

# TECHNICIAN COMMITMENT



**The Institute of Science & Technology (IST)** has been supporting the technical workforce for over 75 years. As a recognised supporter of the Technician Commitment, we are dedicated to enhancing the visibility, recognition, career development, and sustainability of technical staff across all sectors. Over the past five years, we have made significant progress, and we remain committed to strengthening and expanding our initiatives to ensure lasting impact.

Our action plan aligns with the four pledges of the Technician Commitment: Visibility, Recognition, Career Development, and Sustainability. We have also integrated feedback to ensure accessibility, inclusivity, and a future-focused approach. Below, we outline how we will continue to drive positive change and build upon our past achievements.



Supporting the technical workforce in the AI, Creative, and STEMM technologies

*Building on Success:  
Our Ongoing  
Commitment to the  
Technical Workforce*



## VISIBILITY

- **Recognition and Showcasing Excellence:** We remain dedicated to celebrating the technical workforce by offering awards and prizes that showcase their expertise. Additionally, we highlight their professional registration achievements across three accreditation frameworks: STEMM\*, AI, and Creative Technologies.
- **Annual National Technical Conference:** Our Conference continues to be a vital networking and development opportunity, rotating across regions to ensure accessibility. We work closely with hosts to support and showcase local technical personnel, as well as delegates from across the country. Ensuring best practices in Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) is a key consideration at all our events.
- **Publications & Digital Outreach:** The Journal and The Tech Magazine continue to showcase technical excellence across all sectors and disciplines. They feature technical articles, case studies, opinion pieces and reviews, as well as professional accreditation routes, providing an accessible platform into publishing. Social media and digital platforms further enhance visibility.
- **Inclusive Design and Accessibility:** We are currently reviewing the layout and visuals of our website and promotional platforms to enhance accessibility. Our goal is to ensure that content and images represent the diverse technical workforce and reflect our commitment to EDI.

## RECOGNITION

- **Professional Registration Expansion:** As a licensed body of the Science Council, we continue to promote and support the CSci, RSci, and RSciTech professional registers. Additionally, we have developed, introduced, and are promoting two new accreditation routes for practitioners in AI and in Creative Technologies. These new frameworks have expanded recognition opportunities for professionals across diverse sectors. Notably, the AI framework has gained widespread recognition across government and the EU.
- **Awards and Fellowships:** We are expanding recognition through awards and IST Fellowships, highlighting outstanding contributions across all technical disciplines.
- **Standards Contributions:** We are actively contributing to the development of national and international standards as collaborative and liaison partners with organisations such as the British Standards Institute, CEN/CENELEC, and The Turing Institute, and others. Our contributions are helping to shape best practice standards in AI and recognise the crucial role that technical practitioners play in this area.
- **Visibility of Networks/Groups:** We actively promote our Women in Tech, AI, and Creative Industries and Technologies (CI&T) networks, along with external regional and national technical networks. We encourage members of these networks/groups to participate in a variety of activities and initiatives.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- **Training & CPD Expansion:** We continue to offer and validate external training programs. Additionally, we collaborate closely with HEaTED to develop new training courses for technical professionals, including a range of AI courses that can lead to professional accreditation. Furthermore, we are liaising with various external organisations to develop and deliver bespoke training courses for their in-house technical personnel.
- **Online Learning & Accessibility:** Recognising that not all staff can travel for training, we are developing more online learning opportunities, ensuring flexibility and accessibility.
- **Mentoring & CPD Tracking:** The CPD Central platform, created with the National Technician Development Centre (NTDC), remains a key tool for tracking professional development. Mentoring opportunities are being expanded to support professional registration and career progression.
- **Industry & HE Collaboration:** We maintain strong networks with UBMA, TMU, the NTDC, HEaTED, and new connections with the UK Government, BSI, Scottish AI Institute, StudyTech Technology Solutions, the Alan Turing Institute and others to ensure technical staff receive high-quality development opportunities.



## SUSTAINABILITY

- **EDI & Inclusive Work Practices:** We continue partnerships with organisations to create inclusive work environments and develop certificated training courses for underrepresented groups.
- **Participation in EDI Forums:** We actively participate in a variety of EDI forums, ensuring diverse voices are represented in policy discussions.
- **Apprenticeships and T-Levels:** Working closely with the NTDC and the Science Council, we contribute to the ongoing development of apprenticeships and technical career pathways.
- **Horizon Scanning for Future Trends:** We remain committed to identifying and responding to emerging trends, particularly in AI and the creative industries and technologies, reinforcing our role in shaping the future of the professional technical workforce.

## NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS

To ensure our work remains impactful and measurable, we are introducing a light-touch “Next Steps” section, outlining key future commitments:

- **Accessibility & Design Improvements:** Implementing best practices for visual accessibility and refining layout for dyslexia- and autism-friendly formats.
- **SMART Objective Review:** Undertaking this can help refine our objectives to be more effective, ensuring that they are clear, actionable, and aligned with our overall strategic goals.
- **Collaborative Review & Workshops:** Engaging stakeholders across the tri-register streams (CI&T\*, AI, STEMM) to review and refine our strategy.
- **Expanding Conference & Training Offerings:** Increasing training, CPD opportunities and networking events to support career development.
- **Strengthening Industry & HE Networks:** Enhancing engagement with professional bodies to sustain career pathways and recognition frameworks.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The IST has made significant strides over the past five years, and we remain committed to supporting and advancing the technical workforce. By building on our successes and embracing new opportunities, we will continue to champion technical professionals across all industries/sectors and disciplines.

**Together, we will ensure that technicians receive the visibility, recognition, career development, and sustainability they deserve - now and in the future.**

