



Innovate
UK

Knowledge
Transfer
Partnerships



Driving UK economic growth through innovation and collaboration

Dr Dave Wilkes

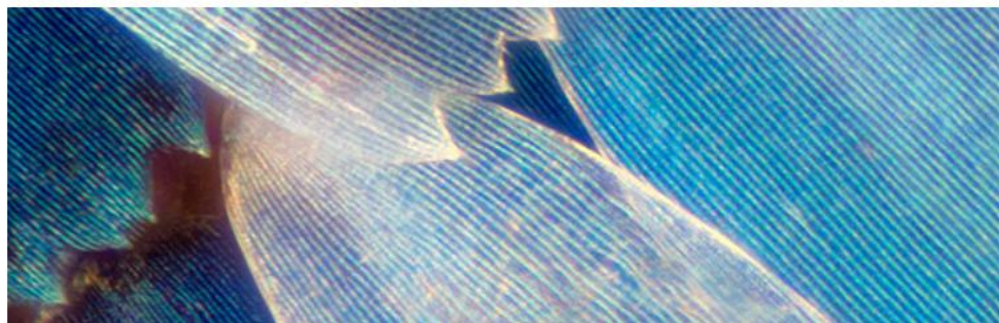
Director Innovation Ecosystem

Innovate UK





**UK Research
and Innovation**



**Advancing knowledge,
improving lives,
driving growth**



**UK Research
and Innovation**



- We are the UK's innovation agency
- We help UK businesses to grow through the development and commercialisation of new products, processes and services
- Supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem

