

Your Smart World



CAMBRIDGE
SCIENCE
CENTRE

Empowering
young people
to move beyond
their screens and
become creators
of tomorrow's tech
innovations

**From invisible infrastructure,
to human decisions, to future careers**

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Your Smart World





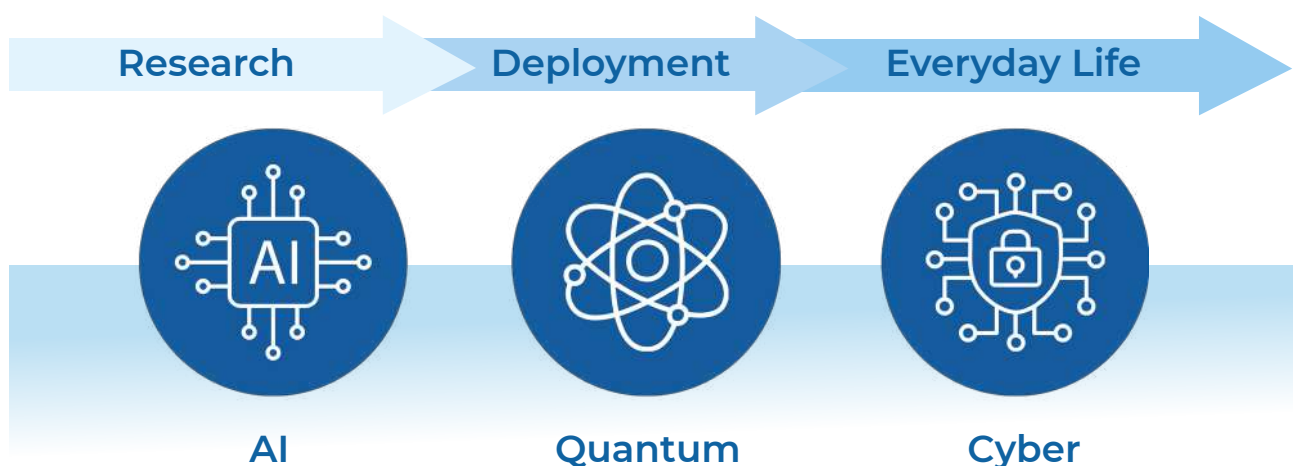
The challenge: A technological future not shared equally

Here in Cambridge, at the heart of Silicon Fen, technologies that will shape how societies live and work over the next 50 years are being created. Artificial intelligence systems are transitioning from research to deployment. Quantum computing is moving from theory to infrastructure. Cyber and data systems quietly underpin the fabric of everyday life.

Yet, for those not involved, the understanding of how they work, who builds them, and how they too can contribute and benefit is not growing alongside their development. Many young people grow up surrounded by technology without ever seeing how it works, how decisions are made within it, or how they might belong within the careers shaping it.

Innovation leaders in tech continue to place the East of England on the global stage, yet access to meaningful understanding of these discoveries, for the communities in the East, remains uneven. This is not simply an educational issue. It is structural. If leadership is to be sustained, access to understanding of this sector cannot remain narrow. Without early and sustained engagement, innovation remains something that happens to young people, not something they shape.

We must open the doors to the region's potential talent and enable inclusive growth.



The response: Your Smart World

Your Smart World is a long-form, community-based programme developed by Cambridge Science Centre to widen technological confidence and innovation literacy at scale. It helps young people move beyond passive use of technology to understand, question, and explore the systems that shape the world around them.

While many educational initiatives focus on teaching technical skills in isolation, Your Smart World recognises that skills alone are not enough without context, confidence, and a deeper sense of how and why these systems operate.

Your Smart World is different because it:

- treats digital literacy as an understanding of systems, not a set of isolated skills,
- connects technology to young people's lived experiences,
- foregrounds ethical, social, and environmental questions alongside technical ones,
- builds confidence through hands-on exploration and sustained engagement, rather than one-off workshops,
- and makes digital and technology careers visible, varied, and attainable.

- This holistic approach ensures that young people do not just learn to use technology, but begin to see themselves as potential contributors to the world around them. It helps children understand not only how technological systems work, but why they exist, what they enable, and who is involved in shaping them.

