM

subjects. Here in the West of England we have brought together employers with FE colleges and the University of the West of England.



We are designed to help you with the skills you need for your workforce. The WEIoT is part of the Government's ambition of levelling up

skills across the country; we offer an accessible route into high wage and high skilled employment.



WEIoT supports our local economies with a skilled workforce that can drive productivity, take advantage of key growth opportunities.

# OUR AIMS

By **2024** we will deliver  
STEM-led education and training:

to over **2000**  
↑ individuals 

All learners will study at  
least a Level 4 qualification



**>96%**  
of learners will be in  
technical disciplines

**>70%** of learners  
will be  
apprentices



By **2024** WEIoT commits to **engage**  
**under-represented groups in**  
**higher level learning, comprising:**

**50%**   
Women

**25%**  
People with  
disabilities/SEND

**20%**  
BAME

**40%** Mature,  
part-time and  
shift-workers



**40%** People from  
low skill/low-  
income neighbourhoods

## Supporting your workforce

Employers will shape the WEIoT curriculum. It will be agile, responsive to industry's skills need, designed to ensure the region continues to lead growth and innovation. Institutes of Technology are the prestigious leaders in developing and shaping the changes in Levels 4 and 5 and will be a key partner in the developments of Higher Technical Qualifications.

## Digital and High Technology

Digital skills are highly valued; and will be vital in the future. The digital age is expanding into all areas of our lives, and it is not just those who work in IT that will be leading this change. We offer support in the Higher Technical Qualifications in Digital skills and High Tech sector.

	Bath College	Yeovil College	UWE Bristol	Weston College	Glos College
Level 4	✓	✓		✓	✓
Level 5	✓	✓		✓	✓
Level 6		✓	✓	✓	✓

## Health and Life Sciences

The local skills plan includes higher technical education across health, life sciences and social care. With focus on patient care and monitoring, digital technology is evolving and is paramount for the sector. Our facilities can help employers to train staff to participate in the digital world.

	Bath College	Yeovil College	UWE Bristol	Weston College	Glos College
Level 4	✓	✓		✓	
Level 5		✓		✓	
Level 6			✓		

## Advanced Engineering and High Value Manufacturing

Global engineering is changing, customers are looking for a low carbon option, shorter development times, quicker routes to market. Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing will need digitally enabled engineering for the future. All Partners offer pathways to deliver Higher technical qualifications to this sector.

	Bath College	Yeovil College	UWE Bristol	Weston College	Glos College
Level 4	✓	✓		✓	✓
Level 5	✓	✓		✓	✓
Level 6		✓	✓	✓	✓

## Supporting the wider business

WEIoT is also able to support employers delivering Business Process Efficiencies, Leadership & Management, Change Management, Project Management, Agile & Creative Thinking.

## Digital capabilities to increase learning and access to knowledge

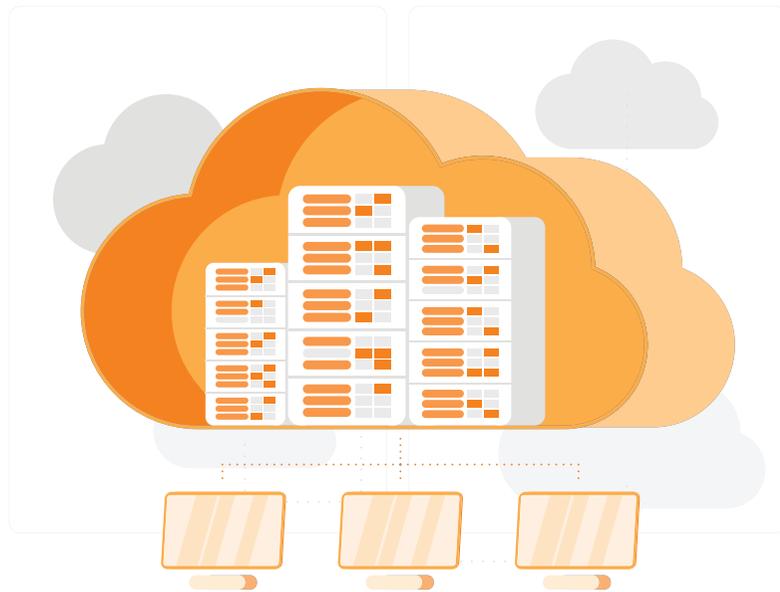
WEIoT is formulated on a Cloud based system, allowing all partners to create and curate resources in a shared space.

