

SILICON SANDS TECH NETWORK



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– Northern Reach | Silicon Sands

Building local digital resilience and opportunity

SILICON SANDS TECH NETWORK

Introducing Northern Reach

Lancashire-based organisation building tech, digital and innovation ecosystems

Trusted delivery partner to local authorities, universities and industry

Specialists in community-led growth, not top-down programmes

Focused on long-term regional resilience and capability

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What is Silicon Sands?

A place-based digital infrastructure and innovation programme centred on a Net Zero data centre in Blackpool

Benefits to Blackpool

Anchors sovereign, low-carbon digital infrastructure locally

Creates a platform for high-value tech jobs and innovation activity

Strengthens economic resilience and long-term competitiveness

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Introducing Helen Crowther – Tech Community Coordinator

- Builds trusted relationships across SMEs, public sector and delivery partners
- Connects local businesses into Silicon Sands infrastructure and opportunities
- Sustains community engagement, momentum and collaboration

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How SMEs benefit from a localised sovereign data centre

- Greater data security and sovereignty in an uncertain global environment
- Access to ultra-low-latency connectivity via the North Atlantic loop, linking directly to the USA

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How SMEs benefit from a localised sovereign data centre

- Enables edge computing use cases including AI, real-time analytics and secure workloads
- Powered by Irish Sea wind energy, with waste heat and cooling systems creating opportunities for local, community-led thermal heating projects

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- Questions
- Open discussion
- Feedback and ideas
- Next steps