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AI + Automation for SMEs

Equity, Capability and the Future of Digital Skills Across the Globe

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Why SMEs, Why Now?

£94 billion

**It's estimated that if UK SMEs increased productivity by just 1%, the national economy would benefit by over £94 billion over five years.
(Source: Be the Business)**

Recent developments in AI, automation, and digital tools are unlocking efficiency and productivity gains of 10%, 20%, even 40% in some sectors. These aren't theoretical gains – they're available now for SMEs.

McKinsey and others have published similar findings, pointing to the massive macroeconomic impact of even modest productivity shifts. A 5% boost in SME productivity could lift national GDP significantly in developed economies. In emerging economies, the potential impact is even greater: up to 10% GDP growth if SMEs reach top-quartile productivity.

This is the moment to empower SMEs with the tools, mindset, and confidence to use AI, automation, and digital tools practically and responsibly.



What's Blocking Progress?

SMEs are ready and willing to adopt AI, automation, and digital tools — but many simply can't see how those pieces fit into their day-to-day reality.

“Access to skills training, finance, and support services remains the single biggest barrier to growth for UK small businesses.”

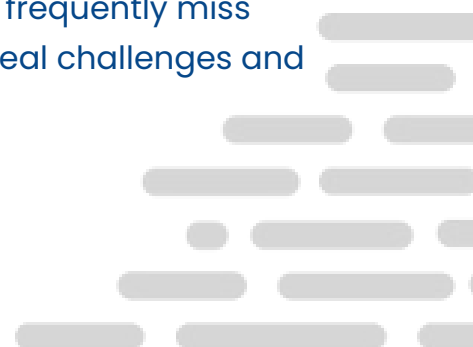
~ Goldman Sachs “10,000 Small Businesses UK: Generation Growth”

For SMEs, the barriers are all too familiar:

- Teams are already stretched – time is a luxury
- Many feel digital tools are confusing or irrelevant to their sector
- The noise & hype around AI makes it hard to know where to start
- Turning training into real change requires support and concrete alignment

At a system level, we see deeper issues:

- Much of the training & education on offer is generic – high in theory, low in practical value
- Delivery is fragmented – lots of good projects, but few joined-up pathways
- Too often, technical solutions are prioritised over people, culture, and mindset
- Policy, funding, and strategy frequently miss alignment with businesses' real challenges and opportunities



Our Response: Practical, Aligned, and Human- Centred

What SMEs Really Need from AI Training

We don't deliver courses. We build capability.

Our model focuses on practical, business-aligned, and inclusive digital upskilling.

Key principles:

- **Embedded, not external:** training takes place inside real work, not in isolation
- **Coaching over instruction:** we grow confidence, not just compliance
- **Generalist core skills:** digital, communicative, and collaborative foundations
- **Strategic alignment:** everything must connect to business outcomes
- **Sector relevance:** training is shaped by the context it's used in

This approach doesn't just support productivity. It enables SMEs to grow, adapt, and lead responsibly in a digital future.

AI, Equity and Digital Capability

AI Fluency is Essential Infrastructure

AI, automation, and digital systems now shape everything – from how we work to how we learn, access healthcare, and participate in civic life.

For SMEs and their communities to thrive in this landscape, we need widespread access to:

- The confidence to interrogate and direct AI tools
- Ethical awareness and platform literacy
- The skills to integrate AI meaningfully and reflectively in day-to-day work

We build digital equity by focusing on capability.

The skills, confidence, and strategic understanding that allow individuals and organisations to actually benefit from the digital shift.



Work With Us

We're Looking for Partners

We're actively forming partnerships to scale this work internationally.

We collaborate with:

- National and regional governments
- NGO-backed initiatives
- Local training delivery partners
- Consultants and strategic advisors



Let's talk. If you believe SMEs can drive equitable digital growth, let's work together.

Contact:

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