

University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

**Interactive  
Learning  
and Training  
Environments**

Enhancing learning  
through play

[www.thinklab.salford.ac.uk](http://www.thinklab.salford.ac.uk)



**THINKlab**

# Interactive learning & training environments

## Enhancing learning through play

The new digital age is reshaping the way learners are interacting with subject matter. Gaming technology, integrated with novel interactive devices and mobile technology, is offering educators a new way of engaging with their audiences at all ages. Through play one can learn new scientific concepts, develop various skills (eg. social, cognitive) and gain the self-confidence to engage in new experiences and environments.

THINKlab has a team of interactive game developers who have a track record in delivering interactive learning and training systems for a range of organisations including BBC, Psappha, GM Fire & Rescue Service.

### We are specialised in the following areas:

- Motivational gaming environments that are based on Unity and Kinect interfaces.
- Augmented reality environments that can combine real and virtual objects.
- Multi-sensory environments that combine 3D acoustics, visualisation and haptic technology.
- Interactive training systems customised for training employees in specific work related tasks.

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**Collaborative  
Engineering**

Distributed  
collaborative  
engineering  
environments

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# Collaborative Engineering

## Distributed collaborative engineering environments

The manufacturing and building construction sectors are now under severe pressure to remain competitive; pressure that is derived from the globalisation of the economy and the current economic climate; pressure to produce greener products due to climate change and the scarcity of resources. Organisations now need to consider how best to enhance the performance of their products by involving stakeholders in the innovation process, ranging from R&D groups with new technological inventions and know how, to design and simulation teams with specialised skills, to companies with low-cost and sustainable manufacturing capabilities, to maintenance and operation teams, to name but a few.

In response to this demand THINKlab has already completed three major European projects, involving over 50 European partners, and developed novel distributed technology platforms that can support team collaboration among distributed multi-functional teams. Three more EU projects are currently in operation to explore collaboration between partners to produce energy efficient buildings, reduce the carbon footprint of white goods and to explore Mars involving various space agencies.

Through this R&D work, we have an experienced team that can develop customised collaboration solutions for both the construction and manufacturing industries. We are specialised in the following areas:

- Development of distributed technology platforms that can integrate various product information sources and simulation services to provide integrated problem solving environments.
- Advanced product visualisation environments that can enhance team collaboration among multi-functional teams.
- Support for building team collaboration using the THINKlab methods and tools.

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**Digital Cities**  
Envisioning  
city futures

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# Digital Cities

## Creating healthier, wealthier and safer cities for the future

Creating sustainable cities requires a stronger collaboration between a range of public and private sector organisations to ensure cities are safer, healthier, intelligent and prosperous places for citizens to experience an enhanced quality of life. In response we have developed a range of novel technology platforms that will allow public and private organisations in a city to utilise the power of their data intelligence to make collective evidence-based decisions to address the challenges faced by cities. We have an experienced R&D team to develop customised technology platforms for bringing city information into a discussion space through advanced visualisation and interaction technologies.

### **We are specialised in the following areas:**

- Facilitating collaboration among city stakeholders.
- System platforms that integrate dispersed data sources for creating integrated information spaces for cities.
- Data mining that can extract patterns and correlations.
- Advanced visualisations of complex social, economical and environmental datasets over 2D and 3D city models.
- Easy to use interfaces for exploring “what-if” scenarios.

Our technology can be used to develop and implement new partnership models for delivering various policy agendas as well as engaging with local communities in bringing local visions to life.

"THINKlab provides inspiring and inclusive approaches for discussing future strategies and bringing innovation into organisations. We plan to use the THINKlab to bring innovation into the Environment Agency and explore new ways of working with our partners."

**Gordon Whitaker, AEM, Environment Agency**



### **Interactive Platform**

Our digital city platform can integrate a range of social, environmental and economical data on a physical representation of your city. It can be presented on a range of displays such as touch screens, multi-touch tables and on virtual reality screens such as a Powerwall. Interaction and exploration of the digital city can be done through hand gestures or 3D interface device.



### **Flood Simulation**

In collaboration with the Environment Agency a digital city platform has been developed to demonstrate the impact of floods around the river Irwell near the University of Salford. It allows flood resilience teams to explore the impact of floods on the built environment as well as the natural environment and take steps towards building flood resilience.



### **Better Life Chances**

This multi-agency project brought together a range of un-connected social datasets to model the social dimensions of a socially deprived area in Salford. It demonstrated how such an information rich virtual city could be used to understand challenges faced by various agencies and explore new partnership models to reduce the cost of service delivery while improving the quality.



### **City West**

This technology platform was developed to demonstrate how disconnected data sets within the City West Housing Association can be integrated to produce efficient maintenance programmes and engagement with tenants.

