



Calum Kelly

Calum is the agri-tech solutions lead. His work on the 5G RuralDorset project is trialling different uses of 5G technology for both agriculture and aquaculture.

“I draw upon my experience of the UK food and drink system to ensure the 5G RuralDorset project considers the drivers of all actors across the supply chain, whether that be farmers, technology suppliers or consumers. Ensuring we consider the drivers and implications across the industry will allow the project to scale across the UK and set the benchmark for trialling 5G within a commercial agricultural environment.”

1. How long have you been working at the Catapult?

I have been working at the Catapult for 18 months.

2. Tell us a bit about yourself/your background

I joined the Satellite Applications Catapult in July 2019 from Sainsbury's, where I worked as an Agricultural Manager. My background is across retail, supply chains and agriculture and I work with the food and drink industry to help solve challenges through the capabilities from space.

3. What is your role within this project?

I am leading the Catapult team which is supporting Wessex Internet trial various 5G-enabled technology within agriculture and aquaculture. This involves technical consultancy for each trial, user-centred design to understand the drivers and value proposition for the farmers, and business strategy to ensure we leverage the benefits of this project within the wider UK agri-tech ecosystem.

4. What are you most looking forward to researching/achieving/demonstrating during this project?

Demonstrating the value of 5G-enabled technology on commercial farms will be a huge challenge, but it is one I am really looking forward to as the potential to transform food production is enormous and the gains to efficiency, product quality and food security are far reaching.

5. How do you see this project transforming lives/business functions?

The UK food system faces numerous challenges to increase its productivity, reduce its environmental impact and manage its reliance on labour to get quality, safe, affordable food on to plates of consumers. I see this project as having a key role in demonstrating how investment in 5G infrastructure in rural areas can allow farmers to exploit new technologies and transform their businesses at a pace required to meet the grand challenges our food system is facing.