Designed pre Covid -19 this foundation plan has allowed the development of WEIoT to move ahead with less reliance on physical buildings, creating resilience should there be local lockdowns.

Investment in digitally connected infrastructure will maximise efficiencies, enabling true collaboration and greater access to specialist knowledge.

Digital distribution by the WEIoT fundamentally differentiates the curriculum development and delivery from other regional provision.

The WEIoT digitally connected network will support partners and employers to maximise opportunities for learner engagement and reach.



## Investing now to grow and inspire our future 'creators and makers'

WEIoT learners will develop digital skills, responding to real-world challenges using industry-standard facilities and resources.

### Investing to create a new Institute of Technology, WEIoT deliver...

...7,000m<sup>2</sup> dedicated WEIoT facilities across the network and will include:

- AR Cave and VR Labs
- Advanced & Engineering suites
- Creative & Digital Labs
- Digitally-configured Hospital Ward Simulation Suites
- Business Engagement Centre
- IT infrastructure to enable cloud-based digital connectivity:

“ Part of our strategic focus is to ensure that Bath College continues to build business links across the South West of England so the WEIoT builds on this. Developing these opportunities to enhance links with industry, as well as educational partners, can only benefit the region.

The new facility offers a brilliant opportunity for current and future students of Bath College. It is fantastic to be part of such a rigorous and innovative process working with other FE and HE establishments developing appropriate qualifications in liaison with employers.”

**Laurel Penrose**, Principal & Chief Executive *Bath College*

### A place for collaboration

The combination of industry standard equipment, innovative design and city centre location will result in a unique space where businesses and learners can collaborate on digital developments, business problem-solving and exciting curriculum development that will improve the digital future of Bath & North East Somerset and beyond.

### What facilities are being developed at the site?

There will be a full re-refurbishment of two floors of the College's tallest City Centre building and will contain:

- Brand new employer lounge
- Hardware and network labs
- Modern independent and group study areas
- VR and gaming space

Bath College's City Centre Campus is home to the WEIoT courses offered in Bath. Students and employers have a bespoke space, purpose-designed for training students and apprentices in technical skills in the Computing, Engineering and Health Sciences sectors. Bath College will provide a central hub to build the workforce of the future in Bath and North East Somerset.



### What sectors is the College supporting with its offer?

- Computing,
- Media,
- Health sciences and care and
- Electronic, electrical and mechanical engineering.

The College will be delivering Higher Apprenticeships, Foundation Degrees and Degree level Apprenticeships and other Higher-Level technical qualifications.

“ As our world becomes increasingly digitised it is crucial that we keep pace with technology and innovation, and ensure we have the optimum educational and workplace training opportunities for the next generation of industry leaders. In Gloucestershire, we are seeing a boom in the rapid expansion of technical, cyber and engineering companies, and it is of paramount importance that we provide our learners with access to the best facilities, tutors and employers to develop these high value skills.

We have so much potential in our region, and WEIoT opens up endless developmental opportunities to learn, train and work with the best. Thanks to the IoT funding, excellent employer network and cross partnership course access, we are helping to future proof both the next technical generation of key workers and our region's economic expansion.”

**Matthew Burgess**, Gloucestershire College Principal & CEO



## What facilities are being developed at the site?

Over £3 million investment in new world-class dedicated cyber, computing and engineering teaching zones at our Cheltenham and Gloucester campuses, with state-of-the-art facilities including:

- Computing labs
- Attack and defense rooms
- Forensic tool kits
- Engineering labs
- Specialist engineering hardware
- Eco study pods
- Employer networking zone.

## What sectors is the College supporting with its offer?

Gloucestershire College specialises in Computing and Engineering, and offers a wide range of Level 4 - 6 courses and apprenticeships.

The College has established apprenticeship programmes in place with some of the region's most notable engineering, technical and cyber employers. We offer introductions, invaluable work experience and study links for our students, as well as a dedicated apprenticeship hub team to advise and match up apprentices with suitable employers.

“ At UWE Bristol, we’re focused on solving future challenges and providing opportunities for everyone. The WEIoT is important to our region. It is only by working together that we can meet the skills challenges created by technological change, open up opportunities to a diverse range of learners and truly equip businesses for the future.

This is an exciting time for UWE Bristol as we launch our new state-of-the-art School of Engineering. The additional investment through the WEIoT is a fantastic opportunity to ensure our engineering, life sciences and healthcare students continue to develop their skills using cutting-edge technology.”

