

LIST OF FUNDING, FINANCE AND SUPPORT SCHEMES

October 2013



THE SOCIETY OF
MOTOR MANUFACTURERS
AND TRADERS LIMITED

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The SMMT List of Funding, Finance and Support Schemes

This document brings together sources of money and support useful for businesses active in the automotive sector.









This is a 'working' document, by which we mean we are constantly reviewing, adding and amending the information contained within to reflect the changing initiatives available to businesses in the UK. As such, we recommend that you always access this document on-line to ensure you are using the latest version and to always visit the schemes home website before embarking on any application activity.

The report is organised into European and national/regional schemes with each scheme being further categorised as detailed below. The loose definitions we have applied are:

- **Funding:** grants for specific projects where monies received do not need to be repaid.
- **Finance:** access to loans which is subject to repayment.
- **Support:** incentives and tax breaks, these may be direct (of benefit to your business such as enhanced capital allowances) or indirect (promoting activities that may result in benefits for your business such as the plugged in car grant)

Programme Key

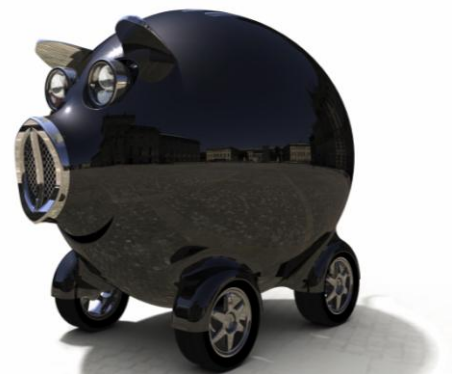
Many sources of funding and finance can be used for a variety of business purposes. Where possible, and sensible, the funding/finance facility has been categorised. A [check list of schemes](#) and their categories can be found at the end of the report.

	Funding
	Financing and Loans
	Incentives & Tax Breaks
	Environmental, Low Carbon
	Internationalisation
	SME Specific
	R&D
	Other

We welcome any contribution as to schemes that should be included in this document. Suggestions should be sent to the Member Services team at memberservices@smmt.co.uk

Version History

VERSION	AUTHOR	DATE
V12	Loreta El-Khatib	18/10/13
V11	Loreta El-Khatib	10/07/13
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V9	Mairi Lucas	01/11/12
V8	Luke Hampton	23/07/12
V7	Luke Hampton	06/03/12
V6	Luke Hampton	12/12/11
V5	Luke Hampton	16/11/11
V4	Samantha Larner	04/04/11
V3	Samantha Larner	22/10/10
V2	Samantha Larner	30/08/10
V1	Samantha Larner	06/08/10



European Framework Programme FP7



Minimum award: N/A, although for Level 2 calls the minimum is €4m funding.
Maximum award: 50% of eligible costs, on a Level 1 call up to a maximum of €3m per project.

Eligibility

Open to all, however applications must be made by consortia consisting at least 3 separate legal entities across 3 different European states or associate states. Projects *must* fall within the defined themes of the 'calls'. Calls are determined by the EU and detail the project research areas and expected impact.

Description

FP7, the Seventh Framework for Research and Technologies Development is the main source of funding for research within the EU. 4 main programmes fall under FP7 (Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities), with the majority of funding available within Cooperation, requiring a consortium approach to projects. FP7 is running from 2007 to 2013 with a total budget of €50.5 billion. Work is currently taking place to set the agenda for the next version of the framework programme, Horizon 2020. The automotive sector can access funding for research and technology through the European Green Car Initiative, a Private Public Partnership (PPP) with a budget of €1 billion (€500m from EC FP7, the rest from industry). The Green Car Initiative covers a wide range of research topics and vehicle types. It is not just for passenger cars.

Additional Information

There were 94 proposals received in response to 2009 calls under FP6. 33% received funding with 54% of funds going to private enterprise, 16% of which went to SMEs. In general, 50% of consortium partners are found from your existing pool of contacts, 25% are contacts of contacts. Partner finding services and information days can also be useful places to find project partners. The key message, if you think Framework Programme funding could be for your organisation, is get out there and network.

Application Information

Applications must be made in response to calls for proposals. It is a competitive process with proposals being judged by a panel of experts across 3 key criteria; scientific and/or technological excellence, implementation and project impact. Proposals must score at least 3 in each category and 10 overall to be considered. Applications must be submitted electronically. Deadlines are firmly adhered to, with 17:00 (local Brussels time) being the cut off. Be warned, the system gets very busy toward the deadline and this may prevent successful submission.

Contact Details

The National Contact point for Surface Transport is Cliff Funnell: cliff.funnell@tsb.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

For call detail and deadlines plus applications for the whole of the network:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls

Green Car Initiative specific FP7 calls: <http://www.green-cars-initiative.eu/public/open-fp7-calls>

Information postings for FP7UK: <https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/fp7uk>

Details of the Surface Transport Sub-Group can be found here:

<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/surface-transport>

Eurostars Programme



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: €1.5m per project

Eligibility

Open to any business that meets the EU [definition](#) of an SME and is based in a Eurostars participating country. Companies must be able to demonstrate that they invest 10% of turnover/staff effort in R&D activity. Proposals are accepted from consortia that must include 2 organisations from 2 different participating states. Any type of organisation, SME, large corporation, university or research centre can be part of the Eurostar Consortium however there are two important points:

- The lead partner must be an SME
- Large companies and academics can form part of the consortia but funding for their activities must be secured from other sources. Eurostar funds are directed to SME activity.

One final consideration, any one country is only allowed to meet 75% of project costs.

Full Eligibility details are listed here: <http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/who.do>

Description

The scheme promotes R&D among the SME European community. The fund is open to all sectors (other than military) with the only R&D constraint being that the project should be targeted at creating a new product, process or service. Projects must operate on a consortia basis and have a maximum duration of 3 years. Funding is available for the exploitation of close-to-market technologies. In the UK the Eurostars programme is administered by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB).

Eurostar will fund projects up to 50% of eligible costs. Eurostars doesn't operate a call system as such, there are close dates for applications when the various proposals are reviewed and the winner(s) awarded funding.

Application Information

To receive an application form you must register on the website (see links). The application form should be filled in and submitted online. While Eurostars doesn't operate a themed call process there are deadlines for application, call details can be found on the TSB website.

Contact Details

Graham M Mobbs:
European Operations Manager
Technology Strategy Board
A1, North Star House
North Star Avenue
Swindon, SN2 1UE
graham.mobbs@tsb.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website: www.Eurostars-eureka.eu

ERA-NET Transport Programme



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: call specific

Eligibility

Open to organisations willing to form a consortium to deliver projects to which their country has contributed funds.

Description

ERA-NET Transport (ENT) is a network of national ministries and supporting organisations in the field of transport research. By facilitating cooperation among publicly financed transport research programmes it is ENT's goal to improve the outcome and quality of transport research in Europe. The main mechanism is seen in the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA) for Transport.

The ENT actively seeks to encourage less-experienced partners to participate in trans-national cooperative projects and run their own calls for specific projects alongside the European Framework Programme.

Application Information

Applications should be made in response to specific calls that can be found at:
<http://www.transport-era.net/research-calls.html>

Submissions must come from consortia. Details of application requirements and application process are listed for every call. The ENT recommends that you should contact the National Contact Point as a first step. The Department for Transport is the UK ENT Partner.

Contact Details

The contact for the programme in the UK is Matthew White at the Department for Transport.
Email: matthew.white@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

<http://www.transport-era.net/about-ent.html>
www.gov.uk/dft

An overview of transport policy and research priorities in the ENT
http://www.transport-era.net/fileadmin/fe_documents/81/ENTII_WP1_Del%201.2A_final.pdf

Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU)



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Varies by competition call

Eligibility

The FCH JU operates in a similar way to the Framework Programme FP7. It is open to all, however applications must come from consortia consisting of at least three 'legal entities' established in different EU Member States or Associated countries.

Description

Formally known as the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative, the FCH JU sits under the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET). The scope of the FCH JU is wide, from transport applications to stationary/portable power generation and hydrogen production and distribution. This initiative is targeted at speeding up the development of hydrogen-supply and fuel-cell technology with a focus on large scale commercialisation. The scheme covers both long-term & breakthrough technology projects as well as large-scale demonstration projects.

The FCH JU posts annual calls with a set budget on topics determined by the SET for research projects.

Application Information

Applications should be made in response to specific calls and should come from a consortium. Full details on how to apply can be viewed here:

<http://www.fch-ju.eu/content/how-participate-fch-ju-projects>

Contact Details

Call details and timings are found at the Research & Innovation Participant portal:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.fch-ju.eu/>

Information about the SET plan can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set_plan/set_plan_en.htm

To keep a watch for current calls and details of how to apply go to:

<http://cordis.europa.eu>

An overview of FCH and implementation plan to 2013:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fch/pdf/fch_ju_multi_annual_implementation_plan.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP)



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Varies by call, EU may fund up to 95% of project costs

Eligibility

Open to all businesses meeting the EU [definition](#) of an SME.

Description

Three programmes operate under the CIP banner:-

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) providing access to finance via venture capital investment and loan guarantees.
- The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) with an aim to develop a single, inclusive European information society and to encourage innovation through wider adoption and investment in ICT.
- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE) with a focus on energy efficiency, new energy sources and energy diversification.

CIP is a vehicle for both access to finance and funds, with annual calls for proposals for energy efficiency and ICT projects.

Additional Information

The EIP is likely to be most relevant to SMEs in the automotive industry. EIP focuses on; providing access to funding through CIP financial instruments that target SMEs in different lifecycle phases; providing business services through “Enterprise Europe Network”; support for transnational networking in the innovation process; eco-innovation pilots and market replication projects.

CIP does not support research, it aims to support innovation related activities. For SMEs CIP provides free of charge assistance for intellectual property rights issues for EU-funded projects at <http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/>

Application Information

CIP covers a range of activities and programmes, as such access to funds and finance can differ across the schemes.

Email entr-cip@ec.europa.eu for programme information and details on how to engage with the CIP programme. Call details and deadlines are found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm

Contact Details

The EIP is managed centrally through the email: entr-cip@ec.europa.eu.

The ICT UK National Contact Point for CIP is Peter Walters

pwalters@tuvnel.com

The Intelligent Energy Europe Contact Point is Ms Helen Fairclough

energie@enviros.com

Useful links

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/cip/> Europe Network is a useful source of information.

http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European Investment Fund (EIF) European Investment Bank (EIB)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: varies by investment vehicle and project.

Eligibility

All SMEs but you will be competing for funds and preference is likely to be given to those organisations perceived to have higher growth potential.

Description

EIF is Europe's leading developer of risk financing for entrepreneurship and innovation. The EIF offers a range of financing solutions for SMEs through a range of intermediaries. Solutions include venture capital, loans, microfinance and guarantees. The EIF had two main statutory goals:

- promote the implementation of European Community policies, notably in the field of entrepreneurship, technology, innovation, growth, employment and regional development;
- generate an appropriate return for our shareholders, through a commercial pricing policy and a balance of fee and risk based income

The EIF doesn't lend directly to companies, rather it works via intermediaries

Application Information

Who you talk to depends on which initiative/fund you are interested in accessing, it's not exactly straightforward. This link lists some of the intermediaries by country <http://www.accesstofinance.eu> however we recommend you visit the EIF website for the latest intermediary information, you'll also find contacts at EIF who will be best placed to point you in the right direction.

Contact Details

EIF
96, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2968 Luxembourg
Tel.: +352 42 66 88 1
Fax: +352 42 66 88 280

Useful Links

Website: www.eif.org

The EIF brochure on micro financing:
http://www.eif.org/EIF_for/microfinance/emp10010_microfinance_en_v03.pdf

European Clean Transport Facility (ECFT) European Investment Bank (EIB)



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: 75% of eligible RDI (Research, Development, Innovation) for emissions reduction and up to 50% of other project costs up to a maximum of €200m.

Eligibility

Companies of any size and ownership of both investment and sub-investment grade credit ratings (or equivalent) that are committed to an eligible investment programme in the European transport industry in the period 2009-2012. ECFT specifically covers all areas of the value chain in the transport industry including Tier 1 and Tier 2 supplier firms.

Description

An opportunity to access loans via the EIB which are targeted to either R&D activities aimed at new technologies to reduce emissions AND/OR upgrading production facilities, new tooling etc. that will help achieve emissions/performance targets but will not lead to a net increase in capacity at the plant. The loan term is up to 10 years. The current allowance for the ECFT is €60m running from 2009 to 2012.

Application Information

Applications should be made after consultation with the EIB. Please contact the EIB for all information and guidance on how to apply.

Contact Details

European Investment Bank
100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg
Phone: (+352) 4379 87307
Fax: (+352) 4379 67292
email: RDI@eib.org

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.eib.org>

ECFT has been phased out, but similar type of projects could be supported via it's normal lending activities. Please contact Communication Department for further details: info@eib.org

Individual Loan from EIB European Investment Bank (EIB)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: 50% of project costs

Eligibility

Projects in most sectors are eligible for finance as long as they contribute to EU economic policy objectives. Public and private sector can apply for loans.

Description

Individual (direct) loans are provided for projects where the total cost exceeds €25m. Adequate security is required for the loan. You may be required to pay fees for legal services and project appraisal although the EIB does not normally charge commitment or non-utilisation fees.

If project total costs are below €25m then intermediated loans are available via participating UK banks.

Application Information

For projects in excess of €25m, loans may be requested directly from the EIB. There is not a set application form but the EIB expects to receive a comprehensive feasibility study. The content and layout of the submitted documents are the responsibility of the project promoter who may not be the loan borrower. Where the project promoter and the loan borrower are not the same then general information such as legal status, principle partners, shareholders and organisational structures are required for both. For loans below €25m you should contact participating UK financial institutions.

Full details can be found here: http://www.eib.org/attachments/application_documents_en.pdf

Contact Details

EIB Head Office 100, bvd Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg RDI@eib.org	Barclays EIB Enquiries Level 24, 1 Churchill Place Canary Wharf London E14 5HP 0800 0154242 mb&a.nct@barclays.com	A&L EIB Enquiries Mr Tony Taylor International Sales Executive 298 Deansgate Manchester M3 4HH 01619533287 tony.taylor@alliance-leicester.co.uk
EIB UK Office 2 Royal Exchange Buildings London EC3V 3LF 020 73759660	Abbey EIB Enquiries Mr Carlos Portela Director Business Management & Strategic Marketing 2 Triton Square Regents Place London NW1 3AN 02077564998 Carlos.Portela@abbey.com	RBS EIB Enquiries Manager, Lending Products Business & Commercial Banking 02076722796 7 th Floor 280 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4RB 0207 6722796 nick.williams@rbs.co.uk
Lloyds EIB Enquiries Commercial Telephone Banking Centre 6 th Floor 155 Bishopsgate London EC2M 3YB 0800 022 4390		

Useful Links

Email: info@eib.org

For guidance on application contents see

http://www.eib.org/projects/cycle/applying_loan/index.htm

Risk Sharing Finance Scheme (RSFF) European Investment Bank (EIB) & European Commission



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: 50% of project costs. Projects can exceed €15m.

Eligibility

Open to small, medium, large enterprise, research centres and academia.

Description

The EIB and EC have both contributed to create this finance facility with up to €2bn available until 2013. It's a debt financing facility for research, technology development, demonstration projects and innovation investment. The facility has been put in place to finance projects with a higher risk factor than the usual EIB loan profile. Financing is limited to 50% of the project costs. Finance may be made available directly to the organisation as corporate debt financing, project financing or mezzanine financing or through an intermediary as lines of credit or guarantees.

Application Information

For projects over €15m then application should be made directly to the EIB at either their Head Office in Luxembourg or at their London Office.

For smaller projects the EIB is working with a number of intermediaries, details of which are listed below.

As with all loans, a clear business case will be required and the EIB will investigate to satisfy there is an ability to repay the loan

Contact Details

EIB Head Office 100, bvd Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg RDI@eib.org	Barclays EIB Enquiries Level 24, 1 Churchill Place Canary Wharf London E14 5HP 0800 0154242 mb&a.nct@barclays.com	A&L EIB Enquiries Mr Tony Taylor International Sales Executive 298 Deansgate Manchester M3 4HH 01619533287 tony.taylor@alliance-leicester.co.uk
EIB UK Office 2 Royal Exchange Buildings London EC3V 3LF 020 73759660	Abbey EIB Enquiries Mr Carlos Portela Director Business Management & Strategic Marketing 2 Triton Square Regents Place London NW1 3AN 02077564998 Carlos.Portela@abbey.com	RBS EIB Enquiries Manager, Lending Products Business & Commercial Banking 02076722796 7 th Floor 280 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4RB 0207 6722796 nick.williams@rbs.co.uk
Lloyds EIB Enquiries Commercial Telephone Banking Centre 6 th Floor 155 Bishopsgate London EC2M 3YB 0800 022 4390		

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.eib.org/products/rsff/index.htm>

Email: info@eib.org

Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE) European Investment Bank (EIB) & European Commission



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Available to SMEs only.

Description

Contributions from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are allocated to loan, guarantee or venture capital funds to invest in enterprises. These investments can take the form of equity, loans and/or guarantees. Returns from investments are reinvested in enterprises. In this way, a pool of funds can be re-used several times, recycling public funds, leveraging capital and increasing the sustainability and the impact of public resources allocated to SMEs.

Alternatively, managing authorities can decide to channel resources from the programme using Holding Funds (HFs) which are set up to invest in several investment funds. This is not compulsory, but does offer the advantage of enabling managing authorities to delegate some of the tasks required to implement JEREMIE to expert professionals.

Application Information

Applications need to be made through Financial Intermediaries that are funded by this initiative.

Contact Information

European Investment Fund (JEREMIE Team)
96, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2968 Luxembourg

Tel.: +352 2485 1
Fax: +352 2485 81301

E-mail: jeremie@eif.org

Useful Links

Website: http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/jeremie/index.htm

More info on: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/instruments/jeremie_en.cfm

PATENTSCOPE **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all, PATENTSCOPE is a free to access and free to use.

Description

PATENTSCOPE is an international database of 18,676,085 patent documents, including 2,184,599 published international patent applications (PCT). The database has a free text search function that works across all data entries and can be refined to individual countries.

Additional Information

PATENTSCOPE also allows for searches by patent number and can translate search terms into other languages.

Application Information

There is no application involved. Simply visit the website to use the tool.

Contact Details

There are no direct contact details to share. For support, there is a forum that tackles issues encountered when using PATENTSCOPE, available here:
<http://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/help/forum.jsf>

Useful Links

Website: <http://patentscope.wipo.int/>

User guide: http://www.wipo.int/freepublications/en/patents/434/wipo_pub_l434_08.pdf

There are a number of contact details available when contacting WIPO, depending on the nature of your query. To view the full list, follow the link below.
<http://www.wipo.int/contact/en/>

IPC Green Inventory World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all, the IPC Green Inventory is a free to access and free to use.

