“you said” we did...

Industry and academic users took part in four workshops to discuss how we can support UK SiPh. We listened and acted.

> “A full pipeline of services: from idea to packaged prototype.
>
> Broad fabrication support e.g. new materials, visible light applications, active-passive integration etc.”

- ✓ Added packaging partners to our website.
- ✓ Introduced visible SiN and currently working on adding other new platforms.

FOUNDRY

> “Market trends and roadmaps to show emerging applications.”

- ✓ Endorsed the IPSR-I roadmap and facilitated UK input.
- ✓ Began developing a technology roadmap.

FORESIGHT

> “Technical guidance on packaging, layout and design verification for PDKs.
>
> A virtual community platform, with forums, wikis, case studies, directories etc.”

- ✓ Launched our open source PDK library
- ✓ Scoped our Knowledge Hub, coming 2026!

KNOWLEDGE

> “Access to cleanrooms and labs.
>
> Funding and investor introductions, mentors and help with pitch preparation.”

- ✓ Subsidised foundry access and the Innovation Fund.
- ✓ Startup support programme launching October 2025.

STARTUPS

> “Expanded training offering, including access to simulation tools, and technical and design support.”

- ✓ Incorporated modularised PIC Bootcamp programme.
- ✓ Launched Synopsys & Cadence training with STFC.

TRAINING

> “Networking events and matchmaking.
>
> Links with large commercial foundries.”

- ✓ Hosted annual user day and started members community.
- ✓ Actively connecting with large foundries identified in our survey.

NETWORKS

Insights from our user survey

Our online survey was open to all existing and prospective CORNERSTONE users during spring 2025. Participants shared their views on the future of our foundry, strengthening the ecosystem, startup support, and establishing a UK SiPh pilot line.

What do users want from the CORNERSTONE Foundry?

Q1. Which of our MPW platforms do you plan to access before the end of 2026?

'220 nm SOI passives' was the most popular platform that users planned to access in the next two years.

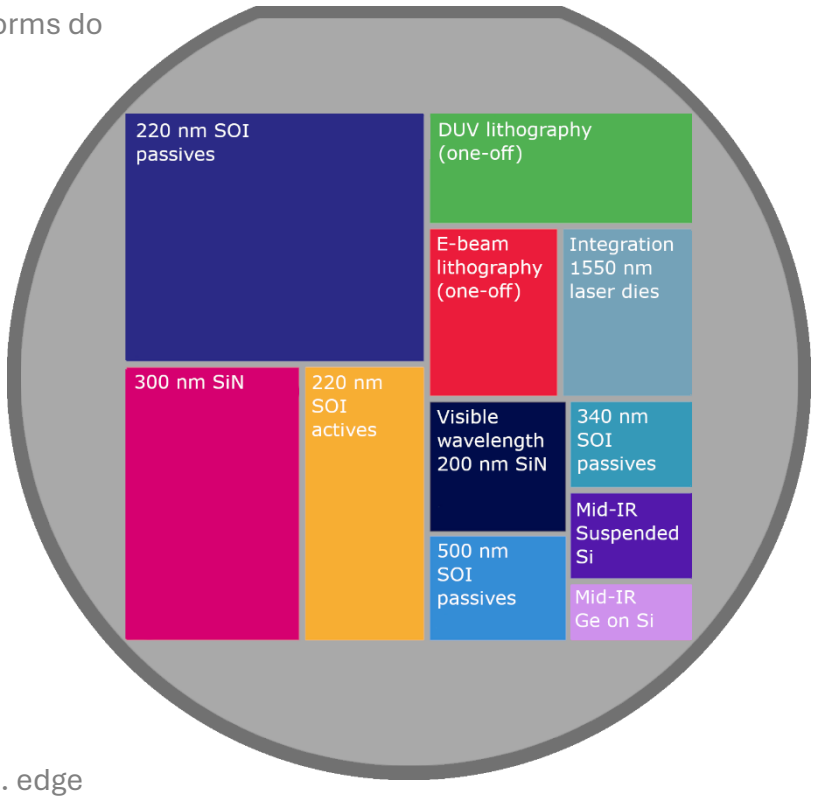

Fig. 1: Q1, size = no. of responses

Q2. What is the most important upgrade or new capability you'd would like us to offer in 2 years' time?