- Delivered across Cambridge Science Centre's sites in Cambridge Science Park and Wisbech, the programme prioritises repeat engagement with communities typically least likely to benefit from the region's technological success. Working alongside industry and academic partners, complex and emerging technologies are translated into accessible, relevant experiences connected to young people's everyday lives and future possibilities.



How Your Smart World is delivered

Your Smart World is delivered through Cambridge Science Centre's Mission Framework:

WE PARTNER



TO TRANSLATE



TO ENGAGE



This framework underpins all of Cambridge Science Centre's work and provides a clear, evidence-led structure for turning expertise, insight and lived experience into outcomes.

Partnership is the starting point.

Your partnership ensures that Your Smart World delivers the context that makes technology meaningful. Together, we enable young people to explore the systems, tools, and ideas shaping the world around them, translating complex, often elite, concepts into accessible, relevant experiences that build curiosity and confidence, such as:

the hidden technological infrastructure that powers everyday life, from data centres and deep-sea cables to cloud computing and quantum technologies,

how hardware, software, and networks interact to enable communication, creativity, and innovation, and how people with different skills and roles contribute to designing, building, maintaining, and governing these systems,

technologies such as machine learning, agentic AI, and quantum technologies, and what they might mean for society, the future of work, and career pathways,

how to engage with digital and emerging technologies safely and responsibly, including understanding risks, resilience, and the ethical and security considerations that shape their development and use.



About Cambridge Science Centre

Cambridge Science Centre is a science engagement charity operating at the intersection of industry, education, and place.

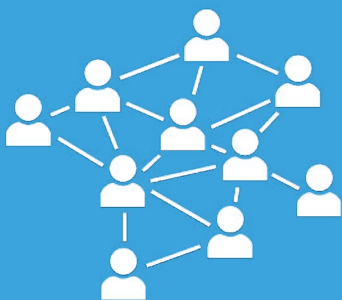




500,000



Trust Learning Impact



For over a decade, we have translated complex science and technology into hands-on, curiosity-led experiences that build confidence, capability, and belonging.

More than 500,000 children and families across the East of England have engaged with our work, with a deliberate focus on early-years and primary-aged children, where aspirations are formed and future trajectories are shaped.

In recent years, Cambridge Science Centre has shifted decisively from one-off activity to long-term, community-rooted programmes.

With a permanent centre at Cambridge Science Park and sustained delivery across the Fenland District, we offer partners something rare: the ability to engage repeatedly, credibly, and at scale with communities that face the greatest barriers.

This sustained presence allows trust, learning, and impact to accumulate in ways short-term interventions cannot.

Through deep partnerships with industry leaders, universities, schools, and community organisations, Cambridge Science Centre acts not only as a delivery partner, but as a convener and translator. We turn cutting-edge innovation into inclusive, long-term opportunity for those facing the greatest barriers to access. For partners, this means access to audiences, places, and a depth of engagement that would be extremely difficult to achieve independently.

From pilot to programme

Your Smart World

Your Smart World is structured to deliver immediate benefits for participants, while building a robust evidence base.

Recognising the rapid pace of change in technology, the programme is designed to focus on underlying principles, transferable skills, and ways of thinking that remain relevant even as specific technologies evolve.

Pilot and analysis

(April - August 2026):

We will test, refine, and evaluate approaches to increasing digital literacy and confidence so that we identify what works best for our target audiences.

Design and development

(August 2026 - April 2027):

Working alongside industry-leading partners, we will translate complex digital systems into accessible, engaging exhibits and activities.

Programme delivery

(April 2027 - March 2028):

Full launch across Cambridge Science Centre sites, reaching at least 15,000 young people, with a strong emphasis on repeat engagement for those most at risk of exclusion.

April 2026

Explore

December 2026

Sign-Off

PILOT

DESIGN

August 2026

Analyse

We anticipate engaging over 15,000 young people through this programme.



Summer 2027
Showcase



DEVELOP

DELIVER

●
April 2027
Launch

●
March 2028
Science Week

*The final programme of activity and exhibit plan will be subject to funding.

