

LIST OF FUNDING, FINANCE AND SUPPORT SCHEMES

December 2015



THE SOCIETY OF
MOTOR MANUFACTURERS
AND TRADERS LIMITED

Contents

The SMMT List of Funding, Finance and Support Schemes.....	6
Programme Key.....	6
Version History	7
International schemes.....	8
PATENTSCOPE	8
IPC Green Inventory	9
Horizon 2020	10
COSME.....	11
Eurostars Programme.....	12
Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU).....	13
European Investment Fund (EIF)	14
Individual Loan from EIB	15
Access to EU finance.....	16
SME's technological services search tool	17
European Regional Development Fund	18
Closed International Schemes.....	19
UK schemes.....	20
Tradeshaw Access Programme (TAP Grants)	20
Overseas Market Introduction Services (OMIS).....	21
Export Britain	22
Passport to Export	23
Open to Export.....	24
Export Communications Review.....	25
Export Marketing Research Scheme.....	26
UK Export Finance (UKEF)	27
Tooling Funding Programme	28
RBS Group Tooling Finance.....	29
Enterprise Finance Guarantee	30
Finance for Business	31
British Business Bank.....	32
Enterprise Capital Funds	33
UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF).....	34
Business Growth Fund	35
Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS)	36
Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS)	37
Business Finance Partnership (BFP)	38
Business Finance for You.....	39
Capital Allowance Investment Scheme	40
Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA)	41
Time to Pay Arrangements (TTP).....	42
Patent Box	43
Entrepreneur Fast Track.....	44
Venture Capital and Business Angels	45
Knowledge Transfer Networks	46
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	47
ERASMUS+	48
Work Place Training, inc. apprenticeships	49
Employer Ownership: skills projects for the automotive supply chain.....	50
The Centre for Resource Efficient Manufacturing Systems (REMS)	51
Design Council: Business Growth	52
Lambert Tool Kit	53
Mentorsme.co.uk	54
Panasonic Trust Awards.....	55
CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.....	56

Plugged-In Car and Van Grants	57
Venture Capital Investments	58
Energy Efficiency Financing	59
Climate Change Agreements	60
Low Carbon Funding Landscape Navigator	61
Integrated Delivery Programme 12.....	62
Developing Advanced Lightweight Vehicles.....	63
Green Investment Bank.....	64
Advanced Propulsion Centre UK.....	65
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Research Funding	66
Collaborative Research and Development Projects	67
SMART: Grant for Research and Development Scheme.....	68
Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)	69
Innovation Vouchers.....	70
Niche Vehicle CR&D Programme.....	71
Research and Development Relief for Corporation Tax.....	72
UK Steel Enterprise Business Loans.....	73
Clydesdale Bank & Yorkshire Bank Tooling Finance	74
Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.....	75
Closed UK Schemes.....	76
National schemes.....	77
The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)	77
Business Growth Service	78
Equity Growth Fund (England)	79
UK Steel Enterprise	79
Coalfields Fund.....	80
Angel CoFund.....	81
Growth Accelerator.....	82
Developing your International Trade Potential	83
Regional Growth Fund.....	84
Exceptional Regional Growth Fund (eRGF)	85
AGE 16-24.....	86
Scottish Co-investment Fund (SCF).....	87
Scottish Venture Fund (SVF).....	88
Scottish Loan Fund (SLF).....	89
SMART: Scotland	90
Interface (Scotland's universities and research Institutes).....	91
R&D Grant	92
Resource Efficient Scotland SME Loans.....	93
Invest Northern Ireland	94
0% Business Loans (Wales and Northern Ireland)	95
SMARTCymru Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) funding (Wales)	96
Skills Growth Wales (SGW).....	97
Business Wales: Advanced Materials and Manufacturing	98
Connected and autonomous vehicles	99
Closed National Schemes	100
Regional schemes.....	101
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)	101
Growing Places Fund	102
Enterprise Zones	103
Coaching for High Growth SMEs.....	104
Improving your resource efficiency.....	105
East Midlands.....	106
Greater Lincolnshire Business Capital Growth Fund	106
D2D2 Unlocking Investment for Growth	107

North East	108
Finance for Business North East	108
Let it Grow	109
North East Business Support Fund	110
North West	111
Rosebud Business Loan.....	111
Boost Business Lancashire	112
St Helens Jobs and Growth Fund.....	113
The North West Fund	114
South East	115
Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF)	115
London ESF AGE 16-24	116
South West	117
South West Growth Fund	117
West Midlands	118
Warwickshire SMEs funding	118
Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS)	119
Early Advantage Fund	120
Exceed Midlands Advantage Fund.....	121
Black Country GOLD Programme	122
Birmingham Business Loan Fund.....	123
Solihull Business Loan Fund	124
Innovation University Enterprise Network (i-URN)	125
Performance Improvement Initiative.....	126
Touch Digital.....	127
Technology and Innovation Future West Midlands	128
Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub.....	129
Green Shoots Plus Fund	130
Yorkshire	131
Response project.....	131
Finance Yorkshire.....	132
Skills Funding for Engineering companies	133
Leeds City Region Loans and Grants.....	134
Let's Grow North and East Yorkshire	135
Sheffield City Region Growth Hub.....	136
Yorkshire Innovation Fund.....	137
Closed Regional Schemes	138
Other Funding and Support Guides.....	139
Appendix: closed schemes	140
European Framework Programme FP7.....	140
ERA-NET Transport Programme.....	141
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP)	142
Risk Sharing Finance Scheme (RSFF)	143
European Clean Transport Facility (ECFT)	144
Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE)	145
Gateway to Global Growth	146
Export Credits Guarantee Department.....	147
Aspire Funds.....	148
Manufacturing Competencies.....	149
Resource Efficiency	150
Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI)	151

