

20 leading scaleups join Tech Nation's first national cyber security growth programme

- The Tech Nation Cyber programme will create a community of the most exciting and promising cyber security scaleups in the UK, supported by a host of market leaders, including Darktrace, Tessian, Digital Shadows and Censornet
- The initiative is designed to boost the UK's cyber sector, accelerate the growth of its top companies and build a robust, cross-industry network
- 45% of the companies joining the programme are based outside of London, with cohort headquarters located in nine different cities across the UK (Reading, Belfast, Cheltenham, London, Glasgow, Bristol, Cardiff, Caerphilly and Brighton & Hove)

[Tech Nation](#), the UK's leading network for ambitious tech entrepreneurs, has today announced the 20 fast-growth cyber scaleups accepted onto their first national cyber security growth programme.

Funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and supported by global cyber security market-leaders Tessian, Digital Shadows, Darktrace and CensorNet, the six-month programme is aimed at helping to accelerate the growth of the UK's most exciting cyber security businesses.

The breadth of innovation and application amongst the 20-strong cohort is testament to the UK's world-leading cyber security and broader technology sectors. From machine learning and blockchain, to biometrics and cloud solutions, the [Tech Nation Cyber cohort](#) are utilising bleeding-edge technologies to offer clients new ways to improve security, and protect businesses and individuals online.

The companies will benefit from a series of workshops held across the UK, led by industry leaders such as Digital Shadows co-founder James Chappell, Darktrace co-founders Emily Orton and Dave Palmer and Deep3 co-founder and CEO Richard Yorke. The programme will also include meetups and networking support, to help the scaleups navigate common barriers to growth, with guidance on everything from how to recruit the right talent to meeting goals for international expansion.

It will also provide them with a powerful network of peers, investors and potential clients.

Following the call for applications in February, the successful cohort was chosen by a panel of expert judges from the public and private sector. The judges assessed applicants against their growth record to date, current scaling plans and expertise, and long-term business potential (both nationally and internationally).

Of the 20 businesses joining the programme, 45% are based outside of London, with cohort headquarters located in nine different cities across the UK (Reading, Belfast, Cheltenham, London, Glasgow, Bristol, Cardiff, Caerphilly and Brighton & Hove).

Kicking off at the Farncombe Estate in the Cotswolds on 2nd/3rd May, the programme will be launched by market-leading experts within the cyber security space, with speakers including: Dave Palmer, Director of Technology at Darktrace, James Chappell, Founder and Chief Innovation Officer at Digital Shadows, and James Hadley, CEO of Immersive Labs.

Margot James, Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries, commented: “Congratulations to all the firms selected for this new programme which shows the depth of tech talent right across the country. This important scheme will not only allow promising cyber security startups to access world-class expert advice but also help us achieve our aim of making Britain the safest place in the world to be online.”

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, commented: “I am delighted that Belfast-based companies SaltDNA and RepKnight will be joining the Tech Nation Cyber programme. Cyber security is one of the fastest-growing digital tech sectors in Northern Ireland and attracts record levels of global investment. There is tremendous talent on offer and world-class Universities which make Northern Ireland the ideal location for fast-growth tech companies. I look forward to seeing SaltDNA and RepKnight go from strength to strength and help cement the UK as a world leader in cybersecurity.”

Rt Hon David Mundell, Secretary of State for Scotland, commented: “Scotland’s reputation as an innovator in technology is world renowned and I’m delighted to see us leading the way in cyber security. Finding ways to fight cyber threats is one of the world’s most pressing problems and Glasgow’s tech sector has the innovation and experience to be on the front line. The UK Government has even chosen the city to host its CyberUK 2019 conference. I am pleased to see this recognised by Tech Nation and I offer my congratulations to My1Login on being chosen to join their first national cyber security growth programme.”

Kevin Foster, UK Government Minister for Wales, commented: “Cyber security represents an increasingly important part of our daily lives, and Wales already plays a leading role in keeping our data and systems safe while training up the next generation of experts. This programme will initially support two Welsh companies in Caerphilly and Cardiff in developing their potential and I look forward to seeing other companies from across Wales getting involved in the future.”

