

Is Bournemouth becoming the Silicon Valley of the UK?

September 9, 2020 // by [GeorgeBurton](#) // [Leave a Comment](#)



Bournemouth is shaping up to become a tech hub for the UK according to the the latest figures from the [Centre for Entrepreneurs](#).

According to the research, 28.5% of all new businesses across Bournemouth in 2019 were tech startups, which is the highest percentage in the UK.

The figures show that over 45,000 tech start-ups launched across the UK in 2019, making up 6.6% of all new businesses.

“We’re in a really promising position and with sustained growth and support then I think we can get in to a really strong position”

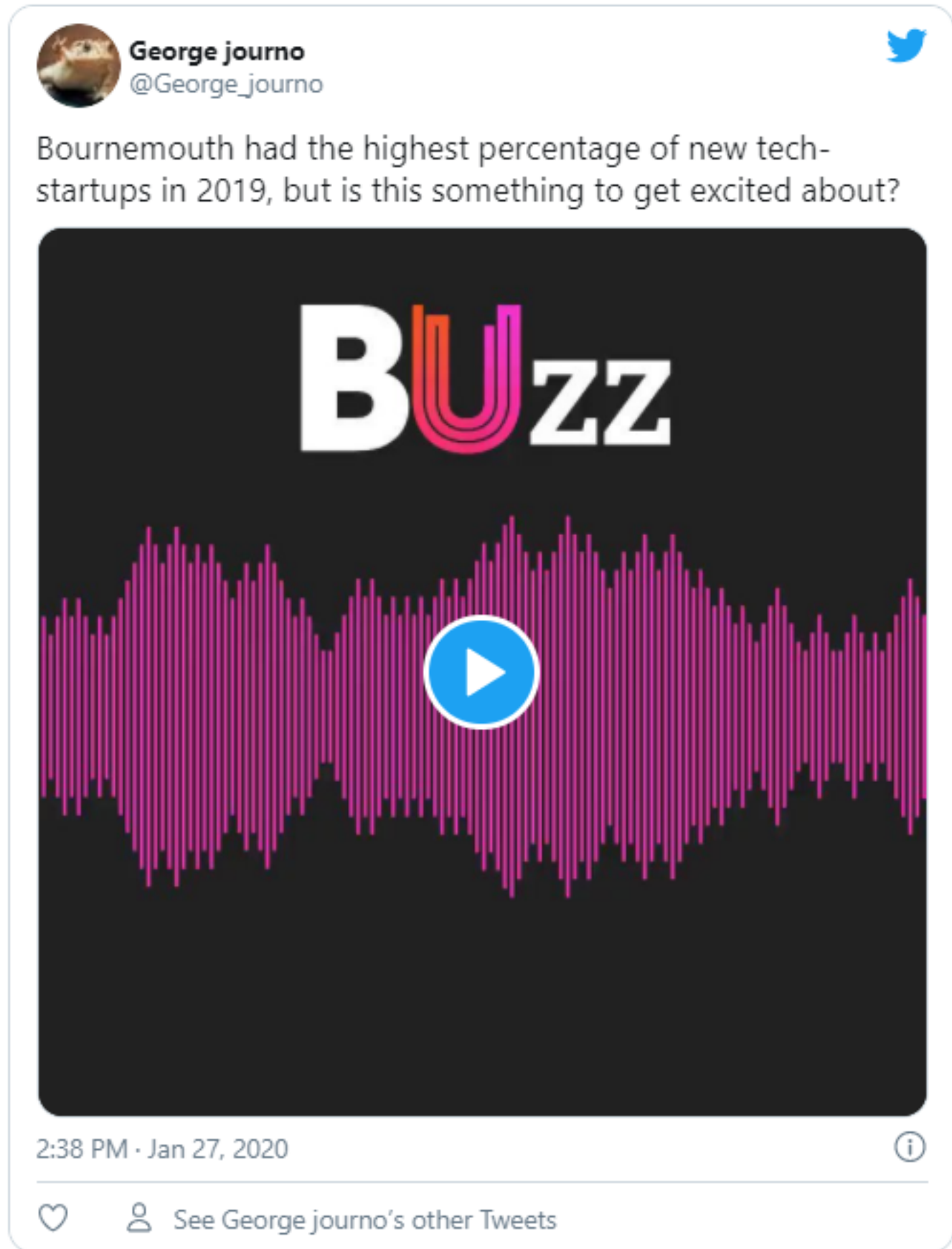
Anthony Story, executive at Silicon South, said: “The rapid growth means that we can create a much stronger impact.

“It’s really promising and thats partly why Silicon South has been created – to support that and help that and to see how we can champion, promote, and make that real.”

He believes that part of the growth is due to Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth.

He added: “I think it’s a requirement to have a good supply of talent coming into the sector. The fact that there is a good computer science department in Bournemouth University is really helpful in terms of supplying new talent to emerging companies.”

However, Anthony reminds us that it is important to be cautious, saying: “I might be in the minority but im slightly cautious about going ‘yeah this is amazing and we are doing brilliantly isn’t this fantastic’ because its worth not setting up false expectations.”



Tom Young, a Bournemouth University graduate who is making plans to launch a tech startup in 2020, is an example of this.

Tom said: “The growth is a good sign but as someone who is planning on starting up, its also quite terrifying.

“Its important to realise that a lot of those startups will go under within the next few years, because thats just the nature of the industry.”

Anthony further explained what it takes for budding entrepreneurs like Tom to succeed, saying: “Its hard.... In order to grow and in order to scale you need to get some money behind you.

“Investors put money into people as much as the company and its ideas, so you need to be the right sort of person to drive success as well.”

Is tech taking over the high streets?

Although Bournemouth is seeing a growth in tech start-ups, its seeing a huge decline in high street businesses after [58 shops have been found closed](#). In 2019 there were a total of 143,128 retail jobs lost and 16,073 stores closed according to the [Centre for Retail Research](#) (CRR).

Shop owner Kieron Clarke, owner of Ashes Menswear, expressed his frustration, saying: “The trouble is when you have lots of empty shops it doesn’t bring very many people to town. What we want is lots and lots of people coming to town that we don’t know so we can increase our business.”