National Loan Guarantee Scheme	152
Grant for Business Investment (GBI).....	153
Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF).....	154
Motorsport Valley Launchpad.....	155
Innovation Vouchers for Cyber Security.....	156
Business Finance Partnership (BFP) Small Business Tranche	157
Business Incubator.....	158
Innovation Advice & Guidance	159
DECC Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot (EDR)	161
Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition	162
Green Bus Fund	163
Energy Catalyst – Mid Stage Awards.....	164
Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP)	165
Shell Springboard.....	166
Data Exploration	167
Make it lighter, with less	168
Towards Zero Prototyping	169
Grant for Research & Development (GRD)	170
Employer Ownership of Skills Pilot (EOP).....	171
Employer Ownership: developing women engineers	172
Employer Ownership: improving engineering skills in smaller companies.....	173
UKCES Futures Programme: skills for innovation in manufacturing.....	174
Applied Research Grant	175
Innovations in Electronics Manufacturing.....	176
Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering	177
METRC Innovation Awards	178
Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme (England)	179
Access to Finance Grant Scheme (England)	180
UK Steel Enterprise	180
Scottish Seed Fund (SSF).....	181
Wales Economic Growth Fund	182
Understanding Finance for Business.....	183
Innovation funding and support search (East Midlands Innovation)	184
Global Derbyshire Small Business Support Programme.....	185
LUMINATE Project	186
Encsite programme (East Midlands)	186
Lincoln Growth Fund (LGF)	188
Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (DEGF)	189
Shell Springboard Low Emission Transport Collaborative Project Fund (North East)	190
Northumberland Business Growth Fund	191
Investment for Growth (North East England)	192
Environmental Management Support Initiative (North East).....	193
Corridor Growth Fund (Manchester).....	194
Accelerating Business Growth (Lancashire)	195
AGE 16 to 24 Employer Incentive (London)	196
Innovation 4 Growth (South West England)	197
Growing Priority Sectors (Black Country)	198
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme (Black Country)	199
Birmingham Post Growth Fund	200
Business Development Programme	201
Business Innovation Programme.....	202
Express and Star Green Shoots Fund (Black Country).....	203
Innovation Networks (West Midlands).....	204
Eco Business	205
Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme (GBSCP).....	206
West Midlands and Liverpool City Region Programme.....	207
Programme List	208
Index	221

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)
- **Closed Schemes:** Some funding schemes are re-launched or have funding rounds announced throughout the year. To ensure that readers do not miss new funding rounds, which are not currently available/announced at the time of publishing, closed schemes are included in the appendix. If interested in a closed scheme please refer to the appendix and check the note or website link for additional information.

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
	Skills and Training
	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@smt.co.uk

Version History

VERSION	AUTHOR	DATE
V20	Loreta El-Khatib	10/12/15
V19	Loreta El-Khatib	16/09/15
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V13	Loreta El-Khatib	06/01/14
V12	Loreta El-Khatib	18/10/13
V11	Loreta El-Khatib	10/07/13
V10	Loreta El-Khatib	15/04/13
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 Lerner	04/04/11
V3	Samantha Lerner	22/10/10
V2	Samantha Lerner	30/08/10
V1	Samantha Lerner	06/08/10



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/>

Horizon 2020



Minimum award: call specific
Maximum award: call specific

Eligibility

For details on specific calls please visit the [Participant Portal](#).

Description

Horizon 2020 is the EU's biggest ever research and innovation framework programme with a seven year budget worth nearly €80 billion. Most EU research funding is allocated on the basis of competitive calls, but the budget for Horizon includes funding also for the [Joint Research Centre](#), the European Commission's in-house science service; the [European Institute for Innovation and Technology](#) and research carried out within the framework of the [Euratom Treaty](#). Separate calls will also be published under specific Partnerships with industry and with Member States.

Worth more than €15 billion over the first two years, the funding is intended to help boost Europe's knowledge-driven economy, and tackle issues that will make a difference in people's lives. This includes 12 areas that will be a focus for action in 2014/2015, including topics such as personalised healthcare, digital security and smart cities.

Horizon 2020 funding is available via two year work programmes covering specific areas, with funding focused on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- Excellent Science: Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers
- Industrial Leadership: €1.8 billion to support Europe's industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.
- Societal challenges: €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020's seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

Application Information

Application process varies depending on the specific call, for more details please see the [Horizon website](#).

Contact Details

Please check [here](#) to find a national contact point.

Useful Links

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>

Press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1232_en.htm

SME Programme: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/area/smes>

Transport and Energy Research calls:

http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news_events/newsroom/over-%80550-million-eu-funding-available-for-transport-and-energy-research.htm

COSME



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: €150,000

Eligibility

All businesses meeting the EU [definition](#) of an SME located in all EU, EFTA and other European countries when agreements and procedures allow.

Description

The programme for Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) is an EU led programme providing a budget of € 1.3bn to SMEs to access loans of up to €150,000. COSME is the successor programme to the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme 2007-2013 (CIP).

COSME focuses on providing access to the services provided by the Enterprise Europe Network and local regional partners, as well as supporting entrepreneurs through the Entrepreneur 2020 Action plan. Opportunities for education, improving current business environments and providing role models and outreach to SMEs, as well as creating an environment where business creation and business growth can flourish are some of the aims of COSME. The programme will run from 2014-2020.

Additional Information

In addition to the funding available, there will be activities focused on providing entrepreneurs with developing their skills, as well as helping women and young people get the support they may need.

It is expected that almost 330,000 firms will be able to obtain loans to aide in the creation and preservation of jobs, and to be able to launch new products and services.

Application Information

Minimum duration of individual transaction is 12 months and maximum duration is ten years. Loan facility provides SMEs with direct guarantees with financial intermediaries that are supported by the EU to cover loans.

Contact Details

Carlo Corazza: Carlo.Corazza@ec.europa.eu
Sara Tironi: Sara.Tironi@ec.europa.eu

Useful Links

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/index_en.htm or
http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance/cosme-financial-instruments/index_en.htm

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 also be able to demonstrate that they invest 10% of turnover/staff effort in R&D activity.

Full Eligibility details are listed here: <https://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/content/eurostars-eligibility-guidelines>

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. 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.

Projects must have a maximum duration of 3 years and any one country is only allowed to meet 75% of project costs.