**Professor Steven West**, CBE DL FRSA FRSM Vice-Chancellor, President and Chief Executive Officer



## What facilities are being developed at the site?

Investment in state-of-the-art equipment:

- Cyber skills support including specialist cyber networking equipment.
- Aerospace and mechanical engineering laboratory and electronic simulation systems.
- Nursing patient simulators, diagnostic radiography X-Ray unit, virtual imaging systems and immersive interactive simulators.
- Biological science specialist equipment such as nutrient analysers and high-performing chromatograph systems.

## What sectors is the university supporting with its offer?

UWE Bristol supports employers across the Digital and High Tech, Advanced Engineering and Health and Life Sciences sectors to create a workforce that is ready for future technological change. We offer a range of courses and degree apprenticeships which provide clear routes to highly skilled careers.

Ranked 31st in the RateMyApprenticeship Top Training Provider 2020-21, we have a dedicated apprenticeship hub which works in partnership with employers to address skills challenges.

“ Our IoT funding is part of a cohesive vision to reshape our higher education and technical curriculum. It will assist to significantly reshape, redesign and develop our campus to create a hub of technological innovation, which is even more reflective of the industries in which our students choose to develop their careers. In addition to IoT, we have plans for a further £7.5 million of capital investment, forming a substantial investment and part of our campus redevelopment plan which will provide a facility to deliver the very best for South Somerset and North and West Dorset – only the best is good enough for our community.

The next generation will be fully equipped to apply their skills increase productivity and position the region as the ‘creators and makers’ of the future.

We believe agility and collaboration are key attributes required by the business community now and in the future. Our new facilities are designed to encourage this and build these working practices into the everyday experience for our learners and staff, embedding these key characteristics in all who are part of our college community.”

**Mark Bolton**, CEO & Principal of Yeovil College



## What facilities are being developed at the site?

### Workshops and work spaces

- Health, Education and Science Centre planned for September 2021, creating cutting edge laboratories, new clinical training suites, dental laboratory, early year’s education facility and environmental science arena.
- Aerospace and advanced manufacturing Academy with leading edge CAD suite, industry standard materials and research laboratory including, large scale 3D printing, wind tunnel, materials testing rigs, gas turbine and electronics lab.
- Computing and Digital Industry Laboratory to support new Cyber Security, Software Engineering and E-sports programmes.
- Digital design and creative laboratories with new materials design and production capability, virtual and augmented reality creation and immersion booths. Industry standard motion graphic and media creation studios to deliver inspirational creative industries education and training.
- Sector creating the next generation of leaders in our business community.

### Collaboration Space

Over the next two years, additional student and staff spaces which reflect the highest quality education and business environments will be created; where work, study and social spaces merge to provide 21st Century working environments to rival the very best available. Students will be able to work and collaborate in digital café spaces located throughout the campus; supervised by staff, enabling students to make the most of learning time in college and get ahead in inspirational environments.

## What sectors is the College supporting with its offer?

- Creative Industries and Digital,
- Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace and Engineering
- Health and Sciences

The College will be delivering Higher Apprenticeships, Degrees and Degree Apprenticeships within these three sectors, whilst more courses focused upon supporting our local business community will be developed as our WEIoT partnership evolves.

“ Weston College as the lead for the WEIoT is proud to be working with UWE Bristol, local FE Colleges and Industry to drive digital and technological innovation for the region. The identified solutions will drive targeted and innovative solutions for our region. This model of combined and shared resources will be exemplary and ground breaking.”

**Dr Paul Phillips**, CBE, PhD, DLit, EdD - Principal and Chief Executive Weston College, Lead Partner

### What facilities are being developed at the site?

#### Investment will see the creation of:

- State of the art Cyber support for Digital careers
- A dedicated workspace for WEIoT learners to work in
- Investment in a Welding facility to the support engineering sector
- State of the art Health Care provision
- Access to employers' premises to access cutting edge technology and develop new skills.

### The Virtual Classroom - leading digital teaching

Being ready for the future is key to the plans for the South West Skills Campus. We have invested in state of the art facilities such as Virtual Classrooms which will play a key role in the FE sector, particularly with more work-based, and remote learning. This classroom is the first FE example in the UK.



### What sectors is the College supporting with its offer?

The College will be delivering Higher Apprenticeships, Degrees and Degree Apprenticeships in the Health, Engineering, High Value Manufacturing, Digital and Technology sectors. More courses will be developed as the IoT evolves.