Description

The “IPC Green Inventory” was developed by the IPC Committee of Experts in order to facilitate searches for patent information relating to so-called Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs), as listed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). ESTs are currently scattered widely across the IPC in numerous technical fields. The Inventory attempts to collect all ESTs in one place, although it should be noted that the Inventory does not purport to be fully exhaustive in its coverage.

The IPC Green Inventory groups patents into a number of topics pertinent to the automotive industry. These include biofuels, fuel cells and greener vehicle technologies.

Additional Information

Each topic can be expanded to show both details of the international language independent code used to classify patents as well as links to PATENTSCOPE to show relevant patent entries. The links in the PATENTSCOPE column allow the user to automatically search and display all international patent applications available through PATENTSCOPE which are classified in the relevant IPC place.

Application Information

There is no application involved. Simply visit the website to use the tool.

Contact Details

For further information on International Patent Classification, please email:
ipc.mail@wipo.int

There are a number of contact details available when contacting WIPO, depending on the nature of your query. To view the full list, follow the link below.
<http://www.wipo.int/contact/en/>

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/est/>

There are a number of contact details available when contacting WIPO, depending on the nature of your query. To view the full list, follow the link below.
<http://www.wipo.int/contact/en/>

Access to EU finance



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all and free to access.

Description

This site helps to apply for finance supported by the European Union. To access EU finance use the interactive map to locate banks or venture capital funds that provide finance supported by the EU.

Contact Details

There are no direct contact details to share. Please visit the site to search for the available funds:
http://access2eufinance.ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/finance-support/access-to-finance/index_en.htm

Useful Links

Website:
http://access2eufinance.ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/finance-support/index_en.htm

Disruptive technologies in low carbon vehicles Technology Strategy Board



Minimum reward: N/A
Maximum reward: £750,000

Eligibility

Projects must be collaborative and business-led. This competition is primarily aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises but does not exclude larger organisations bringing forward game changing ideas. Companies working outside the automotive sector that can bring technical expertise and knowledge to a consortium are particularly welcome.

Description

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £10m to support the further development of innovative technologies with the potential to transform the automotive industry. We are seeking highly innovative, vehicle-centric, business-led, proof-of-concept projects to become part of our Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform Integrated Delivery Programme. We are targeting disruptive technology and research that challenge current conventions from a position of intellectual strength and will look to support projects that explore new boundaries or adapt existing novel technologies for deployment into new fields.

Application Information

This two-stage competition opens on 14 January 2013. The deadline for registration is at noon on 13 February 2013 and the deadline for expressions of interest is at noon on 20 February 2013. The second stage for invited applications opens on 18 March 2013 and the deadline for invited applications is at noon on 8 May 2013. A briefing event will be held on 22 January 2013, and a networking event to facilitate consortia-building for this competition will be held on 27 November 2012.

Contact Information

Email: competitions@innovateuk.org
Phone number: 0300 321 4357

**Deadline for expressing the
interest was closed on 20
February 2013**

Collaborative Research & Development Projects Technology Strategy Board



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: 75% of research costs

Eligibility

Open to UK companies and research organisations, however applications must come from consortia comprising at least two collaborators one of which must come from industry.

Description

Throughout the year the TSB put out competition calls for collaborative research projects across a range of industries. Applications must address the project detail and expected impacts listed by the TSB. This is a consortium based scheme, you must build a project plan with at least one other UK organisation and one partner must be from industry.

Full details are available here:

<http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/collaborativeresearchanddevelopment.ashx>

Application Information

Applications must be made in response to specific competition calls made by the TSB. Details of all current calls can be found at <http://www.innovateuk.org/competitions.ashx>

Further information on each call should be sourced directly from the TSB where you will also find advice for making applications.

Contact Details

Different competitions have various contacts. Follow the link below to find the ideal contact for each specific competition call.

<http://www.innovateuk.org/competitions/competitionsearch.ashx>

Website: <http://www.innovateuk.org>

Email: support@tsb.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 321 4357

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/collaborativeresearchanddevelopment.ashx>

SMART: Grant for Research and Development Scheme Technology Strategy Board



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Depends on the type of project (see below) from £25k to £250k for 'matched funded' projects. Companies must source additional finance to match the money invested by the TSB.

Eligibility

This programme is open to SMEs in any sector. To be eligible you must meet the definition of an SME as prescribed by the EU. You can find full SME definition details at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/index_en.htm

Description

This is a great opportunity for pre start-ups, start-ups and SMEs to access funding for projects as individual companies can apply for the grants. However, this is still a matched fund, so alternative sources of funding for part of the project are still required. This grant replaces the old regional development agency Grant for R&D Scheme.

Three types of projects are supported:

Proof of Market (up to £25,000 grant)

A grant targeted to assist companies in assess commercial viability through market research, market testing, intellectual property position and commercialisation planning such as assessing costs and timescales. Projects should last no longer than 9 months and funding can provide up to 60% of total project costs.

Proof of Concept (up to £100,000 grant)

This grant focuses on technical feasibility studies and assessing the commercial potential of new technologies, products or processes. Grants of up to £100k can be used for initial feasibility studies, basic prototyping, specialist testing, and intellectual property protection. Projects can last up to 18 months and funding can provide up to 60% of total project costs.

Development of Prototype (up to £250,000 grant)

Up to £250k is available for a project of up to two years to develop a technologically innovative product, service or process. Funding will cover a range of activities including small demonstrators, IP protection, market testing, marketing strategies, trials and testing, product design work and identifying routes to market.

The new batch assessment dates for Smart scheme applications during the financial year 2013/14, which starts on 21st March, are:

2013 close dates: 23 May, 18 July, 26 September, 21 November

2014 close dates: 30 January, 27 March

The batch assessment date for Round 3 of the current financial year 2013/14 is 26 September 2013 12:00 noon

Application Information

Please visit the TSB website for latest information. The TSB may run themed competitions to direct the R&D grant to priority investment areas.

www.innovateuk.org

Email: support@innovateuk.org Telephone: 0300 321 4357

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/smart.ashx>

Towards Zero Prototyping Technology Strategy Board



Minimum award £100,000
Maximum award £1m

Eligibility

Projects must be collaborative and business-led. Project partners can include research organisations and businesses of any size. Projects should last between one and two years with project sizes between £100k and £1m.

Description

The Technology Strategy Board and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) are to invest up to £5.5m in collaborative R&D that develops and extends the use of novel modelling and simulation techniques, enabling product and process designers and manufacturers to reduce the need for physical prototypes.

The aim is to help UK manufacturers to improve their design processes, speeding up the design cycle, reducing costs and creating better designs, thereby improving the UK's competitiveness.

Application Information

Levels of funding depend upon the category of research, and the type of partner in the consortia involved. For example, a business would attract 50% public funding of project costs for industrial research (60% for SMEs).

This is a two-stage competition that opens for applicants on **21 October 2013**.

The deadline for registration is noon on 27 November 2013, and the deadline for expressions of interest is noon on 4 December 2013. The deadline for invited applications is noon on 12 February 2014. A briefing event for potential applicants will be held on 30 October 2013.

Contact Details

Competition Helpline: 0300 321 4357
Email: competitions@innovateuk.org

Useful Links

Website: https://www.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/towards-zero-prototyping;jsessionid=FCC04CFEA8E2C1CB4625CC8217E03B9F.1

Niche Vehicle CR&D Programme



Minimum award: Call specific
Maximum award: Call specific

Eligibility

Open to independent niche vehicle manufacturers, system suppliers, specialist automotive technology companies and Universities aiming to exploit innovative niche vehicle technologies and develop more successful routes to market. Free to join.

Description

Backed by the Technology Strategy Board and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, the Niche Vehicle Network promotes and stimulates R&D collaboration by bringing together independent vehicle manufacturers, system suppliers, automotive technology companies and HEIs, to collaborate on the innovative application of technologies in low-volume vehicle production. Since its inception, the Network has been a catalyst for over 100 different business collaborations and has assisted the development of over 10 prototype vehicles and 3 process improvement projects.

Membership of the Niche Vehicle Network is free and provides members with access to a wide range of resources, including previous R&D project reports, a niche vehicle design guide and admission to an online database of suppliers who specialise within the niche vehicle sector.

The Network also provides grant funding for niche vehicle manufacturers, suppliers and technology organisations who wish to collaborate on innovative, industry-led projects focussing on developing and demonstrating vehicle or system level road-vehicle technology in the following categories:

- Improved Fuel Efficiency & Carbon Reduction
- Weight Reduction & Recyclability

Application Process

For a membership application form and further details of the CR&D competition, log on to www.nichevehiclenetwork.co.uk

Contact Details

Robert Anderson
Programme Manager
Niche Vehicle R&D Programme
Cenex
Innovation Centre
Holywell Park
Ashby Road
Loughborough
LE11 3TU

Tel: 01509 635 754
Email: robert.anderson@cenex.co.uk

Useful Links

Website:
www.nichevehiclenetwork.co.uk

Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Technology Strategy Board (TSB)



Min award: N/A

Max award: Phase 1 up to £100k and Phase 2 up to £1m.

It is worth noting that under SBRI you can receive the full cost for demonstrating the feasibility of your technology. This is unusual for projects receiving funding where 'matched' funding is a more normal approach.

Eligibility

SBRI calls are open to all to apply although it is expected that SBRI will be of most benefit to SMEs. Universities and pre-start-up companies can apply. Funds will only be award to legal entities that can prove a route to market for the technology.

Description

SBRI is an innovative approach for government departments to access solutions for specific issues. Project calls detail problems which it is hoped to be solved via a SBRI project. Any government department can list a project, so this is not a transport specific initiative.

There are some benefits to finding a relevant SBRI project to apply for:

- You'll receive funding to cover the full costs of demonstrating the feasibility of your technology.
- IP is retained by the company.
- Working with a government department means you have a customer ready and waiting for your development.
- Projects do not have to be run as collaborative initiatives, an individual company can apply.

At Budget 2013, Government announced it will expand the SBRI budget from £40m to over £100m in 2013-14, rising to over £200m in 2014-2015.

Application Information

Applications will vary by department and call and may be handled directly by the government department or via the TSB. It is best to follow the link below entitled 'competition list' to view all open calls and follow the directions for applications against each call.

Full application details are available here:

<http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/smallbusinessresearchinitiative/howsbriworks.ashx>

Contact Details

Contact the TSB with all enquiries relating to the SBRI

Email: enquiries@tsb.gov.uk

Telephone: 01793 442700

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/smallbusinessresearchinitiative.ashx>

Competition list:

<http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/smallbusinessresearchinitiative/competitions.ashx>

Innovation Networks (West Midlands)



Minimum award £10,000
Maximum award £10,000

Eligibility

This funding is available to small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs) based in the West Midlands who are working in an “Innovation Network” with at least 2 other regional SMEs on the development of a new product, process or service.

Description

Innovation Network scheme offers £10,000 grants that are quick and easy to apply for the help to cover the costs associated with the development of the new product, process or service.

Additional Information

Innovation Networks offers two types of grants:

1) Revenue grants

Grants of £10,000 are available to assist with product development costs such as parts and materials, consultancy fees and prototyping.

2) Capital grants

Grants of £10,000 are available for expenditure on equipment, machinery or tooling. The grants are awarded as a contribution towards projects with a minimum planned expenditure of £22,500.

A company will only be eligible for one grant.

Application Information

To apply for funding companies should have their ‘Innovation Network’ of a minimum of three West Midland SME companies in place. These may be the suppliers that you are working with but could also be other partners such as consultants, marketing companies and potential end users.

Application process is explained here:

http://www.innovation-networks.co.uk/index.asp?slevel=0z0z129&parent_id=129

Contact Details

The Innovation Networks Project Team
Coventry University Enterprises Ltd
The TechnoCentre
Puma Way
Coventry
CV1 2TT

Please contact Judy Lambourne, Project Manager or Sarah Bowers, Project Officer on 024 7623 6391 or innovation@cad.coventry.ac.uk for more information.

Useful Links

Website:

http://www.innovation-networks.co.uk/home.asp?slevel=0z0&parent_id=1

Guidance notes:

<http://www.innovation-networks.co.uk/upload/file/0213/Guidancenotesforapplicants0213.pdf>

Knowledge Transfer Networks Technology Strategy Board (TSB)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all organisations and individuals. It is free to join.

Description

Knowledge Transfer Networks (KTNs) are a Technology Strategy Board (TSB) initiative that aims to improve the speed of knowledge exchange across and between sectors. KTNs are a mix of industry focused communities, such as the Surface Transport KTN or a technology focus such as the Materials KTN. Currently there are approximately 50,000 members of 16 KTNs.

KTNs offer an opportunity to access information, to network and to contribute towards the collective knowledge of the network. Each KTN has an industry led steering committee and a programme of activities including events, conferences and newsletters. Belonging to a KTN can help you engage with individuals from other businesses and research communities.

For the full description visit the website:

<http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/knowledgetransfernetworks.ashx>

KTNs are now hosted on _connect, a free to join networking platform:

<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/guest/home>

An overview of the Transport KTN is available here:

<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/transportktn/overview>

Application Information

You simply need to register on line to join. You'll find the full list of KTNs to sign up to at

<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/guest/networks>

You can be a member of as many KTNs as you feel would be beneficial.

Contact Details

The Director of the Surface Transport KTN is Neil Ridley who can be contacted at

neil.ridley@transportktn.org

Useful Links

Website:

<https://ktn.innovateuk.org>

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Technology Strategy Board (TSB)



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: An SME may receive up to 2/3rds of the project costs although grant levels are variable.

Eligibility

Open to any business (public & private of any size) that has a requirement for a knowledge partner. The scheme can apply to short-term injections of knowledge expertise or a longer term placement with partnerships running from 10 weeks to 3 years.

Description

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are a part-funded government scheme supported by BIS, TSB and the EU. A Partnership is formed between your business and an academic institution enabling access to the skills and expertise within the institution to help your business grow. Participation in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships provides you with access to experts to help develop innovative solutions for your business. While business performance varies across the range of projects according to information collated from previous projects the business benefits you can expect include:

- An increase of over £220,000 in annual pre-tax profits
- The creation of three new jobs
- An increase in skills of existing staff

Each Partnership is only partially funded. An SME can expect to face costs of approximately £20,000 per annum.

Full background is available here:

<http://www.ktponline.org.uk/strategy>

Application information

Not all projects are suitable for a KTP. There is a clear step-by-step process online that takes you through assessing project suitability, finding your potential Knowledge Partner and completing the on-line application form, all found at: <http://www.ktponline.org.uk/ktp-starting-a-knowledge-transfer-partnership>

Advice is available from the KTP helpline where advisors can help you with all aspects of the scheme.

Contact Details

KTP Helpline on 0870 190 2829.

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.ktponline.org.uk/>

Read case studies from previous projects at:

<http://casestudies.ktponline.org.uk/casestudies>

Manufacturing Competencies Technology Strategy Board (TSB)



Minimum award: NA
Maximum award: £25,000

Eligibility

The competition is open to small and micro companies only (no more than 50 employees), working either alone or in collaboration with one partner. Projects can last up to four months and are eligible for grants of up to £25,000. Total project costs must not exceed £33,000. The single company or partners must spend most of the money in house.

Description

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £2m in feasibility studies to stimulate innovation by small and micro business in a broad range of manufacturing competences. By 'competences' TSB mean the methods, equipments and expertise that can be developed as a leading capability in one market sector or application and have real potential to be applied successfully across other sectors or applications as well.

TSB are seeking projects across the whole manufacturing lifecycle, from design and engineering through to process development, manufacture, service delivery and re-manufacture/re-use, including innovation in supply/distribution chains, risk management and business models. This competition encourages small companies to innovate in a number of 'competence areas' which we believe have the potential to bring strong growth to UK manufacturing businesses.

Application information

This is a single-stage competition. It opens on 24 September 2012 and the deadline for receipt of applications is at noon on 7 November 2012. Successful applicant should plan to start the project by 4 March 2013. An event for successful applicants will be held shortly after project completion (July 2013) for dissemination of results, to encourage collaboration and to help bring projects to market.

Contact Details

competitions@innovateuk.org

0300 321 4357

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/innovation-in-manufacturing-competences.ashx>

Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI)



Minimum award: £2million
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Eligible innovative projects which are seeking to create world-class excellence in supply chain. Full list of eligibility criteria could be found on page 3 of the following document

http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/innovate_uk/amsci_competition_brief_february_2013.pdf

Description

Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative made £125 million available through the first two rounds of the scheme to improve global competitiveness of UK advanced manufacturing supply chains. There was a high demand from participating companies - over 70 bids which created or safeguarded over 18,700 jobs. The success of first two rounds of the AMSCI encouraged the creation of further two rounds of the initiative. A further £120 million were announced in the 2012 Autumn Statement. This will support research and development, skills and capital investment to ensure high standards of UK supply chain and locate new suppliers in the UK.

Funding will be available for the following areas:

- the purchase of capital equipment
- R&D activity which improves manufacturing equipment, product development, systems or processes
- specific training and skills development to support the project.

Application Information

Open date: 30 May 2013
Registration close date: 09 October 2013
Close date: 16 October 2013

All interested applicants should register on www.innovateuk.org. Details of the application and award process is explained on page 6 of the following document

http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/innovate_uk/amsci_competition_brief_february_2013.pdf

Contact Details

Email: competitions@innovateuk.org
Finance Birmingham contact: andypovey@financebirmingham.com
AMSCI helpdesk: email: amsci@financebirmingham.com tel: 0121 233 4917

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/advanced-manufacturing-supply-chain-initiative1.ashx>

AMSCI brief:
http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/innovate_uk/amsci_competition_brief_february_2013.pdf

FAQ:
<https://registration.livgroup.co.uk/amscinationalbriefingevent/FAQ/>

West Midlands and Liverpool City Region Programme



Minimum award: £100,000

Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all SMEs and sole traders of all sectors in the four LEP areas of Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham and Solihull and Liverpool City Region.

Description

The West Midlands and Liverpool City Region Programme is part of a wider Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative. The Programme builds upon a previously successful RGF bid put forward by a consortium of four Local Enterprise Partnerships and Birmingham City Council for funding from the Government's Regional Growth Fund. The objective of this Initiative is to provide a flexible package of funding to help both new and existing supply chains develop, grow and achieve world class standards, whilst encouraging major new suppliers to set-up and manufacture across England. At the centre of the Programme is a £19m fund to support projects which deliver economic growth and generate and/or safeguard jobs. The fund will adopt a flexible approach to funding (loans and grants) focusing on the provision of funding towards the purchase of capital equipment and funding working capital requirements as well as funding the complementary requirement of R&D and skills development.