Funding is available for the exploitation of close-to-market technologies. In the UK the Eurostars programme is administered by Innovate UK (formerly the Technology Strategy Board).

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 two application rounds the first on 5 March 2015 and second on 17 September 2015, further details can be found on the Eurostars [website](#).

Contact Details

Graham M Mobbs:
European Operations Manager
Technology Strategy Board
B1, North Star House
North Star Avenue
Swindon, SN2 1JF
graham.mobbs@innovateuk.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website: www.eurostars-eureka.eu

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 and 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.

Contact Details

Call details and timings are found at the Participant portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-jti-fch-2015-1.html>

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/fp7/home_en.html

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

EIF information on micro financing can be found here: http://www.eif.org/EIF_for/microfinance/

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

Email: info@eib.org

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

For guidance on application contents see: http://www.eib.org/projects/cycle/applying_loan/index.htm

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

SME's technological services search tool



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

Eligibility

Any SME organisation.

Description

The European Commission launched a new web tool which is expected to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access state-of-the-art technological services across Europe. The tool allows SMEs to find technological service centres active in the field of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs). Such centres can help SMEs to speed up the commercialisation of their innovation ideas. The centres have been selected according to a set of capacity and quality criteria. They provide services to enterprises, such as help with prototyping, testing, upscaling, first production and product validation. The web tool provides details for each of the 187 technology infrastructures within service centres active in the area of KETs. For each centre, an SME contact person has been identified and their contact details are provided. The launch of the web tool is a first step towards easier access for SMEs to technology. The Commission is looking into ways to promote European networks of such organisations with a single access point for SMEs. As a pilot, an action under Horizon 2020 is planned to help SMEs get access to technological services in the field of advanced manufacturing for clean production.

Application Information

None.

Contact Details

None.

Useful Links

Website: <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/ketsobservatory/kets-ti-inventory/map>

European Regional Development Fund



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: varies

Eligibility

More than £17 million of European funding is being made available for projects which promote economic growth and create jobs across the Marches. For more details please email the contacts listed below.

Description

The largest amount of funding on offer is £9.5m allocated to helping the region's small and medium-sized enterprises to become more competitive.

The region has been allocated a total of around £105m of European money for projects being delivered between 2014 and 2020 and just over £17m of that pot is now available for this second round of applications to the European Regional Development Fund.

Application Information

Applications are now being invited for projects focused on research and innovation, business competitiveness, low carbon and information communication technology (ICT).

The application criteria are set out in the application information available on the Government portal at <https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds>. There is an online application system.

Contact Details

Prospective applicants are advised to contact the Marches Technical Assistance Team (gary.spence@shropshire.gov.uk, hannah.owen@shropshire.gov.uk or call 01743 252976) for advice and support.

Useful Links

Websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/management-of-the-european-regional-development-fund>

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/

<http://www.marcheslep.org.uk/applications-open-for-17m-european-funding-pot-to-support-business/>

Closed International Schemes

The following schemes are now closed please refer to the page reference for further information.

[European Framework Programme FP7](#)

[ERA-NET Transport Programme](#)

[Competitiveness and Innovation Framework \(CIP\)](#)

[Risk Sharing Finance Scheme \(RSFF\)](#)

[European Clean Transport Facility \(ECFT\)](#)

[Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises \(JEREMIE\)](#)

Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP Grants) UK Trade and Investment (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

The Tradeshow Access Programme provides funding in the form of grants for eligible businesses to attend overseas trade shows. The funding helps businesses gain market knowledge, advice and support from trade experts. The fund is targeted at new exporters with companies being eligible for up to ten TAP grants providing events take place in a minimum of two countries. See the [TAP website](#) for full terms and conditions.

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's main offices are 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

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

Overseas Market Introduction Services (OMIS) UK Trade and Investment (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 HQs in both 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

Website:

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

Export Britain



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

Eligibility

Small businesses planning to sell overseas.

Description

Export Britain is an online resource from the British Chambers of Commerce showcasing opportunities in popular international markets and linking UK exporters to support around the world. It provides information on export training and documentation, events and trade missions, and case studies. It offers a comprehensive [list of services](#), including access to discounted translation and interpreting services.

Application Information

None as it is online tool.

Contact Details

Address:
65 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EU

Tel: 020 7654 5800

Useful Links

Website: <http://exportbritain.org.uk/>

Passport to Export UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)



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

Eligibility

Open to new and inexperienced SME exporters.

Description

This is a 12 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 two 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 HQs 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

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

Open to Export



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

Eligibility

Small businesses planning to sell overseas.

Description

Open to Export is an online community run by a not-for-profit community interest company (CIC). It's supported by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), the Institute of Export (IOE), and Yell, and provides free online information, webinars, guides, useful contacts and advice on anything related to international growth. It recently launched the [Export Action Plan](#), a free online planning tool.

Application Information

None as it is online tool.

Contact Details

None.

Useful Links

Website: <http://opentoexport.com/>

Export Communications Review UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

Open to any UK based company.

UK based companies that have been trading for a minimum of two years, employ fewer than 250 staff and currently export have plans in place to start may be eligible for a UKTI subsidy.

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.

Application Information

To apply for an export communications review, complete and submit the online application form via <http://www.gleinternational.co.uk/ecr-application>

Contact Details

For more information contact the UKTI ECR team:

Telephone: 0845 034 2111

Email: info@ukecr.co.uk

Useful Links

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

Export Marketing Research Scheme UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)



Minimum: N/A

Maximum: Up to 50% funding of overseas marketing research

Eligibility

Companies must have between five 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.

Application Information

Applications for the Export Marketing Research Scheme must be made at least 28 days before the proposed overseas research is due to start.

The UKTI team can give you more information and advice on the application process. To find out more about the scheme contact info@ukemrs.com or call 0845 034 2111

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/export-marketing-research-scheme>

Guidance Notes:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/314297/EMRS_Guidance_notes_no_form.pdf

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. In addition, the Chancellor announced at the autumn statement 2013 the increase of UK Export Finance support to exporters – including doubling maximum commitment limit to £50bn, broadening scope of existing Direct Lending and Working Capital Schemes, doubling the number of Export Finance Advisors.