Ollie Bone, Cyber Programme Lead at Tech Nation, commented: “In recent years the success for a handful of UK Cyber Security innovators is more than could be imagined. They have enhanced the nation's reputation for producing world-class technology, while also helping to pave the way for many more startups hoping to follow suit. Concurrently the market for cyber security is continuing to grow at a rapid pace and this conspires to make our cohort of scaleups exciting ones to watch.

Poppy Gustafsson, CEO and Co-founder, Darktrace, commented: “Cyber security is one of the biggest challenges facing modern society. Cutting edge innovations are the only way to protect our digital infrastructures and safeguard the services we rely on. Darktrace is proud to support Tech Nation’s new cyber programme, to maintain the UK’s position as a global leader in cyber defence.”

Tim Sadler, CEO, Tessian, commented: “There is a tremendous amount of cyber talent in the UK - made clear by the breadth of innovation represented in this cohort. The cyber industry is, however, a noisy, competitive space. To stand out and succeed, cybersecurity start-ups need to demonstrate credibility and clearly communicate the problem their technology solves. We are delighted to share some of the things we’ve learned along the way to help these startups take off.”

Alastair Paterson, Co-founder and CEO, Digital Shadows, commented: “Cyber security is critical to the UK’s future success and prosperity and an area we can excel in as a country. As such, I’m proud to be using my experience with Digital Shadows to help others to scale up globally.”

Douglas Orr, CEO and Founder, Novastone Media, commented: “We're extremely excited to join the Cyber 1.0 cohort. The opportunity for Novastone to scale up and become a future leader in UK

Cyber Security with the support of Tech Nation is absolutely fantastic. We're looking forward to building relationships and learning from other experts that will no doubt be crucial to our success - we can't wait to get started."

Andrew Bud, CEO and Founder, iProov, commented: "iProov has entered a phase of extremely fast growth internationally, creating lots of exciting challenges. I'm certain the collective wisdom of our peers and the programme contributors will help us to plan and execute this growth with new insights."

Jonathan Pope, CEO and Co-founder, Corax, commented: "As a UK cyber security startup seeking to scale, the timing and intent of the programme is perfect for Corax and we're looking to benefitting from the advice and reach of Tech Nation and fellow programme participants."

Daniel Lewis, CEO and Co-founder-Director, Awen Collective, commented: "We are delighted to have been chosen for the first cohort of the Tech Nation Cyber programme. We are excited to get started and continue to grow with the support from this wonderful programme and we look forward to establishing new business alongside our fellow cohort members."

Peter Szyszko, CEO and Founder, White Bullet Solutions, commented: "Following a strong start up period, we are ready to scale and excited to take advantage of the vast opportunities the programme offers for growth and access to investment, as well as to learn from experts and peers."

ENDS

Notes to the Editor

The programme is funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as part of the Government's National Cyber Security Strategy (2016-2021.) The strategy is a five year plan, supported by £1.9 billion of transformational investment, to protect the nation in cyber space and make the UK the safest place to live and work online.

Introducing the Cyber 1.0 cohort

Corax | London | @coraxcyber | coraxcyber.com

Corax provides data, modelling and loss analytics on the cyber exposure of millions of interconnected companies worldwide. With the help of its scalable technology platform, combined with an extensive dataset and probabilistic modelling, it enables them to accurately manage and predict cyber risk exposure and provide clients with precise risk assessments.

White Bullet Solutions | London | www.white-bullet.com

White Bullet Solutions protects brands and media companies by preventing ad fraud and helping them stay IP risk compliant. Their AI analyses and scores websites or apps that may be breaching copyright on intellectual property. This enables advertisers, search engines and ISPs to avoid funding criminal sites and activity online.