Application Process

To enter into this Programme you will need to initially complete an Expression of Interest Form for each project and then, if successful, at that stage complete an Application Form, these forms can be obtained from www.financebirmingham.com/amsci

The West Midlands and Liverpool City Region Programme will operate on a rolling Application basis, subject to the availability of funding. The assessment process will be aligned to the monthly meetings of the Investment Board.

Guidance for applicants:

<http://www.financebirmingham.com/amsci/dl/AMSCI-Stream3-Guidance-Applicants.pdf>

Contact Details

If you require further assistance or information on the documents to download or in navigating through the website, please contact the AMSCI Programme Management Team Support Group on 0121 233 4903.

Useful Links

Website:

AMSCI Helpdesk:

<http://www.financebirmingham.com/amsci/wmlcr/>

Resource Efficiency Technology Strategy Board (TSB)



Minimum reward: NA
Maximum reward: £25,000

Eligibility

The competition is open to all UK companies. Projects must be business-led and may be collaborative or led by a single company. All must involve a distinctive design contribution. In a collaborative project, we would expect to see the new design expertise brought in by one or more partners. The main deliverable for each feasibility project will be a report summarising the approach, quantifying the benefits of the new design and outlining the next steps.

Description

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £1.25m in feasibility studies into the re-design of products, components and systems to retain material within the economy over several cycles of use – ‘closing the loop’. The new designs should lead to products with a lower environmental impact and/or that are less dependent on the use of strategic materials.

TSB have identified ‘closing the loop’ and the move towards the ‘circular economy’ as a significant opportunity for UK business to contribute towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy, to reduce their costs and supply risks, and to generate value.

Application information

The first round for receiving applications has been closed on 12 December 2012. The second opens on 11 February 2013. The deadline for registration is noon 20 March 2013 and the deadline for applications is noon 27 March 2013. Grants will not exceed £25k and for large enterprises, will be no more than 65% of their project costs, and, for small and medium-sized enterprises, no more than 75% of their project costs.

Contact Details

competitions@innovateuk.org

Useful Links

<http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/resource-efficiency-new-designs-for-a-circular-eco.ashx>

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Research Funding



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

The EPSRC has an academic focus with many of their funds targeted at post graduate students and academia. However, it is also useful for industry as while you may not be able to access funds, you can work with research projects, the outcome of which may significantly support your business development. Research projects need to fall under the 'portfolio' of interest for the EPSRC. Projects are peer reviewed and to gain funding, need to show importance on both a national and international level.

Description

The EPSRC is the main UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences. Over £850m is invested a year in projects across a number of sectors. EPSRC's mission is to "Promote and support, by any means, high quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training in engineering and the physical sciences."

The website lists research projects currently being funded with links to the main contact for each project. See Useful Links for route to list.

Application Information

There are a number of schemes listed on the site. Latest information can be found at: <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/routes/Pages/az.aspx>

Contact Details

Your EPSRC business contact is:
Transport Systems and Vehicles: **Richard Bailey**, 01793 444423
EPSRC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1ET
Switchboard: 01793 444000

EPSRC Helpline: 01793 444100
Email: infoline@epsrc.ac.uk

Useful Links

Website: www.epsrc.ac.uk

List of currently funded research projects in Transport systems and Vehicles
<http://gow.epsrc.ac.uk/ChooseTTS.aspx?Mode=SECTOR&ItemId=17>

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

LEPs are open to engagement and discussion from all businesses within their area. Further involvement is dependent on each LEP. Specific criteria may exist for individual schemes or programs.

Description

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are joint ventures between local businesses and local governments (upper tier local authorities such as County Councils). Their focus is on the economic growth and development of their area. They look at all aspects of development, from infrastructure, to employment, to enterprise. LEPs define their own local agenda in terms of strategy for business, enterprise and support. Priorities will differ between LEPs so local ownership and governance should result in more businesses being able to define the direction of economic growth in their area. This is part of the UK Government's plan for de-centralised local government, which hopes to result in national economic growth.

Local Enterprise Partnerships have taken over the role of Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). RDAs broke up England into 9 large regions, now replaced by 38 LEPs, which individually cover smaller areas but with some overlap between. The RDAs had access to substantial funds from both the EU and UK governments (One North East had a budget of £580million for the period 2008-2012 for their 'helping business' programme). As the creation of LEPs was a result of Government cutbacks in public spending, the level of funding available to LEPs is substantially smaller. So far the government has only made £9million of combined funding available to LEPs in the form of the LEP Start Up Fund and the LEP Capacity fund, both of which were competitive calls. LEPs will however be able to apply for the Regional Growth Fund both directly and in support of constituent businesses' applications. LEPs will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

At Chancellor's Spending review it was confirmed that LEPs will bid for Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) with Growth Deals. At least £2bn funds per annum to 2021 were confirmed with overall pot of at least £20billion. It will also include a further commitment of £5 billion of transport funding in the SLGF from 2016/17 to 2020/21. LEPs will hold responsibility for how £5.3bn of EU Structural and Investment Funds will be spent.

Application Information

Application for funding, finance and support available to your LEP is managed directly by them. Programs available will vary between LEPs. For the full list of LEPs across England, see below:
<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/the-lep-network.html>

Contact Details

LEP Principal Contacts are available here:
<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/leps.html>

Useful links

Website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/regeneration/economicgrowth/localenterprisepartnerships>

Map of LEPs:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11033/Map_of_enterprise_zones.pdf

Growing Places Fund



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

The funding criteria and application process for each LEP differs therefore applicants are advised to check details with their local LEP. Details of the amounts awarded to each LEP can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/500m-fund-to-unlock-the-potential-for-economic-growth>

Description

The Growing Places Fund provides £500 million to enable the development of local funds to address infrastructure constraints, promoting economic growth and the delivery of jobs and houses. Types of projects could include:

- early development of strategic link roads and access works to unlock major mixed-use developments, enabling the delivery of homes and commercial space – leading to the creation of jobs and securing private investment;
- provision of flood storage capacity to enable development of homes, employment space and retail space; and
- works to improve local connectivity and reduce congestion through interventions such as extending dual carriageways, enabling developments to be taken forward sustainably.

Application Information

Businesses are invited to apply for funding to support their business plans. Further application details could be obtained from local LEP.

Contact Details

The Growing Places Fund is managed locally by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

To find contacts for the local LEP please follow the following link:

<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/leps.html>

Useful Links

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/growing-places-fund-prospectus>

Growing Places Fund prospectus could be found on the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7521/2024617.pdf

Enterprise Zones



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all businesses within an Enterprise Zone

Description

Enterprise Zones are well defined geographical areas that afford businesses within them certain financial and regulatory benefits. There are 22 currently around the UK. Each one is managed by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that it falls within. As there are 38 LEPs around the UK, not every LEP will have an enterprise zone within it. Enterprise zones vary in size but are on average in the region of 100 hectares (1000m x 1000m), allowing for multiple businesses to benefit from them.

The role of the Enterprise Zone is to promote economic growth in the area, using the benefits they offer to pull new business in and support those already established. Each enterprise zone has its own sectors of focus.

Benefits for businesses include a discount on business rates (up to the value of £275,000 per business over a five year period) and simplified planning procedures to support growth and development. Business rates growth over a period of at least 25 years will be retained by the local area allowing for local reinvestment. The UK Government has also pledged to support the roll out of superfast broadband in all the zones with a regulatory environment that will facilitate this and if needs be, public funding. In some enterprise zones, LEPs will be able to offer enterprise zones enhanced capital allowances for plant and machinery. Tax increment finance (borrowing against future business rate increases) and UKTI support for inward investment or trade opportunities in the zone will also be made available to enterprise zones. The zones are one of the ways LEPs can help ensure economic decisions are more business-led and have the maximum possible impact on economic growth in the area.

The Chancellor's Spending Review confirmed that additional £59 million will be awarded to successful Enterprise Zones to fund the local infrastructure projects. Government will also make available £100m in 2014-15 to Zones that can identify sites with high growth potential.

Application information

Application involves communication with your LEP to ascertain exactly what benefits are available in your area. As enterprise zones' benefits are only available to its tenants, you will need to be based within an enterprise zone to apply. Each enterprise zone has its own regulations.

Contact Details

LEP Principal Contacts are available from:
<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/leps.html>

Useful Links

Website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/supporting-economic-growth-through-local-enterprise-partnerships-and-enterprise-zones>

Enterprise Zone Prospectus:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1872724.pdf>

National Loan Guarantee Scheme



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Loans and overdrafts through the scheme will be available to UK companies with a turnover no larger than £50m. Companies cannot be in financial difficulty.

Description

The scheme will provide loans and overdrafts to SMEs that may be limited in their borrowing capabilities, where banks may think it too risky to lend to them. £40b has been set aside for the programme which will be made available through a company's bank, in the same way the European Investment Bank's loans for SMEs are. Loans are offered at 1% less than the standard business rate.

The following banks can provide terms loans, hire purchase agreements and lease agreements under the scheme:

- Aldermore
- Barclays
- Santander
- Lloyds
- RBS

Application Information

To apply for a loan under the new National Loan Guarantee Scheme, simply contact one of the banks involved in the scheme. The application process is very similar to that of a standard loan.

Contact Details

N/A

Useful Links

<http://nationalloanguaranteescheme.co.uk/>

The guide about the National Loan Guarantee Scheme:

http://www.fundingoptions.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/national_loan_guarantee_scheme.pdf

The National Loan Guarantee Scheme is now closed to new applications.

Regional Growth Fund Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: £1m
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Bids will be accepted from private companies and public private partnerships. Applications can come from individual companies or consortia.

Description

The Regional Growth Fund is 2011-2016 funding operation worth £2.6 billion across the England. The £2.4 billion were used for the 3 rounds of the process to leverage more than £13bn of private sector investment and safeguard over 500,000 jobs. An additional £350m has been committed to the fund (Round 4).

The fund is targeted to provide support for projects and programmes that have significant potential for creating long term private sector led economic growth and employment. The fund is open at all project types. However it is a competitive bid process with applications being reviewed against other entrants with winning projects. Those deemed most capable of contributing to long term private sector led economic growth and employment will receive funding.

Applicants will compete for a share of the £350 million allocated to the Fund in the 2012 Autumn Statement.

Full information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund>

Application Information

The fund will be looking for high quality bids for Round 5 so that it can continue to support a variety of projects, industries and local areas to boost economic growth and create jobs.

Round 5 will open on 11 October and close on 9 December 2013. This round will make funds available to bidders from the private sector seeking £1 million or more for high quality projects that generate private sector investment and create sustainable jobs.

For further details please check from 11 October 2013 on <https://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund>

Contact Details

BIS Regional Growth Fund team
020 7215 6758
020 7215 1691
020 7215 1589
growthfund@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

Websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/boosting-private-sector-employment-in-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund>

Exceptional Regional Growth Fund (eRGF) Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Bids will be accepted from private companies and public private partnerships. Applications can come from individual companies or consortia.

Please see for full eligibility criteria here:

<https://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund#who-is-eligible-to-apply-to-round-4>

Description

Exceptional Regional Growth Fund (eRGF) support is the award of RGF money to a project or programme outside of competitive bidding rounds.

Application Information

Organisations interested in applying for eRGF support should contact their local BIS office. BIS will discuss with prospective applicants alignment with the criteria before recommending whether the bidder should make a formal application for eRGF support. Contacts for BIS Local can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund#contact-bis>

Contact Details

Contacts for BIS Local can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund#contact-bis>

Useful Links

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exceptional-regional-growth-fund-ergf-support-questions-and-answers>

Guidelines:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/136376/13-693-qa-on-ergf-support.pdf

Grant for Research & Development (GRD) Solutions for Business Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: n/a

Maximum award: depends on company size and project type. See description below.

Eligibility

Any SME with fewer than 250 employees can apply. Eligible projects should be based around an innovative product or process which could be brought to market with the help of GRD.

Description

The schemes are government grants to help SMEs carry out research and development into innovative technologies by exploiting new ideas. Businesses can find it difficult to gain private sector investment in research and development, but the credibility of GRD support can help. It's a way of reducing the risks but not the rewards of innovation. There are 4 categories:

Micro Projects – are aimed at micro entrepreneurs or businesses with less than 10 staff and turnover of less than €2 million. The maximum grant value is £20,000 with a funding rate of 45% of the project's costs.

Research Projects – are aimed at small businesses with less than 50 employees and turnover of no more than €10 million. The maximum grant value is £100,000 with a funding rate of 60% of the project's costs.

Development Projects – are aimed at SMEs with less than 250 employees and a turnover of no more than €50 million. The maximum grant value is £250,000 with a funding rate of at least 35%.

Proof of Market – are aimed at SMEs with less than 250 employees and a turnover of no more than €50 million. The maximum grant value is £20,000 with a rate of 60% of the project's costs.

Application Information

You can apply for a GRD all year round, but your application will need to demonstrate:-

- The requirement for the grant.
- Commercial potential of the product or process.
- Experience, skills and track record of the project team.
- Technical risk and technological innovation.
- Any wider environmental or social benefits.

Applicants should ensure they can address the issues of match funding availability, protection of intellectual property, project management capabilities and collaboration with academia.

The award of a grant is discretionary.

Contact Details

This scheme is available nationally. To date it has been accessible through Regional Development Agencies. The Business Link is likely to be the best contact for information during this period of transition.

Useful Links

The Business Link website www.businesslink.gov.uk

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website www.bis.gov.uk

Grant for Business Investment (GBI) Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: £10,000

Maximum award: From 10% to 35% of capital expenditure costs depending on location and company size.

Eligibility

Eligibility is geographically determined by Assisted Area boundaries. In tier 1&2 assisted areas SMEs and large companies can apply, in tier 3 areas only SMEs can apply. To check whether you are in an assisted area follow the link to use a postcode checker <http://www.dtistats.net/regional-as/aa2007.asp>

Description

Targeted support for businesses making capital expenditures in key assets such as buildings and plant machinery which will increase productivity, skills and employment in specific regions of England. The maximum grant available (a % of capital expenditure costs) is dependent upon company size and location. Within Assisted Areas (Tier 1 and 2)

- Small companies can receive up to 30-40%
- Medium companies can receive up to 20-25%
- Large companies can receive up to 10-15%

In Tier 3 locations small companies can receive a maximum of 20% and medium companies 10% of capital expenditure costs.

Application Information

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/regional-investment>

This link takes you to key information and links for application guidance and all relevant application forms.

Contact Details

This scheme is available nationally. To date it has been accessible through Regional Development Agencies. The Business Link is likely to be the best contact for information during this period of transition.

Useful Links

www.businesslink.gov.uk

An overview of the scheme can be found here

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file40543.pdf>

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Solutions for Business Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: £1,000
Maximum award: £1m

Eligibility

Any business operating in the UK with turnover up to £41 million can apply but any application will be based on the lenders own commercial criteria for lending before the EFG facility can be applied.

Description

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is a UK government guarantee lending scheme intended to help businesses that may be struggling to secure finance, by facilitating bank loans between £1,000 and £1 million. The loan can be used for purposes such as acquisition/purchase of businesses, land/property purchase or to refinance existing borrowing facilities afforded by the lender.

Terms for the loan are between 3 months and 10 years and a guarantee premium is payable to the Government to the value of 2% per annum on the reducing balance of the loan which is payable to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

EFG currently supports £1.7bn of SME lending that otherwise would not have been made. 43 lenders are currently accredited to offer EFG loans. The Government is adapting EFG to bring in a wider range of finance providers, which will for the first time provide Government guarantees to support trade credit, increasing the amount available to SMEs.

At Budget 2013, Government announced it will expand EFG to help bridge 'affordability gap' by providing a guarantee to the lender of up to 25% of the overall cost of repaying a loan; and, to support businesses lacking track record who are seeking under £25k loans.

Application Information

To apply, you will need to visit your lender and typically demonstrate:

- A comprehensive business plan.
- Two years audited accounts or current management information.
- Financial projections.
- Information on any public funds received in the past 3 years.

Other financial information in support of your application may be required. The lender will then decide if your proposition is viable but if your business lacks the necessary security then the lender may choose to lend using the EFG facility to guarantee the finance needed.

Contact Details

Please contact your lender for more details.

Useful Links

Websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enterprise-finance-guarantee>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-it-easier-to-set-up-and-grow-a-business--6>

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills>

Finance for Business Solutions for Business Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: up to £250,000 in loans, up to £2m in equity investment

Eligibility

Funding is available to businesses with less than 250 employees and a turn-over of up to €50 million or a balance sheet of up to €43 million (EU definition of a medium sized company).

Description

Finance for Business is a product under the Solutions for Business program from BIS.

It provides a range of finance funds for businesses with viable business plans unable to get support from commercial banks and investors. Nationwide options and Regional Development Agency options are available for the procurement of both debt and equity funding.

Equity funds address this market failure by providing approved fund managers with access to public funds to promote deal flow. These funds are aimed at new and fast growing businesses, particularly in new sectors, perceived as too high risk by commercial financiers because of a lack of track record/collateral.

Debt funds are intended to enable the growth of the mezzanine finance approach and to address the difficulties some businesses (particularly those in newly emergent sectors with intangible assets and those seeking to expand rapidly) experience in raising finance, which are not met by measures to support lenders. Loan support is only available where interest rates are charged above commercial rates (in line with State Aid rules and reflecting the higher risk which commercial lenders are unwilling to meet), where the borrower has been unable to raise finance from commercial lenders despite appropriate signposting and awareness raising (such as finance and investment readiness support) and where there is a viable business plan.

Application Information

Applications are made through referrals. These occur through publicly funded Investment Readiness programmes as well as lawyers, accountants and business advisers who are aware of a wide range of potential investors and funds.

Contact Details

There is no single access point. Referrals occur through publicly funded investment readiness programmes and sign posting through business link, lawyers, accountants and business advisers who are aware of a wide range of potential investors and funds.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills>

Useful Links

A summary of a range of the Solutions for Business provided by BIS, including Finance for Business: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file53913.pdf>

Finance For Business North East



Minimum award: £1,000
Maximum award: £1.25m

Eligibility

Eligible SMEs based in or relocating to the north east of England, with the aim of helping them to start up, develop or grow.

Description

The £125m Finance for Business programme provides debt and equity finance from the following seven individual funds up to the end of 2014:

- North East Micro Loan Fund
- North East Proof of Concept Fund
- North East Technology Fund
- North East Accelerator Fund
- North East Angel Fund
- North East Growth Plus Fund
- North East Growth Fund.