Products include:

- Export Insurance
- Supplier Credit Finance
- Credit Guarantee Schemes
- Export working capital scheme

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 can 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>

Product brochures: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-export-finance-brochures>

Tooling Funding Programme



Minimum award: £50k
Maximum award: £1m

Eligibility

Applicants for funding for the manufacturer of tooling will need to show the following:

- That they have had difficulty in securing the required level of funding for the manufacturer of tooling
- That the final manufacture of the tooling and component will be located in England
- That new jobs will be created and/or safeguarded by the toolmaker and component manufacturer
- That a firm order for the tooling will originate from an original equipment manufacturer, a tier 1 supplier or from further along the supply chain with payment due upon satisfactory completion of the tooling

Description

The £24m Tooling Funding Programme has been created to help toolmakers and component manufacturers fund the design, development and manufacture of tooling or the expansion of tooling capacity. It is open to manufacturing companies seeking a loan of £50,000 to £1m, although funding requests in excess of this will be considered by exception.

Application Information

Applicants wishing to make an application for funding should submit an Expression of Interest form which will be followed up with a detailed discussion with a member of the Programme Team.

[Tooling Loan Fund – Expression of Interest Form February 2014](#)

[Tooling Loan Fund – Application Form March 2014](#)

[Tooling Loan Fund – Guidance Notes for Applicants March 2014](#)

Frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

Contact Details

Helpline - 0121 233 4903

Jack Glonek - jack.glonek@birmingham.gov.uk, 07825 052019

Steve Hetherington - Stevehetherington@financebirmingham.com, 07590 430157

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.financebirmingham.com/tooling/>

RBS Group Tooling Finance



Minimum award: £20,000
Maximum award: £1,500,000

Eligibility

The finance is available for manufactures in the automotive supply chain supporting a large car manufacture in the UK or overseas.

Description

The loan must be used for the purchase of a bespoke tool which produces a specific part destined for use in an end product made by an OEM. The loan will cover up to a maximum of 80% of the value of the tool.

Application Information

For more information contact RBS.

Contact Details

Phone: 0800 529 8096 or 0800 210 0235

Useful Links

Website: www.natwest.com/international

Press Release: <http://www.rbs.com/news/2015/january/rbs-tooling-finance-proves-to-be-a-hit.html>

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



Minimum award: £1000
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 three months and ten 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. EFG is now managed by British Business Finical services.

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. For more information click [here](#)

Contact Details

Please contact your lender for more details.

Useful Links

Websites:

<http://british-business-bank.co.uk/market-failures-and-how-we-address-them/enterprise-finance-guarantee/>

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

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

Finance 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>

British Business Bank



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

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 started work in April 2013. The bank itself will be fully operational from autumn 2014.

The plans for 2013 were:

- 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.

According to the autumn statement (5 December 2013) the government will provide a further £250m of unspent money from the Business Finance Partnership to support investment in late stage venture capital funds, launch a new scheme to support provision of lease and asset finance and launch a programme of wholesale guarantees for SME loans.

For more information:

Website: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/>

The British Finance Guide – a journey from start-up to growth, outlines sources of finance available to businesses – ranging from start-ups to SMEs and growing mid-sized companies- <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/bfg/>

For information about the progress and future plans for the British Business Bank:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-business-bank-strategic-plan-june-2014>

Enterprise Capital Funds British Business Bank



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 (CfEI) 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 Information

There is a rolling investment programme for commitments to the new Enterprise Capital Funds. The process is competitive and the scheme expects to invest in two to three new funds per year. The Fund is managed by investors from a variety of backgrounds for more information about applications see the website or [guidance document](#).

Useful Links

Website: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/market-failures-and-how-we-address-them/enterprise-capital-funds/>

British Business Bank presentation: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/2014-07-04-ECF-Seminar-presentation-for-website.pdf>

UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF) British Business Bank



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 Hermes Environmental Impact Fund for further details.

Contact Details

UKIIF is administered by a government-appointed fund management company, Hermes Environmental Impact Fund.

Hermes Investment Management
Lloyds Chambers
1 Portsoken Street
London
E1 8HZ

Phone: 020 7702 0888

Useful Links

Website:

<http://british-business-bank.co.uk/market-failures-and-how-we-address-them/uk-innovation-investment-fund/>

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

The Business Growth Fund works to support established companies with strong potential and turnover in the range of £5m to £100m. The investment provided is in the form of equity capital. The minimum equity stake in any business will be 10% and the duration of the investment is flexible; typical from two to ten years.

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.

Application Information

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.

To start the process, visit <https://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk/invest/start-the-process>.

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 266 8860
Email: enquiries@businessgrowthfund.co.uk

Useful links

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

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/>

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

Telephone: 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) HM Revenue and Customs



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.

SCEC: Small Company Enterprise Centre
Admin Team
SO777
PO Box 3900
Glasgow
G70 6AA
Tel: 03000 588907

SEIS:
Somerset House
Strand
London
WC2R 1LA
info@seiswindow.org

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 Business Finance Partnership was set up to invest £1.2 billion in increasing lending to SME's from sources other than banks. This money is being matched with at least an equal amount from private sector investors and will be invested on fully commercial terms.

The Business Finance Partnership has two strands. The first strand invests in fund managers who lend to medium-sized businesses with turnover of up to £500 million.

