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# Conference

Tuesday 4 July  
11:00-17:30

The Institute of Directors,  
116 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5ED

**#InstitutesofTechnology**

# Department for Education



A key Government manifesto commitment, Institutes of Technology were established by the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver world-class higher technical education - helping to increase the supply of high-skilled technicians across key industries that our economy needs. They are a key component of the 2020 Skills for Jobs White Paper which outlines how the Government plans to provide the technical education and training needed to fill skills gaps, boost economic recovery, increase productivity and secure jobs in the future. Each Institute of Technology is awarded a License by DfE that outlines its role and objectives and is signed by all partners in the IoT. The Network has access to a £300 million capital funding pot to create state-of-the-art industry standard facilities and infrastructure in which to deliver this learning. The DfE's ongoing role is to provide support and challenge to ensure the successful delivery of their proposals in line with programme policy objectives. Further information can be found on gov.uk.

# Gatsby Foundation



The National Network of Institutes of Technology is supported by the Gatsby Foundation as part of its work to help transform technical education in England. Gatsby sees IoTs as playing a crucial role in strengthening higher technical education, supporting innovation diffusion, developing new approaches to technical teaching and learning, and exemplifying positive partnerships between further education colleges and universities.

To read more about Gatsby's work in Education, please visit: [www.gatsby.org.uk/education](http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education)

# Conference Programme

LOCATION	TIMINGS	AGENDA
Waterloo Room	10:30-11:00	<b>Arrival</b> (Refreshments available)
Nash Room	11:00-11:05	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> Yewande Akinola, Engineering Designer & Innovator
	11:05 - 11:15	<b>Opening Remarks</b> David Sainsbury, Founder, Gatsby Charitable Foundation
	11:15 - 11:50	<b>In Conversation:</b> Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, and employer representatives from the Institutes of Technology network
	11:50 - 12:30	<b>Building the IoT Partnership</b>
Waterloo Room	12:30 - 13:15	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>
Nash Room	13:15 - 14:15	<b>Working Together to Diversify the STEM Workforce</b>
Waterloo Room	14:15 - 14:30	<b>Refreshments</b>
Nash Room	Breakout Sessions 14:30 - 15:20	<b>Net Zero and Green Skills</b>
Burton Room		<b>Employer Led Curriculum Development</b>
Trafalgar 2 Room		<b>Embedding the SME Employer Voice</b>
	15:20 - 15:30	<b>Movement between sessions</b>
Nash Room	15:30 - 15:45	<b>A Focus for the Future</b>
	15:45 - 15:55	<b>Conference closing Statements</b>
Waterloo Room	16:00 - 17:30	<b>A reception to celebrate the expansion of The National Network of Institutes of Technology</b>

## Event Host

**Yewande Akinola -  
Engineering Designer & Innovator**



Yewande is a chartered engineer, innovator and speaker. Her engineering experience includes the design and construction, innovation and manufacture of buildings and systems in the built environment. She has worked on projects in the UK, Africa, the Middle East and East Asia and has been named the UK Young Woman Engineer of the Year by the Institution of Engineering & Technology. She has also been awarded the Exceptional Achiever Award from the Association for BAME Engineers and the Association of Consultancy and Engineering, U.K. (ACE). She is a Visiting Professor at the University of Westminster. She is passionate about STEM communication and has presented Engineering programmes for Television. In the 2020 New Year Honours list, Yewande was awarded an MBE for services to engineering innovation and diversity in STEM. She has recently been appointed the UK's Innovation Agency (Innovate UK) Ambassador for Clean Growth and Infrastructure.

## Special Guests

**Gillian Keegan -  
Secretary of State for Education**



**David Sainsbury -  
Founder, Gatsby Charitable Foundation**



## In conversation: Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, and employer representatives from the Institutes of Technology network

Nash Room

11:15-11:50

### Session Objective

The objective of this session is for the Secretary of State to share her vision for the future of IoTs and explore why employer representatives chose to work with their local Institute of Technology.

### Session Facilitator

#### **Yewande Akinola**

Engineering Designer & Innovator



### Special Guest

#### **Gillian Keegan**

Secretary of State for Education



### Panellists

#### **Sally Brown**

General Manager,  
Gatwick Diamond Business  
*Sussex & Surrey IoT*



Sally is the General Manager of Gatwick Diamond Business, a not-for-profit business membership organisation supporting the success of local businesses and promoting the Gatwick Diamond as an economic area of regional and national importance. She is delighted to support the new Sussex & Surrey Institute of Technology as an employer partner on the Strategic Consortium Panel, representing the local business community.

