



About the Clusters

Lancashire & Cumbria ICT Clusters are groups of local ICT businesses who meet together regularly and engage in a free and open exchange of knowledge, information and business opportunities. Clusters are private sector led and public sector supported.

Cluster Aims

- ✓ Strengthen the ICT sector of the regional economy
- ✓ Help to promote Lancashire & Cumbria as a centre of excellence for ICT.
- ✓ Support ICT usage and digital content development and enable customers to source their ICT needs locally.
- ✓ Support the development of member businesses, enabling them to better exploit existing and potential high value markets.
- ✓ Maximise opportunities from globalisation and emerging markets by raising awareness about global opportunities/risks.
- ✓ Enable the Lancashire digital sector to increase the uptake of ICT in other sectors of the economy, one of the most effective ways of increasing GVA across all sectors.

Forming the Clusters

The clusters were formed by Lancaster University's InfoLab21 and partners, including Business Link, local authorities and the Lancashire Economic Partnership. Their aim is to bring together the expertise and creativity of ICT businesses from across Lancashire and Cumbria and provide a unique place where they can come together to learn, share and collaborate. Six Cluster Groups in the region are now set up and running and meet regularly. The current groups are: [Lancaster](#), [Preston](#), [West Lancs](#), [Blackpool & Fylde](#), [East Lancs](#) and [Kendal](#).

A new website www.lcictclusters.org has been created by Lancaster University's InfoLab21 and Business Link Northwest to provide a unique central resource for the region's technology led companies. The new site provides an overview of all six regional ICT cluster groups and provides specific information for current and prospective members, including related news and business events.

Join & Benefit

Cluster groups provide their members with support and information on various topics, featuring exciting and interesting presentations from respected specialists in leading-edge digital developments. These vary from cluster to cluster and meeting to meeting and have included Technology- eg being kept up to date with and Exploiting Technology, Skills & Staffing Issues, Business support, Business Opportunities and Business Growth.

There are many benefits of joining a cluster. Clusters provide a vital and dynamic engine for growth and productivity. Firms engaged in clustering typically show comparative advantage in three key areas- Business productivity, innovation and knowledge transfer and market awareness.

It costs nothing to join, companies can join via www.lcictclusters.org and there is no limitation on size of company. Companies can become as involved as they wish and attend as many of the meetings, which are usually bimonthly, as they feel appropriate.

The Regional Impact of the Clusters

As ICT supports almost all sectors of the economy, the creation of successful cluster groups, provided with a skilled workforce and a unique and supportive collaborative environment has a great impact on the regional economy as a whole. Individual companies contribute to the clustering effect by their relationship with suppliers and customers and by using their skills in networking and building alliances with other companies.

Cluster Supporters

Lancashire & Cumbria ICT Clusters are supported by Business Link North West, local Councils, local Chambers of Commerce, Lancashire Economic Partnership and the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