The second strand invests in fund managers and non-traditional lenders that provide an alternative source of lending for small businesses with turnover up to £75 million. For further detail on the types of funding available please see the website

Application Information

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

Contact Details

Strand one:

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

ICG: Max Mitchell max.mitchell@icgplc.com | 020 3201 7736

Strand two:

Beechbrook Capital: <http://www.beechbrookcapital.com/>

BOOST&Co: info@boostandco.com

Credit Asset Management Ltd (CAML): sales@craml.co.uk

Funding Circle: <https://www.fundingcircle.com/>

Market Invoice: info@marketinvoice.com

URICA: <http://urica.biz/>

Zopa: contactus@zopa.com

Useful Links

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

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.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/bbf/contact_us

Contact Details

Enquiry form could be found on the following link:
http://www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/bbf/contact_us or for or further advice on financing your business, please call the Business Support Helpline on 0300 456 3565

Useful Links

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

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: www.hmrc.gov.uk

Useful Links

HMRC Capital Allowance manuals: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/camanual/index.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 Details

Email: ECAQuestions@carbontrust.co.uk

Phone: 0300 3300657

Useful Links

Website: <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 200 3835 or contact your HMRC customer relationship manager.

Useful Links

Time to Pay website: <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 five 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

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/corporation-tax-the-patent-box>

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

Phone 0207 832 4807 or [contact form](#)

Useful Links

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

Carbon Trust Website: www.carbontrust.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: <http://www.ukbusinessangelsassociation.org.uk/>

The British Venture Capital Association: www.bvca.co.uk

Knowledge Transfer Networks Innovate UK



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 an Innovate UK (formerly the Technology Strategy Board) 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.

KTNs are 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>

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/home/-/registration/register>

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://connect.innovateuk.org/knowledge-transfer-networks>

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Innovate UK



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 and 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 ten weeks to three years.

Description

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are a part-funded government scheme supported by BIS, Innovate UK 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: <https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/ktp/what-we-do>

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://ktp.innovateuk.org/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 0300 321 4357.

Company Enquiry: KTP_Companies@tsb.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website: <https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/ktp>

Read case studies from previous projects at: <https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/ktp/case-studies>

ERASMUS+



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

Eligibility

Any public or private organisation active in the field of education and training can take part. Individuals are not able to apply.

Description

- An EU funding programme for education, training, youth and sport.
- Erasmus+ offers funding to provide opportunities for UK students, trainees, apprentices and staff to learn abroad. It supports professional development and helps industry to develop a pool of internationally experienced staff. It offers businesses the opportunity to improve, share best practice and innovate in provision of education and training for learners.
- Funding is available for learners, trainees, apprentices or staff to go to other EU countries to study or train (known as mobilities).
- Funding is also available for strategic partnerships: collaborative projects to work in partnership with organisations from other participating (EU) countries to improve provision, to share, develop and transfer innovative practices in education and training provision. These projects can be between any organisation involved in vocational training and education, and can involve more than one sector (e.g. higher education, schools, youth, or adult education).
- In 2014, the UK had a budget of €117.3m for Erasmus+, out of which the VET sector had a budget of €32m. This figure is expected to increase annually from 2016 onwards.
- In 2014, €15m was successfully allocated for VET mobilities and €8m for VET innovation and cooperation projects.
- There is no cap on grants for VET mobility. For strategic partnerships, funding is capped at €150k for a 1 year project, €300k for a 2 year project and €450k for a 3 year project.
- The average grant requested for projects in the UK was €90k for mobilities and €224k for strategic partnership projects.

Application Information

- More information can be found on the Erasmus+ website: www.erasmusplus.org.uk.
- The Erasmus+ National Agency manages the delivery of Erasmus+ in the UK, including offering advice to applications, managing the assessment and selection of applications, and providing support during the life of a project to funded beneficiaries.
- The next funding rounds for both mobility projects and strategic partnerships are expected in 2016.

Contact Details

Helpline: 0121 212 8947

Useful Links

www.erasmusplus.org.uk

Work Place Training, inc. apprenticeships 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:
<https://www.gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>

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.

For more 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

Contact Details

See above

Employer Ownership: skills projects for the automotive supply chain



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £1.6m

Eligibility

The competition is open to enterprises of any size

Project proposals must:

- provide training to staff aged 19 years or older
- be submitted by single companies with the intention to train staff in their employment
- provide value for money for public investment

Fully details are set out in the guidance that accompanies the application form.

Description

The competition fund aims to support companies who need to significantly increase the skills of their staff. Projects must improve the company's ability to meet its own growth plans and contribute to the success of the vehicle manufacturers it supplies to.

The Government will contribute up to 50% of training costs for training that is of benefit to other companies and up to 25% for training that only benefits the applicant company. The government contribution will be capped at £1.6 million. Projects will not be considered where the government contribution would amount to less than £100,000.

Application Information

Applications for funding can be submitted from **6 May to 25 July 2015**.

If you wish to submit an application you will need to first register on [BIS's e-Tendering Portal](#). When you have registered you will be given access to the application form. Please read the guidance for applicants before completing the application.

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-ownership-skills-projects-for-the-automotive-supply-chain>

Guidance for Applicants:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-ownership-skills-projects-for-the-automotive-supply-chain>

The Centre for Resource Efficient Manufacturing Systems (REMS)



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

Eligibility

Please contact the centre for more information.

Description

The Centre for Resource Efficient Manufacturing Systems (REMS), based at Teesside University, will research and investigate manufacturing processes and the supply chain to help companies improve production processes by reducing emissions, saving time, reducing cost and minimising the resources they use.

Application Information

Please contact the centre for more information.

Contact Details

Matthew Herbert, Marketing Manager, Matthew.Herbert@uk-cpi.com.

Email info@uk-cpi.com

Useful Links

Press Release:

http://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/news/pressreleases_story.cfm?story_id=4641&this_issue_title=April%202014&this_issue=251

Design Council: Business Growth 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

The Design Council's Design Leadership Programme for SME's is part of the UK government's Business Growth Service. Designed to provide structured, practical support to increase the capability of businesses to use and made design effectively.

For qualifying companies BIS offer a 50% subsidy, reducing the cost of the service to between £1,000 and £5,000.

Application Information

Contact the design council or the Business Growth Service help line directly

Contact Details

Design Council: contact Pauline Shakespeare on 0207 420 5275 or email:
pauline.shakespeare@designcouncil.org.uk

Business Growth Service phone 0300 456 3565

Useful Links

Design Council: <http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-services/business-growth>

Business Growth Service: <http://www.greatbusiness.gov.uk/businessgrowthservice/>

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.