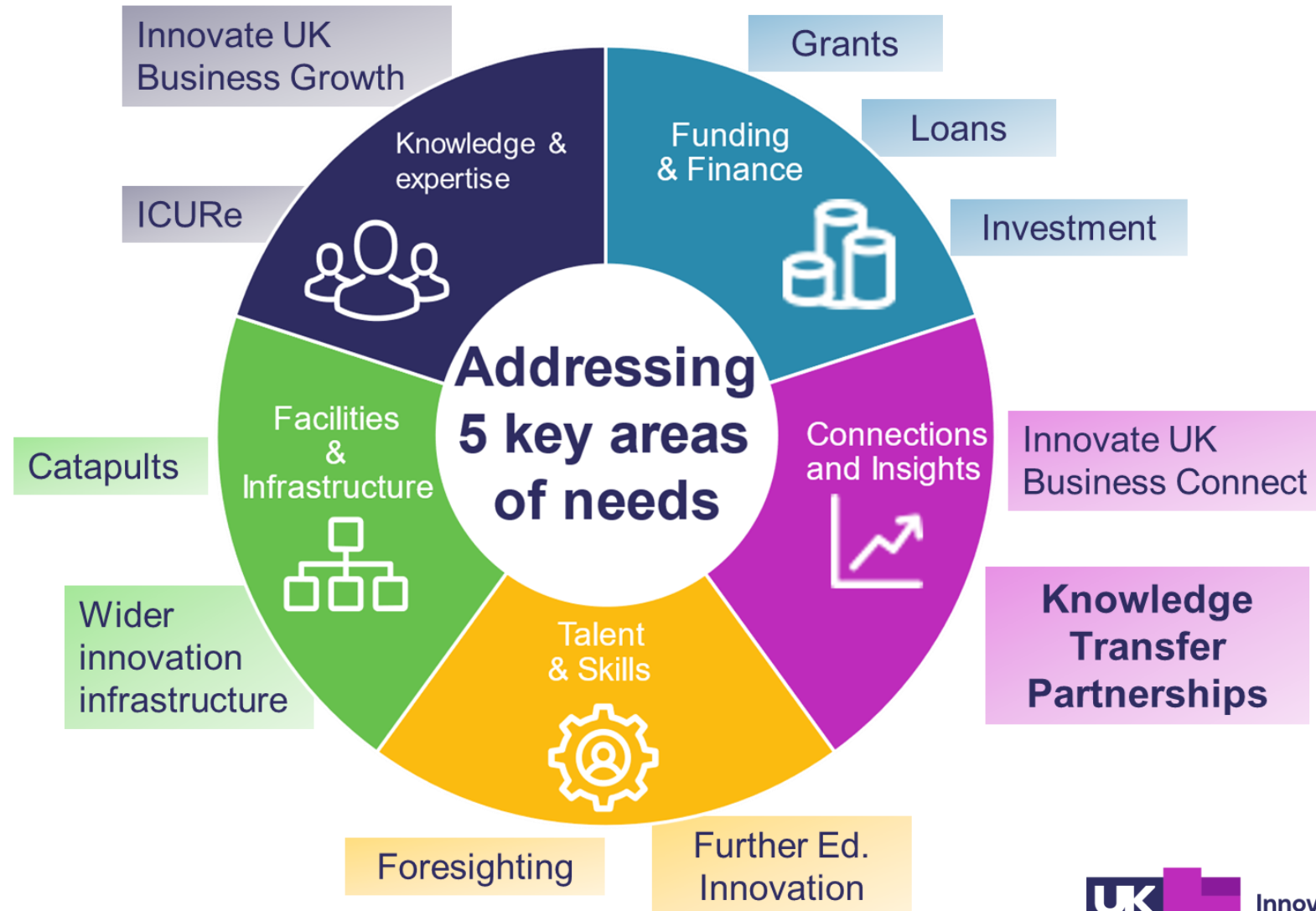


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How we accelerate business innovation



Future strategic context (1/2)

The Industrial Strategy's Growth Driving Sectors and the Frontier Industries within them



Advanced Manufacturing

- Aerospace
- Advanced Materials
- Agri-tech
- Automotive
- Batteries
- Space



Creative Industries

- Advertising and Marketing
- Film and TV
- Video Games
- Music, Performing and Visual Arts



Clean Energy Industries

- Wind (Onshore, Offshore and Floating Offshore)
- Fusion Energy
- Nuclear Fission
- Hydrogen
- Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS), including Greenhouse Gas removals
- Heat Pumps



Digital and Technologies



- Artificial intelligence
- Engineering Biology
- Advanced Connectivity Technologies
- Quantum Technologies
- Semiconductors
- Cyber Security

Financial Services



- FinTech
- Insurance and Reinsurance Markets
- Sustainable Finance
- Capital Markets
- Asset Management and Wholesale Service

Defence

- Drones and Autonomous Systems
- Combat Air
- Directed energy weapons
- Complex weapons
- Maritime capabilities



Life Sciences



- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical Technologies (MedTech)