## Ian Mander

Technical Sales Engineer, Nord Lock  
*Black Country and Marches IoT*



Ian is a qualified Mechanical Design Engineer and is the key UK representative for Nord-Lock Group's 'Superbolt' range of high-strength & high-integrity fasteners.

Ian's work engages him in many important sectors in the UK such as defence and energy, with direct involvement in UK defence submarines & ships, civil nuclear fission and fusion reactors, 'green' hydrogen electrolysers and all forms of renewable energy generation. Nord-Lock is the appointed knowledge partner at Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology.

## Sameer Savani

Vice President GTC-UK, GKN Aerospace  
*West of England IoT*



Sameer joined GKN Aerospace in April 2022 as Vice President for the company's Global Technology Centre (GTC) in Bristol - a joint £32m investment between GKN Aerospace and the Aerospace Technology Institute, created to accelerate Aerospace technology developments toward Aviation's net zero 2050 mission. The GTC brings together GKN Aerospace's partners in a collaborative environment and is where Weston College is based as part of the West of England IoT.

## Building the IoT Partnership

Nash Room  
11:50-12:30

### Session Objective

The objective of this session is to explore how Institute of Technology anchor partners have built their relationships to develop strategy, identity, and curriculum.

## Session Facilitator

### **Yewande Akinola**

Engineering Designer & Innovator



## Panellists

### **Claire Arbery**

Director, West of England IoT



Claire has led the West of England Institute of Technology since 2019. Previously, Claire was the National Centre for Computing Education: Programme Manager supporting teachers to be confident and competent in the delivery of the GCSE computer science curriculum. She has also managed significant apprenticeship provision and STEM engagement activities and is well-placed to support on the skills requirements of a future digital workforce.

### **Georgina Barnard**

Managing Director, Black Country & Marches IoT



As Managing Director of Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology (IoT) and Executive Director for Higher Education at Dudley College of Technology, Georgina believes that high-quality education should be available and accessible to all. The IoT is the leading centre for the delivery of advanced and higher technical skills across the region, offering industry-led technical education programmes and advanced apprenticeships to degree level.

### **Sally Brown**

General Manager, Gatwick Diamond Business  
*Sussex & Surrey IoT*



See earlier biography.

**Ian Mander**

Technical Sales Engineer, Nord Lock  
*Black Country and Marches IoT*



See earlier biography.

**Paul Rolfe**

Director, Sussex & Surrey IoT



Paul is the Director of Sussex and Surrey Institute of Technology and Associate Principal, Employers & Stakeholders at the Chichester College Group. He has over 20 years' experience in strategic business experience in a number of fields including information technology, marketing, business development as well as training and development. Paul is Vice-Chair of the National Network of Institutes of Technology, Chair of Chichester Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Crawley Town Centre Business Improvement District.

**Sameer Savani**

Vice President GTC-UK, GKN Aerospace  
*West of England IoT*



See earlier biography.

**Lunch and Networking**

Waterloo Room  
12:30-13:15



# Working Together to Diversify the STEM Workforce

Nash Room  
13:15-14:15

## Session Objective

The objective of this session is to discuss different approaches to increasing diversity in the STEM workforce and the role of IoTs in addressing this need.

## Guest Speaker & Session Facilitator

### **Yewande Akinola**

Engineering Designer & Innovator



## Panellists

### **Anita-Davenport Brooks**

Group Human Resources Manager,  
Lander Automotive  
*Greater Birmingham & Solihull IoT*



Anita has worked in Human Resources and development for over 20 years, with much of her career within the manufacturing/automotive industries. She is the National Chair of Apprenticeships in Manufacturing and a member of the West Midlands Apprenticeship Ambassador Network, the Make UK Labour Market and Skills Policy Committee and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull IoT Employer Advisory Group amongst others. Anita is driving vocational qualification levels within the Lander Group, supporting succession planning through employee development and engagement at the forefront of business practice and strategy.



### **Alex Warner**

Principal, South Central IoT

Alex Warner is the Principal of the South Central Institute of Technology (IoT). With a passion for education and a dedication to student success, Alex has worked to establish the IoT as a leading institution for technical training and career development. Under his leadership, the IoT has implemented innovative programmes and initiatives to prepare students for the workforce and help them achieve their full potential.

