Tech Nation announces the 32 companies joining the Applied AI 2.0 Growth Programme

- Tech Nation announces 32 companies joining the Applied AI Growth Programme, which has been designed to champion and support the UK's leading AI scaleups through peer-to-peer learning
- The programme forms part of the UK Government's AI Sector Deal, supported by the Office for AI
- 44% of founders joining the programme are female, and 59% of the companies are based outside of London
- New data shows that the UK is leading Europe and is third globally for VC investment in AI in 2020, while demand for AI skills continues to rise, up 111% from 2017 to 2019

14th October 2020: Tech Nation, the growth platform for tech companies and leaders, announces the 32 companies that have been selected to join the Applied AI Growth programme and reveals new data that shows the UK leads Europe for AI investment.

The programme has been designed to champion and support the UK's most exceptional deep tech scaleups through peer-to-peer learning and mentoring sessions, addressing the particular scaling challenges for companies in the AI sector. The programme forms part of the Government's AI Sector Deal, announced in 2019 to realise the social and economic benefits of AI and harness its potential to transform people's lives for the better.

Companies joining the programme are applying AI to solve real, social problems, including tackling disinformation online, diagnosing conditions like cancer, and combating climate change. Companies joining the programme include:

- Panakeia - backed by Hoxton Ventures, Entrepreneur First and LocalGlobe, Panakieia is a universal engine for one-step precision cancer diagnosis. Founder Pahini Pandya has 10+ years experience in translational cancer research.
- Archangel - uses AI and drones to track wide areas of land, with wildlife monitoring one such use case to combat poaching.
- ILOF - creating a digital library of disease biomarkers, helping to find a cure for Alzheimers.
- Rahko - backed by Balderton, Rahko is one of the world's first companies using quantum computing and AI for drug discovery.

59% of companies joining the programme are based outside of London, with the highest representation from the South East, East of England and Scotland. 44% of companies on the programme have a female founder, almost double the representation of female tech directors (23%) in UK tech. 34% of companies are applying AI to the construction industry, while 28% are using AI to solve healthcare challenges.

The UK leads Europe in AI investment, having raised $1.48bn in 2020 so far, in front of France ($538.83m) and Germany ($400.25m). The UK is currently third in the world for VC investment in AI after the US ($17.94bn) and China ($9.55bn)[1].

Looking into sub-sectors, the majority of AI investment so far this year flows into Big Data ($872.42m), TMT ($712.96m), SaaS ($588.39m), and Fintech ($474.65m). AI investment in Mobility Tech has already surpassed 2019 levels by 240%, whilst Fintech is already up by 120%, SAAS by 36% and Cyber Security by 10%.

Demand for AI skills is continuing to rise in the UK, with an increase of 111% between 2017 and 2019. A quarter (25%) of all Data Scientist roles advertised in 2019 required AI as a skill, this was the highest proportion seen amongst digital tech roles in 2019[2].

The 32 AI companies joining the Applied AI Growth Programme represent some of the best AI scaleups in the UK, having gone through a competitive and rigorous judging process. The programme will support companies to scale up and become the AI unicorns of the future. AI is already a strategic strength to the UK economy, with 1,344 AI companies and a number of well-known and established AI unicorns, including Darktrace, Benevolent AI and Graphcore.

Harry Rhys Davies, AI Programme Lead, Tech Nation commented: "The UK must take every opportunity to nurture scalable, globally-competitive, homegrown AI companies that solve real problems and have far-reaching impacts on the productivity potential of the economy."

"The Applied AI growth programme aims to do exactly this, taking 32 of the UK's most exciting AI scaleups, and through peer-to-peer learning and mentoring removing many of the unique barriers to growth that companies in this sector face. Backed by leading VCs and led by an exceptionally talented group of founders, this cohort of companies is primed to make an impact."

The programme received 179 applications from across the UK and judges included Sana Khareghani, Head of the UK Government Office for AI; Tabitha Goldstaub, Chair of UK Government AI Council; Nathan Benaich, General Partner, Air Street Capital and Dr Mike Short CBE, Chief Scientific Advisor, DIT. Wilson Sonsini and CBRE are partners for the Applied AI 2.0 programme. Their experience and knowledge working alongside scaling companies will provide insight on international expansion and property management throughout the programme.