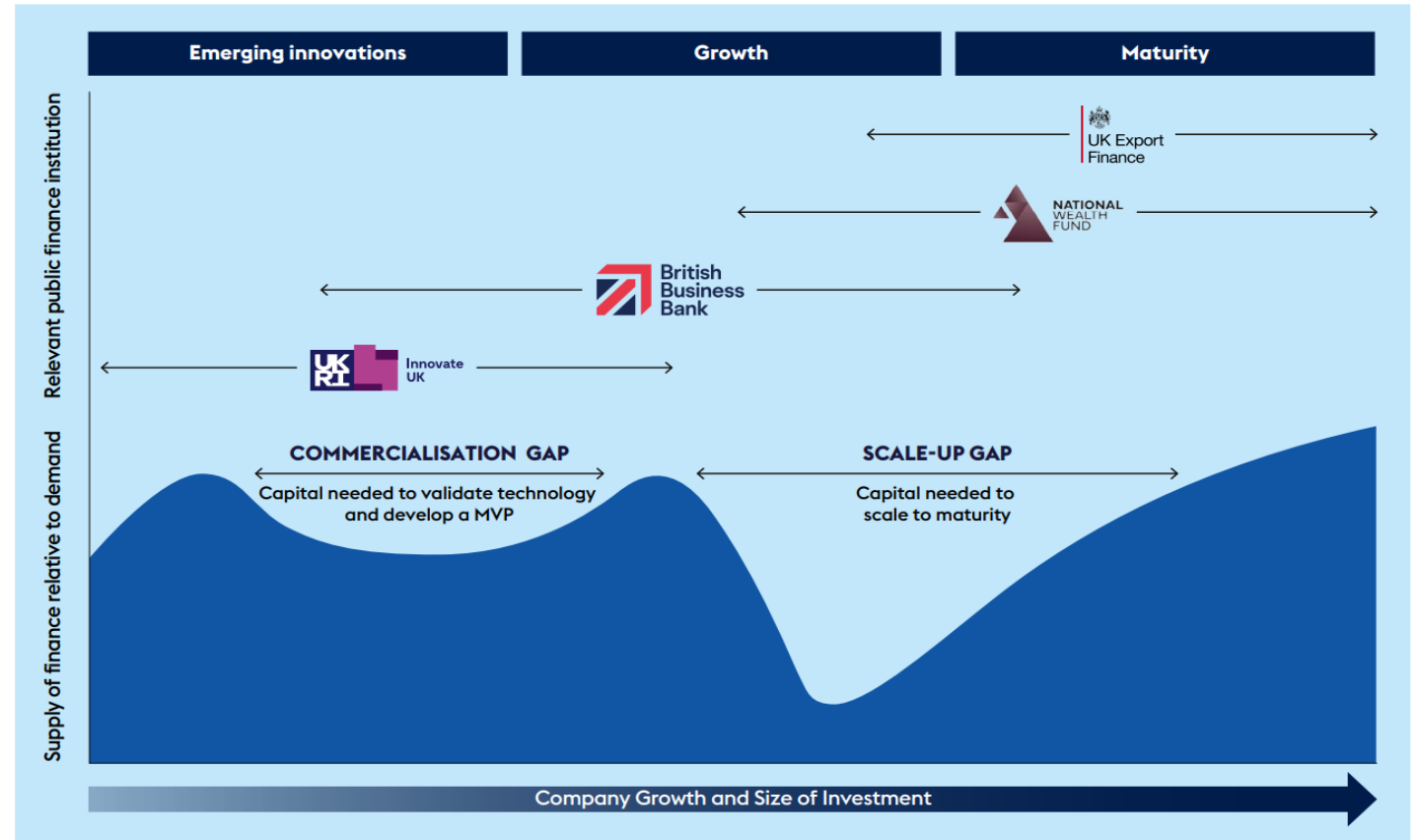
Professional and Business Services

- Accountancy, Audit, and Tax
- Management Consultancy
- Legal Services



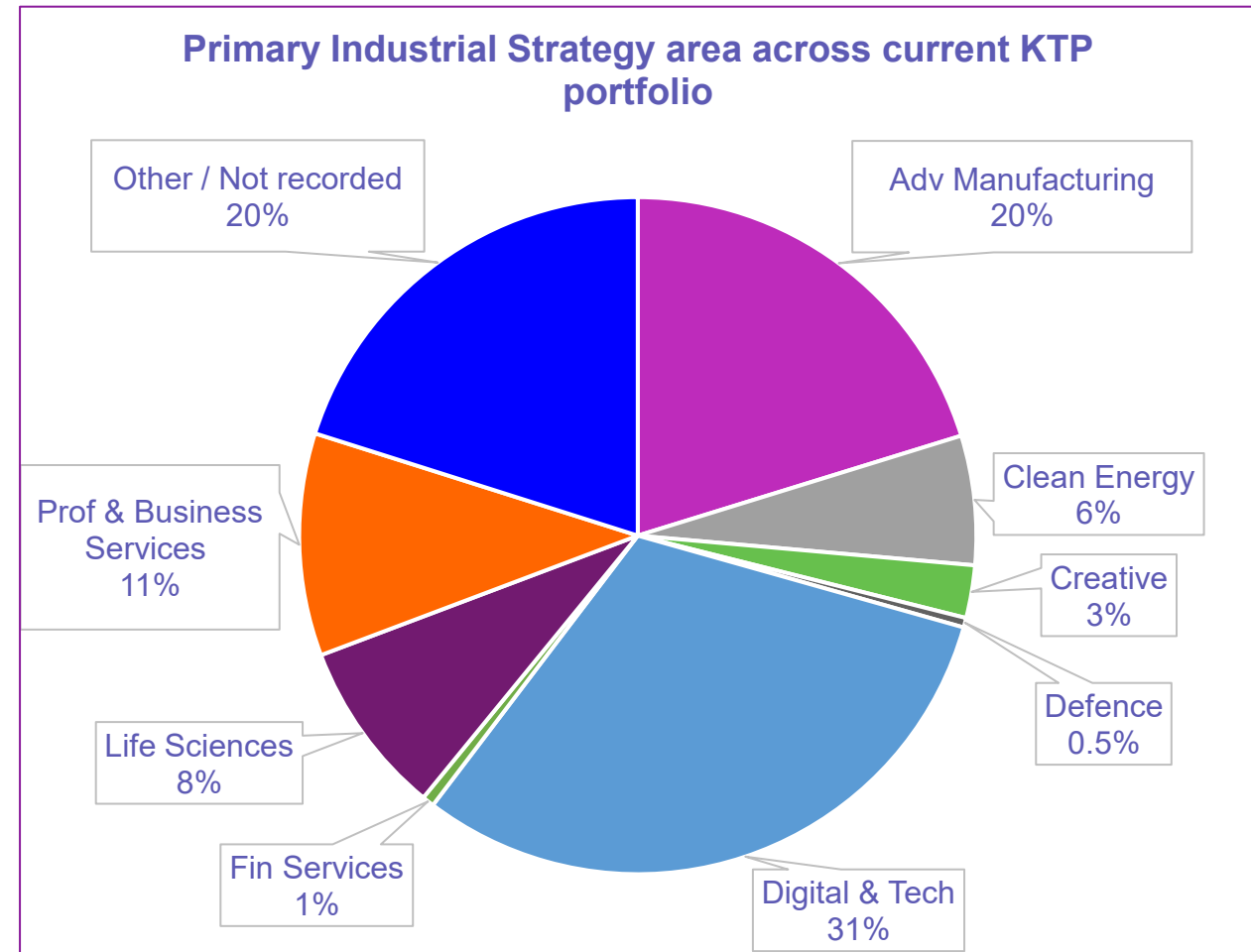
Future strategic context (2/2)