Awen Collective | Caerphilly | @awencollective | www.awencollective.com

Awen Collective is an award-winning software company that develops digital forensics software solutions for industrial control systems, robotics and internet-of-things devices. Their products consist of "Profile", a compliance checking software tool for critical infrastructure, and "Dot", an asset and risk discovery tool. Awen also offers consultations, training, digital forensics and incident response in industrial environments.

Fortium | Cardiff | @FortiumTech | www.fortiumtech.com

Fortium keeps sensitive content secure from hackers, pirates and unintentional distribution within media and entertainment. Their software products focus on solving cyber security problems with a minimal amount of impact on the end user experience. They have become one of the most trusted providers within this space, working with the biggest film and TV studios for 20 years. Last year alone, Fortium products protected content which generated over \$20bn of box-office revenues.

DynaRisk | London | @dynarisk | www.dynarisk.com

DynaRisk wants to help the average consumer and SMEs to protect themselves online and have created the world's first personal Cyber Security Score; the score is determined by assessing over 70 risk factors and indicates the likelihood of being defrauded or having information stolen. Alongside the score, users are given access to their own personal dashboard which contains an action plan, reports and more, tailored to their individual needs and designed to improve their safety online.

iProov | London | @iproov | www.iproov.com

iProov assures the genuine presence of online users and authenticates this with biometrics, in the form of face and palm authentication. Their patented Flashmark technology is unique in protecting against replays and deepfake synthetic video attacks. Their IDMatcher tool makes it possible to prove peoples identity in an online self-serving context, by matching their faces against their photo ID.

Alliantist T/A ISMS.online | Brighton and Hove | isms_online | ISMS.online

ISMS.online helps organisations demonstrate they can be trusted for information security management. This all-in-one place secure cloud service for ISO 27001, and much more, offers extensive end-to-end cyber security management, resilience and assurance of compliance for shareholders, customers, staff and supply chains.

Assuria | Reading | @AssuriaLtd | www.assuria.com

The software house Assuria develops its own cyber security software solutions for a range of different uses and sectors; Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), File Integrity Monitoring (FIM), Vulnerability Assessment and Big Data Security Analytics. These solutions are also integrated into Assuria's Multi-tenant SOC Management Platform, which is provided to partners, enabling them to deliver enterprise-grade Managed Security Services to SMEs at affordable cost.

LuJam Security | Bristol | @lujamcyber | www.lujam.com

LuJam is making Cyber Security more financially manageable for small to mid-sized organisations, offering Advanced Cyber Protection Service starting at £3 - £5 per seat, per month. Their state-of-the-art data science provides visibility of your network activity, automatically deals with threats and immediately alerts users of issues.

CybSafe | London | @cybsafe | www.cybsafe.com

CybSafe is a cyber security and data analytics company. They focus on influence, measurement and quantification of people-centric cyber security risks and resilience. Their cloud-based platform provides the world's first intelligent cyber security awareness, behaviour and culture risk management solution, fusing psychology and behavioural science with artificial intelligence and data science.

Red Sift | London | @redsift | www.redsift.com

Red Sift is a data-driven cybersecurity business that uses machine learning to help organisations of all sizes and sectors address day-to-day security challenges. It offers a dashboard of tools that

analyse and synthesise data from core business processes, such as email, to help users to better manage their online security.

Keepnet Labs | London | @keepnetlabs | www.keepnetlabs.com

Keepnet Labs protects businesses throughout the lifecycle of email-based cyber-attacks. They offer a full spectrum suite of email-based defence including threat monitoring, email threat simulation, user awareness and phishing incident response that encapsulates an integrated approach to people, processes and technology thus reducing threat in all areas of cyber risk.

Novastone | London | @novastonemedia | www.novastonemedia.com

Novastone provides incredibly secure, patented and award winning IM solutions for organisations that wish to embrace IM for both staff and client communications. Novastone's IM solutions can be extended and integrated with popular consumer IM products. Further integration with legacy SW and new bots can drive significant operational cost savings as correspondence becomes audited, secure conversations.