Notes to the Editor

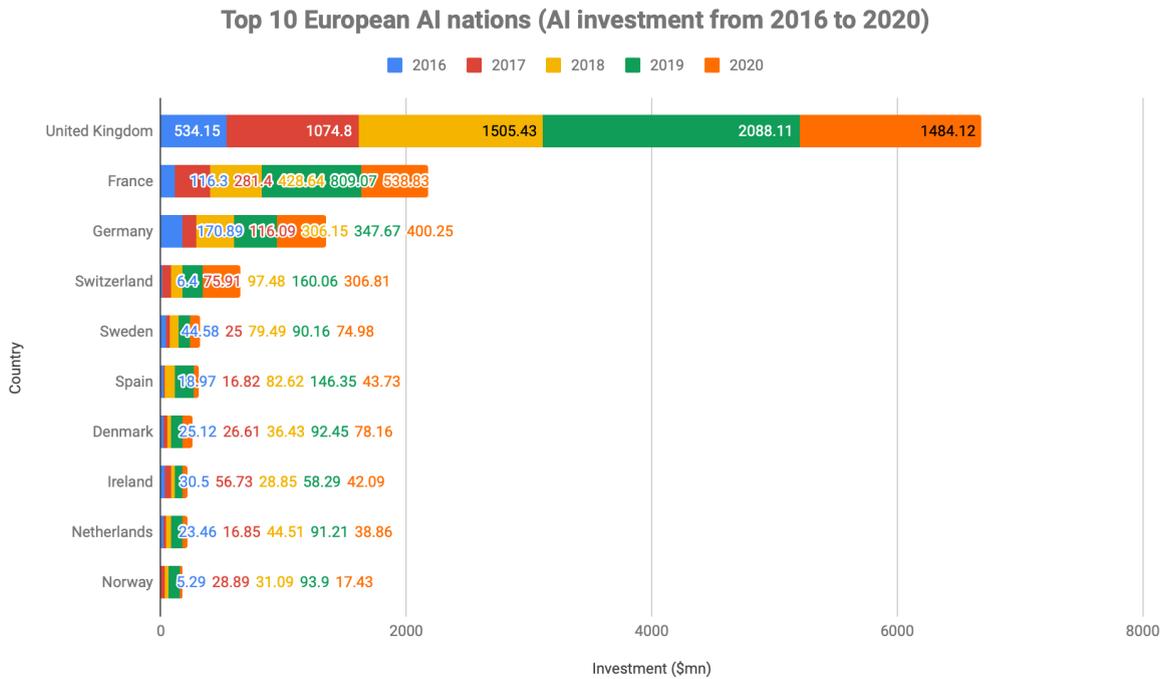[1] 2020 Pitchbook data

[2] 2019 Adzuna data

Applied AI Cohort statistics
- £2.36m raised through grants and/or equity
- Average number of employees - 14

- 44% have a female founder
- 59% are HQ-ed outside of London
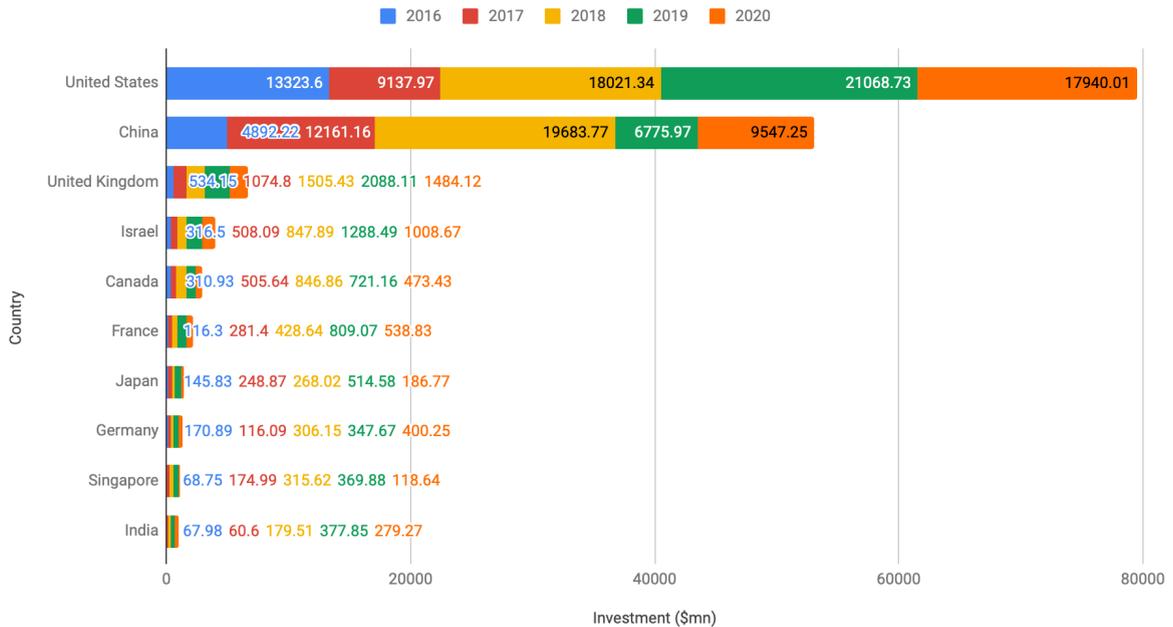- £161k average revenue
- 91% B2B