Contact Details

Telephone: 0300 300 2000
Email: lambert@ipo.gov.uk

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

Useful Links

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

Intellectual asset management for universities:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/intellectual-asset-management-for-universities>

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 Information

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>

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.

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

Phone: 020 7766 0600

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.panasonictrust.net/awards/>

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 is now in its second phase running from April 2014 to March 2019. 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/government/policies/reducing-demand-for-energy-from-industry-businesses-and-the-public-sector--2/supporting-pages/crc-energy-efficiency-scheme>

<http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/carbon-footprinting-and-reporting/crc-carbon-reduction-commitment>

Plugged-In Car and Van Grants Office for Low Emissions Vehicles



Maximum award:

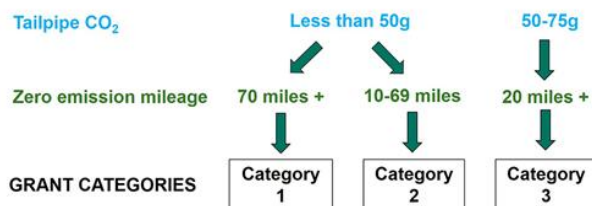
- 35% off the cost of a car, up to a maximum of £5,000
- 20% off the cost of a van, up to a maximum of £8,000

Eligibility

Open to purchasers, both private and fleet, of ultra-low carbon vehicles. Further details listed on <https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants/eligibility>.

Description

From 1 April 2015, there will be 3 grant categories for cars, differentiating between ULEVs on the basis of their CO₂ emissions and their zero emission range, whilst retaining a technology neutral approach:



- Grant cap UP TO 50,000 cars £5,000 per car across all categories
- Grant cap AFTER 50,000 cars To be set following a review in May

(Source:

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

Vans must emit less than 75 grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per kilometre driven.

Application Information

The amount of the grant will be automatically deducted from the price of purchased vehicle. The dealership will complete the paperwork, so there are no application forms for buyer to fill in.

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>

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](#).

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

Phone: 020 7170 7000

Useful Links

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

Go Ultra Low Website: <https://www.goultralow.com>

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 Information

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

Suppliers interested in benefiting from offering finance alongside their technology solutions email: eef.sfs.gb@siemens.com or phone: 01753 434476

Companies email implementation@carbontrust.com, phone 020 7832 4806 or fill in the [contact form](#).

Useful Links

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

Siemens Financial Services:
http://finance.siemens.com/financialservices/uk/products_solutions/equipment-finance-leasing/energy-efficiency-financing/pages/index.aspx

Climate Change Agreements



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: discount at the revised rate of 90% for electricity and 65% for other fuels

Eligibility

Operators who hold a CCA are eligible to claim a discount to the Climate Change Levy (CCL) charged on their energy bills. The current scheme started on 1 April 2013 when participants can start claiming their CCL discount at the revised rate of 90% for electricity and 65% for other fuels and runs until 31 March 2023. Further details could be found in the [operations manual](#).

Eligibility is constrained to specific processes only, these are set out the Environmental Permitting Regulations, as well as some defined Energy-Intensive processes. SMMT can provide a detailed list on request, or visit our website. Processes include surface treatment of metal, painting, plastic injection moulding and presses.

Description

Climate change agreements (CCAs) are voluntary agreements containing targets for eligible industry sectors to increase energy efficiency or reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. CCAs are part of a package of government measures to tackle climate change that are designed to encourage UK business to save energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The package of mechanisms also includes the Climate Change Levy, the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.

Application Information

Accounts in the register are managed by the sector associations on behalf of operators. An application for a CCA must therefore be made via the relevant sector association. For the automotive sector this is SMMT.

Contact Details

To contact automotive sector association please get in touch with Matt Croucher, Economics Manager at SMMT via phone 0207 344 1640 or email mcroucher@smmt.co.uk.

For more information from SMMT please visit the [website](#). This includes the specific processes which are eligible to enter SMMT's CCA and details how to make an application.

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/136236.aspx>

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

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

Integrated Delivery Programme 12



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: up to £20 million

Eligibility

Please visit the website for full [details](#).

Description

Innovate UK and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) are to invest up to £20 million in technical feasibility studies and collaborative research and development (CR&D) projects to encourage technologies for road vehicles that will deliver significant reductions in CO2 and other emissions.

Technical feasibility study proposals must be business-led, and may be collaborative or from an individual company. We expect total project costs of up to £250,000, although we may consider projects outside this range.

It is expected that, at the end of a successful study, participants would be in a position to move on to a CR&D project in a future competition.

CR&D proposals must be collaborative and business-led. We expect projects to range in size from £500,000 to £3 million, although we may consider projects outside this range. It is expected that, at the end of a successful project, participants would be in a position to apply to an Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) supported competition.

Application Information

This competition opens for applicants on **7 September 2015**. The deadline for registration is at **noon** on **21 October 2015** and the deadline for applications is at **noon** on **28 October 2015**. For further details please visit the [website](#).

Contact Details

Competition helpline: 0300 321 4357
Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Useful Links

Websites:

https://interact.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/integrated-delivery-programme-12-seeding-tomorrow-s-vehicle-technologies-today?utm_source=http%3a%2f%2fengage.innovateuk.org%2ftechnologystrategyboardlz%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Transport-+IDP+12+%26amp%3b+Developing+advanced+lightweight+vehicles&utm_term=Funding+an+nouncement&utm_content=99669

Developing Advanced Lightweight Vehicles



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award:

Eligibility

Projects which fit into the competition scope could be found [here](#).

Description

Innovate UK and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) are to invest up to £20m in collaborative research & development projects to significantly reduce the mass of road-going vehicles.

Proposals must be collaborative and be led by a UK-based business organisation. We expect to fund projects containing mainly industrial research activity. Small businesses could receive up to 70% of their eligible project costs, medium-sized businesses 60% and large businesses 50%. Consortia need to include at least one vehicle manufacturer or Tier 1 supplier.