- Innovate UK is developing a new strategy, with single clear mission
- Supporting innovative businesses to start, grow, scale and stay in the UK
- Focussing our effort on **accelerating the growth** of the businesses with highest potential



Implications for KTP

- KTP is already well aligned to Ind Strategy growth sectors
- KTP has an important role in delivering IUK's strategic impact
- We will prioritise partnerships that have the potential for transformational impact on accelerating business growth



KTP: accelerating business growth

- 3 KTPs with U. of Essex 2015-2018
- Series B funding round of \$16M in mid-2018
- Signal's staff grew from 3 to 23 in less than 2 years
- Now 130+ and £23m turnover
- Announced \$165m investment in Sept 2025



Miguel Martinez-Alvarez and David Benigson, of Signal Media, with Professor Udo Kruschwitz, of Essex University

Media tracking firm wins Knowledge Transfer Partnership 2015

Signal Media and Essex University carry off 'Best of the Best' award after KTP associate joins company as head of research.



Press Release • 24/09/2025

Signal AI Announces \$165 Million Investment Round Led by Battery Ventures to Redefine Risk and Reputation Intelligence



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Changing priorities at pace

- We are currently working through Spending Review allocations at the same time as making the strategic shift in IUK
- As both strategy and SR are not complete, we took the initial decision to pause KTP Rd 4 at the end of Sept, while we reviewed situation
- We have now committed to future funding for KTP and moved ahead with Rd 4 - *but only if we can demonstrate future strategic alignment*
- On this basis, we have made the decision not to fund KTPs with 3rd sector or public sector partners from now
- Recognising and acknowledging there has been significant effort on these projects leading up to Rd 4 and 5

Looking forward

- KTP has a critical role in delivering against Innovate UK's new strategic mission
- We will work with you to
 - realign capability where necessary, and to build on best practise across the community
 - identify projects that have the most transformational impact on accelerating business growth
 - find ways to continue partnerships and further accelerate business growth once KTPs have finished
 - engage other funding partners, e.g. Research Councils, where appropriate
- We want to work with you to ensure continuing relevance and impact for next 50 years





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Thank you

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KTP: accelerating business growth

- AccelerComm is a high-growth telecoms innovator
- ICURe Spin-out of U. of Southampton in 2017
- KTP with UoS in 2018
- £8m investment 2019/20
- £21m investment 2023
- AccelerComm is now a key enabler of universal mobile coverage, recognised by ScaleUp Institute as a scaling business



<https://iuk-ktp.org.uk/case-study/accelerating-wireless-communication/>