Cohort regional breakdown

South East - 16%

London - 41%

Northern Ireland - 6%

Wales - 3%

Scotland - 9%

Yorkshire - 3%

North West - 3%

East of England - 13%

South West - 6%

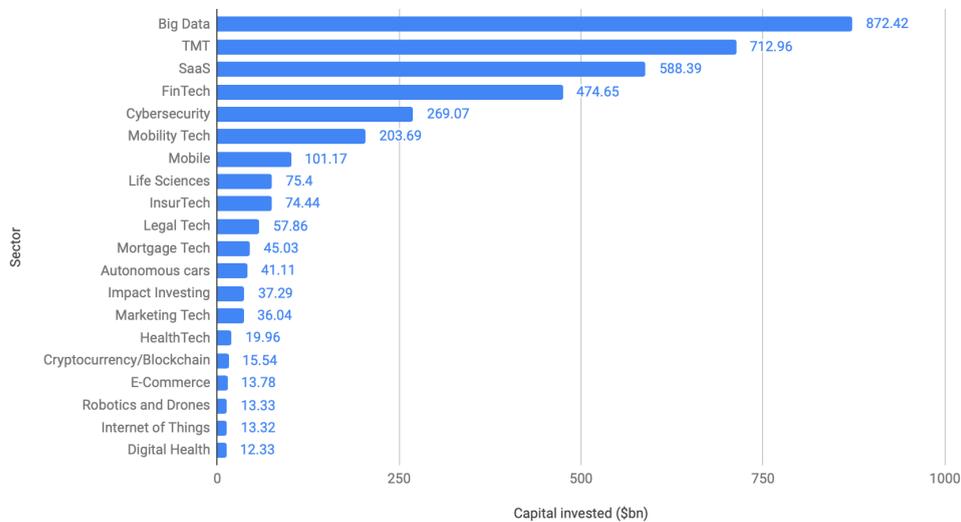### Top 10 European AI nations (AI investment from 2016 to 2020)

■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
United Kingdom	534.15	1074.8	1505.43	2088.11	1484.12
France	116.3	281.4	428.64	809.07	538.83
Germany	170.89	116.09	306.15	347.67	400.25
Switzerland	6.4	75.91	97.48	160.06	306.81
Sweden	44.58	25	79.49	90.16	74.98
Spain	18.97	16.82	82.62	146.35	43.73
Denmark	25.12	26.61	36.43	92.45	78.16
Ireland	30.5	56.73	28.85	58.29	42.09
Netherlands	23.46	16.85	44.51	91.21	38.86
Norway	5.29	28.89	31.09	93.9	17.43

Investment ($mn)

Source: Tech Nation, Pitchbook, 2020 (referencing 2020 investment so far)

Top 10 global AI nations (AI Investment from 2016 to 2020)

Legend: ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
United States	13323.6	9137.97	18021.34	21068.73	17940.01
China	4892.22	12161.16	19683.77	6775.97	9547.25
United Kingdom	534.15	1074.8	1505.43	2088.11	1484.12
Israel	316.5	508.09	847.89	1288.49	1008.67
Canada	310.93	505.64	846.86	721.16	473.43
France	116.3	281.4	428.64	809.07	538.83
Japan	145.83	248.87	268.02	514.58	186.77
Germany	170.89	116.09	306.15	347.67	400.25
Singapore	68.75	174.99	315.62	369.88	118.64
India	67.98	60.6	179.51	377.85	279.27

X-axis: Investment ($mn)

Source: Tech Nation, Pitchbook, 2020 (referencing 2020 investment so far)

Capital invested ($mn) in AI by UK tech subsector in 2020

Sector	Capital invested
Big Data	872.42
TMT	712.96
SaaS	588.39
FinTech	474.65
Cybersecurity	269.07
Mobility Tech	203.69
Mobile	101.17
Life Sciences	75.4
InsurTech	74.44
Legal Tech	57.86
Mortgage Tech	45.03
Autonomous cars	41.11
Impact Investing	37.29
Marketing Tech	36.04
HealthTech	19.96
Cryptocurrency/Blockchain	15.54
E-Commerce	13.78
Robotics and Drones	13.33
Internet of Things	13.32
Digital Health	12.33