A The fund is financed jointly by a loan from the European Investment Bank and grants from the European Regional Development Fund and UK Government

Currently, July 2013, the negotiations take place to secure additional funding to allow the programme to continue investment through to December 2015. If the deal is confirmed, the additional cash is expected to support around 75 businesses and create or safeguard 500 jobs across the North-east. A decision is expected later this year.

Application Process

Please contact North East Finance directly for application details.

Contact Details

North East Finance
1 St James' Gate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4AD

Tel: 0191 211 2300

Useful Links

Website:
<http://northeastfinance.org/the-funds.aspx>

North East Business Support Fund



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award £1,400

Eligibility

SMEs in North East region.

Description

The North East Business Support Fund is providing access to support for the businesses by providing 40% funding, to a maximum of £1,400, for business improvement or growth projects. Typical projects supported include the development of marketing strategies, process improvement, website development and management coaching. The funding is specifically aimed at small and medium sized enterprises and is part financed by the European Regional Development Fund Programme 2007-13.

Application Information

The online application form could be accessed via following link:

<http://www.nbsl.org.uk/nebsf-application>

Contact Details

If you need further assistance please email info@nbsl.org.uk or call 01670 813322.

BSL

6 Esther Court
Wansbeck Business Park
Rotary Parkway
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8AP

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.nbsl.org.uk/>

Motorsport Valley Launchpad



Minimum award: £50,000
Maximum award: £200,000

Eligibility

Projects developing a relevant technology, product or leveraging motorsport engineering skills and experience are all eligible for funding.

Description

Technology Strategy Board announced £1m investment in innovative R&D projects, with a focus on organisations engaged in motorsport, high performance engineering and commercial activities related to the 'Motorsport Valley cluster'. The investment will support those projects which will last up to 12 months and are led by micro, small and medium sized businesses. Successful applicants can participate in a programme of business support and growth activities, including support to access external finance to fund a proportion of the project costs or commercialisation of the outcomes of the project.

Application Process

The competition is being run in two stages:

1. Video proposal – where applicants describe their idea in a two-minute video. The deadline for video submissions is by noon on 31 July 2013.
2. Written proposal – for applicants shortlisted based on their video proposal.

The competition opens for uploading video proposals on 24 June 2013. More information and guidance on how to apply is available from this date: see www.innovateuk.org under Competitions and register to apply.

Contact Details

Competition helpline: 0300 321 4357
Email: competitions@innovateuk.org

Useful Links

Websites:
https://www.innovateuk.org/web/corporate1/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/motorsport-valley-launchpad-competition
<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/motorsport-valley-launchpad/overview>

**Designing Demand
Solutions for Business
Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)**



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to any SME with the potential for high growth.

Description

Designing Demand is a Solution for Business product. It offers up to 10 days of design and innovation focussed mentoring over 6-18 months. It is a structured mentoring programme aimed at boosting your company's competitiveness. You'll be facilitated through a number of steps, from identifying strategic business challenges through to creating action plans and defining practical projects.

Application Information

Not all businesses will be ready or able to make use of Designing Demand. To find out if your business is one that could make use of Designing Demand please visit:
www.designcouncil.org.uk/designingdemand.

Contact Details

Email: designingdemand@designcouncil.org.uk

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/designingdemand>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills>

Improving your resource efficiency Solutions for Business Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements differ depending on the product. Please see below for further information.

Description

There are 13 products designed to help businesses to identify and overcome key challenges as they grow and develop. It will target activities where a Government lead is required, such as providing access to strategic advice, helping companies reach international markets and supporting innovation.

The 13 products in the portfolio are:

- High Growth Coaching
- Helping Your Business Grow Internationally
- Manufacturing Advisory Service
- Designing Demand
- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
- Networking for Innovation
- Collaborative Research and Development
- Grant for Research and Development
- Work Place Training, including Apprenticeships
- Improving Your Resource Efficiency
- Finance for Business
- Understanding Finance for Business
- Rural Development Programme for England Business Support

Application Information & Contact Details

Further details of the Solutions for Business portfolio and the specific products can be found at:
<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/solutions-for-business-simplified-business-support>

This scheme is available nationally. The best contact for information during the period of transition is your local LEP.

Useful Links

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills>

The LEP Network
<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/leps.html>

The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) Solutions for Business Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

The service is either free or subsidised for SMEs. It is only available to large business (more than 250 employees) at the full market rate.

Description

MAS is a leading advisory service for manufactures in the UK, funded by the government. MAS helps manufacturers streamline their processes, reduce waste, become more energy efficient, improve productivity and competitiveness. They provide practical support on topics such as improving business practices as well as free help-lines, manufacturing review, training and host networking events.

MAS practitioners from your nearest centre will work with you and your workforce to provide practical, 'hands-on' support, with the focus on improving financial strength.

Application Information

Register online on your regional MAS website to start receiving free benefits and sign up for events.

Contact Details

BIS Manufacturing Advisory Service Helpline on Tel 0845 658 9600
or email them at info@mas-uk.org.uk

The MAS website <http://www.mas-wm.org/>

Useful Links

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills>

Innovation Advice & Guidance Solutions for Business Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

This product is available to:

- small and medium-sized businesses
- businesses owned or controlled by people from groups who are under-represented in business ownership

Large businesses, employing more than 250 employees, are eligible for this scheme but will be expected to pay the full cost of the service.

Social enterprises are able to benefit from innovation advice and guidance where this can assist their sustainability and ability to reach a significantly larger audience or market for their activity.

Description

Products and services in the Solutions for Business portfolio are designed to help qualifying businesses grow and succeed. Innovation Advice and Guidance is a Solutions for Business product that provides businesses with expert knowledge and advice enabling them to innovate and improve the performance of their business.

The programme consists of an initial one day review to decide how the business could benefit from support in developing innovation. Subsequently, the program can offer:

- Help building Innovation into the 'Business Strategy' and identifying support and resources required
- Establishing an innovation culture within the business supported by appropriate internal processes and external networks
- Support the completion of market analysis required to support the market strategy
- Product and process development, supporting and involving relevant expertise to incorporate resource efficiency or clean technology development for example
- The protection and development of Intellectual property

Contact Information

Telephone: 0854 300 4443 (Patricia Mathieson)

0845 600 9006

All contact goes through your local Business Link office.

Useful Links

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file53913.pdf>

Innovation Vouchers



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £5,000

Eligibility

Five key criteria:

- business need to be a start-up, micro, small or medium-sized, located in the UK
- this should be the first time that the company have worked with the chosen knowledge supplier
- the idea that business want help with should be a challenge and needs specialist help
- the idea should be applicable to one of the priority themes
- organisation have not had an Innovation Voucher from the Technology Strategy Board before.

Description

An Innovation Voucher provides funding for businesses to gain external expert advice to help with innovation, development and growth. Experts could advise on an innovative idea, learning more about design or the management of the intellectual property.

Application Information

The application process is online, through the Technology Strategy Board website.

You can apply anytime, with around 100 vouchers being awarded once every three months - October, January, April and July each year.

As part of making an application, companies need to register with online web platform _connect to enter details about the business. Businesses can also register in advance of applying at <http://connect.innovateuk.org> which will also give access to a range of information.

Contact

If you require further information or have a query regarding Innovation Vouchers, please contact the Technology Strategy Board's Business Support Group on:

E-mail: competitions@innovateuk.org
Tel: 0300 321 4357

Useful Links

Website:

<https://vouchers.innovateuk.org/>

<https://vouchers.innovateuk.org/innovation-vouchers-listing>

Innovation Vouchers for Cyber Security



Minimum award: £5,000
Maximum award: £5,000

Eligibility

Open to all SMEs and sole traders of all sectors.

Description

Businesses are the biggest victims of cyber crime and the Government has the objective of making the UK one of the most secure places in the world to do business in cyberspace.

Innovation Vouchers for cyber security can be used to secure specialist consulting and services to help:

- businesses looking to protect new inventions and business processes
- businesses looking to 'cyber audit' their existing processes
- businesses looking to move online and develop a technology strategy
- business start-ups looking to develop an idea into a working prototype and needing to build cyber security into the business from the very beginning.

Application Process

Opening date: 15/04/2013
Closing date: 24/07/2013

To apply for an Innovation Voucher, you must register via the Innovation Vouchers portal at <https://vouchers.innovateuk.org>.

Contact Details

If you require further information please contact Technology Strategy Board's Business Support Group via e-mail competitions@innovateuk.org or phone 0300 321 4357.

Useful Links

Website:
<https://vouchers.innovateuk.org/cyber-security>

Coaching for High Growth SMEs Solutions for Business Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

The coaching program is available to SMEs that are already established with a potential to increase employment or turnover by 20% or more each year for three years.

Available to start-ups with the potential to become 'gazelles' i.e. able to achieve £1million turnover within 3 years of starting trading or to have at least 10 employees within 3 years.

Description

Business Coaching for Growth is available from January 2012 and will offer:

- Coaching of senior management teams to develop and implement growth strategies and develop leadership and management skills
- Tailored, specialist help to develop a successful investment pitch
- Facilitated introductions to potential investors
- Access to high quality facilities by partnering with leading business incubators, science parks and Catapult centers (previously Technology Innovation centers).
- Advice on how to identify and protect intellectual property and copyright and develop strategies to commercially exploit IP and innovation
- Fast track access to trusted sources of specialist advice and support such as the Technology Strategy Board and UKTI
- Access to business and knowledge networks.

Management of the coaching will fall to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to ensure local economies interests are prioritised and that local business support services are fully integrated.

Application information

The programme was launched in January 2012. You should contact your local LEP for application details.

Contact Details

For additional information, contact Chris Hepworth at BIS.

Telephone: 0207 215 1069

Email: chris.hepworth@bis.gov.uk

Useful Links

Online information, page 11:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/32258/11-776-solutions-for-business-government-funded-business-support.pdf

<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk>

Understanding Finance for Business Solutions for Business Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to SMEs with a lack of understanding around their financial options, the skills to develop a funding proposition, or access to potential investors.

Description

The programme helps to broaden and deepen business's awareness and knowledge of external sources of finance. It involves breaking down your business' financial requirements and finding out what type of finance is right for your company, as well as targeting possible sources and potentially providing access to them. It is a free advisory programme that can help companies secure the financing or funding they require.

Application Information

Access to this programme is dependent on your area. It was previously managed by RDAs so could fall to LEPs to manage in the near future. Check through your local RDA website or through business link for more information.

Contact Details

Contact details are dependant on your area. Contact your Local Enterprise Partnership for more information.

Useful Links

Online information, page 17:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/32258/11-776-solutions-for-business-government-funded-business-support.pdf

<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/enterprise.html#Solutions>

<https://www.gov.uk/>

<http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/leps.html>

**Work Place Training, inc. apprenticeships
Solutions for Business
Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)**



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

This program is only available to SMEs.

Description

The programme is broken down into three parts, Apprenticeships, other Work-based training and SME Management and Leadership.

Under the Apprenticeships section, you can get support to employ an apprentice to help ensure you have access to the practical skills you require to grow. There are nearly 200 Apprenticeship frameworks to cover all aspects of business.

The Workplace Training section offers fully-funded literacy and numeracy training for employees within an SME. Funding only qualifies for the first qualification (level 2 or level 3). Subsequent training must be alternatively funded.

SME Leadership and Management training offers free skills needed analysis and help starting a personal development plan. This is followed by access to up to £1,000 of grant funding to help with training for identified skills. Follow up support is also provided to ensure progress and development is achieved. Funding can needs to be matched by the employing organisation.

Application information

Application for the Apprenticeship programme is conducted through the following website:
www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Both the Workplace Training and SME Leadership and Management Training are managed by:
<https://www.gov.uk/>

You will need to contact your Local Enterprise Partnership for more information.

Contact Details

See above

Useful Links

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Online information, page 18:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/32258/11-776-solutions-for-business-government-funded-business-support.pdf

AGE 16 to 24 Employer Incentive (London)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award £1,500

Eligibility

Eligible companies:

- with a London postcode
- with less than 1,000 employees
- who are new to Apprenticeships or haven't enrolled a new recruit or existing employee on an Apprenticeship programme in the previous 12 months.

Description

An enhanced grant of £1,500 is available to London-based employers interested in recruiting an apprentice aged between 16 and 24. This Apprenticeship Age Grant for Employers (AGE 16-24) is available until 31 December 2013.

Additional information

The National Apprenticeship Service will provide AGE 16 to 24 to eligible employers, in respect of qualifying apprentices, with an individual value of £1,500. Employers can be paid ten grants in total during the lifetime of the initiative.

Application Information

For application and further details please call National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600.

Contact Details

- Contact your local Training Provider direct - [search for a Training Provider](#).
- Complete the [online web enquiry form](#) or call the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600. An adviser from the National Apprenticeship Service will contact you to discuss the support available in more detail.

Useful Links

Website:

http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Steps-to-make-it-happen/Incentive.aspx?dm_t=0,0,0,0,0

Factsheet:

http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Steps-to-make-it-happen/~/_media/Documents/AGE16TO24/AGE-Employer-Fact-Sheet-v14.ashx

Employer Ownership of Skills Pilot (EOP)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

All bids must be led by a named employer to demonstrate that proposals are driven by and respond to their needs. Evidence of a lead employer will be asked for in the application form.

Full details could be found:

<http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-ownership/prospectus/eligibility>
<http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-ownership>

Description

The Employer Ownership of Skills pilot is a competitive fund open to employers to invest in their current and future workforce in England. Employers are invited to develop proposals that raise skills, create jobs, and drive enterprise and economic growth. Government will invest in projects in which employers are also prepared to commit their own funds in order to make better use of our combined resources.

Additional information

The current Round of the pilot asks employers to develop and deliver solutions which enable them to recruit and train staff with the skills they need for the future.

Application Information

Bidders need to register their interest by 11 March 2013. The deadline for full and outline bids is 28 March 2013.

Full application details are listed on the UKCES website:

<http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-ownership/prospectus/applying-for-funding>

Contact Details

Email: employerownershipqueries@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-ownership/prospectus>

Enterprise Capital Funds Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £2 million

Eligibility

Only SMEs are eligible for equity financing through the Enterprise Capital Fund. Funds are managed by individual fund management companies so will be more likely allocated to those with a higher potential growth and return of investment. There are further terms and conditions that affect the level of capital available. This is dependant on the factors such as the level of private investment.

Description

ECFs are funds from BIS that are allocated to the Capital for Enterprise Limited (CfEL) company. This company also looks after the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. The funds are then distributed to independent fund managers.

As announced at Budget 2013, further £25m will extend the Enterprise Capital Fund programme to include a VC Catalyst Fund, which will invest in venture capital funds that specialise in early stage venture capital and are near to close, enabling them to commence investment in SMEs.

Application process

Applications are handled by the ECF fund managing company you wish to work with. The list of fund managers, along with their contact details and web links are available here:

<http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/ecfp>

Contact Details

CfEL
0114 206 2131
info@capitalforenterprise.gov.uk

Further contact details for Fund Managers are available here:

<http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/ecfp>

Useful Links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-it-easier-to-set-up-and-grow-a-business--6>

<http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/ecfp>

British Business Bank



The bank aims to attract private sector funding so that when fully operational it could support up to £10 billion of new and additional business lending. The Government will build a single institution that will address long-standing, structural gaps in the supply of finance.

It will bring together Government finance support for small and mid-sized business. It will also control the Government's interests in a new wholesale funding mechanism which will be developed to unlock institutional investment to benefit small business.

The bank will use existing government guarantee schemes to leverage up to £10bn in financial support.

British Business Bank firstly unveiled in September 2012 will start work in April 2013. The bank itself will be fully operational from autumn 2014.

Between April and June of 2013, the business bank will:

- launch an investment scheme of £300 million in spring 2013 aiming to help diversity and expand the supply of lending to SMEs and mid-sized businesses
- expand Business Angel Co-investment by £50 million for SMEs
- extend commitments to venture capital by £25 million
- maintain the Loan Guarantee cap at 20% for Enterprise Finance Guarantee loan portfolios for 2013-2014.

For more information:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/153252/bis-13-734-building-the-business-bank-strategy-update-march-2013.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-business-bank-to-boost-lending>

<http://news.bis.gov.uk/Press-Releases/New-business-bank-to-support-up-to-10-billion-of-business-lending-6808d.aspx>

Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF) UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)



Minimum award: £500,000 pa (for two years)
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Eligibility is centred on employer-led organisations. Organisations or consortia representing a sector or region are the preferred type of applicant. To confirm your eligibility, use the GIF eligibility checker at <http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/investment/growthinnovationfund/eligibility>

Description

The GIF provides funding to organisations looking to develop skills solutions or infrastructure that will help support growth and competitiveness across supply chains in a range of sectors in the UK. These could range from the creation of industry standards to the set up of guilds. The GIF will look to co-fund these skills development initiatives through the provision of £34m of funding in 2012-2013 with comparable levels of investment planned for the following two years.

The GIF will only support initiatives that will realistically:

- Make a significant impact on enterprise, productivity & growth
- Draw in greater employment investment in the medium term to meet skills challenges
- Be sustainable past the period of GIF funding
- Achieve a step change in the scale, quality relevance and impact of how skills are delivered, acquired, developed and applied.

The GIF will support clusters of employers, either through a supply chain or a region, so applicants are encouraged to approach UKCES through a consortium or body representing multiple companies. Organisations such as trade associations, national skills academies and even local enterprise partnerships (where they are legally constituted bodies) are encouraged to apply on behalf of those they represent. In addition, the GIF will look to address an area where a market failing or skill based obstacle has been established and there is employer support for the proposition as well.

Application Process

The initial stage involves checking eligibility using the online checker. If eligible, a two staged process is employed. The first is an Outline Proposal application. This is reviewed through a scoring process by the GIF board. If successful, bidders will move onto the Development Phase, which involves working with selected organisations to help develop a full proposal. From there, a full proposal is submitted and the Board makes a final decision as to whether the funds are allocated or not. It may be important to note that if unsuccessful, an organisation can apply on one further occasion. The GIF board will meet at intermittent times during the year and outline applications will need to be submitted a few months before these dates, so timing is important.

Contact Details

Email: GIF.questions@ukces.org.uk

Useful links

Website: <http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/investment/growthinnovationfund>
Eligibility checker: <http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/investment/growthinnovationfund/eligibility>

Research and Development Relief for Corporation Tax HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: SMEs can claim 225% of qualifying R&D costs. Large organisations can claim 130% of qualifying R&D costs as long as R&D expenditure is at least £10,000 per annum, or from April 2013, large organisations will be able to claim at a rate of 10% under the new 'above the line' (ATL) tax credit system.