Programme delivery and components

Your Smart World will be delivered across Cambridge Science Centre's sites in Cambridge Science Park and Wisbech, ensuring reach into communities with differing levels of access and opportunity.

The programme includes:

EXHIBITIONS

Two Your Smart World showcase exhibitions (approximately 40sqm each).

WORKBENCHES

Two hands-on challenge spaces supporting in-depth problem-solving and critical thinking.

LABS

Six facilitated experimental activities led by Cambridge Science Centre Science Communicators, designed to spark discussion and deeper enquiry.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Delivery prioritises repeat visits and relevance to young people's everyday lives, supporting the retention of learning.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Opportunities to convene industry, academia, educators, and community leaders to strengthen regional connections and shared understanding.



**Engagement with
15,000 children
(28,000 people including
their families)**

**Reaching children with
their families, often
multi-generational,
empowering parents
and carers to support
their children's STEM
exploration**

**Working with school
classes to link learning
to the curriculum,
extending learning
outside of the
classroom**

**Sustained and deeper
engagement with
community groups
facing the highest
barriers to accessing
the benefits of STEM**

Impact Architecture

Our Impact Architecture (IA): Theory of Change

At Cambridge Science Centre we use our Impact Architecture (IA) - a simple learning logic model - to guide the development, delivery and evaluation of our work alongside the STEM skills we seek to develop in young people as they engage with our Programme.

Our Impact Architecture

This theory of change works across all knowledge areas and audiences via three learning elements, further enriched through collaboration with STEM researchers and industry experts.

It connects what we deliver to audiences with the short-term outcomes we can measure, and with the longer-term journey towards becoming a passionate ("I am"), confident ("I can") and empowered ("I do") STEM-literate citizen.

Curiosity

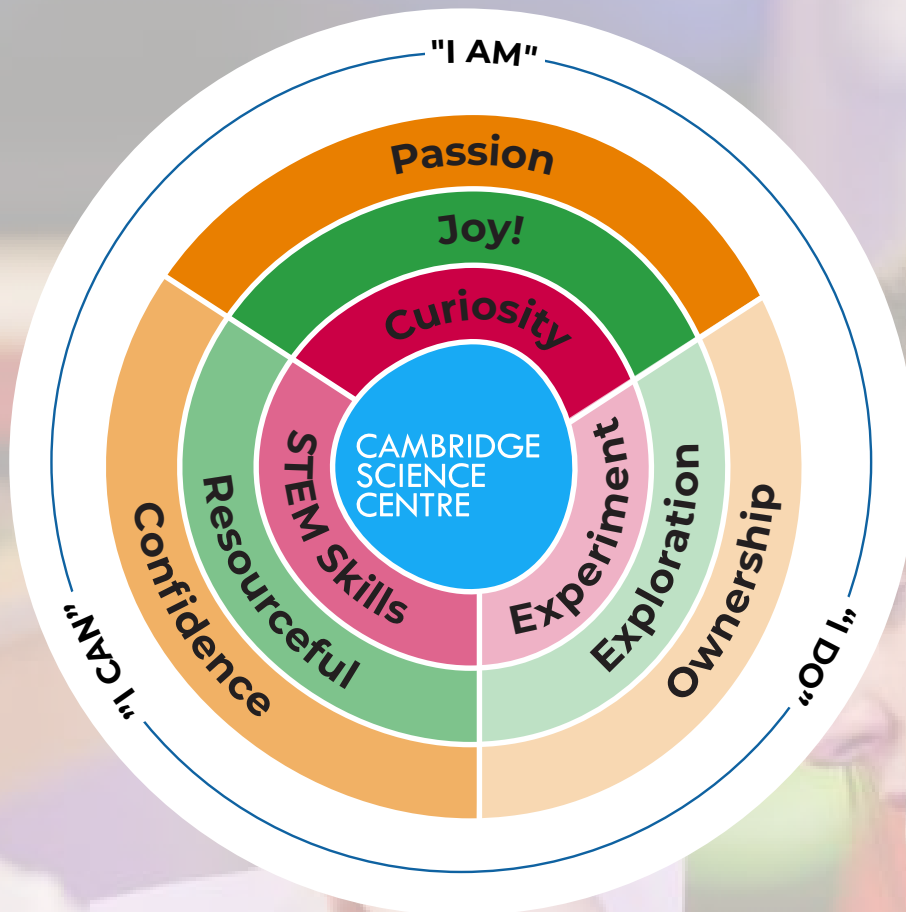
making an emotional connection that sparks interest