X-axis: Capital invested ($bn)

Source: Tech Nation, Pitchbook 2020 (referencing 2020 investment so far)

Applied AI Cohort 2.0

[Archangel Imaging](#), Didcot, South East - Enterprise Software
Archangel Imaging uses AI at the edge and human-machine teaming to solve global problems like protecting people, animals and infrastructure. They have built AI-enabled cameras which operate in challenging environments and a human-machine teaming platform called Cerebella. Cerebella

integrates smart cameras and other sensors to detect anomalies, allowing drone, robotic or human staff to respond in real time.

[Arctoris](#), Oxford, South East - Healthcare
Arctoris generate drug discovery data on demand for pharmaceutical corporations, biotech companies, and academic centres globally. They provide remote access to a wide range of drug discovery experiments which they conduct on their robotic platform, enabling partners and clients to rapidly, accurately and cost-effectively perform research and advance drug discovery programmes, creating a convincing solution for fast, reliable and fully compliant research.

[BKWai](#), London - Construction + Industry 4.0
BKwai are radically improving the built environment throughout the lifecycle of assets – from planning, to construction, to long term asset management. They use data science and AI to leverage insights from manual measurements, sensor data and satellite data, resulting in next generation products for construction and preventative maintenance for a more resilient built environment.

[Caristo](#), Oxford, South East - Healthcare
Predicting heart attacks years before they happen, Caristo are disrupting diagnosis and treatment of coronary heart disease. This bold claim is supported by a solid science platform, with a string of groundbreaking publications in top-tier scientific journals. Caristo's vision is to be the predominant clinical AI provider in diagnostic imaging, with a plan to tackle major disease areas like diabetes and stroke.

[CattleEye](#), Belfast, Northern Ireland - AgTech
CattleEye are improving the lives of farmers and their livestock by developing the world's first autonomous livestock monitoring platform utilising video analytics powered by deep learning AI. Farmers simply need to install a low cost security camera over the exit race of their milking parlour, before cloud based AI algorithms start learning how to identify their cows, monitor their welfare and an increasing number of other behaviours.

[Cognitiv+](#), London - Enterprise Software
Helping to modernise the legal sector, Cognitiv+ empowers businesses and law firms with deeper insights on their legal data. Their machine learning technology automatically reviews, identifies and extracts key provisions from complicated corporate and legal documents.

[Contilio](#), London - Construction + Industry 4.0
Contilio is the first 3D AI platform that automatically provides actionable intelligence from 3D data collected from construction sites in real-time, enabling significant savings, semantic digital twins and automated payments for the $12tn construction industry.

[Continuum Industries](#), Edinburgh, Scotland - Construction + Industry 4.0
Continuum Industries helps engineering professionals to design big, complex infrastructure projects better and faster. Their product, Optioneer, lets multi-disciplinary design teams automate their existing design process and use AI to explore millions of design options and find the best ones in hours rather than months.

[Conundrum](#), Cambridge, East of England - Construction + Industry 4.0
Tackling the beast of industrial automation, Conundrum uses AI-driven technologies to address personal data management, quality control and optimization. Conundrum oversees a whole production process and assists factory engineers in decision making, helping to reduce waste and downtime, and prevent defects and unexpected shutdowns.

[ILOF](#), Oxford, South East - Healthcare
Creating an AI-powered digital library of disease biomarkers - and helping to find Alzheimer's cure, ILoF is enabling a new era of personalized medicine by using AI and photonics. They leverage machine learning to drastically reduce the cost and time of drug discovery, and provide screening and stratification tools in an affordable, fast and portable way.

[LGN](#), London - Enterprise Software
LGN is developing AI to AI communication protocols for the future of mass scaled autonomous system deployments. Their software has been proven to improve model performance on hard classes by 180% when using just 2.5% of the training data, which translates to a direct saving in transfer, compute, processing and storage costs. This allows businesses to scale out the training and deployment of multi-sensor AI systems without exploding their costs.

[Logically](#), Brighouse, Yorkshire - Media
Logically combines advanced AI with the world's largest fact-checking team to help governments, businesses and the public uncover and address harmful misinformation and deliberate disinformation that is increasingly spread across the world. They have a mission to bring credibility and confidence to news and social discourse globally, aiming to restore trust in a fractured media landscape.

