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Drone docking designer, data hostage specialist, 3D food printer chef, avatar relationship manager. What have all these jobs got in common? They don't yet exist - but one day they might, according to a fascinating list drawn up by futurist Thomas Frey.

The driver for a lot of these jobs of the future is technology, and although some of them may seem fanciful now, anticipating what's over the horizon is critical to maintaining a competitive economy.

That's why a large part of the LEP's economic strategy for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly focuses on the 'Future Economy', identifying those areas where we already have a head-start and where we are confident we can grow businesses and create jobs.

These include space and aerospace, agricultural technology, e-health, marine technology (including renewable energy) and the digital economy. What underpins much of this activity is our superfast digital network, which allows us to do things that many other areas cannot.

Take e-health as an example. Rather than patients having to travel long distances for assessment what if they could be assessed and monitored from the comfort of their own homes? Or renewable energy. By investing in renewables and smart grid technology we will be able to balance supply and demand in a far more localised, low carbon energy network that could bring greater energy security and reduced costs.

Later this year we expect to be invited to bid for the UK's first Spaceport, with Cornwall Airport Newquay the only location in England identified as suitable for hosting such a facility.

These are not pipe dreams but things that are going on right now. That's why we are investing in research, development and innovation, and in our skills base to equip our young people for the jobs of tomorrow.

This is a priority for the LEP this year and something that you will be hearing a lot more about in the coming months.

- *Sandra Rothwell is Chief Executive of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership*
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