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Latest Lawtech Sandbox set to push boundaries of lawtech

LawtechUK, the government-backed initiative within Tech Nation to help transform the UK legal sector through technology, is excited to announce the eight companies that have been chosen to join the latest cohort of its R&D environment, the Lawtech Sandbox. The announcement was made today at the Legal Geek Conference in London.

Lawtech is one of the fastest growing technology sectors in the UK with lawtech companies growing by an average rate of 101% over the last three years, outpacing other applied tech sectors, including climatetech (5%), fintech (20%), and healthtech (47%). Earlier this year, the LawtechUK report 'Shaping the future of law' revealed that greater adoption of lawtech by legal service providers could lead to productivity gains worth £1.7bn to the UK economy.

The Lawtech Sandbox has been designed to help pioneering companies fast track transformative ideas, products and services that address the legal needs of business and society. It provides access to a number of tools and services, to accelerate the development of game-changing lawtech, including access to legal datasets that are often difficult to source, and a fast-response forum of twelve cross-sector regulators to help work through regulatory challenges.

Jenifer Swallow, LawtechUK Director at Tech Nation, comments: "Lawtech is the way we evolve legal services to meet the changing needs of business and wider society - there is a £22bn unmet demand for lawtech in the UK alone. Despite triple digit growth in the UK lawtech sector over the last three years, there are barriers we need to tackle collectively, to unlock the full potential of lawtech.

"The Lawtech Sandbox is about bringing people together to address those barriers and help lawtech pioneers accelerate through their development cycles faster than they could alone. The goal is for that support ultimately to benefit the whole market and push the boundaries of what is possible.

"We are delighted to have chosen eight pioneering lawtechs across a range of target segments to take part in the Lawtech Sandbox, and look forward to wrapping around them the tools and community they need to deliver and thrive.

Appreciation goes to all the applicants, as well as to our judging panel who had the difficult decision of choosing the cohort. It has been fantastic to see the strong pipeline of lawtech innovation across the UK, much of it originating outside of London and with a diverse array of founders."

The latest iteration of the Lawtech Sandbox follows a successful pilot programme earlier this year, which saw five companies chosen for intensive expert support over a three month period, resulting in new opportunities for growth and collaboration.

Meet the Cohort

Avvoka

Avvoka is a document automation, negotiation and analytics tool designed to help law firms, in-house legal teams and businesses of all sizes draft documents, negotiate them, and leverage data insights to draft better documents, and get to “yes” faster.

Feesier

Feesier makes buying legal services easier for everyone. Businesses and individuals can split the cost of legal services into instalments at no extra cost. The legal services provider receives their fees upfront to secure payment and protect their cash flow. With Feesier, legal services become more attainable and paying for them more manageable.

Hunit

Hunit allows any law office, financial group or enterprise to write natively digital legal agreements. Their platform transforms today’s analogue investment agreements into legally binding smart contracts by enabling lawyers to embed self-executing actions directly within MS Word documents.

LegalMe

LegalMe is an online platform that helps tenants facing housing disrepair pursue their own legal claims without the need for a lawyer. Using document automation and case management technology, LegalMe generates legal filings, manages correspondence, and walks tenants through every step of the complex claims journey.

Lexyfi

The use of electronic communication by employees exposes companies to a series of risks that can result in litigation, cause significant reputational damage and financial loss, and damage employee morale. Lexyfi leverages the power of artificial intelligence to prevent these risks in real time, provide ongoing training, and increase trust and productivity within organisations.

Smarter:Contracts

Smarter:Contracts’ data privacy and consent management platform Pulse, enables businesses to manage their customer consents around data with greater transparency, security and control. Utilising blockchain and machine learning, Pulse allows people and businesses to manage their data in the same way they manage their money.

Valla

Valla is on a mission to make legal support accessible and affordable for everyone, starting with unfair treatment at work. Valla’s DIY law platform helps people resolve employment issues themselves without spending thousands in legal fees. Using Valla, people can collect evidence, generate forms and send legal letters. When they need legal advice, they can connect with a lawyer through the Valla platform at an affordable fixed price.

WhatVisa

What Visa? seeks to combat the complexities of the UK’s immigration system. Their self service visa evaluation enables businesses and individuals to see at a glance whether a potential employee is eligible for a work visa, without needing an expert/lawyer. The tool

provides assessment, guidance on processes, and workflow tools to help employers that sponsor visas.

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About LawtechUK

LawtechUK, is a government-backed initiative within Tech Nation, established to support the transformation of the UK legal sector through technology, for the benefit of society and the economy. The LawtechUK Panel was established in 2018 by the Secretary of State for Justice, and as a group of leaders and experts from the public and private sectors, acts as the advisory board to LawtechUK. Its members take an active role in LawtechUK's work programme.

About Tech Nation

Tech Nation is the leading scaleup accelerator. Tech Nation fuels the growth of game-changing founders, leaders, and scaling companies so they can positively transform societies and economies. We provide them with the coaching, content, and community they need for their journey in designing the future. Tech Nation has years of experience facilitating and helping UK tech companies scale, both at home and abroad. Over 30 cohorts and 950 companies have successfully graduated from Tech Nation's growth programmes. Alumni include Skyscanner, Darktrace, and Monzo.