### **Rosa Wells**

Executive Dean, School of Engineering,  
Digital & Sustainable Construction,  
University College Birmingham  
*Greater Birmingham & Solihull IoT*



Rosa is a highly experienced engineer who has dedicated her career to education and training. She is passionate about providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in STEM sectors.

In her previous role, Rosa was leading the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Institute of Technology, working closely with engineering employers and education partners to establish a state-of-the-art learning factory. She now sits on the Board of Directors of the IoT and is Vice-Chair of the National Network of Institutes of Technology.

### **Rob Wheeler**

Head of Software Engineering,  
AIG  
*Swindon & Wiltshire IoT*



Rob is incredibly passionate about careers in technology and connecting the dots between corporates, charities and education. This field has played a key part of his career, whilst leading large technology functions across Financial Services, Retail and Pharmaceutical industries. He is a counsellor, mentor and mediator and actively supports

colleagues professionally both within the workplace and via several charitable organisations. Rob was heavily involved in the initial bid for the Swindon and Wiltshire IoT and subsequently invited to be part of the expert panel for second wave of IoTs.

## Refreshments

Waterloo Room  
14:15-14:30

## Breakout Sessions

14:30-15:20

**Net Zero & Green Skills** - Nash Room

**Employer Led Curriculum Development** - Burton Room

**Embedding the SME Employer Voice** - Trafalgar 2 Room

## Net Zero & Green Skills

Nash Room (*breakout session*)  
14:30-15:20

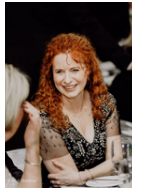
### Session Objective

The objective of this session is to explore how IoTs are working to deliver the green skills needed in their region and support employers in achieving their NetZero ambitions.

## Panellists

### **Sharon Grant**

Director, North East IoT



Having previously worked in pharmaceuticals and advanced manufacturing, focusing on talent pipelines and bridging skills gaps, Sharon is passionate about empowering women in STEM. As Director of the North East Institute of Technology, Sharon facilitates collaboration between industry and education to boost innovation and engagement in manufacturing, engineering, construction, and the built environment. Together, the partnership is working to raise aspirations, inspire young people in STEM and support the career development of adults.

### **Steve Mariadas**

Chief Executive Officer, South West IoT



Steve is the Chief Executive Officer of South West Institute of Technology and Chair of the National Network of Institutes of Technology. He has a wide range of experience in both industry and education having held the position of Chief Information Officer for a European airline. Since moving into education twelve years ago, he has been instrumental in building digital and data apprenticeships across the South West region. In 2019, Steve was awarded a Technical Teaching Fellowship by the Royal Commission.

### **Cat Mills**

Legacy Lead, EDF Energy

*South West IoT*



Cat has been delivering business strategy and transformation across industries for 20 years, the last seven with EDF as part of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) Project. Cat's current focus (in between ultramarathons) is on leveraging the foundations of expertise, innovation, and infrastructure built for HPC, to deliver the best economic and environmental outcomes across the South West and wider UK industry.

## Lee Peachey

Co-Founder & Director, Green Leaf Engineering  
*North East IoT*



Lee is the Co-Founder and Director of Green Leaf Engineering Ltd, with over 15 years of experience. Green Leaf are a multi-discipline renewables/decarbonisation company. Within 2022 Green Leaf managed to save 1000 tons of carbon by implementing insulation, PV, batteries, and heat pumps in over 400 projects.

## Employer Led Curriculum Development

Burton Room (breakout session)  
14:30-15:20

### Session Objective

The objective of this session is to explore how IoTs are working with and for employers to develop curriculum.

### Panellists

## Alex Clancy

Assistant Principal, Yeovil College  
*West of England IoT*



Alex joined Yeovil College as Assistant Principal of Employer Engagement in November 2021, bringing extensive experience of leading business development and employer engagement teams to the College. Prior to moving into education, Alex spent 12 years in the retail and technology sector with market leaders in their sectors, Specsavers and Dyson, working across a range of account management and business development roles.

## **Margherita Pasquariello**

Strategic Lead, NA College

*North East IoT*



Margherita is a trained Business Engineer with years of experience in the automotive industry and education sector.

She is accountable and responsible for representing the organisation, designing company strategy, and leading diversification and organic business growth.