Designed to support our local employers both big and small to adapt to the changes in technological innovation, the IoT will support employers from across the region to develop their future workforce.

## Designed and Led by Employers - Delivering Industry Skills

### What our supporters say about us

“iO Academy are proud to support the WEIoT. We believe that by working together, we can make great careers in tech available to all.”

**Margaret Davidson**, Business Development & Marketing Manager iO Academy



“Regardless of the current economic climate, it is of paramount importance that we provide the next generation with access to the very best technical facilities and education to keep abreast of our rapidly evolving and progressive industry. Gloucestershire College’s brand new engineering facilities funded by the WEIoT and connections with leading employers will provide the very best opportunities for students and apprentices to flourish.”

**Julia Russell**, Apprentice Lead, Assoc. CIPD, Renishaw



“As an Anchor Employer Partner North Somerset Council is committed to supporting the WEIoT vision of creating strong digital infrastructure, with outstanding curriculum that will support the digital economy for North Somerset as a key part of our recovery and renewal post the current pandemic.”

**Lucy Shomali**, Director of Development and Environment North Somerset Council



“The investment and development of Yeovil College facilities have meant that sector specific training has been delivered through state-of-the-art methods which ensure that Leonardo’s Early Careers Strategy and in turn, future skill sets are delivered. Through the collaboration with the West of England Institute of Technology, we have been able to improve on already strong relationships and ensure that as well as our requirements being met, so are regional and national skills.”

**Ben Lavery**, Early Careers Training Manager, Leonardo



“ The WEIoT will be really important in driving the region’s recovery from Covid-19, in terms of training and re-training, helping our residents to move into jobs and sectors with a sustainable future.

The WEIoT will help our residents unlock their potential, whilst at the same time supporting the growth of the region’s most significant industrial sectors, including Digital and Creative, Advanced Engineering and Aerospace, and Health and Life Sciences. The WEIoT will be really important in driving the region’s recovery from Covid-19, in terms of training and re-training, helping our residents to move into jobs and sectors with a sustainable future.”

**Tim Bowles**, Mayor of the West of England Combined Authority



“ Feeding into the Government’s Industrial Strategy, cross-sectorial industry recognises the increasing demand for digital skills and emerging technologies to ensure the UK retains its global competitiveness. A co-ordinated approach linking regional academic excellence through WEIoT will support this demand for future high value engineers against a landscape of new skills in the South West.”

**Dave Best**, Head of Strategy and Business Development, Airbus in the UK, AIRBUS - NUU



“ We have been running successful Engineering Apprenticeship programmes with Gloucestershire College for over 10 years, helping to provide the Aviation Industry with a pipeline of the brightest talent. We are delighted to be supporting the WEIoT to build on this success and work with its educational and industry partners from across the South West. The new engineering labs and resources will provide all apprentices with the optimum educational workspace, complimented by outstanding training and mentoring provided by their tutors. With so many industry-leading local employers and the advanced educational facilities to match, the region’s top-talent will have all the support and opportunities they need to succeed.”

**Dan Nicholls**, Senior Manager - GE Aviation Systems



“ We are delighted to be working in partnership with the WEIoT. It’s a fantastic opportunity to nurture and educate a critical talent pool and the partnership aligns perfectly with our core purpose, to use technology to develop positive futures for people and business. We look forward to continuing to support the development of the future STEM workforce.”

**Kevin Harris**, Managing Director



“ Yeovil District Hospital has significant demand for professional health careers, particularly those requiring higher skill sets. We value the potential development afforded by the WEIoT which will greatly benefit Yeovil and the surrounding area as the impact of digital technology shapes our future skills need.”

**Debs Matthewson**, Academy Manager, Yeovil District Hospital



**Technology is moving fast – so fast that your future path might not even exist yet. Now is the perfect time for businesses to regroup and build back better.**

*As businesses continue to adjust to ongoing challenges of this new world, **40% of respondents** in a recent Open University study **expect to rely on their digital capabilities much more.***

***Upskilling** and **reskilling** could help you fill future skills gaps, and **give an employee** their first steps onto an **amazing new career**, why not pay it forward and **invest in your business future** and the future of an individual.*



## **GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES**

*From August 2020 to Jan 2021, any firm that **hires a new apprentice** aged 16 to 24 **will receive £2,000**, while those that **hire new apprentices** aged 25 and over **will be paid £1,500.***

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HM Government