[Machine Labs](#), Edinburgh, Scotland - Enterprise Software
Improving the way consumers shop online, Machine Labs is an automated email marketing solution for ecommerce stores. They harness data science and implement AI to improve email communications, helping store owners to develop quality customer relationships and exponentially boost their sales.

[Metis Labs](#), London   - Construction + Industry 4.0
The control of many manufacturing processes still relies on human judgement and experience, which can result in product quality defects, low productivity, and unnecessary CO_2 emissions. Metis uses AI-enabled technology to encode human judgement into software - improving the efficiency and reliability of manufacturing processes. Their product includes self-service vision systems, real-time analytics platform, and closed-loop intelligent process control.

[Nodes & Links](#), London - Construction + Industry 4.0.
Nodes & Links empowers project planners to make better decisions, delivering time and cost savings to large-scale projects. Their cloud-based platform combines sophisticated AI models with automation and a smooth user experience, providing a 'one-stop' solution for the broader project management function across all major project-related decisions

[nPlan](), London   - Construction + Industry 4.0
nPlan provides AI-driven risk analysis for major construction projects. They help their clients understand uncertainty and risk using machine learning tech and the world's largest dataset of construction programmes. Their insights are used to change the course of major capital projects, providing greater certainty and saving tens of millions of pounds.

[Okko Health](), Bristol, South West - Healthcare
Using your smartphone to protect your sight, OKKO is bringing real-time monitoring of eye health into the hands of patients and linking straight to eye care professionals. OKKO's software allows patients to self-monitor their sight between in-person hospital visits, through interpreting interactions with a simple video game. It flags those people who may be having problems with their vision ahead of time, to promote early diagnosis, early treatment and to save sight.

[One Big Circle](), Bristol, South West - Construction + Industry 4.0
One Big Circle are improving safety and operations in industrial environments. Initially developed in the UK rail sector, their intelligent video solution applies Machine Learning to understand environments to raise alerts and increase efficiency and safety. For example, they use thermal camera technology and ML to identify excess heat in sections of electric rail which could cause a dangerous fault.

[Optellum](), Oxford, South East - Healthcare
Beating lung cancer with AI, Oxford-based Optellum helps clinicians identify, diagnose and track at-risk patients in the early, hence curable stages. Optellum developed the world's first AI-based Decision Support platform to manage these patients, validated in studies led by lung cancer guidelines authors.

[Panakeia Technologies](), London - Healthcare
Cancer diagnosis requires a pathologist to examine biopsy images, followed by additional lab tests. This process takes 3-30 days and costs hospitals hundreds of pounds per patient. Panakeia Technologies offers an AI-driven platform for rapid, instrument-free precision cancer diagnostics which eliminates the need for multiple lab-based tests making diagnosis 10 times faster and 16 times cheaper.

[Rahko](), London - Healthcare
Rahko is one of the world's most advanced teams in quantum machine learning. With the ambition of "solving chemistry", Rahko is accelerating the discovery of new materials, batteries and drugs with groundbreaking simulation capabilities. Rahko works in collaboration with large companies whose future success depends on cutting-edge discovery capabilities, and several of the world's largest quantum hardware manufacturers and quantum cloud providers.

[Re:Infer](), London - Enterprise Software
Driving revenue and efficiency with conversational AI, Re:infer mines communications data (emails, chats, calls, support tickets) in real-time. It works by extracting multiple semantic intents, entities and sentiment in communications traffic that uncover detailed analytics behind every customer.

Re:infer is used to discover, measure and automate processes so that businesses can scale revenue growth and better understand customer retention.

[Recycleye](#), London - Construction + Industry 4.0
Recycleye is training the world's most powerful machines to bring total transparency, traceability and accountability to the waste management industry. Their team of technologists and creatives has developed computer vision algorithms that replicate the power of human vision to identify every item in entire waste streams - broken down by material, object and even brand.

[Robok](#), Cambridge, East of England - Construction + Industry 4.0
RoboK is using new techniques in computer vision and deep learning to build optimised 3D sensing and perception software solutions for low-power computing platforms. In short, it's enabling cars and machines to 'see' and 'understand' the implications of changes to their environment. They obtain 3D information efficiently from a combination of sensors (primarily cameras) and enable object detection, classification, localisation and depth estimation on low-power embedded systems.