Eligibility

SMEs can claim back R&D expenditure even if they do not have corporation tax liability. Under the same superdeduction system, large organisations can only claim up to 130% of qualifying costs if they have a corporation tax bill. Under the new ATL system, large organisations are eligible to claim if they do not have corporation tax liability, as long as they have qualifying R&D costs in the UK.

Description

R&D tax relief may reduce your company's tax bill by more than your actual expenditure in allowable R&D costs. An SME may choose to receive a tax credit (a cash sum paid by HMRC) rather than tax relief. To qualify the R&D project must advance the overall knowledge or capability in a field, not just progress the company's own knowledge or capability. The research must be undertaken in an area related to your organisation's trade and if you're claiming under the SME scheme you must prove you will own any intellectual property arising from the project. For R&D Relief to apply, your company must spend at least £10,000 on qualifying R&D costs in an accounting period.

For large organisations, the new ATL system will be paid at a rate of 10% and is fully payable (after tax) to companies that have no corporation tax liability. The new ATL system will run alongside the existing 130% superdeduction tax rate for large organisations until April 2016, after which the ATL system will become mandatory. This will allow large organisations to adjust to the change. To prevent abuse, there will be a (PAYE/NIC) cap on the payment of the credit to companies with no corporation tax liability.

Full details of qualifying costs and how to claim can be found at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk>

Any subsidies or grants received for R&D during the accounting period may affect the amount of R&D tax relief you can claim

Application Information

If you are claiming tax relief it will reduce your company or organisation's profit chargeable to Corporation tax for the relevant accounting period. Simply fill in your tax return. If you've chosen to receive tax credits instead, or if you have submitted a claim to carry back a loss to be set off against profits of a previous accounting period, then HMRC will make the payment after they have received your return.

Contact Details

Please contact the HMRC directly or your HMRC Relationship manager
<http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/locator/locator.jsp?type=0>

If you would like further information from SMMT, please contact Robert Baker rbaker@smt.co.uk or visit the website <https://www.smt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services/>

Useful Links

www.hmrc.gov.uk

UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

Eligible technology based businesses in strategically important sectors in the UK. Further details are available from Capital for Enterprise Limited.

Description

The 150 million UKIIF is a venture capital fund of funds that aims to drive economic growth and create highly skilled jobs by investing in innovative businesses where there are significant growth opportunities. The underlying funds within the UKIIF invest in technology based businesses in strategically important sectors to the UK including digital technologies, life sciences, clean technology and advanced manufacturing.

Additional information

Capital for Enterprise is not able to offer advice to individual businesses on the range of funding options.

Application Information

Please contact Capital for Enterprise Limited for further details.

Contact Details

UKIIF is administered by a government-appointed fund management company, Capital for Enterprise Limited ('CfEL').

Address:
Foundry House
3 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8NH

Tel: 0114 206 2131

Email: info@capitalforenterprise.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/uiif>

Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Companies are not allowed to raise more than £2million in any 12 month period from the three venture capital schemes, the EIS, the Corporate Venturing Scheme (CVS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs), Investments from any or all of these schemes must fall within the £2m limit.

Eligibility

Companies must be unquoted at the time the shares are issued and with no arrangements in place to become a quoted company, although it can subsequently become a quoted company without investors losing relief.

Description

The Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) is designed to assist smaller higher-risk trading companies raise finance by offering a range of tax reliefs to investors purchasing new shares in those companies.

There are rules to abide by for any companies and investors interested in participating in the scheme and it is vital that you familiarise yourself with these which can be found at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis>. It is recommended that companies and individuals seek professional advice, in the first instance contacting the HMRC.

Application Information

If the scheme is of interest to you then the first step is to contact the Small Company Enterprise Centre at the HMRC who will assist in determining whether the company/investors qualify for tax relief.

Contact Details

Small Company Enterprise Centre
HM Revenue & Customs
1st Floor Ferrers House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BB

Tel: 0115 974 1250
Fax: 0115 974 2954

Enterprise Investment Scheme Association (EISA)
Members are accountants and lawyers advising EIS companies. They may be able to advise investors. Please note however that they cannot match companies and investors.

The EIS Association www.eisa.org.uk

Tel: 020 8785 5560
Fax: 020 8785 5561

Email: members@eisa.org.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis>

The Venture Capital Manuals – HMRC <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/vcmmanual/index.htm>

Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) HMRC



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

Small, early-stage companies are eligible.

Description

The Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) was set up in April 2012 and is designed to help small companies to raise equity finance by offering a range of tax reliefs to individual investors who purchase new shares in those companies. SEIS is intended to recognise the particular difficulties which very early stage companies face in attracting investment, by offering tax relief at a higher rate than that offered by the existing Enterprise Investment Scheme.

Additional information

The requirements at the time of shares issue could be found on HMRC website:
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/seedeis/how-to-qualify.htm>

The requirements for investment and investor could be found on the following link:
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/seedeis/invest.htm>

Application Information

Please contact Small Company Enterprise Centre directly for further details.

Contact Details

The Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) is administered in HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) by the Small Companies Enterprise Centre (SCEC). The contact details for the SCEC can be found below.

Address:
Small Company Enterprise Centre Admin
South Wing
1st Floor
Fitzroy House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BD

Tel: 0845 600 2622

Email: enterprise.centre@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

Websites:
<http://www.seiswindow.org.uk/>
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/seedeis/index.htm>

Business Finance Partnership (BFP) HM Treasury



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

Businesses in the UK with a turnover of up to £500 million.

Description

The Business Finance Partnership (BFP) aims to increase the availability of capital through non-bank lending. In the longer term the partnership will be looking in the ways of finding new sources for finance accessible to businesses.

Additional information

The first successful proposals were announced at Autumn Statement 2012. The Government will invest £600 million alongside an initial £650 million from the private sector to create four new funds that will lend to mid-sized companies. These funds are now open for business and will greatly expand the market for such lending in the UK.

The fund managers are Alcentra Limited, Haymarket Financial, M&G Investment Management and Pricoa Capital. An additional £100m is expected to be invested with a fifth fund manager shortly.

At Budget 2013, Government announced that the £300m investment programme will build on the recent investments made by the Business Finance Partnership. This will be focused on promoting diversity of supply by encouraging new entrants and the growth of smaller lenders in the market. The programme will be launched and proposals invited from Spring 2013.

Application Information

Application information could be obtained from the fund managers directly. Please see the details below.

Contact Details

Alcentra: Graeme Delaney-Smith graeme.delaney-smith@alcentra.com 020 7367 5003
Ares: Mike Dennis dennis@aresmgmt.com 020 7153 4631
Hayfin: Mark Tognolini mark.tognolini@hayfin.com 020 7074 2906
M&G: Calum MacPhail calum.macphail@mandg.co.uk 020 7548 3156
Pricoa: Ed Barker edward.barker@pricoa.com 020 7621 8429

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bfp.htm>

Business Finance Partnership (BFP) Small Business Tranche HM Treasury



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

The channels chosen by the scheme will invest in businesses based in the UK and with a turnover of up to £75 million.

Description

The Business Finance Partnership (BFP) aims to increase the availability of capital through non-bank lending. In the longer term the partnership will be looking in the ways of finding new sources for finance accessible to businesses.

Additional information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will invest up to £100 million of the BFP through non-traditional lending channels that lend directly to small businesses. It is expected that these channels will include mezzanine finance funds, supply chain finance schemes and peer-to-peer lenders.

Application Information

BIS launched a Request for Proposals in May 2012 which has now closed. The first investments into businesses through the selected channels will be made from autumn 2012 onwards. 40 proposals requesting BFP funding of £575m were received. These proposals are currently being assessed.

Contact Details

Government's investment in the Small Business Tranche of the BFP will be managed by Capital for Enterprise Limited. The contact details are:

Address:
Foundry House
3 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8NH

Tel: 0114 206 2131

Email: info@capitalforenterprise.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/bfp>

Business Finance for You



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

No eligibility criteria.

Description

Business Finance for You is an easy to use search engine which allows businesses to search for funding schemes according to the geographic location, industry and the amount of funds they require.

Application Information

For further details please complete the enquiry form via further link:
<http://www.businessfinanceforyou.co.uk/contact-us>

Contact Details

Enquiry form could be found on the following link: <http://www.businessfinanceforyou.co.uk/contact-us>

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.businessfinanceforyou.co.uk/finance-finder>

Capital Allowance Investment Scheme HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: up to 100% of capital costs of certain products

Eligibility

Any business that pays income or corporation tax can claim for capital allowances.

Description

A number of Capital Allowance Investment schemes have been introduced to encourage investments where up to 100% First Year Allowance (FYA) is available for energy efficiency, research & development and low CO2 cars. The Government has announced changes will be made to the Capital Allowance Scheme so it is vital to speak to your local HMRC Relationship Manager.

Here is a list of some of the schemes available:

- 40% FYAs for small and medium-sized businesses.
- 100% Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECAs) (FYAs) for energy-saving investments.
- 100% ECAs (FYAs) for water-efficient investments.
- 100% FYAs for low CO2 emissions cars and gas refuelling infrastructure.
- 100% Research and Development Allowances.

The HMRC have several manuals available on their website regarding each scheme which give you in depth detail on what you can claim on, even if expenditure occurred in previous years.

Application Information

Claim allowances via your company's tax return.

Contact Details

Please contact the HMRC directly or your HMRC Relationship manager. To find your local HMRC office please visit:

<http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/locator/locator.jsp?type=0>

Useful Links

HMRC Capital Allowance manuals: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/camannual/ca11000.htm>

For further information on the Capital Allowance investment Scheme:
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/capital_allowances/investmentschemes.htm#c

HMRC: www.hmrc.gov.uk

Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA) HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £250,000

Eligibility

Available for businesses purchasing designated plant and machinery which is energy efficient, reduces water or improves water quality. Loss-making companies may also benefit from the scheme receiving cash payments from the Government by surrendering losses attributable to investment in qualifying technologies.

Description

The Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA) scheme provides tax relief for businesses that invest in equipment that meets the scheme's energy-saving criteria. The scheme allows businesses to write off the whole cost of equipment in designated technologies against taxable profits of the period of investment.

There are two different groups of energy-saving technology that qualify for an ECA. Both lists are reviewed and updated regularly and should be checked on-line for the latest version.

- The Energy Technology Criteria List: This list is continuously reviewed to ensure that it reflects the current technological progress in the market. For the latest copy, see below <https://etl.decc.gov.uk/etl/site/criteria.html>
- The Energy Technology Product List: This lists products and technologies that are eligible for an ECA, including details about the maximum claim values for qualifying products which are a part of a larger plant and/or machinery which itself does not qualify for ECA. To search the list of eligible products, check here: <https://etl.decc.gov.uk/etl/site/etl.html>

Application Information

Claims for ECA should be submitted as part of your normal corporate tax return, where you must include invoices and all relevant evidence and documentation from the company that the item has been purchased from.

You may still claim ECA if your company has not made any taxable profit by surrendering losses credited to ECA in return for cash payment from HMRC. The maximum credit that you can claim is limited by the total PAYE and national insurance payments for the year which the claim is made, or if greater £250,000.

Contacts

You should talk directly to the HMRC, please follow the link to find your local HMRC Office.

<http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/locator/locator.jsp?type=0>

Useful Links

<https://etl.decc.gov.uk/etl/site.html>

Time to Pay Arrangements (TTP) HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

TTP Arrangements are available to any business (or individual) facing difficulties in meeting their tax bill.

Description

TTP is available to businesses who are worried about being able to meet their tax, NI, VAT or other payments owed or becoming due to HMRC. The TTP arrangement allows companies to pay their tax over an affordable period, typically over a few months however, this is arranged on a case-by-case basis.

In order to qualify for the arrangement the business or individual have to demonstrate that they are:

- In genuine difficulty
- Unable to pay their tax on time
- Likely to be able to pay if the HMRC permit more time to pay their liabilities.

Application Information

The HMRC will determine the arrangement on a case-by-case basis to determine a time scale suitable to bring the tax liabilities back up-to-date within in a reasonable timescale that is appropriate to the case. The agreement can be reviewed or extended if circumstances change but you must keep contact with the HMRC to continue discussions.

Contact Details

Contact the Business Payment Support Service on 0845 302 1435 or contact your HMRC customer relationship manager.

Useful Links

Time To Pay - <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/payinghmrc/problems/bpps.htm#>

HMRC website - www.hmrc.gov.uk

Patent Box HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

All companies with profits derived directly from patents will be eligible for the patent box tax reduction.

Description

The patent box is 10% corporation tax rate applicable to profits from patent based revenue. This includes revenue through licensing, sales of patented products or from patented processes or services. The applicable corporation tax is reduced to a rate of 10%. This aims to ensure the UK remains internationally competitive as a place to keep and exploit patents and intellectual property (IP).

The reduction will be employed from the 1 April 2013 budget onwards. It will be phased in over 5 years to moderate the possible popularity impact on the wider budget. Profits that are eligible will be carefully calculated and will specifically account for IP or patent based profits. Profits from European patents will also be eligible for relief.

Application Information

The scheme is applicable via a businesses tax return from April 2013.

Contact Details

Email: corporatetaxreform@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

The government bill's progress can be tracked here:
<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-12/financeno4.html>

Technical note:
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget-updates/march2012/patent-box-tech-note.pdf>

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/patent_box.htm

CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Department of Energy and Climate Change



Costs: Initial allowance costs are £12 per tonne of CO₂. There is an opportunity to trade allowances on the open market.

Eligibility

Qualifying organisations have to have at least one half-hourly electricity meter (HHM) settled on the half-hourly market or have a total half-hourly electricity consumption exceeding 6,000 megawatt hours during 2008. The scheme is not optional; if you meet these criteria you should be involved.

Description

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (formerly known as the Carbon Reduction Commitment) is the UK's mandatory climate change and energy saving scheme, which started in April 2010. It is a core part of the UK's strategy for energy efficiency and reduction in CO₂ emissions.

The aim of the scheme is to raise awareness within large businesses and to encourage changes towards improved energy efficiency. The scheme provides financial incentives for large businesses to buy allowances matching their annual emissions, this is to encourage businesses to set targets to reduce their allowances and find cost-effective methods through energy management strategies.

Application Information

If you think your organisation is liable for CRC then you should register at:
<https://crc.environment-agency.gov.uk/crcregistry/web/login?execution=e1s1>

Contact Details

For general enquiries email: crchelp@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 03708 506 506.

Useful Links

Overview

<https://www.gov.uk/crc-energy-efficiency-scheme>

User guide documents

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/127831.aspx>

For FAQs on the scheme, please visit:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/127873.aspx>

For more information about CRC:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/126698.aspx>

Plugged-In Car Grant Office for Low Emissions Vehicles



Minimum award: 25% of purchase price of car
Maximum award: £5,000

Eligibility

Open to purchasers, both private and fleet, of ultra-low carbon vehicles.

Description

This is a consumer incentive to encourage the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicles. The subsidy delivers a 25% reduction in the purchase price of the vehicle up to a maximum value of £5,000.

As the scrappage scheme has shown, financial incentives can influence consumer spending behaviour and it is hoped that this subsidy will fast track consumer take-up of low carbon vehicles.

The subsidy has been available since January 2011. There is a total of £300m allocated for the lifetime of this government.

Cars eligible for the subsidy will have to demonstrate compliance against safety and performance criteria which could be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plug-in-car-grant>.

Additional Information

There are a number of additional financial incentives relating to the use of electric vehicles, particularly for fleets. These include low company car tax, first year capital allowances and where applicable London Congestion Charge exemption.

Application Process

The Plugged-In Car Grant is applied at the point of purchase.

Contact Details

The most relevant contact is OLEV:
olev.enquiries@olev.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plug-in-car-grant>

Green Bus Fund Department for Transport (DFT)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to local authorities and bus companies in England.

Description

This incentive is targeted to local authorities and bus companies to hasten the introduction of low carbon buses across England. Introduced in 2009 the scheme originally had a fund of £30m. This was shared between 24 winning applications to help support the purchase of 350 low carbon buses.

It was then extended with a further £15m in 2010. In the Autumn Statement of 2011, the announcement was made that a further £25m would be made available. £20m of this will be going towards purchases of new green buses. The remaining £5m will go towards retrofitting older London based buses with pollution-reducing equipment along with £5m from Transport for London. In 2012 further £20m were made available to support the additional costs for buying low carbon emission buses.

The £12 million funding (Round 4) for 213 new low carbon buses was announced 27 May 2013. It will deliver better services for passengers while also cut carbon and deliver economic growth. Five bus manufacturers will benefit from orders for their eco-friendly hybrid, electric and gas buses, with many of the buses being assembled in the UK. The manufacturers which stand to benefit are Alexander Dennis Limited, BYD, Optare, Scania and Volvo.

Application Process

Bidding guidance could be found at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-bus-fund-round-4>

Contact Details

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

Phone: 0300 330 3000
Web: www.dft.gov.uk

Useful Links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/background-to-the-green-bus-fund>

Lambert Tool Kit Intellectual Property Office



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all businesses and organisations.

Description

The Lambert tool kit provides information, guidelines and templates for business-university collaborations and consortia.

The aim of the tool is to provide collaborative research parties with sufficient information and guidance to ensure robust IP contracts can be set up to protect the interests of all parties involved.

Both university and business interests are represented by appropriate content.

The toolkit provides a number of model agreements that can be used as base contracts, along with guidance notes and a decision guide.

Application Process

N/A

Contact Details

Telephone: 0300 300 2000

Email: information@ipo.gov.uk

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/about/contact.htm>

Useful Links

Homepage: <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/lambert>

[Intellectual asset management for universities](#)

Developing your International Trade Potential Solutions for Business UKTI



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

You can join the programme if your business is located in England, has fewer than 250 employees, your annual turnover is not over £50m and you currently make 25% or less of your turnover from exports. Larger businesses can get help from International Trade Advisors.

Description

The Programme gives you access to:

- a free export health check of your readiness for exporting and help in developing a plan of action subsidised
- flexible training in the requirements for trading overseas
- advice on how to go about market research with the possibility of a grant towards approved market research projects
- access to an experienced local International Trade Adviser specialist and help in tackling cultural and language issues when communicating with overseas customers and partners
- ongoing support to help your business develop overseas trade and look at more sophisticated activities or markets
- advice on a range of international trade help available from UK Trade & Investment and other organisations

Application Information

Contact your local International Trade Team. You'll find a list of contacts for you local region at <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/unitedkingdom/contactus.html>

Contact Details

Follow the above link to find you local office of contact UKTI on 020 7215 8000.

Useful Links

<https://www.gov.uk/starting-to-export>

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/developingyourinternationaltradepotential.html>

Tradeshaw Access Programme (TAP Grants) UKTI



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Up to £1800 towards stand costs.

Eligibility

Open to SMEs travelling abroad with accredited trade organisations. SMMT is an accredited trade organisation. In some circumstances grants of up to £1000 may be awarded for independent attendance at international trade shows.