Application Information

This is a two-stage competition that opens for applications on **24 August 2015**. The deadline for registration is **noon on 7 October 2015**, and the deadline for applications is at **noon on 14 October 2015**.

Contact Details

Support phone: 0300 321 4357
Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Useful Links

Websites:

https://interact.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/developing-advanced-lightweight-vehicles?utm_source=http%3a%2f%2fengage.innovateuk.org%2ftechnologystrategyboardlz%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Transport-+IDP+12+%26amp%3b+Developing+advanced+lightweight+vehicles&utm_term=Funding+announcement&utm_content=99669

Green Investment Bank



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

Eligibility

Any Business in the UK.

Description

The UK Green Investment Bank (GIB) was launched in November 2012. With £3.8 billion of funding from the UK government, it is the first bank of its kind in the world. GIB invests in green infrastructure projects, with a primary focus on offshore wind, waste recycling, energy from waste and energy efficiency sector.

GIB can offer a full spectrum of financing across debt and equity with the ability to fund long tenor.

Typically projects funded include

- Building retrofits (e.g. lighting, insulation and glazing)
- Onsite generation (e.g. CHP, renewable heat and heat pumps)
- Industrial process (e.g. motors, pumps and kilns)
- Infrastructure (e.g. street lighting, heat networks, transport and smart meters)

Application Information

For more information and application details contact the Green Investment Bank directly.

Contact Details

Email: enquiries@greeninvestmentbank.com

Phone: 03301232167

Useful links

Website: <http://www.greeninvestmentbank.com/>

Advanced Propulsion Centre UK



Minimum award: call specific

Maximum award: call specific

Eligibility

To be eligible for APC competitions, projects must primarily fall under either the industrial research or experimental development category. For full eligibility criteria refer to the [website](#).

Description

The Advance Propulsion Centre provides funding to projects as part of its services to develop low carbon propulsion systems. Funding is allocated in bi-annual competitions which require applicants to apply in consortia which includes at least one SME, one supplier and a vehicle manufacturer.

The current competition **APC4 Driving UK Capability and Economic Impact through Low Carbon Propulsion Technologies is now open**. Proposals must include the development of the UK supply chain in low carbon vehicle technologies and focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Internal combustion engines
- Lightweight powertrain structures
- Electric machines and power electronics
- Energy storage and energy management
- Alternative propulsion systems

Alongside the competitions the Centre also provides a range of services to enable organisations to find industrial and research partners and facilitate the development of consortia involving SMEs, suppliers, vehicle manufacturers and the APC Spoke centres of excellence.

Application Details

Interested parties must register for the competition by **12.00 Wednesday 24 June 2015**, with the deadline for application submission at 12.00 Wednesday 1 July 2015.

The administration of the competition process and distribution of the funding is managed by [Innovate UK](#) which provides an independent assessment of each application.

Contact Details

For questions relating to funding contact Jon Beasley on 02476 528 700 or at jon.beasley@apcuk.co.uk

For general information email info@apcuk.co.uk or phone 02476 528 700

Address:

The Advanced Propulsion Centre UK Ltd
University Road
Coventry
CV4 7AL

Useful Links

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

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 and funding calls can be found [here](#).

Contact Details

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

Phone: 01793 444423 or email: richard.bailey@epsrc.ac.uk

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>

Collaborative Research and Development Projects Innovate UK



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 Innovate UK 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 Innovate UK. 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.

Application Information

Applications must be made in response to specific competition calls made by the Innovate UK. Details of all current calls can be found at <https://interact.innovateuk.org/>

Further information on each call should be sourced directly from the Innovate UK where you will also find advice for making applications: <https://interact.innovateuk.org/guidance-for-applicants>

Contact Details

Different competitions have various contacts. Follow the link below to find the ideal contact for each specific competition call: <https://interact.innovateuk.org/>

Email: support@innovateuk.org

Telephone: 0300 321 4357

Useful Links

Website: https://interact.innovateuk.org/-/collaborative-r-d?redirect=https%3A%2F%2Finteract.innovateuk.org%2Ffunding-support%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_0Xfxz4OoNUs4%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-1%26p_p_col_pos%3D2%26p_p_col_count%3D4

SMART: Grant for Research and Development Scheme Innovate UK



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 Innovate UK.

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 [here](#).

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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Application Information

SMART is "always open", however to manage the processing of these applications, Innovate UK assign them into batches (rounds) for final assessment and funding:

Please visit the Innovate UK website for latest information. Innovate UK 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: <https://interact.innovateuk.org/-/smart>



Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Innovate UK

Min award: N/A

Max award: N/A

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 Innovate UK. 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.

Contact Details

Contact Innovate UK with all general enquiries relating to the SBRI email: support@innovateuk.org or phone: 01793 442700

Competitions Helpline: 0300 321 4357.

Useful Links

Website: <https://sbri.innovateuk.org/about-sbri>

Competition list: <https://interact.innovateuk.org/>

Innovation Vouchers Innovate UK



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 Innovate UK (formerly 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 Innovate UK website.

You can apply anytime, with around 100 vouchers being awarded once every three months - October, January, April and July each year. The **current round's deadline is 21 July 2015**

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 Details

If you require further information or have a query regarding Innovation Vouchers, please contact the Innovate UK'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>

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 Innovate UK 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 ten prototype vehicles and three 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 Information

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

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. According to Budget 2014 announcement the SME R&D tax credit scheme will increase from 11% to 14.5% from April 2014.

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@smtt.co.uk or visit the [website](#) for more information.

Useful Links www.hmrc.gov.uk

UK Steel Enterprise Business Loans



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £25,000

Eligibility

Companies located in UK Steel areas including Scotland, North of England, Yorkshire, the Midlands and Wales. For more information refer to the [website](#).

Description

Loans are available for start-ups, expansions, acquisitions and buy-outs across many business sectors including manufacturing in UK Steel areas including Scotland, North of England, Yorkshire, the Midlands and Wales.

Loans benefit from competitive fixed interest rates so that any base rate movements will not affect the cost of the loan. Typically, loans are provided over a three to four year term.