[SATAVIA](#), Cambridge, East of England - Enterprise Software
Simplifying aviation decision-making, SATAVIA is helping to make flying smarter and greener. SATAVIA is the only solution delivering actionable insight in aviation which is able to combine and validate multiple environmental, weather, aircraft and maintenance datasets. It makes aircraft condition monitoring 20% more accurate, and delivers fuel savings and emission reductions.

[Sonrai Analytics](#), Belfast, Northern Ireland - Healthcare
Conceptualising raw data into actionable insights, Sonrai performs modern day precision healthcare analysis. Operating in a no-code environment where storyboards can be created, it allows invested clients to derive new findings in the data lakes they create. This, in turn, helps them to drive their own value proposition to entice new clients and investors.

[Talking Medicines](#), Glasgow, Scotland - Healthcare
Talking Medicines use AI to capture the true voice of the patient. They combine conversational AI, self-reporting through connected devices and smart surveys to provide data-driven, dynamic market intelligence on the usage of medicines for drug companies. Real-time, compliant insights can replace traditional focus groups, prescriber reports and clinical profiles to tell pharmaceutical companies who is using their medicines, how, and what they really think of their brands.

[Techspert](#), Cambridge, East of England - Enterprise Software
The world's first AI-driven solution to knowledge exchange, Techspert maps the world's expertise by using AI to match experts to business customer needs. Their platform provides an efficient and convenient interface for customers to engage in primary research, and gain insight through calls and surveys with precisely matched experts, as well as efficiently handling payments to experts for their time.

[Vector AI](#), London - Enterprise Software
Vector.ai transforms document and email-driven operations in global logistics. Their platform intelligently gathers content so that operators can respond rapidly to customer and other third-party

demands. Built for logistics transactions, including customs declarations, the Vector platform is designed to drive high-performance operations teams using AI.

[Vinehealth](), London - Healthcare
Vinehealth increases the quality of life and survival of cancer patients by using a combination of behavioural science and AI. Their app allows patients to track, understand and optimise their care, supporting them to feel in control and better self-manage. Through this, Vinehealth generates crucial real-world data to inform healthcare delivery and drug development.

[Voice IQ](), Manchester, North West - Enterprise Software
VoiceIQ is a no-friction phone system for enterprise sales teams that increases revenue and drives automation with the power of voice AI. VoiceIQ's platform predicts the best time to call contacts and detects and tags important points in conversation in real-time. With seamless integration into the world's leading CRM systems, VoiceIQ reduces post-call admin to zero.

[We Build Bots](), Cardiff, Wales - Government
Changing the way governments engage with citizens, We Build Bots has developed an AI powered citizen service automation platform. It leverages chatbots, voice and data analytics to help Public Sector organisations deliver better, faster, cheaper citizen services. They've processed 3 million interactions to date and use that data to help the Public Sector better understand their citizens.

Quotes

Tabitha Goldstaub, Chair, AI Council and Co-founder, CognitionX and AI programme judge, commented: "The Applied AI cohort is representation of the depth and diversity that UK AI has to offer. The founders are using cutting-edge technologies like quantum machine learning to tackle meaningful, global problems such as better diagnosing cancer, moving us towards 'net zero', and drug discovery. 44% of the cohort has a female founder, it's a diverse cohort, and nearly two-thirds are based outside of London, which demonstrates the strength of AI development across the country."

Dr Mike Short, CBE, Chief Scientific Advisor, DIT commented: "It is great to see the range and quality of startups in AI 2.0 and thanks to Tech Nation for continuing to organise this programme, and of course the support and acceleration of this entrepreneurship. The UK clearly has the talent pool, the research and innovation skills, sector knowledge and investment appetite to help AI grow. Making this sustainable and scalable for all of us is what Tech Nation can now offer."

Volker Hirsch, Partner, Amadeus Capital commented: "I enjoyed participating in selecting Tech Nation's new Applied AI 2.0 cohort. It is great to see the quality of startups participating, which is testament to the UK's strength in the AI sector, which Amadeus Capital has long been supporting. I was also particularly delighted to see many startups from outside London and a marked increase in diversity, too."

Jonathan Mist, Co-Founder at Archangel Imaging, comments: "At Archangel Imaging, we believe in a future where humans and machines work closely together to solve the world's most complex

problems like protecting people, animals and infrastructure. We are incredibly excited to join this Tech Nation cohort to work with the best in the industry to accelerate our vision."

Thomas Fleming, Co-Founder and COO of Arctoris, comments: "Arctoris is a high-growth tech/biotech company and the Applied AI programme will give us the opportunity to learn from other leading scaleups and enter a talented and creative community. We hope to take inspiration from unexpected sources, and further build on our networks in the UK and globally."

