Connected business

Connections are everything in business. The best work happens when the right people and organisations are brought together to achieve more than they could do alone. Leveraging diverse perspectives that challenge you to think differently can prove the difference between success and failure. At the heart of these connections is the technological infrastructure that enables us to collaborate. These IoD Open House events will help you discover how connectedness will shape the future and help business grow.

- Cyber in the boardroom
- How AI can help SMEs
- The impact and benefits of the new 5G network
- Boosting productivity through technology
- The importance of 'connectedness' for remote & flexible working
- Talent acquisition and recruitment

Manchester	11-Jul	Manchester Marriott Victoria & Albert Hotel

Connected business roadshow - Manchester	
13.00	Registration – tea, coffee and pastries
13:20	**Welcome by the Event Chair** *Patricia Keating, Programme Lead, Tech Manchester*
13:30	**The impact and benefits of 5G to business & the future of Us** 5G, the fifth generation of wireless communication, is just around the corner. Higher speed, lower latency and greater capacity, including for the Internet of Things (IoT), are all going to be key features. 5G, unlike previous generations, is expected to impact not only mobile consumers, but also businesses, facilitating innovation and enabling new services which could be critical to the productivity and success of UK Industry as a whole. This session aims to provide delegates an introduction to 5G, showing some early adoption and impacts, along with the progress in the UK, the potential it has to evolve your business, your people and your products in the future, along with how technology will evolve with 5G as it brings new opportunity. *Danny Simpson, CEO, MID Communications and Martin Gill, Digital Solutions, Telefónica UK Limited (O2)*
13:50	**How can AI help SMEs?** Nobody knows quite where AI will lead us, but we do know that if businesses don't embrace new technologies they won't survive. But many companies don't know where to start or which technologies to embrace. Organisations that try to bite off too much at the start of their Intelligent Automation journey typically fail to realise returns on their investments for two to three years, by which time funding has dried up. This session will help to breakdown the scary bits and let you into the world of AI benefits. *Dr. Maya Dillon, UK Lead for AI and Azure, Microsoft*

14:10	Refreshments
14:40	**Cyber risk - what does it mean and how does it work?** A few years ago cyber wasn't even mentioned when considering major risks facing businesses. Fast forward a few years and cyber risk is now recognised as one of the biggest perils facing any organisation. Phishing, spoofing, malware, ransomware – with so much technical jargon out there it's hard to understand let alone manage these cyber risks! In this session, Andy will show how you it is now possible to gain a simple understanding of the cyber risks that could affect your organisation. He will demonstrate live examples of how email fraud and spoofing works from a hackers point of view and more importantly give clear and simple guidance on how you can begin to manage and mitigate these risks. *Andy Thomas, CEO, Kynd*
15:00	**Panel session: Boosting productivity through technology** This discussion will focus on the pros and cons of utilizing technology to boost efficiency and productivity and give advice and support on how to do this through upskilling and enhancing people's leadership and management skills. *Danny Simpson, CEO, MID Communications (Chair)* *Patricia Keating, Programme Lead, Tech Manchester* *Chris Roberts, Head of Transactions, Code Investing* *Dr. Maya Dillon, UK Lead for AI and Azure, Microsoft* *Andy Thomas, CEO, Kynd* *Martin Gill, Digital Solutions, Telefónica UK Limited (O2)*
15:30	**Roundtable workshops** 1. **Remote and Flexible Working** Workplaces are changing and employees are moving more freely into flexible and remote working. The accountability and governance of boards and business owners hasn't changed though - Health and Safety, operational resilience and executive accountability for vulnerable workers has become even more important. The same technology that enhances flexibility can also help protect those that benefit - mitigating risk and ensuring duty of care for remote and lone workers, need not be a taboo subject. *Lorrin White, Managing Director, Bamboo* 2. **Talent Acquisition and Retention for new Tech Skilled Roles** With new technology comes opportunity to enhance, streamline, and scale activities – but in order to benefit from these technologies, businesses need to employ talent with the skills to use them. The demand for skilled and experienced IT and technology professionals has never been higher but the problem, however, is supply. This roundtable workshop is designed to give you some top tips on how to recruit and retain top tech talent. *Christian Fowles-Smith , REC* 3. **Technology for marketing – preparing you for the changes coming** Business leaders must navigate a complex and dynamic landscape as they strive to build a martech strategy that supports customer engagement and scale. This roundtable workshop will explore the rapidly evolving technology available, with practical takeaways on how you can make the most of your martech investments. *John Preston, Director, Superstar Bots* 4. **How to choose the right IT infrastructure when expanding your business** With mounting pressure on organisations to keep overhead costs down, what are the financial and operational challenges a business needs to consider when choosing their IT infrastructure? We'll be discussing the delicate balance between initial outlay and total cost of ownership, the true cost of support, and how choosing the right device can impact your IT personnel. *Tim Bodill, Enterprise Business Director & Dave Hornby, Apple Enterprise Architecture Director – Jigsaw24*
16:30	Summary from each Roundtable Chair back to the room Chairman's closing remarks
17:00	**Drinks reception with Code Investing**
18:00	**Close of event**