Skills

practical development through hands-on learning

Problem-Solving

tackling experiments or Big Questions



■ We provide...
■ which develops
■ ...on a path to

The STEM Skills

- ✎ Problem-solving
- ✎ Creativity
- ✎ Critical analysis
- ✎ Teamwork
- ✎ Independent thinking
- ✎ Initiative
- ✎ Communication
- ✎ Digital literacy
- ✎ Data-driven decision making

STEM is not just about subjects - it's about process. It is the ability to observe, define a problem, and then apply knowledge and skills to create a solution. Cambridge Science Centre helps young people build these skills through open-ended practical and curiosity-driven challenges. Confidence in this process gives young people the tools to learn any STEM subject.

In a Nutshell

Our Impact Architecture guides evaluation across three learning axes. Combined with tracking STEM-skill development, it provides the baseline for Programme design, effective delivery, and long-term impact evaluation.

Impact, evaluation, and learning

Your Smart World is designed not only to reach young people, but to generate meaningful insight into how technological confidence, inclusion, and agency are built.

All activity is underpinned by Cambridge Science Centre's Impact Architecture (logic model), a framework underpinned by research and developed with academic partners. This framework links programme design directly to outcomes, allowing us to move beyond counting participation and to understanding what genuinely shifts confidence, capability, and belonging in this sector.

What success looks like

Through sustained, repeat engagement, we track outcomes including:

increased confidence and curiosity around technology and digital systems for young people and the adults in their lives,

deeper understanding of how these systems operate and interact,

a stronger sense of belonging in STEM and technology-related careers,

clearer awareness of, and confidence in, pathways into the technology sector, and

opportunities for these conversations to continue beyond our spaces, supporting discussion and reflection among children and families long after their direct engagement with Cambridge Science Centre.



These outcomes are cumulative. They emerge through long-term exposure, trusted relationships, and coherent programme design.

What partners gain

For partners, this approach offers:

credible evidence of long-term impact, aligned to CSR and ESG priorities,

insight into how young people engage with technology, ethics and careers in real-world contexts,

learning that can inform internal workforce, inclusion and outreach strategies, and

association with a programme recognised for rigour, integrity and community trust.

Partners receive regular, data-rich progress updates and a

comprehensive end-of-programme impact report. Principal Partners can also access tailored reporting designed to feed directly into corporate reporting and strategic decision-making.

Sector contribution

Beyond individual reporting, the learning generated through Your Smart World contributes to Cambridge Science Centre's wider sector leadership. Our evaluation evidence is used to inform best practice, shape future programmes, and influence thinking around equitable engagement at a regional and national level.

By partnering with Cambridge Science Centre, organisations are not simply supporting delivery, they are contributing to a growing body of evidence about what it takes to build inclusive futures, and helping to set a higher standard for impact, accountability, and long-term thinking across the sector.



Our Partnership Model

Your Smart World

The Your Smart World programme delivers credible, evidence-based ESG outcomes, moving beyond short-term activity to long-term, measurable impact.

At the same time, it enables authentic community engagement at scale, positioning partners as active contributors to inclusive growth, while building trust, visibility, and relevance within the communities and regions in which they operate.

We are inviting organisations to play an active role in shaping the region's future talent.





All partners contribute in two ways:



Financial
investment to
enable build and
delivery



Structured
participation
from industry
experts

Engineers, researchers and
technologists:

- Help translate complex systems into accessible understanding
- Demonstrate real-world problem solving
- Share honest insight into their work and career pathways
- Make advanced technology visible and attainable

Staff Engagement Framework

Partner staff may contribute through the following structured formats:

Technology Translation Sessions

Facilitated 60–90-minute sessions led by CSC, where technologists share real-world problems and systems insight within a moderated, age-appropriate format.

Technical Advisory Input

Light-touch review of exhibition concepts to ensure technical accuracy and realism.