Description

Every little helps and if you're planning to exhibit internationally then UKTI may be able to provide up to £1,800. The fund is targeted at new exporters with companies being eligible for up to 6 TAP grants providing events take place in a minimum of two countries.

Application Information

The UKTI Customer Service Team can help and guide you. Give them a call on 08452 789 600. Or go directly to your appropriate regional team contact at <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/unitedkingdom/contactus.html>

If you are attending an event with SMMT then our International Team can help you with all applications.

Contact Details

UKTI has an HQ both in London and Glasgow; however it is worth highlighting that it also has 2,400 staff in 96 countries. Finding the most relevant person for you is best done via the UKTI website <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/contactus.html>

Useful Links

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/howwehelp/tradefairsexhibitions.html>

Overseas Market Introduction Services (OMIS) UKTI



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: The service is chargeable but subsidised. A work plan and charging level is agreed in advance.

Eligibility

Open to exporters.

Description

A flexible service tailored to your business needs. Exporters can request a range of information including market analysis, help identifying the best route to market, help with organising overseas programmes and support in business contact management.

Application Information

The UKTI Customer Service Team can help and guide you. Give them a call on 0845 278 9600, or go directly to your appropriate regional team contact at

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/unitedkingdom/contactus.html>

Contact Details

UKTI has HQ both in London and Glasgow; however it is worth highlighting that it also has 2,400 staff in 96 countries. Finding the most relevant person for you is best done via the UKTI website

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/contactus.html>

Telephone: 0845 278 9600

Useful Links

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/accessinginternationalmarkets/overseasmarketintroductionservice.html>

Passport to Export UKTI



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £1500 (matched funding)

Eligibility

Open to new and inexperienced exporters.

Description

This is a 12-18 month flexible programme targeted to help new and inexperienced exporters understand and target their international customers. As part of the services you'll go on a 2-day export strategy workshop, receive additional subsidised training, receive a diagnostic and development export plan (providing useful advice on making you ready for international trade) and access other UKTI services plus up to £1500 matched funds to make your plans happen.

Application Information

The UKTI Customer Service Team can help and guide you. Give them a call on 0845 278 9600. Or go directly to your appropriate regional team contact at <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/unitedkingdom/contactus.html>

Contact Details

UKTI has HQ both in London and Glasgow; however it is worth highlighting that it also has 2,400 staff in 96 countries. Finding the most relevant person for you is best done via the UKTI website: <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/contactus.html>

Telephone: 0845 278 9600

Useful Links

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/howwehelp/passporttoexport.html>

Gateway to Global Growth UKTI



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Companies need to be either SMEs, have 2-10 years export experience or be innovative.

Description

Gateway to Global Growth is a free service provided by UKTI. They offer a 12 month programme of strategic support tailored to your needs to help grown your company's business overseas. Solutions could be complex, requiring both UK Trade & Investment services and those offered by other public or private sector organisations. Gateway is designed to help you achieve your objectives in a number of ways.

The programme starts with a strategic review with an experienced International Trade Adviser to assess trade development needs and construct a next steps action plan; guidance and mentoring from export professionals and support on specialist subjects. It also includes access to UK Trade & Investment's international network; assistance with market research, language and culture and networking opportunities to learn from other exporters.

Application information

The first step in the application process is to speak with your local International Trade Team to find out if you are suitable for the programme. A list of regional offices is available from here:

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/unitedkingdom/contactus.html>

Contact details

Tel: 0845 539 0419

Email: enquiries@ukti-invest.com

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/howwehelp/gatewaytoglobalgrowth.html>

Growth Accelerator



Minimum reward: N/A
Maximum reward: N/A

Eligibility

Companies need to employ fewer than 250 people and turnover under £40m.

Description

Achieving 20% growth year on year is the hallmark of high growth businesses. Growth Accelerator is designed to support a wide variety of businesses reach that figure. Their access to finance experts offer flexible support, tailored to the individual needs of your company. This support is based upon an intimate knowledge of the financial community and their requirements when considering investments, lending or providing grants for financing business.

Growth Accelerator is unique in England and is available for small and medium sized businesses. The services are intended to double the size of a business in three years.

Application information

To apply please click here where you will be asked for some qualifying questions:

http://www.growthaccelerator.com/does-your-business-meet-the-criteria?utm_expid=60111771-1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.growthaccelerator.com%2Fwhat-we-offer%2Faccess-to-finance

Contact details

Call: 0844 4632 995
Email: enquiries@growthaccelerator.com

Export Communications Review UKTI



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £350 subsidy towards total costs of service which is £500+VAT.

Eligibility

Eligible to UK based companies who have been trading for a minimum of 2 years and employ fewer than 250 staff. You should be currently exporting or have plans in place to start.

Description

An accredited export communications consultant will review your export communications providing impartial and objective advice to help deliver effective export communications that avoid language and cultural barrier issues. Essentially a service aimed at making sure your export communications are as effective as they can be.

It is not a free service although you may be eligible for a subsidy towards costs.

Application Information

To apply for an export communications review, complete and submit the online application form via <http://www.gle.co.uk/advice/request-export-communication-review.php>

Contact Details

For more information contact the UKTI ECR team:

Tel: 0845 034 2111

Email: info@ukecr.co.uk

Useful Links

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/howwehelp/exportcommunicationsreview.html>

Export Marketing Research Scheme UKTI



Minimum: N/A

Maximum: Up to 50% funding of overseas marketing research

Eligibility

Companies must have between 5 and 250 staff. You must provide an adequate proposal for the marketing exercise to be undertaken, which will be reviewed for eligibility.

Description

Exporters are guided to the facts that inform them about crucial exporting and marketing decisions such as whether to or when to proceed, how much to invest, how to be represented, whether and how to adapt the product or service, how much to charge, who to target and many others for both the short and the long term.

Online flyer is available here:

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/download/109262_146460/EMRS%20information%20promotional%20leaflet.pdf.html

Application Process

Application process is explained in the guidance note:

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/download/109262_174820/EMRS%20Guidance%20Notes%20Nov%202012.pdf.html

Contact Details

Find out more by phone 0845 034 2111 or email: info@ukemrs.com

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/howwehelp/exportmarketingresearchscheme.html>



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Companies must have a UK base. Each product provided by the Department has its own further terms of eligibility.

Description

The Exports Credits Guarantee Department offers support to companies with a base in the UK looking to export their products or services abroad. The support is provided in the form of a range of products, each tailored to a different trade situation. The products vary in function to cover specific aspects of trade deals; however the value of the contract plays a large part in the relevance of each product. Whilst several products may be applicable to a particular deal, each product is weighted to cover a different risk.

A full list of the products along with a brief description, terms of eligibility and application guidelines are available below:

<http://www.ecgd.gov.uk/products-and-services>

The Department can provide guarantees to both UK and foreign banks that they will receive their loan repayments if the UK exporter or foreign importer defaults for reasons within the terms of the agreement. Their products also include but are not limited to the provision of bond guarantees for banks, insurance of payment for the exporter and lines of credit to foreign buyers. In essence their role is to ensure that UK export deals of substantial size and value are not inhibited by a lack of financial support being available.

Application information

On the whole there is no fee for the application. In the case of guarantees placed on loans, the premium payable is determined on a case by case basis. Some products are only applicable through banks, however the first step for all product application is to speak to customer services: +44 (0) 207 512 7887.

Contact Details

General Enquiries: 020 7512 7000
Email: <http://www.ecgd.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-services>

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.ecgd.gov.uk/products-and-services>

Application forms: <http://www.ecgd.gov.uk/products-and-services/application-forms>

UK Export Finance (UKEF)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: below £50m

Eligibility

Any size of exporter.

Description

UK Export Finance (UKEF) is a government department dedicated in providing support to UK exporters. It does this in a number of ways but primarily by working with UK banks to provide exporters with trade finance solutions to help them win and perform on specific export contracts. It has a range of products which can provide support to exporters of any size. In 2011 UKEF expanded its range of short-term products which are particularly focus at SMEs.

Additional information

The Government announced in the 2012 Autumn Statement that the scheme will be developed to provide up to £1.5 billion of loans for the purchase of UK exports. The above mentioned scheme is operated by UKEF for the three year period. The scheme will focus on the transaction below the £50 million mark.

Application Information

Criteria various depending on different schemes that UKEF provide. Please check for the individual guides: <http://www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/products-and-services>

Contact Details

UKEF's customer service team are available to help. Please call 020 7512 7887 for further details.

Regional export finance advisors contact details could be found on UK Export Finance website: http://www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/cont_us/export-finance-advisors

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/products-and-services>

Guide to UK Export Finance:
<http://www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/assets/ecgd/files/prods-servs/quickguides/quick-guide-to-ecgd-v7.pdf>

Applied Research Grant The Carbon Trust



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £500,000

Eligibility

Any business or entrepreneur can submit proposals but all proposals should demonstrate that the project has the potential to result in a substantial reduction in the UK's carbon dioxide emissions or equivalent.

Description

The Applied Research Grant is available to support R&D projects that have a potential to reduce carbon emissions. When a call for proposals is offered, grants are offered up to £500,000 with a minimum 40% matching fund being required.

For projects to be eligible they must demonstrate:

- Innovation – a unique advantage in the current market.
- Potential for CO₂ emissions reduction based on scientific principles
- Commercial viability and that there is a demand from the target market with results planned.
- The project cannot be taken forward without the grant.
- Benefits to the UK low carbon economic growth.
- The impact of the project.

Projects should ideally have a timeline and not last longer than 3 years.

Application Information

Proposals submitted should demonstrate a project which is innovative, technically feasible and commercially viable by delivering benefits to the UK. The grant is granted based on the costs and the matching fund being in place.

To improve your chances of qualifying, you should include the following in your application:

- The minimum amount of funding required.
- The project's budget demonstrating cost effectiveness.
- Collaborative projects to encourage and increase the chances of commercialisation.
- Investments from other parties.

The next call for proposals starts July 2010. To apply, please submit an on-line proposal to the Carbon Trust <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/help-develop-my-technology/pages/how-to-apply.aspx>

Contact Details

Visit the Carbon Trust website www.carbontrust.co.uk to apply.

Useful Links

The Carbon Trust www.carbontrust.co.uk

Case studies <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/help-develop-my-technology/case-studies/pages/artemisintelligentpower.aspx>

Business Incubator The Carbon Trust



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £70,000

Eligibility

Entrepreneurs, small businesses or a spin out business from a large company or research institute can apply.

In order to qualify, you must demonstrate:

- potential for CO₂ emissions reduction based on scientific principles
- a realistic business plan with the potential to achieve £500,000 to £1 million through a strong management team
- a unique technology or service proposition

Description

The Carbon Trust Business Incubator scheme provides consulting services from 6 Incubator Partners worth up to £70,000. This is to help entrepreneurs and businesses in a wide range of low carbon issues, such as:

- help the organisation grow by understanding market opportunities
- assist in developing business strategies
- provide expert project development
- finding potential clients, investors and partners

At present, companies who have applied have received £70,000 worth of consulting services and have created revenue by selling low carbon products and have attracted £80 million in investment.

Application Information

To apply, please follow this link <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/help-develop-my-company/expertise/Pages/grow-my-business.aspx> to choose from one of 6 Incubator partners available who will help you with your application to Carbon Trust.

Contact Details

Carbon Trust 0800 085 2005

Useful Links

Website www.carbontrust.co.uk

Entrepreneur Fast Track The Carbon Trust



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £500,000

Eligibility

Open to micro and small UK enterprises where any intellectual property being developed or exploited is owned within the UK

Description

The Entrepreneur Fast Track programme is a customised package of expert commercial advice, networking opportunities and grant funding.

Commercial Advice is delivered through commercial and technical consultancy services up to the value of £70k. This can be fully funded by the Carbon Trust and includes:

- Advising on patenting and intellectual property strategies
- Prioritising markets and providing advice on how to enter them
- Building capable management teams
- Help finding customers, partners and investors
- Developing an investor ready business plan and pitch
- Boosting marketing and PR capabilities
- Providing expert engineering, modelling and product development
- Meeting product tests and regulations
- Assistance with scale-up for manufacture

Networking opportunities are also with investors and industry partners and set up through Carbon Trust contacts.

Grant funding for research and development projects of up to £500,000 and up to 60% of project costs are available but figures are dependant on the region.

Application Information

The first step is to call the customer centre on 0207 832 4807 for information.

Contact Details

Telephone: 0207 832 4807.

Useful Links

Fast Track Website: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/fast-track/pages/default.aspx>

Carbon Trust Website: www.carbontrust.co.uk

0% Business Loans (Wales and Northern Ireland) The Carbon Trust



Minimum award: £3,000
Maximum award: £100,000

Eligibility

You must be an SME in Northern Ireland or Wales.

Full eligibility criteria are listed here:

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/NI/NI/business-loans/pages/loans-eligibility.aspx>

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/wales/wales/business-loans/Pages/loans-eligibility.aspx>

Description

The Carbon Trust offers business loans between £3,000 and £100,000 at 0% interest for businesses and entrepreneurs to invest in energy saving products.

The benefits for the loans are:

- the energy savings offset the loan repayments therefore the new equipment should pay for itself and continue to make energy savings year on year
- these are unsecured government loans
- simple process with a conditional offer made within 24 hours
- repayments can be arranged over 4 years

Application Information

To apply, you have to submit an application online <https://www.carbontrust-online.co.uk/Pages/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/Default.aspx>

Please ensure that you have your company's registration details.

Online loan calculator in order to calculate how much you can borrow:

http://www.carbontrust.com/media/57516/loan_calculator_wales_1.5t.xlsx

Contact Details

Carbon Trust

Tel: 01865 885 850

Email: loans@carbontrust.co.uk

Application support hotline: 0800 085 2005

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/NI/NI/business-loans/pages/loans.aspx>

Full selection of Carbon Trust business services: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/products-services/business-loans/pages/loans.aspx>

Venture Capital Investments The Carbon Trust



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: up to £4m, 50% of total transaction

Eligibility

Any business or entrepreneur who is involved in 'clean energy technology' can apply. Full criteria are found here:

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/venture-capital/investment-criteria/pages/investment-criteria.aspx>

Description

The Carbon Trust, through its investments activity, finances emerging clean energy technology businesses that demonstrate commercial potential. Carbon Trust Investments Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Carbon Trust, makes early stage venture capital and seed investments to accelerate the commercialisation of clean energy businesses in the UK. It is a £46m fund, which it invests - leveraged with other private funding - into the UK's clean energy technology industry. CT Investment Partners LLP is the venture capital fund management associate that advises them on their investment activities.

Application Information

To apply, you need to submit a business plan demonstrating a detailed statement of the business's financial position and clear market assessment.

The criteria for the business proposal include the following:

- Be UK based
- Be innovative
- Have a clear financial position demonstrating the economic viability
- Management experience to execute the business plan
- Competitive advantage demonstrating market demands
- Profile key commercial markets
- Demonstrate the intellectual property rights and how they will be protected
- Identify investors who will cover other 50% of the funding

Once you have completed the business plan, please email it to: invest@ctip.co.uk

Contact Details

Carbon Trust: 0800 085 2005

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/venture-capital/pages/venture-capital.aspx>

Energy Efficiency Financing The Carbon Trust



Minimum award: £1,000
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Loans, financing and leases are available to all businesses that have been trading for at least 36 months, subject to normal credit assessment. Assessments are also made on the savings new equipment will make.

Description

Financing is available for any carbon saving processes you undertake. These range from upgrading building insulation or air conditioning, to industrial process technologies. The financing is flexible and payments can be offset against anticipated energy savings. Payments can also be offset against tax. Whilst it is energy efficiency specific, taking out the loan could free up capital for other activities.

Application Process

Applications are started by an online proposal form, followed by a review by Siemens Financial services. Once that is approved, an energy assessor will undertake calculations to support the application. The finance will then be made available.

Contact Details

Email: eef.sfs.gb@siemens.com
Telephone: 0800 988 3718

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/products-services/financing/business-financing/Pages/finance-overview.aspx>

Eco Business



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Up to 50% consultancy fee reimbursed & £2400 Grant

Eligibility

Small and Medium companies in the West Midlands (Birmingham & Solihull, The Black Country, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire & Shropshire) are eligible. Further details on prequalification criteria could be obtained via contact details specified below.

Description

The Eco Business project led by Coventry University Enterprises supports Small to Medium sized businesses in the West Midlands by delivering grant funding for consultancy to develop compliance with environmental legislation and ultimately reduce waste and cut costs. The project will help to create and save jobs, boost productivity and revenue, and encourage increased competitiveness.

Areas which are not limited to include:

- Energy efficiency
- The optimisation of raw materials
- Transport
- Water and energy
- Packaging design and re-use
- Waste and emissions management

Through grant funded specialist consultancy, businesses are being supported to grow and become more environmentally sustainable by looking at their environmental impact and creating practical courses of action to implement changes.

The project offers up to 50% match funding and a further grant of £2400 if costs reach a certain threshold which help to give businesses a competitive edge and aid their transformation to become cost efficient, environmentally friendly and maximise their growth opportunities.

Application Process

Project start - 12 April 2013

Project Completion - 30 Sept 2015

The project works in three stages: initial application, consultancy matching and business support, and in-depth consultancy.

For more information please contact the personnel directly.

Contact Details

To find out more call 024 7615 8206 or email info@ecobusinesswm.co.uk

Useful Links

Website:

www.ecobusinesswm.co.uk

Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme (GBSCP)



Minimum award: £20,000
Maximum award: £100,000

Eligibility

Eligible SMEs:

- based within the following LEPs: Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Coventry & Warwickshire, The Marches, Black Country, Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire, Worcester
- operating within green economy or diversifying into the green sector
- demonstrating business viability
- creating new jobs / safeguarding existing workplaces for at least 3 years.

Description

GBSCP is a £60m programme providing a flexible package of grant support for SMEs to develop new markets and new products, skills development and capital investment. It will operate across six LEPs in the West Midlands region. The programme will be delivered in June 2013 – March 2015.

Application Process

This is a competition based programme, where the funding will only be available for a limited period. Round 2 of the competition opened on 19th August 2013 and closed on 13th September 2013. Application forms must be submitted before the closing date. Applications submitted after the closing date will not be taken into account in the assessment process. Each application will be subject to a project and financial assessment against set criteria. The assessment process takes place in September 2013 and it is expected that decisions will be announced in October

The Competition Brief, Guidance for Applicants and Application Form are available on www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge

Please contact GBSCP project management team for further details on application process.

