

Academic–Industry Matchmaking (AIM) Day for Extended Reality and Trust, Identity, Privacy, Security

7 May 2026 | etc.venues Chancery Lane, London

Navigating Trust, Identity, Privacy, Safety, & Security in the Convergence Era

About the Event

SPRITE+ AIM Day connects industry innovators and academic experts to explore how emerging Extended and Virtual Reality technologies intersect with Trust, Identity, Privacy, Safety, and Security.

This is your opportunity to shape the next wave of secure and trusted immersive technologies, find how your research can solve real-life R&D challenges, and access dedicated SPRITE+ collaboration funding.

Why Attend?

- **Showcase your expertise** to organisations across public, private, and academic sectors and expand your network.
- **Listen to real-world innovation challenges** from organisations and leading industry partners.
- **Explore how your research can address real-world challenges** at the intersection of Extended and Virtual Reality and Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security.
- **Develop collaborative research projects** with innovators across sectors, bridging research and application.
- **Access up to £10,000 in SPRITE+ secondment funding** for short-term, high-impact research initiatives with industry partners.
- **Expand your professional network** across public, private, and academic sectors.

How It Works

- **Reverse-pitches** from organisations presenting their innovation and research challenges at the intersection of **Extended and Virtual Reality and Trust, Identity, Privacy, Safety, and Security**.
- **Structured matchmaking meetings** to explore collaboration opportunities between academics and organisations.
- **Networking sessions** to build partnerships and identify research alignment.
- **Funding opportunities** for projects that address real-world challenges at the intersection of Extended Reality and Trust, Identity, Privacy, Security.



SPRITE+ Project Team, Humanities Bridgeford Street, University of Manchester, Oxford Road M13 9P



Funding Opportunities

SPRITE+ offers funding for:

1. Funding Academic **Secondments** within partner organisation
 - Up to five Expert Fellow Secondments (up to £50,000 in total): partnerships between academics and non-academic organisations.
 - Typical duration: 4–6 weeks secondments with potential for follow-on projects.
 - Travel & subsistence or academic buyout time.
 - Matched academic-industry partners submit a short proposal after the event which is quick, focused, and impact-driven.
2. Funding is available to support exploratory post-event visits between Expert Fellows, PhD students, and organisations. SPRITE+ provides funding for academics to visit organisations to explore potential research collaborations. The funding covers reasonable expenses associated with **one UK round-trip** and, if necessary, **1 night accommodation costs**. Visits must take place by **31 July 2026**.

Get Involved

Attendance is **free** for industry and public-sector organisations.

Apply by **16 March 2026** via: [SPRITE+ AIM Day 2026 Registration](#)

Contact

- Learn more about SPRITE+ AIM Day 2026 [here](#)
- Event Enquiries: Claire Spencer – claire.spencer@manchester.ac.uk
- Partnership Enquiries: spriteplus@manchester.ac.uk



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