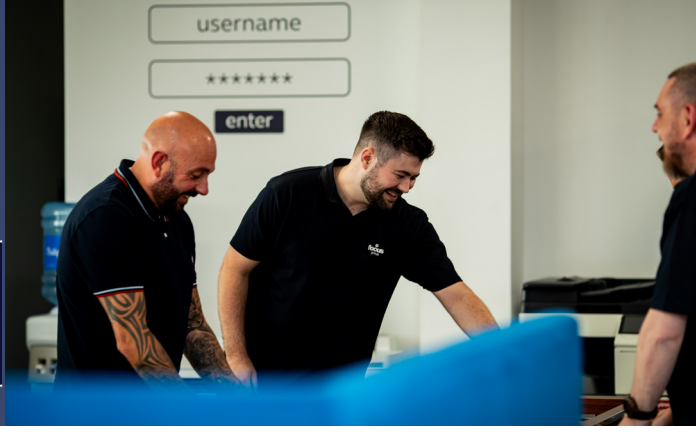




Welcome to the October edition of Insights: your insider guide to the ever-evolving business tech landscape.

This month we're celebrating connection, innovation and community - from the world-class technology powering the Rugby World Cup, to cyber security insights and a major milestone for the Focus Foundation.

Oh, and if you're keen to understand how AI can actually make your life easier, we've rounded up our top tools to get you started - *no tech degree required!*



Why every business needs a SOC cyber security strategy in 2026

Back to pen & paper?

As National Cyber Security Awareness Month draws to a close, and in a period that's seen security specialists advising a "pen and paper" approach to cyber security contingency plans hit the national news, we just want to remind you that we're here to help.

Whether it's a call with our cyber specialists to chat through a tangible plan of action or a **complimentary review of your existing security measures**, they'd be happy to provide some actionable insights to bolster your business defences.

Or check out our latest blog about why a SOC (Security Operations Centre) strategy should be **at the top of your list for 2026**.

Don't miss: SOC strategy



Sandy Park

Sandy Park Stadium & Conference Centre

World class WiFi

The Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 drew in record crowds to stadiums such as Sandy Park in Exeter (our congratulations to the Red Roses!). And we're delighted to have played our part in keeping supporters connected during the matches.

Focus Group's technology solutions underpinned two major venues in the tournament lineup, with Sandy Park equipped with our resilient voice and internet services, supporting operations, media, fan engagement and hospitality.

You can read all about the upgrade project at Sandy Park, ahead of the World Cup at Sandy Park, [here](#).

Customer story: Sandy Park Stadium

Free webinar

Modern Workplace for SMEs - consolidate, save and simplify



Are your teams juggling too many tools - and your IT costs spiralling? You're not alone. Many businesses are spending more than they need to connect, collaborate and get work done.

We'd like to invite you to a **FREE webinar** that shows you a better way.

Hosted by Focus Group and in partnership with Illuminate Learning, we'll be discussing the true meaning of Modern Workplace, walking through real-life examples and taking a look at how it can help you consolidate systems, cut costs and boost productivity. All while simplifying life for your teams and IT department.

When: 2 - 3pm Thursday 13th November 2025

Duration: 45 - 60 minutes

Book your place

Celebrating a million milestones

The incredible team at Focus Foundation have announced a major milestone this month, having now awarded over £1 million in grants to charities and community projects!



This achievement reflects the generosity of the foundation's sponsors and the dedication of its team, trustees, and ambassadors who bring passion, creativity and heart to every decision made.

Reaching £1 million is not just about the number. It's about the thousands of lives touched, the communities strengthened, and the life-changing opportunities created through these grants. And this is only the beginning.

With Focus Group covering the running costs of the Foundation, 100% of donations and fundraising efforts go directly to the people in our communities who need it most. If you'd like to help us drive positive, lasting change, visit [Focus Foundation](#) to find out more.

Focus Foundation

AI for business Let's look at the B(AI)sics

AI can help you unlock growth, streamline daily processes, analyse data, improve customer service and build a future-ready business. And with reports estimating businesses can see productivity gains of up 133% with effective AI usage, it makes complete sense to explore the options.

A good place to start is to identify which AI platforms are best for your business. Here's our top ten. No tech expertise needed!

Content and design

ChatGPT

Conversational AI for writing, research and content creation across virtually any topic

Midjourney

Leading AI image generator known for artistic, high-quality visuals from text prompts

Canva AI

Design platform with AI features for generating images, editing photos, and creating marketing materials

Adobe Firefly

Adobe's AI suite integrated into Creative Cloud for generating and editing images

Runway

AI video editing and generation platform with tools for creating, editing, and enhancing video content

Data and analytics

Julius AI

Data analysis tool that interprets datasets and creates visualisations through conversational interface.

Power BI with Copilot

Microsoft's analytics platform with AI features for insights and automated reporting

General use

Claude

AI assistant for analysis, writing, coding, and research with extended context capabilities

Gemini

Google's AI assistant integrated with Google Workspace for multi-modal tasks

Microsoft Copilot

AI assistant integrated across Microsoft 365 apps for productivity and information retrieval



All your essential business technology in one place



Telecoms



Connectivity



IT



Cyber security



Mobile

Let's connect. Let's grow.