Structured Gallery Support Day

A supervised day where up to four partner staff support gallery activity alongside CSC Communicators.

Recognition and Public Acknowledgement

Partner organisations will be publicly acknowledged in proportion to their level of support. Recognition includes:

Acknowledgement on exhibition panels and printed materials

Inclusion on programme webpages

Acknowledgement at stakeholder and showcase events

Inclusion in annual reports and impact publications

Inclusion in programme-related communications





Strategic Technology Partner £75,000

Two partnerships available

The Strategic Technology Partners anchor the programme and are recognised for the full lifecycle of the programme:

The Strategic Technology Partners will:

- Receive prominent acknowledgement on exhibition panels and across core programme materials.
- Be acknowledged in programme launch communications and major impact publications.
- Nominate a senior representative to sit on the Advisory Council shaping programme direction and evaluation.
- Receive tailored reporting including engagement data, confidence indicators and qualitative insight.
- Be invited to participate in an annual strategic review session exploring programme progress and future development.
- Contribute up to two Technology Translation Sessions per year.
- Participate in one structured Gallery Support Day per year.
- Provide optional technical advisory input during exhibition development.

Investment can be made in two tranches

Lead Technology Partner £50,000

Four partnerships available

Lead Technology Partners play a meaningful role in programme delivery and development.

The Lead Technology Partners will:

- Receive acknowledgement on exhibition panels and across relevant programme materials
- Nominate a representative to the Advisory Council.
- Receive structured programme updates and detailed impact reporting.
- Be invited to annual stakeholder briefings and the programme showcase event.
- Contribute up to one Technology Translation Session per year.
- Participate in one structured Gallery Support Day across the programme.
- Provide optional technical advisory input.

Investment can be made in two tranches

Each strategic partnership supports engagement with approximately

2,273 young people

over the lifecycle of the programme

Technology Partners £25,000

Six partnerships available

Technology Partners actively support programme delivery.

The Technology Partners will:

- Be included across printed and digital programme materials.
- Receive programme updates and summary impact reporting.
- Be invited to stakeholder events and the annual showcase.
- Contribute one Technology Translation Session across the programme.

Gallery participation is not guaranteed at this tier but may be offered for designated showcase events where appropriate.

Investment can be made in two tranches

Programme Partners £10,000

Ten partnerships available

Programme Partners support community access and delivery.

The Programme Partners will:

- Be listed in programme communications and on the website.
- Receive programme updates and annual impact highlights.
- Be invited to attend the annual programme showcase event.



Technology Futures Collective

up to £4,000

Up to fifteen organisations



We are keen to work with partners to identify the most appropriate level of involvement and to tailor engagement opportunities where possible.

Designed for early stage and emerging companies wishing to support widening access to technological understanding at an appropriate stage of growth.

Collective membership provides a structured entry point into the programme community and an opportunity to deepen engagement over time.

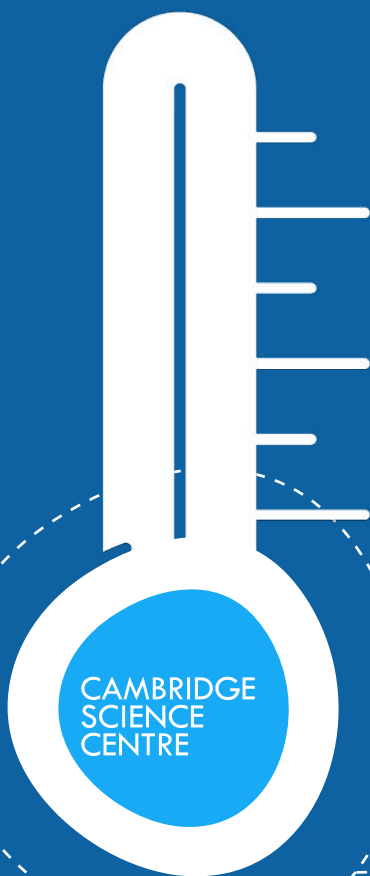
Collective members will:

Receive collective
acknowledgement
in annual reporting

Be invited to
attend the annual
programme
showcase event

Receive
programme
updates and
impact highlights

Programme target and next steps



£500,000

The fundraising target for Your Smart World is
£500,000

£300,000

To move into the development phase, we require a minimum of
£300,000
in confirmed donations by October 2026.