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University of  
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**Innovation  
services**

Space for innovation  
and envisioning

[www.thinklab.salford.ac.uk](http://www.thinklab.salford.ac.uk)

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# Innovation Services

## Building confidence to innovate

Many modern knowledge companies experience challenges in embedding innovation, creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and user-centricity. Although many company executives recognise the need for promoting innovation within their own organisation, the question is how this can be achieved? How to escape the tunnel vision and to see opportunities, find connections, cross-fertilisations and make use of the knowledge and learning available in organisations and society? How to build confidence to innovate within an organisation?

THINKlab, designed as a Future Centre, provides the conditions for innovation. By combining our innovative facilitation techniques, brain storming technology and multi-sensory spaces, THINKlab provides a highly creative environment for participants to envision future possibilities and develop practical innovation.

Government organisations can use the THINKlab for developing and testing citizen-centred, future-proof policy options with broad acceptance by stakeholders. Business co-operations can use the THINKlab to increase the customer-driven, user-centred design and production of quality new products and services.

THINKlab provides a breeding ground for innovation, societal renewal and for enhancing and applying the intellectual capital of organisations, regions and nations. THINKlab is a place of creativity and innovation where it is possible to develop new insights and approaches which are understood and embraced by a wide number of people.

### We provide the following services:

- Innovative spaces and technologies for your organisation to meet and develop future strategies.
- Facilitated workshops for supporting organisational innovation.
- Facilitated workshops for building stronger partnerships with your stakeholders.
- Our professional and friendly staff will work with you to ensure every need is cared for, providing excellent standards of customer care to make your innovation event a success.

*"The facilitation provided real energy and insight, pressing the audience to hone a particular point and keeping everyone engaged through a very full day. We were really impressed and surprised by how much material was generated."*

**Senior manager at the Environment Agency**

"Halliwell operates clinical practice within the ever changing world of child psychology. The THINKlab allowed us to work with clients interactively within a unique learning environment which facilitated better communication and information sharing."

Andrew Constable, Business Director of Halliwell Homes



## Space

THINKlab consists of four individual areas working together to support the innovation process.

### Reception

A bright welcoming reception area with focal light wall in which to meet and greet guests.



### Think Pod

A focused area free from distractions capable of supporting groups during the stages of identification of needs/challenges, data gathering, idea generation and prototyping. Equipped with projector, screen and video conferencing facilities. (Capacity 30)



### Social Area

Relax in our contemporary social area with stunning panoramic views of the Manchester city skyline. A focal light wall producing a myriad of stunning colour displays and an acoustic system all work together in creating a relaxed area for social interaction supporting ice breaking and team building. (Capacity 40)



### Meeting Room

Stylish meeting room with LCD screen for presentations, Smart Board TM and video conferencing facility. An ideal breakout area available alongside the social area for brain storming and ideas' generation. (Capacity 10)

### Technology & Services

THINKlab offers you the latest technology to enhance and support your event. Technical assistance is on hand for the initial set up and support during the day, leaving you stress free.

Debate and voting systems maximise productivity by means of brain storming, idea capture and group/individual voting.

Video conferencing, free WiFi (prior arrangement required), flipcharts, stand and pens complement our range of facilities on offer 3D demonstrations of our Digital platforms tailored to suit the context of your event and audience can be provided on request.

Technical development support is also available to extract intelligence from your complex business datasets to make informed decisions.

### Facilitation Services

Our experienced facilitators will work with you to design and deliver an interactive workshop guiding your organisations through the innovation process, extracting solutions to your problems and developing future plans.

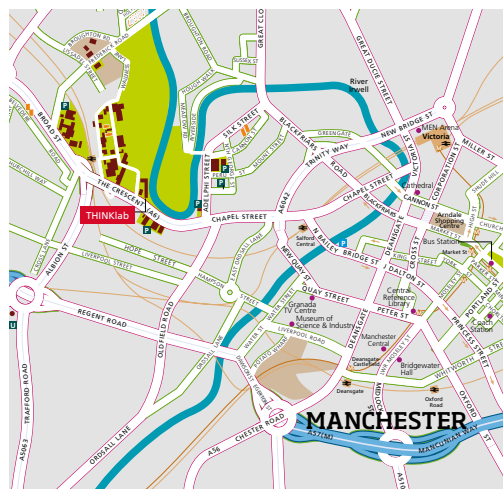
Our facilitation services are strengthened by our specialist collaboration software supporting knowledge transfer and encouraging debate and discussion.

### Location

THINKlab is located on the University of Salford main campus on The Crescent, less than 1.5 miles from Manchester City Centre which boasts a large selection of top quality restaurants and bars. Taxi service available.

Salford Crescent railway station is a 5 minute walk with regular trains to Manchester Victoria, Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester International Airport.

Only a couple of minutes' drive from the motorway network with Car Parking available on campus.



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