

ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

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Award category	Digital Innovation/Technology
Project Title	Digital Technology, Transport and Logistics Academy
Local authority entrant	Lincolnshire County Council/Greater Lincolnshire IEP
Partner/s if applicable	Boston College

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

An industry-driven innovation project with a hub in Boston, spoke in Spalding and providing a complementary offer to the Institute of Technology.

Digital innovation: How has this project shown evidence of successful digital innovation and the imaginative use of new technology? (150 words max.)

The project focuses on developing port skills; crane operations; construction plant, including fork lift truck skills; steel erecting; stevedoring; leadership and management as well as improving digital skills at all levels to support further innovation. The building has a simulation workshop containing simulators required to safely train in a digital way on ports, plant operator kit and cranes. A workshop with practical equipment for construction plant mechanics has been developed and there are 2 digital innovation computer based classrooms.

The Academy is bringing national partners such as Network Rail, Victoria Group, Hire Association Europe and the Construction Plant-hire Association, and their employer partners into Boston for sector specific training opportunities alongside Lincolnshire employers such as Turners, FreshLinc and MetsaWood. Their input into the creation and equipping of the facilities, as well as the development of the training programmes, is ensuring its relevance and credibility.

Digital innovation: How has this project shown evidence of improved outcomes for users? (150 words max.)

The Academy is improving the skills and talents of the current and future workforce across levels 2 – 5; supporting key strategic sectors and national projects; and supporting business growth through access to resources and advice. It showcases how an FE provider and employers can work together for the benefit of the local, regional and national economy, attracting more young people into digital, transport and logistics sectors with a particular focus on engaging females into what are very male dominated sectors. There is direct engagement with local schools in addressing the STEM agenda and links to local and regional employment needs and opportunities. Importantly this innovative approach is enabling businesses to access training to meet their specific skills needs and enabling them to grow, increase productivity, create more jobs and add value to the local economy. A technical skills centre of excellence providing a regional/national offer.

Digital innovation: How has this project shown evidence of the transformation of a

service/department/organisation by changing behaviours, delivering savings or improving ways of working? (150 words max.)

The project is creating opportunities for Boston College to work with more businesses to meet their current and future skills needs thus ensuring that there is a sufficiently skilled and well trained workforce across the Greater Lincolnshire. The Academy is creating a supportive environment for new businesses to thrive and increasing the number of apprentices and the range of apprenticeships that are offered which are directly benefitting local employers. This collaborative approach with industry is welcomed, responding to future trends, requirements and innovations across the sector and encouraging change.

Digital innovation: How can the innovation/technology in this project be applied in multiple sectors/areas? (150 words max.)

The project supports leading companies with national and international supply chains, to generate career progression in the highly skilled digital economy, resulting in economic growth and added value regionally and nationally. As already highlighted, the technology provided can be applied to service several sectors from ports and logistics to manufacturing and agri-food. The learning from the Academy could also be used to enable similar approaches with other colleges and thus supporting other key regional sectors.

Digital innovation: How does this project demonstrate scalability and resilience - the ability to use technology in a wider scope and in a way that encourages longevity of use? (150 words max.)

With the right investment and support the number and types of bespoke simulators could be increased and there is potential for expansion of the Academy itself. The logistics sector is growing, 30% UK food travels via South Lincolnshire, we have the UK's largest bulk port on the Humber Estuary linked to the Humber Freeport, Boston port could also have an increased future food trade role. In terms of potential for further Innovation and investment, the Academy could be linked with a number of emerging logistics and food sector driven digital technologies locally such as the £2.8m Trusted Bytes project, that connects the supply chain with central government and other critical partners to help facilitate the flow of goods across international borders and drive productivity within the UK food economy, creating immutable proof of food provenance, digitising critical border transfer processes and providing seamless real-time digital connectivity for supply chain operators.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

The UK's Transport & Logistics activities employ 2.2 million people, representing 8 per cent of the UK's workforce and the Port of Boston is a major gateway to and from European markets. The development of a new rail spur at the Port creates a clear synergy to the rail industry. The focus of this scheme has been on providing a multi-functional training environment which blends digital skills, simulation training and practical assessments with a specific focus on transport and logistics.

Boston College mainly serves the borough of Boston and districts of South Holland and East Lindsey. The areas are currently characterised by a low skills, low wage economy and consequently a high level of deprivation and rural poverty. Investing in skills in Boston will generate a high return on investment through boosting the local economy.

The total project cost was £3,725,000 of which Greater Lincolnshire LEP Growth Deal contributed a grant of £2,425,000.