Sakthy Selvakumaran, Co-Founder at BKwai, comments: "We're really excited to be selected for the Tech Nation Applied AI programme. At BKwai, we're committed to radically improving the built environment using insights from data, and the mentoring, training and peer support of this programme is exactly what we're looking for to scale from our initial commercial traction into a sustainable, high-growth business"

Dr. Cheerag Shirodaria MBBS MD FRCP MBA, CEO of Caristo Diagnostics, comments: "Caristo is proud to be part of the Applied AI program. We firmly believe that the experience will help us on our journey to bring our unique technology to help identify patients at risk of future heart attacks years before they happen."

Terry Canning, CEO of CattleEye, comments: "We are delighted to have been selected to join the Tech Nation Applied AI programme, one of the world's leading AI eco-systems. With CattleEye, we plan to harness the power of video analytics powered by deep learning to transform how livestock is managed worldwide. The Applied AI programme will open up a world of technology and investment contacts which will help us deliver on this."

Vasilis Tsolis, Founder & CEO of Cognitiv+, comments: "At Cognitiv+ we build Artificial Intelligence solutions for document analysis and regulatory compliance. We are honoured to be part of the Tech Nation Applied AI programme. It's an extraordinary opportunity to learn from industry leaders in the AI sector and keep pushing the boundaries of Natural Language Processing, Vision AI and Deep Learning in the legal and corporate space."

Zara Riahi, CEO & Co-founder of Contilio, comments: "We've heard many great things about the quality of Tech Nation's Applied AI programme and are very excited to work with amazing mentors who have been "in the trenches", exchanging ideas with other AI founders and getting exposure to amazing deeptech experts, VCs and growth pioneers, as we are unlocking the next phase of our growth at Contilio."

Matt Blythe, Co-Founder and CCO of Continuum Industries, comments: "We're really excited to learn from other founders, take advantage of their networks and raise awareness within the UK government of our technology."

Konstantin Kiselev, CEO of Conundrum, comments: "We are happy to be chosen for Applied AI 2.0, among so many outstanding businesses. Being recognized by Tech Nation is a solid stamp of approval, and a vote of confidence that helps Conundrum accelerate its business development and

opens new opportunities for business in terms of new clients and new funding. We look forward to leveraging all the opportunities that lie ahead."

Mehak Mumtaz, COO & Co-Founder of ILOF, comments "Participating in the program will accelerate our growth, both nationally and abroad, by allowing us to learn from industry leaders in the space, access world-class coaching sessions and develop a network both within and outside the UK. We are also extremely excited to be able to interact and learn from other companies in the AI space"

Daniel Warner, CEO & Co-Founder of LGN, comments: "We'd been following the success of companies from the previous year and knew that taking part in Tech Nation would prove invaluable in LGN's future. Members of the Tech Nation team that we've met so far have exceeded our expectations - pairing depth of knowledge and networks with friendly and understanding tones. We're incredibly excited to begin this journey with our fellow cohort and take the first steps in what we trust will make all the difference."

Lyric Jain, Founder and CEO of Logically, comments "It is an exciting time for Logically. The challenges of misinformation and disinformation have never been greater, and so demand for our services is growing rapidly. We are looking forward to working with Tech Nation and the Applied AI 2.0 cohort as we take the business to the next level".

Dr Thomas Gambino, Data Scientist at Machine Labs, comments: "We help small stores on Shopify compete with e-commerce giants by applying the power of artificial intelligence to their marketing. We're extremely pleased to be selected for the Tech Nation Applied AI 2.0 programme; the upcoming months will provide invaluable support for us as we scale our business."

Alex Appelbe, CEO of Metis Labs, comments: "AI-first companies operating in the industrial sector, as we are, face specific challenges as we commercialise and scaleup our solutions. Tech Nation's Applied AI programme is building a reputation as a world-class programme supporting AI-first companies to scale up. We're thrilled and excited to have been selected and are looking forward to using the programme to accelerate us to the next stage of growth."

Christos Ellinas, Co-Founder & CTO of Nodes & Links, comments: "We're so excited to be part of a deeptech, startup community with ambitious goals, and who are likely to be facing similar challenges and opportunities over the next 12 months. We hope to receive mentorship on strategic aspects related to scaling, positioning and B2B sales, along with VC networking opportunities."

Dev Amratia, Co-Founder and CEO of nPlan, comments: "We are excited to be joining the latest Tech Nation Applied AI cohort after a positive reference from a programme alum. Navigating the pitfalls and opportunities of the startup journey is treacherous, so we look forward to sharing our hard earned lessons, and learning from the mentors and our peers in the cohort."