Contact Details

GBSCP project management team
Birmingham City Council
Baskerville House, Broad Street
Birmingham, B1 2ND

Suresh Patel
0121 303 3091
suresh.patel@birmingham.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge

Business Development Programme



Minimum award: £10,000 (which represent 45% of eligible project costs)
Maximum award: £15,000 (which represent 45% of eligible project costs)

Eligibility

Eligible SMEs in the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership area. Further eligibility criteria listed here: <http://centrefenterprise.com/business-development-programme-eligibility/>

Description

The Business Development Programme is a comprehensive financial assistance scheme that provides support for SMEs in the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership area. The programme is part funded by the [European Regional Development Fund](#) and runs until May 2015.

Application Process

Please get in touch with the contacts below for details on the application process.

Contact Details

Birmingham Chamber – 0121 607 1919, m.canny@birmingham-chamber.com

Cannock Chase District Council – 01543 464219, BDP@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

East Staffordshire Borough Council – 01283 508625, economic.regeneration@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Lichfield District Council and Tamworth Borough Council – 01827 709382, business@tamworth.gov.uk

North Worcester (Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest DCs) – 0845 601 5953, info@nwedr.org.uk

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – 0121 704 6120 iwoods@solihull.gov.uk.

Useful Links

Website:

<http://centrefenterprise.com/what-we-are-doing/busines/business-development-programme/>

Business Development Programme leaflet:

<http://centrefenterprise.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BDP-Leaflet.pdf>

Innovation funding and support search (East Midlands Innovation)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

Various East Midlands organisations.

Description

East Midlands Innovation funding and support search tool helps organisations to search for available funding and support in the region in the shape of grants or knowledge exchange programmes.

Application Information

There is no application involved. Simply visit the website to use the tool.

Contact Details

If you need further assistance please email solutions.projects@idoxgroup.com or call 01625 628 007.

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.eminnovation.org.uk/schemesearch.aspx>

Investment for Growth (North East England)



Minimum award £1,000
Maximum award £4,000

Eligibility

The fund is available to SMEs in the North East of England. Full eligibility criteria are listed on <http://www.investment4growth.co.uk/eligibility/>

Description

The fund is recommended to those companies who are planning to improve their business through investing in business growth projects. The fund will provide grants of up to 40% of the total project value.

Additional Information

All project activity must be completed before December 2013.

Application Information

If you are interested in applying please contact the Investment for Growth team via contact details listed below or via online form: <http://www.investment4growth.co.uk/contact-us/>

Application process is fully explained on the website: <http://www.investment4growth.co.uk/application-process/>

Contact Details

Investment for Growth team
Tel: 0191 426 6408
Email: enquiries@investment4growth.co.uk

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.investment4growth.co.uk/>

FAQs:
<http://www.investment4growth.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/>

Scottish Co-investment Fund (SCF) Scottish Enterprise



Minimum award: £100,000
Maximum award: £1 million

Eligibility

To be eligible for investment from the Scottish Co-Investment Fund, your company must:

- Be based in Scotland as an incorporated SME
- Have net assets less than £16 million
- Be doing a deal involving the sale of an equity interest

Restrictions apply to SCF investments for businesses in some sectors (mainly finance or property management related). A full list of eligibility terms and business sector restrictions are available here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SIB-Equity-Funding/SCIF/SCIF-Rules-and-eligibility.aspx>

Description

The Scottish Co-investment Fund (SCF) is a £72 million equity investment fund that invests from £100,000 to £1 million in company finance deals of up to £2 million. The SCF is managed by the Scottish Investment Bank and is partly funded by the European Regional Development. Unlike a standard venture capital (VC) fund or a business angel, the SCF does not find and negotiate investment deals on its own. Instead it forms contractual partnerships with active VC fund managers, business angels and business angel syndicates from the private sector (the SCF partner). It is these partners that find the opportunity, negotiate the terms and invest themselves. If more funding is required, they can then go to the SCF for further investment on equal terms.

Application Process

All SCF opportunities need to be brought forward by a private sector partner. If you are looking for investment, you must first secure funding from one of these SCF partners. The below directory includes contact details for each partner, so you can contact them directly. The SCF search tool is available here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SIB-Equity-Funding/SIB-investors/scif-search.aspx>

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/sib-equity-funding/scif.aspx>

Scottish Venture Fund (SVF) Scottish Enterprise



Minimum award: £500,000
Maximum award: £2 million

Eligibility

To be eligible for investment from the SVF, your company must:

- Be based in Scotland as an incorporated SME
- Have net assets less than £16 million
- Be doing a deal involving the sale of an equity interest

Restrictions apply to SVF investments for businesses in some sectors (mainly finance or property related). A full list eligibility terms and business sector restrictions are available here:

<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SIB-Equity-Funding/SVF/SVF-Eligibility.aspx>

Description

The Scottish Venture Fund (SVF) invests £500,000 to £2 million, alongside private sector partners, in company finance deals of between £2 million and £10 million. The SVF is managed by the Scottish Investment Bank and is part funded by the European regional Development Fund. The SVF will typically invest through equity instruments but also through mezzanine or debt instruments, provided that the commercial terms are on a matching basis with its private sector partner. The SVF will only invest in companies that have secured funding from one of their private sector partners.

Application process

All SVF opportunities need to be brought forward by one of their private sector partner. If you are looking for investment, you must first secure funding from one of these SVF partners. The below directory includes contact details for each partner, so you can contact them directly. The SVF search tool is available here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SIB-Equity-Funding/SIB-investors/svfparkers.aspx>

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SIB-Equity-Funding/SVF.aspx>

Scottish Seed Fund (SSF) Scottish Enterprise



Minimum award: £20,000
Maximum award: £250,000

Eligibility

The SSF is only available to companies that are Scotland based, incorporated SMEs with less than £16million of assets, at least one external equity investor, that are looking to part with equity in a financing deal that is at least 50% sourced from the private sector.

Restrictions apply to SSF investments for businesses in a limited number of sectors (mainly finance or property related). A full list eligibility terms and business sector restrictions are available here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SIB-Equity-Funding/SEED.aspx>

Description

The Scottish Seed Fund (SSF), managed by The Scottish Investment Bank (SIB), is designed to improve the availability of finance for start-up and young growing companies in Scotland. The SSF can invest between £20,000 and £250,000 on an equity basis in early stage businesses that meet the SSF criteria and are keen to grow. Priority is given to businesses demonstrating high-growth potential in terms of launching new products, entering new markets and increasing employment.

The SSF will invest in start-ups and early stage companies at the end phase of product development and/or commercialisation.

Application Process

The application process can be started using the following contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/sib-contact-us.aspx>

Contact Details:

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SIB-Equity-Funding/SEED.aspx>

Scottish Loan Fund (SLF) Scottish Enterprise



Minimum award: £250,000
Maximum award: £5 million

Eligibility

The SLF will consider Scottish based SMEs with:

- Sustainable operating profits and positive cash generation
- Annual turnover of at least £1 million in the preceding 12 months of trading
- A proven management team operating in a growth sector

Restrictions apply to SLF investments for businesses in a limited number of sectors (mainly finance or property related). A full list eligibility terms and business sector restrictions are available here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/scottish-loan-fund.aspx>

Description

The Scottish Loan Fund (SLF) provides [mezzanine loans](#) ranging from £250,000 to £5 million to qualifying Scottish SMEs. The SLF is focused on established businesses that have growth potential or are engaged in exporting from Scotland. The Scottish Investment Bank has provided £55 million of cornerstone funding to the SLF, which is part financed by the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In addition £39.2 million of private sector investment has been generated, giving a cumulative fund value of £94.2 million. Maven Capital Partners has been selected to manage the SLF.

Application Process

To find out how to apply, visit the Maven website: <http://www.mavencp.com/scottish-loan-fund.aspx>

Contact details

To speak directly to a member of Maven's SLF Investment Team, call 0141 206 0121

Email: slfenquiries@mavencp.com

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/scottish-loan-fund.aspx>

Maven Website: <http://www.mavencp.com/scottish-loan-fund.aspx>



Minimum award: £0
Maximum award: £600,000

Eligibility

Companies interested in applying must be SMEs based in Scotland with a technological advance of significance in its sector. The company must also have the rights to exploit the intellectual property and be in a position to make a commercial success of it but that financial assistance is essential.

Description

SMART: SCOTLAND provides discretionary grants to support technical and commercial feasibility studies, and research and development (R&D) projects.

For studies involving early stage R&D to enable informed decisions on the technical and commercial feasibility of a new product or process, support is available on a discretionary basis at up to 75 percent of the eligible project costs. Projects must last between 6 and 18 months, and the maximum grant is £70,000. One third of the grant is paid upfront when the project starts. The remainder is normally paid quarterly in arrears against claims submitted.

For projects that aim to develop a pre-production prototype of a new product or process, support is available on a discretionary basis at up to 35 percent of the eligible project costs. Projects must last between 6 and 36 months, and the maximum grant is £600,000. The grant is normally paid quarterly in arrears and minimum project costs should be £75,000.

Application process

Applications are initiated and managed online, using the following contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland/smart-how-do-i-apply.aspx>

Contact Details

Contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland/smart-contact-us.aspx>

Telephone: 08456078787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland.aspx>

Full Eligibility details are listed here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland/smart-eligibility.aspx>

SMARTCymru Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) funding (Wales)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £200,000

Eligibility

SMARTCymru funding is available to all innovative businesses operating in Wales and projects carried out in Wales.

Collaborative projects can be undertaken by two or more separate companies. All applicants must have a base in Wales and at least one of the applicants must be an SME.

Description

SMARTCymru Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) funding offers support and non-repayable financial assistance to Welsh-based businesses for the research and development of new, technically innovative, products and processes which have good commercial potential.

Further details could be found on the following link:

<http://business.wales.gov.uk/growing-business/welsh-government-support-1/support-innovation-0>

Application Information

Details on the application process could be obtained from Business Wales via phone 03000 603000.

Contact

To get further information please contact Business Wales on 03000 603000 and visit business.wales.gov.uk.

Useful Links

Brochure

https://business.wales.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Growing%20a%20business/SMARTCymru%20Brochure%20Eng_growing.pdf

Interface (Scotland's universities and research Institutes)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

Scottish organisations.

Description

Interface is a central hub connecting businesses from a wide variety of national and international industries to Scotland's 24 higher education and research institutes. Interface provides free and impartial service aiming to stimulate innovation and encouraging companies to consider academic support to solve business challenges.

Additional information

Companies can benefit in various ways by using academic expertise in such areas as funding, consultancy, equipment and facilities, research and developments and industrial placements.

Application Information

For further details please contact Interface directly. Contact details are listed below.

Contact Details

Tel: 0131 651 4791

Email: info@interface-online.org.uk

Address:
7 Roxburgh Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9TA

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.interface-online.org>

R&D Grant Scottish Enterprise



Minimum award: £0

Maximum award: £40,000 (up to 35% of project costs for SMEs, 25% of project costs for large companies)

Eligibility

Open to all SMEs based in Scotland. The Grant can only be used for projects that represent a significant innovation for the company concerned with a realistic route to market and suitable promise for commercial success. Companies must demonstrate that the grant will provide crucial financial support. Projects where the work has already started or commercial contracts are in place are not eligible.

Description

The R&D Grant supports businesses developing new products, processes and services to improve company competitiveness and to benefit the Scottish economy. Projects must represent a significant innovation for the company concerned and significant risks should be associated with the challenge of developing a new product, process or service. The selection process will also look at the wider picture, accounting for the broader possible impact of the project from securing jobs to how it will affect the environment.

Application process

The application process begins by contacting Scottish Enterprise. The process involves filling out an expression of interest form as well as a project proposal and business plan. These will all be reviewed by both internal and external assessors with both technical and financial expertise to ensure the project will be of a wider local benefit than just to the applicant company.

Contact Details

Email contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/rd-grant/rd-grant-contact-us.aspx>

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/rd-grant.aspx>

UKFunders



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all businesses.

Description

UKFunders offers a number of services to companies looking for financing. Activities are based on a database of information collected on funding organisations providing finance to UK businesses, at cost, UKFunders can provide details and forecasts on specific sectors, details of finance deals recently completed, and a list of financing and grant programmes currently available.

UKFunders will also provide SMMT members with a free 30 minute consultation on available and best suited business financing options, along with relevant contact information. Only if finance or funding is successfully raised would a referral cost would be recovered.

Application process

In the first instance, please contact Pravish Patel at pravish.patel@ukfunders.co.uk

Contact details

Telephone: 0800 612 6768

For full contact details, please click [here](#).

Useful links

<http://about.ukfunders.co.uk/>

Venture Capital and Business Angels



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Description

There are a range of venture capital companies and business angels that may invest in your business for a percentage share of your business.

It can prove a useful source of funding and business expertise.

If it is of your interest you should contact the relevant industry associations or ask your regional business link office for information about companies operating in your locality.

Contact Details

The British Business Angels Association
www.bbaa.org.uk

The British Venture Capital Association
www.bvca.co.uk

Angel CoFund



Minimum award: £100k
Maximum award: £1 million

Description

The £50m Angel CoFund was launched in November 2011. The fund has been created with a grant from the Regional Growth Fund and invests alongside business angel syndicates from across England. At Budget 2013, Government announced further £50m for the Fund.

The fund has been designed and established by a consortium of private and public bodies with expertise in business angel investment.

According to the enterprise Minister's announcement, 3 July 2013, the scheme which was previously available to businesses in the specific regions is now open to the organisations across the UK.

Application process

The fund is able to make initial equity investments of between £100K and £1M in to SMEs alongside syndicates of business angels, subject to certain geographical restrictions and an upper limit of 49% of any investment round. Investment decisions will be made by the independent Investment Committee of the fund based on the detailed proposals put forward by business angel syndicates.

The fund is not open to direct approaches from individual businesses and those seeking investment should first secure the interest of the business angel syndicate or network. Businesses seeking investment can find more information on business angels, syndicates and networks from the UK Business Angels Association website www.bbaa.org.uk.

Contact details

Fund Manager could be contacted via below details:
Tel: 0114 206 2131
Email: info@angelcofund.co.uk

Useful links

<http://www.angelcofund.co.uk/>

<http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/bacf>

Early Advantage Fund



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: up to £125,000 (if matched by private money), and a further £275,000 in subsequent rounds

Eligibility

Early stage and small businesses within West Midlands are eligible.

Description

The Early Advantage Fund was launched in December 2009 to provide investment, alongside business angels and other private sector investors, in early stage and small businesses within the West Midlands. The fund is targeting high growth start-up and early stage businesses with or without revenues. The £8m fund was created through investment from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills, including a grant from the European Regional Development Fund.

Application Process

Please contact Andrew Muir and Duncan Kerr for application details (please see below).

Contact Details

Andrew Muir and Duncan Kerr
Phone: 0121 710 1990
Email: enquiries@midven.com

Useful Links

Website:

<http://midven.co.uk/funds/early-advantage-fund/>

Exceed Midlands Advantage Fund



Minimum award: £250,000
Maximum award: £750,000

Eligibility

SMEs in the West Midlands region are eligible.

Description

Exceed Midlands Advantage Fund was launched in March 2010 to provide expansion and development capital to West Midlands based businesses. The £18million fund is an investment by LDC, Advantage West Midlands and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The fund will focus upon high growth businesses in the West Midlands region.

Application Process

Please contact Tony Stott and Surjit Kooner for application details (please see below).

Contact Details

Investment team
Tony Stott and Surjit Kooner
Phone: 0121 710 1990
Email: enquiries@midven.com

Useful Links

Website:
LDC
<http://www.ldc.co.uk/portfolio/companyinfo.aspx?ld=304>
Midven
<http://midven.co.uk/funds/exceed/>

Business Growth Fund



Minimum award: £2m
Maximum award: £10m

Eligibility

The BGF will consider UK based companies with the following characteristics:

- Demonstrate a strong growth trajectory (10%+ annual growth)
- Turnover between £5m and £100m
- Requiring an investment between £2m to £10m

Description

In July 2010, the chief executives of some of the largest UK banks, including Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, RBS, Standard Chartered and the British Bankers' Association (BBA) set up a Business Finance Taskforce to consider what more could be done to help the UK return to sustainable growth. The initiative followed publication of government's green paper, 'Financing a private sector recovery' in July 2010. The BGF wants to work closely with the companies in which they invest over a 5-7 year period.

The BGF aims to work in partnership with a wide variety of organisations across the UK, forming strategic partnerships with business representative bodies, professional business advisers (including company lawyers and accountants), and national and regional governments.

The BGF is developing excellent working relationships with regional and local business chambers of commerce, business schools, Local Enterprise Partnerships and local councils. The BGF will install regional investment managers and will have strong connections with their local and regional business communities.

Round 5 is now open for bids until midday on 9 December 2013. Up to £300 million will be available with selected bidders announced in spring 2014.

Application process

The application process begins by contacting the BGF directly. The process involves filling out an application form. This will all be reviewed and the BGF will make contact with you.

https://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk/uploads/documents/BGF_Application_Form.pdf

Contact Details

To start the process please follow the link: <https://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk/invest/start-the-process>.

Telephone: 0845 266 8860

Email: enquiries@businessgrowthfund.co.uk

Useful links

Website: <http://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk>

Lincoln Growth Fund (LGF)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award £50,000

Eligibility

Businesses in Lincoln.

Description

The Lincoln Growth Fund (LGF), working as part of the Lincoln Science and Innovation park scheme, will be delivered by the University of Lincoln until 2015. Aiming to add 135 jobs in 20 businesses around the city, the LGF will provide grants of up to £50,000. Businesses will be invited to apply for a share of the £1 million fund in return for demonstrating their capacity for creating jobs. Almost all industry sectors can apply and funding can pay for a range of requirements including capital equipment, software, improving business premises and recruiting skilled staff.

Application Information

Although the Fund is not yet open for applications anyone wishing to express their initial interest can e-mail Lincolngrowthfund@lincoln.ac.uk

Contact Details

Research & Enterprise
University of Lincoln
Brayford Pool, Lincoln LN6 7TS
lincolngrowthfund@lincoln.ac.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/news/2013/07/733.asp>

The North West Fund



Minimum award: £50,000
Maximum award: £2million

Eligibility

SMEs based in, or relocating to the North West of England.

For full eligibility criteria, please click [here](#).

Description

The fund is broken down into six individually managed funds that provide debt and equity financing options to SMEs operating in the North West of England looking to develop their business:

- Venture capital
- Development capital
- Business Loans
- Digital Creative
- Energy & Environmental
- Biomedical

Whilst each fund has a specific focus, applications for businesses in all stages of development will be considered for investment. Businesses considered to be in “financial difficulty” will not be considered.

The Fund is financed by a £92.4m grant from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and a matched European Investment Bank loan, under the JEREMIE programme, which is expected to keep the fund open for investment until the end of 2015.

