



DR MARIA NELSON

Dr Maria Nelson is Head of Innovation and Sustainability at the Aerospace Technology Institute, the UK's leading centre for aerospace research.

Before joining the ATI to build a new innovation function and support the sector in accelerating towards net zero, Maria was Director of Innovation Practice at Digital Catapult, where she and her team of 30 delivered a portfolio of deep tech programmes for industry leaders and startups in manufacturing and the creative sector.

Maria was previously Innovation Programme Manager at Cisco and has a background in strategic communications as well as academia and publishing.

Maria believes that game changing, sustainable innovation can thrive where three intentions combine: to address real-world problems (especially the wicked ones), to turn high ambitions into tangible reality, and to believe in your direction of travel while going one step at a time.