Stephanie Campbell, Founder of OKKO Health, comments: "OKKO Health are thrilled to be joining Tech Nation's Applied AI cohort this year - we're looking forward to 'thinking big' with other founders and building the AI that will power the future of eye care at home."

Emily Kent, Co-Founder of One Big Circle, comments: "Being awarded a place in the Applied AI cohort fills us with great excitement. To have our work to date, and the potential of what we are doing in rail and transport recognised by Tech Nation is real validation. We are very much looking forward to the journey - meeting others doing great things in AI, sharing experiences and making further progress"

Martina Miskufova, CFOO of Optellum, comments: "The collective expertise of the programme will help us accelerate Optellum's commercialisation, giving lung cancer patients around the world the best chance to fight back."

Pahini Pandya, CEO & Co-founder of Panakeia, comments: "Tech Nation offers an incredible growth platform for UK-based tech companies. It is a pleasure to join the Applied AI programme and share this with journey peers working at the cutting edge of AI. The programme offers an incredible opportunity for us to interact with and gain invaluable insights from experienced leaders to address the challenges we face as we scale."

Miriam Cha, COO of Rahko, comments: "We are excited to be joining the Applied AI programme for the access we will gain to a peer network of founders and leaders with huge ambitions, and valuable experiences for us to learn from."

Ed Challis, Co-Founder & CEO, Re:infer, comments: "We're thrilled to have been selected and look forward to learning from other founders and leaders going through a similar growth journey as us. We are excited for how the ability to share expertise with like-minded professionals will help us trouble-shoot and problem-solve more efficiently."

Victor Dewulf, CEO of RECYCLEYE, comments: "The Recycleye team is super excited to be part of Tech Nation's prestigious scaling programme. It supports the core of what we do – accelerating development of our AI applications, team growth and network expansion, all to create a real-world positive impact!"

Hao Zheng, CEO, RoboK, comments: "We're looking forward to being part of a like-minded cohort and surrounded by support to accelerate the growth journey of RoboK"

Dr. Adam Durant, CEO of SATAVIA, comments: "We are absolutely delighted to be selected for the Applied AI programme. Tech Nation has a fantastic global reputation for selecting and scaling high-calibre, cutting-edge companies. Participation in the programme provides our growing team with world-leading mentorship, networking and visibility. We look forward to being part of, and contributing to this high-calibre community"

Darragh McArt, Founder & CEO of Sonrai Analytics, comments: "It is a fantastic opportunity to be accepted into this programme. It allows us to meet peers and learn new facets to operating in a competitive sector."

Elizabeth Fairley, COO, Talking Medicines, comments: "We are so excited about this opportunity - the timing is perfect for us to take our disruptive and scalable data intelligence product to the next

level. Through this programme we are keen to push our boundaries, connect with the very best in AI and learn as much as we can."

David Holden-White, Co-Founder and Managing Director of techspert.io, comments: "We're really excited to be on board with Tech Nation. The growth of the alumni speaks for itself and we look forward to working with Tech Nation to boost our growth trajectory."

Sarah McLaren, Head of Operations at Vector.ai, comments: "The whole team was super excited to get the news of Vector's acceptance into the Applied AI 2.0 cohort! Tech Nation chose some awesome companies for the first program with the likes of Genie AI and Plural AI, and we can only imagine the incoming class will be just as inspiring! We're really pumped to meet the mentors, startup veterans and general glitterati of the UK AI tech scene and are humbled to be part of what we feel is a really exciting movement at the forefront of AI tech. The goal for us over the program is to swap best-practices as we go into series A mode, from customer and team expansion to investor outreach. Bring it on!"

Rayna Patel, Co-Founder and CEO of Vinehealth comments: "We are delighted to be joining the Tech Nation programme with their wide-reaching network and wealth of experience in supporting tech companies to successfully scale"

Muj Choudhury, Founder and CEO of VoiceIQ, comments: "We are incredibly proud to be selected to join Tech Nation's prestigious Applied AI programme. This programme will give us the platform to launch VoiceIQ onto the next stage of our journey and stake our claim as market leaders in voice AI technology"

Paul Shepherd, Founder of We Build Bots, comments: "The Applied AI programme is super exciting for us, not only because we have complete faith in anything Tech Nation facilitates, but also because we've long shouted about AI's real world applications and the benefits thereof. We can't wait to share experiences and learn from this amazing cohort, incredible alumni and kick ass business leaders"