Application process

Applications are submitted online. Following that, the process will involve:

1. Initial review by a respective fund manager
2. Face to face meeting
3. Assessment by fund managers and deal structuring
4. Agreement of investment terms
5. Conduct a due diligence assessment
6. Legal documentation completed
7. Completion
8. Ongoing support and monitoring

For full details, please click [here](#).

Contact Details

To contact the fund, please click [here](#).

Alternatively, contact 01925 418 232

Useful links

<http://www.thenorthwestfund.co.uk/>

Wales Economic Growth Fund



Phase 1 (March 2013)
Minimum award: £50,000
Maximum award: £100,000

Phase 2 (Autumn 2013)
Awards over £100,000

Eligibility

The Wales Economic Growth Fund operates across the economy. Almost all manufacturing (ICT, Manufacturing, Aerospace, Defence etc) sectors are eligible, as are many service sectors that serve more than just the local market (e.g. Environmental goods and services).

Description

The Wales Economic Growth Fund is a non-repayable grant fund to encourage businesses by supporting projects that stimulate economic growth and create or safeguard employment.

It is a competitive scheme and each project will be judged against internal value for money criteria, which will focus on the number and quality of the jobs created/safeguarded as a result of the project.

Application Information

To register your interest for Phase 1 of the Fund please complete the [online form](#) and send it to wegf@wales.gsi.gov.uk. Phase 1 Expression of Interests will be considered until 1 March 2013. The closing date for the receipt of the interest is 5 April 2013.

More details on the application process could be found on the following page:
<http://business.wales.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Campaigns/WEGF%20process-Eng.pdf>

Contact Details

Email: wegf@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 6 03000

Useful Links

Website:
<http://business.wales.gov.uk/wales-economic-growth-fund>

Guidance notes for applicants:
<http://business.wales.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Campaigns/WEGF%20%20-%20Guidance%20Eng.pdf>

FAQ:
<http://business.wales.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Campaigns/WEGF%20FAQs%20Phase%201%20Eng.pdf>

Solihull Business Loan Fund



Minimum award: £100,000
Maximum award: £200,000

Eligibility

SMEs based in Solihull are eligible.

Description

Solihull Council's new Business Loan Fund is a groundbreaking initiative offering a £1 million package of loans to small and medium businesses (SMEs) based in Solihull. The loan will support a diverse range of solid profitable Solihull companies which have previously been unable to access funding. Solihull Council is working alongside Finance Birmingham, which is acting as agent for the Council to oversee the £1 million fund.

Application Process

For further information or to apply for a loan, please contact Finance Birmingham on 0121 233 4903 or visit [Solihull For Success](#)

Application form:

<http://www.solihullforsuccess.com/assets/Business-Support/Finance-for-Success/Finance-for-Success-application-for-funding.doc>

Contact Details

Please see the details above.

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.financebirmingham.com/solihull-business-loan-fund>

Fund overview:

<http://www.solihullforsuccess.com/business/business-support/solihull-council-s-new-business-loan-fund/the-loan-fund/>

Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP) TSB



Minimum award } expected total cost of project to be
Maximum award } between £2m and £5m.

Eligibility

The tenth competition under the innovation platform's integrated delivery programme (IDP) aims to integrate the low carbon vehicle innovation chain, from the science base, through collaborative R&D to fleet-level demonstration.

The Fund looks to invest in innovative, business-led projects that strengthen UK capability and develop the UK's supply chain in the field of low carbon vehicles.

Projects must demonstrate technologies that deliver significant reductions in vehicle CO₂ emissions compared to current best-in-class technologies. Each project needs to show how these technologies will bring products to market quickly and demonstrate an ability to build significant supply chain capability within the UK. It should also consider carefully how any intellectual property is handled and secured within the UK, for exploitation by and to the overall benefit of UK plc.

Description

It is a £10m fund to support innovative technologies for low carbon vehicles that address the technical challenges. Projects must be business-led and collaborative. A collaborative project includes one lead partner and at least one project partner.

Application Information

The competition comprises an application and assessment process with selected proposals being invited for presentations to a panel of assessors, the Technology Strategy Board and other key stakeholders.

The competition opens on 4 September 2013 and the deadline for registration is at noon on 6 November 2013. The deadline for application forms, including annexes and finance forms, is at noon on 13 November 2013.

Contact Details

Competition helpline: **0300 321 4357**

Email: competitions@innovateuk.org

Useful Links

Website: https://www.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/building-an-automotive-supply-chain-of-the-future?p_p_auth=aQFRJMZ2

Competition brief:

<https://www.innovateuk.org/documents/1524978/1866952/Building+an+automotive+supply+chain+of+the+future+-+Competition+brief/3c20bfcd-5bb7-4dec-a790-9675389f0d33>

Low Carbon Funding Landscape Navigator Energy Generation & Supply Knowledge Transfer Network



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Private and public organisations

Description

Low Carbon Funding Landscape Navigator is a fully searchable database for the latest funding opportunities in the Low Carbon area.

Additional Information

Public and private funding provider can also add and manage their own funding opportunities and promote to the relevant industries.

Application Information

There is no application involved. Simply visit the website to use the tool.

Contact Details

For further information please email lowcarbonfunding@energyktn.innovateuk.org or call 01223 899517.

Energy Generation & Supply KTN
TWI Ltd
Granta Park
Great Abington
Cambridge CB21 6AL

Useful Links

<http://www.lowcarbonfunding.org.uk/>

Low Emission Transport Collaborative Project Fund (North East)



Minimum award: £50,000
Maximum award: £300,000

Eligibility

The fund will support collaborations between SMEs with product development support needs, and knowledge based partners such as R&D organisations, businesses, universities, technology partners, customers or partner companies. The fund will provide a contribution towards the project cost and should be matched with a private sector contribution. It is open to organisations looking to create jobs in Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, County Durham or Tees Valley.

Description

The Low Emission Transport Collaborative Project Fund is part of a wider £6.2m Regional Growth Fund programme designed to boost the growth of the low carbon sector within the region. Grant funding decisions will be made by an independent investment panel made up of technical experts, business representatives, business networks, academia and funding specialists. The fund will provide grant funding to collaborative industry-research organisation projects based in North East.

Application Information

The second round of the fund is currently open. It involves two stages application:

Stage 1: Expression of Interest by 10 April 2013. Within two days of submitting completed EOI the organisation will be informed whether they have been invited to Stage 2 of the bidding process. You can [download a copy of the Expression of Interest Form here](#).

Stage 2: Full Application. If EOI is successful the company will be sent by email a copy of the full application form. The deadline for the applications is 24 April 2013.

Contact

Chris Russell
Director
New Skills Consulting Ltd
The Grainger Suite
Dobson House
Regent Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3PF

Email chris@newskillsconsulting.co.uk

Tel 0191 233 6333

Useful Links

Website:
<http://cf.tortoise-dev.co.uk>

Mentorsme.co.uk



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Open to all SMEs

Description

The Portal is intended to provide interested parties with a single, easy to use search engine to locate organisations that provide mentor services to small businesses and those interested in starting a business.

Application Process

No application, just search the engine to access a list of quality-assured mentoring organisations in your area that specialise in helping businesses at your stage of development.

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.mentorsme.co.uk/finding-a-mentor>

Environmental Management Support Initiative (North East)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

SME businesses based in the North East Region are eligible.

Description

The Environmental Management Support Initiative (EMSI) is a European Regional Development Funded (ERDF) project, focusing on job creation and environmental management within North East businesses.

EMSI has three strings to its bow in supporting businesses in the region: building environmental management systems, calculating a business carbon footprint and simultaneously providing jobs.

The consultancy support for businesses is fully funded by the ERDF, so the participants are able to take a much more active role in their environmental management programme, with the only financial cost being for the 'green' apprentice that they would be required to take on to support the programme.

Application Information

For more information, please contact Environmental Academy.

Contact

Environmental Academy
Metropolitan House
Longrigg Road
Swalwell
Gateshead
NE16 3AS

Tel: 0191 495 6248

Email: info@environmental-academy.co.uk

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.environmental-academy.com/latest-news/emsi-project.html>

Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering



Minimum award: £1million
Maximum award: £1million

Eligibility

Internationally open to an individual or team of up to three people responsible for a groundbreaking advance in engineering.

Description

The prize came about through government recognition of a need for an initiative to highlight UK engineering excellence to the world.

The award is open to any individual or team up to three people that have achieved a groundbreaking engineering advancement. The award is for £1 million, which will be run every two years.

The prize will be judged by an internationally recognised panel of experts and will be presented by the Queen in Spring 2013.

Application process

Applications closed on 14 September 2012

Contact information

Telephone: 0207 766 0600
Email: info@qeprize.org

<http://qeprize.org/contact/>

Useful links

<http://qeprize.org/>

Applications closed on 14
September 2012

Panasonic Trust Awards



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: up to 50% of course fees

Eligibility

Open to qualified engineers who are EU citizens or have permanent residency in the UK.

Description

This scheme provides grants for professional development and retraining of qualified engineers with a focus on developing understanding and skills of new engineering developments and technologies.

Funding is directed at individuals wishing to study part-time modular Masters' degree courses provided by UK universities, which are designed to develop or update knowledge and skills in new or emerging technologies and fields of engineering, manufacturing, materials science, environmental technology and IT.

Courses employing distance learning or internet based techniques as well as conventional teaching methods are also eligible.

Application Information

Applicants must be supported by both their Course Director/Tutor and line manager at their current employer to confirm that they are suitable for the course and it will benefit their professional development. This information should be submitted in electronic form by email.

Applications should be completed at least four weeks before the commencement of the course to enable a decision to be made in good time. Full details and instructions for applications can be found at:

<http://www.panasonictrust.net/common/instructions.aspx?s=awards>

The award of a grant is entirely at the discretion of the Selection Committee with any decision of the Committee being final on all matters.

Contact Details

ian.bowbrick@raeng.org.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.panasonictrust.net/awards/>

Application form: <http://www.panasonictrust.net/awards/appform.aspx>

Shell Springboard



Minimum award: £20,000
Maximum award: £40,000

Eligibility

To be eligible, businesses need to:

- Be established UK based SMEs or partnerships
- Have a project which is their own and/or which they are free to disclose
- Have a project that has not been previously supported by a Shell Springboard award

Description

Shell Springboard supports innovative low carbon business ideas with a cash injection of up to £40,000. Entrants are divided into three regional areas, the South of England, the North of England and Scotland. Each has a winner who will receive between £20,000 and £40,000. These are then put forward to be named the National Winner. Ideas need to be based around a product or service which will lead to greenhouse gas emissions reductions, is commercially viable and is innovative. Judges also take into consideration the likely material impact that the Springboard award will have on your project and the credibility of the team behind the project.

Application Process

Applications are run through the website on an online form. Applications can be reviewed and amended all the way up to the deadline. Applications are then assessed before short-listing and eventual winners being picked for the three regional events. The three successful winners are then put forward to be judged on the national award.

Contact details

help@shellspringboard.org

Telephone: 0870 850 7085

Useful Links

Main website: <http://www.shellspringboard.org/home/>

Full eligibility and application process: <http://www.shellspringboard.com/applications/application-process>

FAQ: <http://www.shellspringboard.com/applications/frequently-asked-questions>

METRC Innovation Awards



Minimum award £5,000
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

Any company is able to apply but preference will be given to SMEs.

Full eligibility details listed in the METRC website: <http://metrc.co.uk/fundingcalls/eligibilityrules.aspx>

Description

METRC Innovation Awards support new research and innovation projects between universities (University of Durham, Newcastle and Sheffield) and companies in the fields of Nanotechnology, Science and Engineering. Funding is allocated through a series of calls for applications.

Additional Information

Call 3 will open at 10am on 14 February 2013 and will close at 5pm on 19 April 2013.
Call 4 will open in September 2013 and Call 5 will open in February 2014, subject to funds still being available. Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Application Information

Industry partners with a project idea that are seeking an academic partner from within METRC, should contact the METRC KT Team at info@metrc.co.uk outlining their project idea and technical requirements. The KT Team will identify an academic(s) with suitable research strengths. A proposal will be sent to company and the company will choose their preferred academic or academic partners.

Application Form could be found on the following link:
http://metrc.co.uk/downloads/39/0/METRC_Innovation_Award_Application_Form_February_2013.docx.aspx

For full application details please check the METRC guidelines (please see below).

Contact Details

METRC KT Team

Email: info@metrc.co.uk
Telephone: 0114 222 9450

Useful Links

Website:
<http://metrc.co.uk/fundingcalls/metrcinnovationawards.aspx>

Guidelines:
http://metrc.co.uk/downloads/41/0/METRC_Innovation_Awards_-_Funding_guidelines_February_2013.pdf.aspx

Final report guidelines:
http://metrc.co.uk/downloads/37/0/Final_Report_Guidelines.pdf.aspx

Programme List

	Funding	Finance	Support	LOW CO2	International	SME Specific	R&D	Other
Programme Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Framework Programme FP7	✓						✓	
Eurostars Programme	✓						✓	
ERA-NET Transport Programme	✓						✓	
Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH) Joint Technology	✓			✓			✓	
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP)	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
European Investment Fund (EIF)		✓				✓	✓	✓
European Clean Transport Facility (ECFT)		✓					✓	
Individual Loan from European Investment Bank		✓					✓	✓
Risk Sharing Finance Scheme (RSFF)		✓					✓	✓
Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE)		✓				✓		
PATENTSCOPE			✓				✓	
IPC Green Inventory			✓	✓			✓	
Access to EU finance								✓

Disruptive technologies in low carbon vehicles TSB	✓						✓	✓
Collaborative Research & Development Projects: TSB	✓						✓	✓
Grant for Research and Development Scheme	✓					✓	✓	
Towards Zero Prototyping							✓	
Niche Vehicle CR&D Programme	✓						✓	✓
Small Business Research Initiative: TSB	✓						✓	✓
Innovation Networks (West Midlands)						✓	✓	
Knowledge Transfer Networks			✓					
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	✓					✓	✓	✓
Manufacturing Competencies: TSB	✓					✓	✓	
Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI)		✓					✓	✓
West Midlands and Liverpool City Region Programme	✓					✓		✓
Resource Efficiency: TSB	✓						✓	✓
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	✓						✓	✓
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS)	✓							✓
Growing Places Fund								✓

Enterprise Zones								✓
National Loan Guarantee Scheme		✓				✓		
Regional Growth Fund: BIS	✓							✓
Exceptional Regional Growth Fund (eRGF)	✓							✓
Grant for Research & Development: BIS	✓						✓	
Grant for Business Investment: BIS	✓							✓
Enterprise Finance Guarantee: BIS		✓				✓		
Finance for Business : BIS		✓	✓			✓		
Finance for Business North East	✓					✓		✓
North East Business Support Fund	✓					✓		
Motorsport Valley Launchpad	✓					✓	✓	✓
Designing Demand: BIS			✓			✓		✓
Improving your resource efficiency: BIS			✓	✓				
The Manufacturing Advisory Service: BIS			✓					
Innovation Advice & Guidance: BIS			✓					✓
Innovation Vouchers	✓							

Innovation Vouchers for Cyber Security						✓		✓
Coaching for High Growth SMEs: BIS			✓			✓		
Understanding Finance for Business: BIS			✓			✓		
Work Place Training, inc apprenticeships: BIS			✓			✓		✓
AGE 16 to 24 Employer Incentive (London)	✓							✓
Employer Ownership of Skills Pilot (EOP)								✓
Enterprise Capital Funds: BIS		✓						
British Business Bank	✓							
Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF): UKCES		✓				✓		
Research and Development Relief for Corporation Tax			✓				✓	✓
UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF)	✓							✓
Enterprise Investment Scheme: HMRC	✓							
Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS)		✓				✓		
Business Finance Partnership (BFP)		✓						
Business Finance Partnership (BFP) Small Business Tranche		✓				✓		
Business Finance for You		✓						

Capital Allowance Investment Scheme: HMRC	✓			✓		✓		
Enhanced Capital Allowances: HMRC			✓	✓				
Time to Pay Arrangements: HMRC			✓					
Patent Box: HMRC			✓				✓	
CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme: DECC			✓	✓				
Plugged-in Car Grant: OLEV			✓	✓				
Green Bus Fund: DfT			✓	✓				
Lambert Tool Kit: Intellectual Property Office			✓				✓	
Developing your International Trade Potential: UKTI			✓		✓	✓		
Tradeshaw Assistance Programme: UKTI			✓		✓			
Overseas Market Introduction Services: UKTI			✓		✓			
Passport to Export: UKTI			✓		✓			
Gateway to Global Growth: UKTI			✓		✓	✓		
Growth Accelerator							✓	✓
Export Communications Review: British Chambers of Commerce			✓		✓	✓		
Export Marketing Research Scheme: British Chambers of Commerce			✓		✓	✓		

Export Credits Guarantee Department: British Chambers of Commerce		✓			✓			✓
UK Export Finance (UKEF)					✓			
Applied Research Grant: Carbon Trust	✓			✓			✓	
Business Incubator: Carbon Trust			✓	✓				
Entrepreneur Fast Track: Carbon Trust	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
0% Business Loans: Carbon Trust		✓		✓		✓		
Venture Capital Investments: Carbon Trust		✓		✓			✓	
Eco Business	✓			✓		✓		
Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme (GBSCP)	✓					✓		✓
Business Development Programme	✓					✓		
Energy Efficiency Financing: Carbon Trust		✓	✓	✓				
Innovation funding and support search (East Midlands Innovation)			✓				✓	✓
Investment for Growth (North East England)	✓					✓		
Scottish Co-investment Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		
Scottish Venture Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		
Scottish Seed Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		

Scottish Loan Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		
SMART: Scotland: Scottish Enterprise	✓					✓	✓	
SMARTCymru Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) funding	✓					✓	✓	
Interface (Scotland's universities and research Institutes)								✓
R&D Grant: Scottish Enterprise	✓					✓	✓	
UKFunders	✓	✓	✓					
Venture Capital and Business Angels		✓						
Angel CoFund		✓						
Early Advantage Fund	✓					✓		✓
Exceed Midlands Advantage Fund	✓					✓		✓
Business Growth Fund		✓	✓					✓
Lincoln Growth Fund (LGF)	✓							
The North West Fund		✓				✓		
Wales Economic Growth Fund		✓						✓
Solihull Business Loan Fund	✓	✓				✓		
Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP) TSB							✓	

Low Carbon Funding Landscape Navigator				✓			✓	
Low Emission Transport Collaborative Project Fund (North East)	✓						✓	
Mentorsme.co.uk								✓
Environmental Management Support Initiative (North East)						✓		
Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering							✓	✓
Panasonic Trust Awards	✓							
Shell Springboard	✓			✓		✓		
METRC Innovation Awards	✓					✓		

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