Margherita is a motivated leader with records of accomplishment for people development, training, coaching and sustainable organisation growth both internally and as a professional for external customers.

## **Stefaan Simons**

Emeritus Professor of Energy Systems,

Brunel University

*West London IoT*



After a successful career in academia, Stefaan took early retirement in 2020 from his role as Vice Provost of Engineering, Design & Physical Sciences at Brunel to focus on helping energy-related start-ups and advising the further education/higher education sector on skills development in regard to engineering and industry 4.0/digitalisation.

## **Jason Turton**

Deputy Principal, Barking and Dagenham

College

*East London IoT*



With over two decades of experience in STEM delivery within Further Education and the lead for East London Institute of Technology, Jason has established himself as an accomplished leader in this field. He has a thorough understanding of skills-focused pedagogy and has a proven track record of working with stakeholders to design and implement strategies that drive organisational growth.

# Embedding the SME Employer Voice

Trafalgar 2 Room (*breakout session*)  
14:30-15:20

## Session Objective

The objective of this session is to explore how IoTs are working with and for employers to develop curriculum.

## Panellists

### **Georgina Barnard**

Managing Director, Black Country & Marches IoT



As Managing Director of Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology (IoT) and Executive Director for Higher Education at Dudley College of Technology, Georgina believes that high-quality education should be available and accessible to all. The IoT is the leading centre for the delivery of advanced and higher technical skills across the region, offering industry-led technical education programmes and advanced apprenticeships to degree level.

### **Seymour Mincer**

Associate Director, Fulcro  
*Black Country & Marches IoT*



With a background in Leadership and Management, Seymour joined Fulcro in 2019, with a focus developing Fulcro's Applied Technologies business stream. He focuses very much on partnerships with education and training providers to drive innovation and change within the industry. This has been achieved through developing excellent working relationships with IoTs, colleges, and universities. Fulcro is incredibly passionate about driving change within the industry and works with a client base that is equally motivated towards innovation and evolution to deliver projects faster, for less, with increased quality.

## Iain Oates

Director, Ford Aerospace Limited  
*North East IoT*



After completing his apprenticeship Iain has gone on to work in senior roles in large manufacturing companies and SME's across the UK & Europe.

Now a director at Ford Aerospace, Iain sits on the Advanced Manufacturing board at the NEIoT and oversees the Ford Academy program in the Northeast.

Iain is an Enterprise Advisor and Stem Ambassador.

## Tony Sartorius

Chairman & Owner, Alucast  
*Greater Birmingham & Solihull IoT*



Tony is Chairman of Alucast, a foundry and machining business in the Black Country. He has worked in manufacturing since leaving school, trained in finance and later was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers. He is actively involved in attracting young people into engineering as a career choice, his business works with local schools and colleges and has a successful apprenticeship scheme.

## A Focus for the Future

Nash Room

15:30-15:45

### Session Objective

This session will explore how the IoTs network can support emerging skills and innovation diffusion.

### Panellists

## Debbie Johnson

Head of Innovation Talent & Skills,  
Innovate UK





Debbie is focused on two goals: supporting innovative businesses in accessing and developing talent to realise the UK's innovation ambition and ensuring that the education and skills system is supported in responding to the changes created by our innovation to maximise the potential for our economy and society. Prior to joining Innovate UK in 2020, Debbie was involved in collaboratively funded, business-led skills programmes in the construction sector.

### **Steve Mariadas**

Chief Executive Officer, South West IoT



Steve is the Chief Executive Officer of South West Institute of Technology and Chair of the National Network of Institutes of Technology. He has a wide range of experience in both industry and education having held the position of Chief Information Officer for a European airline. Since moving into education twelve years ago, he has been instrumental in building digital and data apprenticeships across the South West region. In 2019, Steve was awarded a Technical Teaching Fellowship by the Royal Commission.

## **Conference Closing Statements**

Nash Room

15:45-15:55

### Speaker

### **Yewande Akinola**

Engineering Designer & Innovator



# Reception to celebrate the expansion of The National Network of Institutes of Technology

Waterloo Room

16:00-17:30

## Reception Host

### **Rizwana Parveen**

Deputy Director, Provider Transformation,  
Department for Education

## Speakers

### **Janice Kay**

Provost, University of Exeter

### **Deborah Mungai**

South Central IoT Alumni

### **Sinead O'Sullivan**

Director, Further Education Oversight Directorate,  
Department for Education