



Kieran Arnold

Kieran is Director of Ubiquitous Connectivity and General Manager at Westcott.

“My one key skill: A check on reality. Everyone talks about everything tech, but the human element is needed. It’s easy to get lost in tech but I’m much more interested in people.”

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

7 years and 3 months.

2. Tell us a bit about yourself/your background?

I started my career as fast jet pilot in air force but changed focus after 6 years due to some health issues and moved into engineering electronics, avionics and telecommunications, which I did for 10 years. Then I joined Orange as CTO for innovation and research, then did my own thing for a bit with a start up. After that I took a temp job with Airbus which turned into staying for 5 years, following which I joined the Catapult. My expertise is partly in satellite but I'm more of an expert in cellular communications. I enjoy the tech, it fascinates me. I've got most tech advanced house you'll ever see and I still fly planes and drones for fun.

3. What is your role within this project?

I'm the technical lead for the Catapult's involvement in the project with a main focus on delivering the 5G network to Dorset from our core in Westcott. I'm also an advisor for a couple of other parts of the project due to our recent delivery of similar activities.

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

Where it goes after 5G, how it will evolve for network intelligence. We have networks, machine learning, AI etc, but what happens when we bring that all together where the network is the AI and machine learning agent and can interact in a more meaningful way? Going to try and use that to set in motion where we'll go with 6G because it's got to be far greater than just a new 5G. We can't keep just giving speed increases because most services have the speeds they need already

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

If you stood on the coast at Dorset because of geographic location you've got no way of communicating with outside world. We're using a particular way to get the radio wave to bottom of cliff and on the beach. Most fatalities happen because people can't raise the alert when in danger or authorities can't let people know its not safe. This is something being addressed by the coastal safety trials. Also, improving food production and protecting environment in food production. Producing food in the right quantities will reduce waste and costs.