The programme equates to an approximate investment of

£33 per child





Your Smart World

is an opportunity to invest in the foundations of Cambridge's technological future, ensuring that the benefits of the region's world-leading innovation ecosystem are more widely shared.

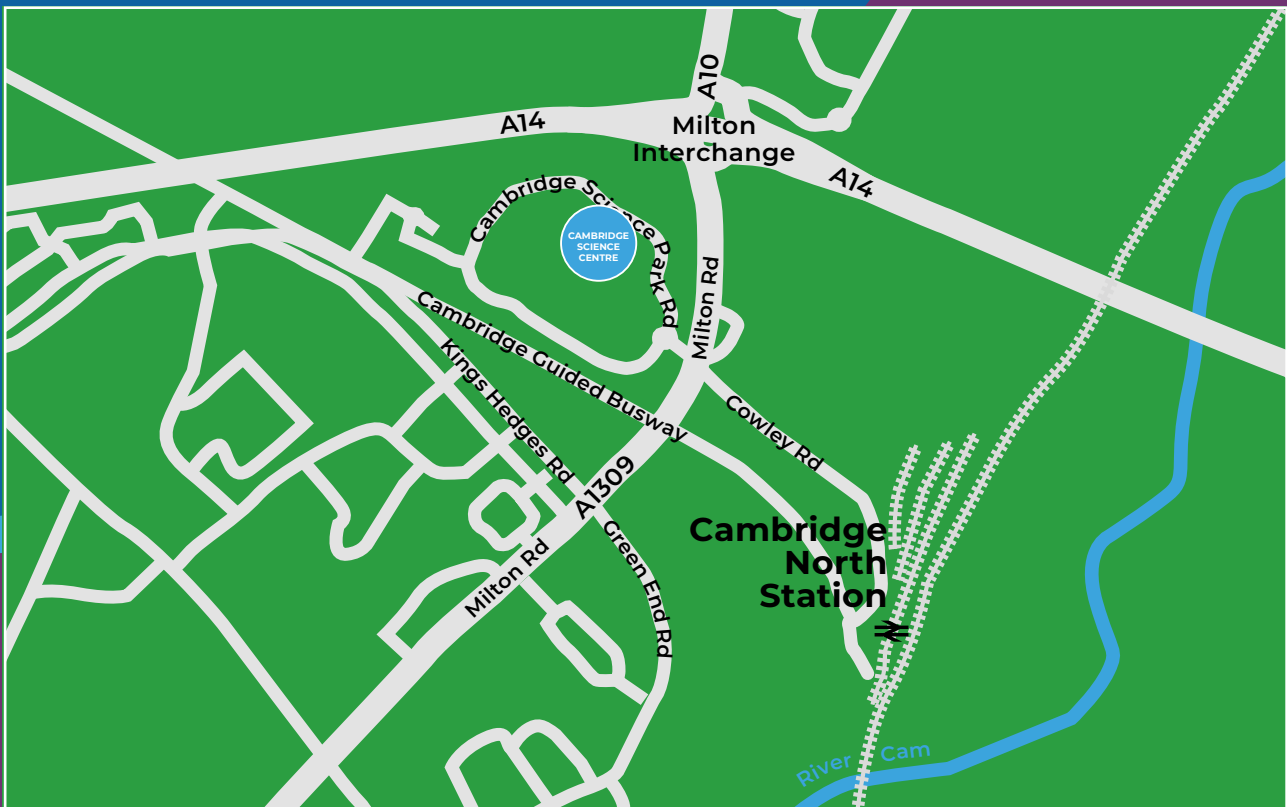
This strategic phase will lay the groundwork for sustained innovation confidence across children living in the East of England.

It is a commitment to inclusion, long-term resilience, and shared responsibility for the systems shaping the next generation.

We invite organisations who recognise the structural importance of innovation literacy to join Cambridge Science Centre in building infrastructure that does not simply respond to skills shortages, but helps prevent them, by ensuring young people grow up with the confidence, understanding and agency to shape the technological world around them.



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