Quant Network | London | @quant_network | www.quant.network

Quant Network is aiming to provide solutions to build an internet we all can trust. They combine their experience in cyber security, government, industry and blockchain technology to create innovative products that will provide results, creating a secure online environment by verifying and validating the correspondence you send without leaving any personal data with them.

SE Labs | London | @selabsuk | www.selabs.uk

With the goal of improving information technology security, SE Labs assesses products and services designed to detect attacks and protect against intrusions. They test a range of solutions, including endpoint software, network appliance and cloud services. The testing of commercial products makes it possible to discover areas of improvement for detection and protection.

XQ Cyber | Cheltenham | @XQCyber | www.cyberscore.com

With a vision of making cyber security available to everyone, simplified and easy to use, XQ Cyber focuses on protecting customers from cybercrime with their service, CyberScore. The automated cyber security testing and peer rating service converts technical data drawn from computer networks into a clear, concise risk rating and improvement plans.

Crypta Labs | London | @CryptaLabs | www.cryptalabs.com

Crypta Labs is eliminating weaknesses in traditional PRNG encryption with their patent-pending Quantum Random Number Generators (QRNG) technology. The technology measures the photons from light to create a truly random number which can be used to seed the generation of encryption keys that secure communication between devices.

My1Login | Glasgow | @my1login | www.my1login.com

My1Login has won multiple awards for their Identity and Access Management (IAM) solution that eliminates password-related cyber-security risks. My1Login's Single Sign-On solution enables employees to have seamless access to all business-related web and Windows desktop applications without requiring multiple passwords whilst utilising client-side encryption to provide a far more secure offering than competitors

RepKnight | Belfast | @RepKnight | www.repknight.com

RepKnight provides web applications for real-time data breach detection, dark web monitoring and cyber threat intelligence. Their automated and powerful cyber threat intelligence solutions can be

used by any business, and monitor the Dark Web and other parts of the internet 24/7 to identify potential threats to the business or discover if your corporate data has been breached.

SaltDNA | Belfast | @saltcontrol | www.saltdna.com

SaltDNA builds secure enterprise mobile communication solutions. Their product provides secure voice calls, messaging, conference calls and image/file transfers. The founders of SaltDNA share a background in enterprise security, telecoms, network optimisation and mobile application development and used this experience to create the first solution for encrypted communications between devices with centralised control for the enterprise.

A full list of Cyber programme judges:

- Pratima Aiyagari, Corporate Development & Venture Investments at Cisco
- Mike Kennedy, Director at Downing Capital
- Robert Coles, Chief Information Security Officer, previously at NHS, GSK, National Grid
- Dr Emma Philpott, CEO at The IASME Consortium
- Deeph Chana, Professor of Practice at Imperial College Business School
- Mivy James, Head of Consulting, UK Gov at BAE Systems
- Akriti Dokania, Early Stage Investor at Octopus Ventures
- Dr Jamie Graves, CEO & Founder at Zonefox
- Andy Williams, CEO at Global Transatlantic and Advisor to Department for International Trade Defence and Security Organisation
- Seb Wallace, Investor at Triple Point Ventures
- Alastair Paterson, CEO & co-founder at Digital Shadows
- James Chappell, CIO and co-founder at Digital Shadows
- Cat McDonald, Investor, AlbionVC

Cyber programme in numbers:

- 45% of companies joining Cyber are based outside the capital
- The Cyber cohort has headquarters in nine different cities across the UK, including: Reading, Belfast, Cheltenham, London, Glasgow, Bristol, Cardiff, Caerphilly and Brighton & Hove
- £580K in average revenue
- £11.6 million in total revenue
- £3 million in funds raised on average
- £54 million in funds raised in total between the 18 venture backed companies. 2 are bootstrapped
- Top challenges of companies joining Cyber are: international expansion, access to and knowledge about funding, marketing their business
- The US is the most important market to Cyber founders, followed by Germany.
- The Cyber cohort's largest market is financial services, closely followed by the public sector, digital and telecoms.