

Skills for work charity awards £750,000 to innovators in vocational education.

May 4 2021 – Ufi VocTech Trust (“Ufi”), the UK charity working to scale up the delivery of adult vocational skills through digital technology, today announces over £750,000 of grant funding awards for innovators in vocational education.

Ufi VocTech Trust, the UK's leading charity for championing the power of technology to improve skills for work, today announces new funding awards as part of VocTech Seed, a fund focussed on supporting the development and deployment of new digital solutions focussed on supporting vocational skills.

As part of its wider aim to improve the skills of the UK workforce, Ufi has offered over £750,000 in funding for projects which use digital technology to change how vocational learning is developed and delivered; and to ‘scale up’ this impact.

The innovative projects, which include app-based training, Artificial Intelligence (AI) approaches and VR training simulations, will help widen access to vocational learning and the skills needed for work.

Ufi’s VocTech Seed Fund supports the development and testing of relatively early stage ideas for new digital tools and delivery models that have the potential to transform how vocational learning happens by helping to prototype ideas and work out the next steps necessary for success.

Rebecca Garrod-Waters, Ufi CEO, commented:

“I am really pleased we are able to offer this funding to organisations focussed on the UK adult vocational sector – this is a critical time for UK skills and it is vital that we develop the right approach to digital tech. At Ufi VocTech Trust we champion the power of technology to improve skills for work and deliver better outcomes for all. VocTech Seed is our innovation fund, where we support organisations who looking at the best ways to support learners and get better outcomes for all. I am delighted that we’ve made offers to 15 organisations with ambitious ideas using digital to transform vocational learning who will now be able to develop these ideas in the supportive funding environment that Ufi provides.”

Notes to Editors

For more information about Ufi, the projects we have supported and to arrange interviews please contact media@ufi.co.uk

- Ufi VocTech Trust supports the **delivery** of adult vocational skills through digital technology and our aim is to use our funding to catalyse change across the UK so that significant scale can be achieved in digital vocational learning for adults.
- We believe that the UK needs to accelerate the number of people accessing learning and gaining vocational skills to enable UK industry to compete in the global economy. As a funding organisation we believe that can be achieved using digital technologies.
- Our focus is on the utilisation of technology to help adults gain the skills needed for work. This includes supporting learners as they move through their careers, providing opportunities for lifelong learning, and skills development in ways that fit around work and life commitments.
- Digital technology can change the way that we access learning so that more people are able to develop their skills. We see digital technology offering increased flexibility, new approaches to learning, new ways of accrediting learning, new distribution models and new relationships with learning providers.
- A strong vocational technology community is fundamental to the growth and development of adult skills. We build links within the community, strengthening opportunities for investment and showcasing the art of the practically possible.
- Ufi VocTech Trust is committed to promoting and funding digital technologies to achieve a significant increase in the scale of adult learners gaining vocational skills.