Popular responses:

- Integration e.g. III-V, lasers, detectors, modulators
- Platform improvements e.g. edge couplers, Ge, ultra-low-loss waveguides
- TFLN
- Visible photonics e.g. SiN for 8-900 nm light, 200 nm SiN

Fig. 2: Q2, size = no. of responses

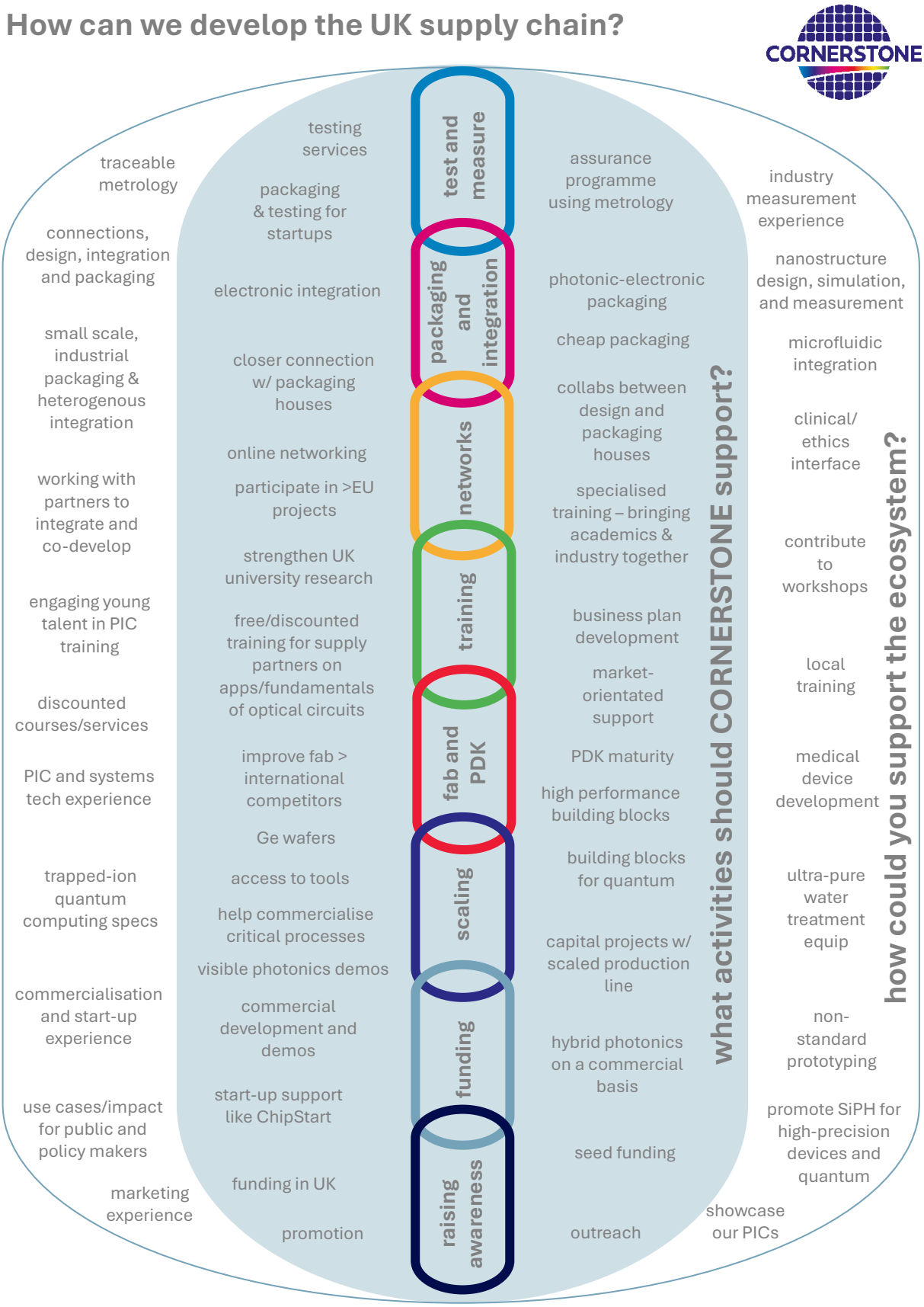

Fig 3. Survey responses to the questions, 'what kind of activities do you think we should support to help develop the UK silicon photonics supply chain?' and 'how could you contribute to building the UK silicon photonics ecosystem?'

How can we support our start-up users?

Users would like to develop a range of skills to help their start-up journey:

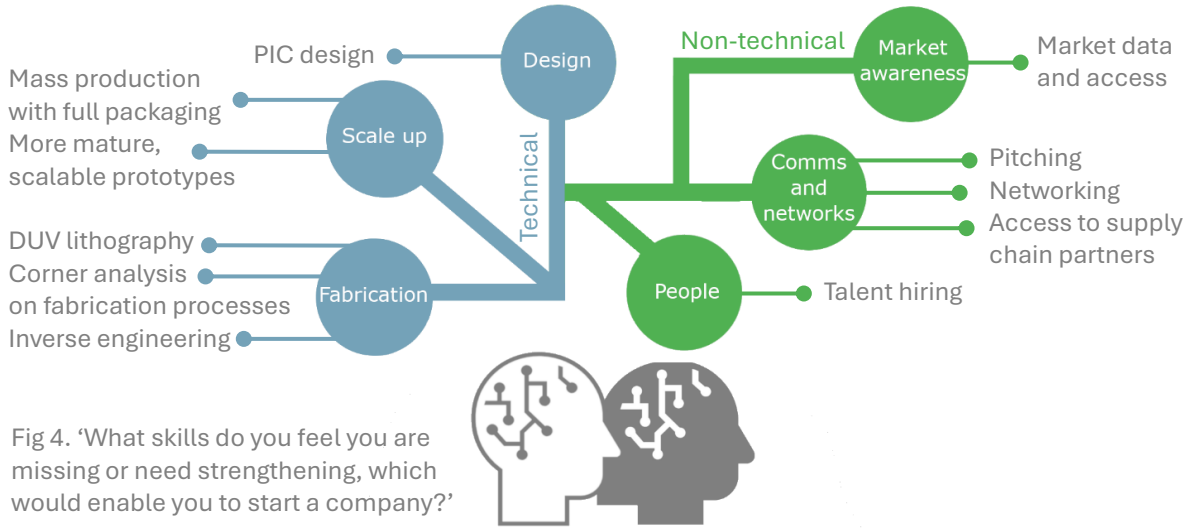

Fig 4. 'What skills do you feel you are missing or need strengthening, which would enable you to start a company?'

What would a UK SiPh pilot line look like?

Users' comments what the scope of a UK SiPh pilot line should be converged on six categories. A future pilot line was also perceived to offer a range of benefits.

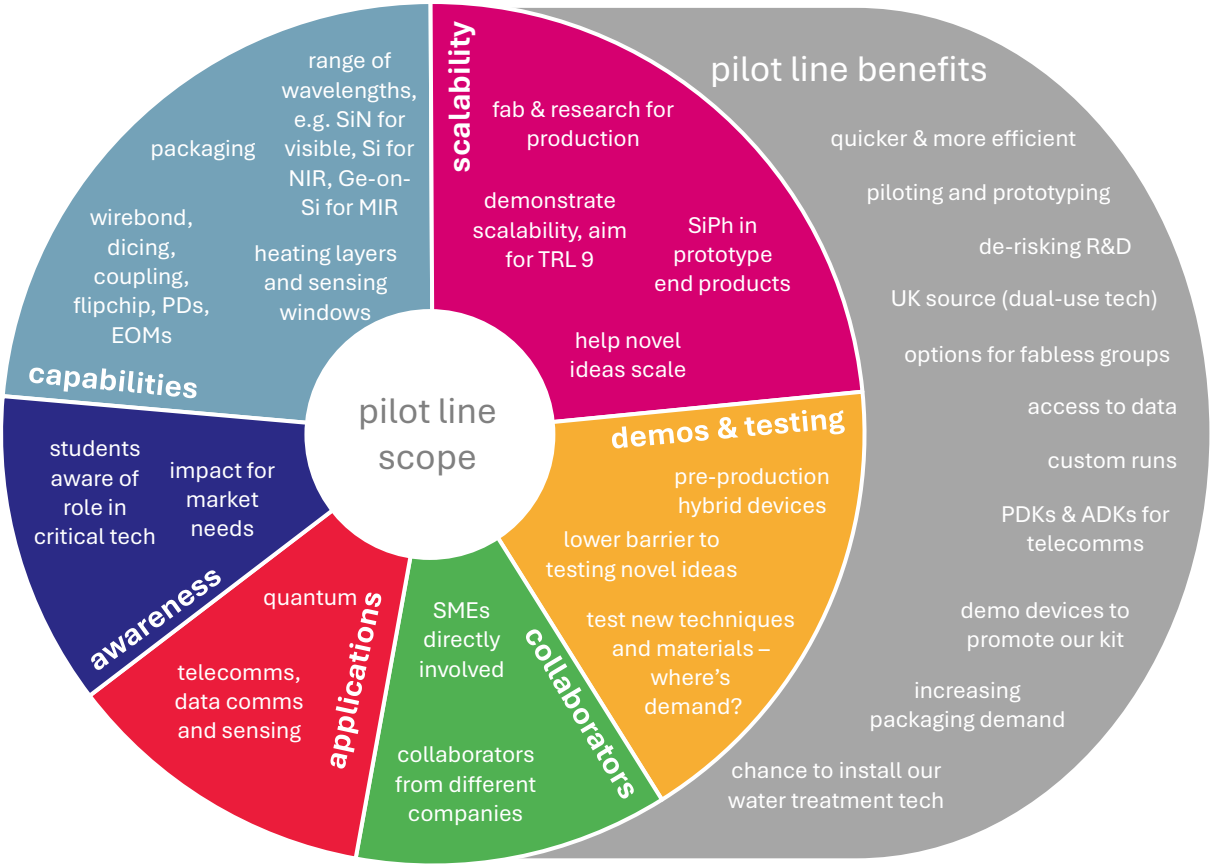

Fig 5. 'what should be the scope of a UK SiPh pilot line?' and 'how would it benefit your organisation?'