Application Information

Online enquiry [form](#)

Contact Details

See above.

Useful links

Website:
<http://www.uksteelenterprise.co.uk/Loans.asp?nid=86&pid=15>

Clydesdale Bank & Yorkshire Bank Tooling Finance



Minimum award: £20,000

Maximum award: £1M

Eligibility

- An established business supplying OEMs, or Tier 1 or 2 manufacturers
- A business with a letter of nomination or a schedule of build in hand

Description

The specialist automotive team can support companies full banking requirements including the provision of Tooling Finance.

The Tooling Finance can provide business with up to £1 million support through development and build. It's designed to help businesses to bridge the gap between the initial investment in a new product and the returns the company eventually makes. It can be lent as much as 100% of the Tooling Finance the business needs subject to pre-agreed criteria. This means that company can win new business, safe in the knowledge that you have the funds to take it on.

With the rolling Tooling Finance facility, businesses can access a funding supply as and when it needs new tools, rather than having to apply for funding every time a new component is required. This means that there will be available funds to manufacture each new generation of tools.

Application Information

Further details available on request.

Contact Details

Contact Kevin Rimmer, Head of Manufacturing:

07770 284 550

kevin.rimmer@eu.nabgroup.com

Useful Links

Website www.cbonline.co.uk/automotive or www.ybonline.co.uk/automotive

Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking



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

Eligibility

Please contact the Commercial Banking team directly.

Description

As part of Lloyds Banking Group, the Commercial Banking team continues to support the industry and has made a commitment of £1 billion in funding each year until 2017. The company has also committed £1 million-a-year to the Lloyds Bank Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre at the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry, which is due to open in September 2015.

The Bank recognises the important role that the automotive supply chain has in the national economy, we have a wide range of funding options that can help these businesses reach their full potential.

For manufacturers, investment in new plant, machinery and premises, often comes at the top of the growth agenda. The Commercial Banking offers 'Manufacturing Expansion Loans' that can support expansion plans, alongside commercial finance facilities to back investment decisions.

It is also provided access to other sources of finance such as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, for when a business has a viable plan but cannot provide appropriate security. Alternatively, the Business Growth Fund can help deliver long-term capital funding through equity investment. And, for those tapping into international markets, the trade finance solutions and services through a dedicated local International Trade Advisor can protect and offer improved liquidity to businesses.

The bank's backing for the automotive sector is more than just funding. The team of over 280 manufacturing specialists, who have received accreditation from the Warwick Manufacturing Group, can offer strategic guidance to help businesses tackle their most testing hurdles.

As management teams increasingly look abroad for opportunities to grow revenues, the team has become integral in helping to deliver the exporting ambitions of British businesses. The partnership with the UKTI enables the Banking Group to provide insight, support and introductions for exporters looking to break into key markets.

Application Information

Please contact the Commercial Banking team directly.

Contact Details

David Atkinson, Head of Manufacturing, SME, at Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking
david.atkinson@lloydsbanking.com

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.lloydsbank.com/business/industry-focus/manufacturing.asp>

Closed UK Schemes

The following schemes are now closed please refer to the page reference for further information.

[Gateway to Global Growth](#)
[UK Trade and Investment \(UKTI\)](#)
[Export Credits Guarantee Department](#)
[Aspire Funds](#)
[Manufacturing Competencies](#)
[Resource Efficiency](#)
[Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative \(AMSCI\)](#)
[National Loan Guarantee Scheme](#)
[Grant for Business Investment \(GBI\)](#)
[Growth and Innovation Fund \(GIF\)](#)
[Motorsport Valley Launchpad](#)
[Innovation Vouchers for Cyber Security](#)
[Business Finance Partnership \(BFP\) Small Business Tranche](#)
[Business Incubator](#)
[Innovation Advice & Guidance](#)
[Disruptive technologies in low carbon vehicles](#)
[DECC Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot \(EDR\)](#)
[Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition](#)
[Green Bus Fund](#)
[Energy Catalyst – Mid Stage Awards](#)
[Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme \(IDP\)](#)
[Shell Springboard](#)
[Data Exploration](#)
[Make it lighter, with less](#)
[Towards Zero Prototyping](#)
[Grant for Research & Development \(GRD\)](#)
[Employer Ownership of Skills Pilot \(EOP\)](#)
[Employer Ownership: developing women engineers](#)
[Employer Ownership: The Improving Engineering skills in smaller companies](#)
[UKCES Futures Programme: skills for innovation in manufacturing](#)
[Applied Research Grant](#)
[Innovations in Electronics Manufacturing](#)
[Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering](#)
[METRC Innovation Awards](#)

The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)



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

The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) works to support manufacturers based in England. MAS has a team of specialist manufacturing advisors dedicated to helping SME manufacturing businesses improve and grow. A MAS advisor can provide a free review of the business, identify priority areas and may then be able to offer some grant funding to contribute towards improvement costs or projects. MAS also provides training and networking events to help improve awareness and skills related to manufacturing. Types of support available:

1. Free helpdesk and research service - a quick query service. Call 0845 658 9600 or email advice@mymas.org.
2. Manufacturing review free to SME manufacturers - experienced Manufacturing Advisors will carry out a hands-on assessment and diagnostic of the business that will highlight areas of opportunity or action that can be taken to improve operational performance. All initial advice relating to this is also free of charge.
3. Events - training and networking events to help improve awareness and skills related to manufacturing issues and best practice. See the events section of the website www.mymas.org/events for details of events in your area.
4. Subsidised consultancy support for SMEs - MAS can provide up to 50%* of the cost of an expert to help to improve business. MAS is able to consider funding projects that look at virtually any aspect of the business, from products, processes and people, through to supporting improvements within the supply chain and accessing new markets. All funding is subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and must be matched at 50% by the client.
5. Signposting and referral - for non-manufacturing queries, such as human resources, legal or environmental issues, MAS works closely with a range of organisations to ensure manufacturers have access to a full range of business support services, we can help find the expertise a business needs.

Application Information

To find out how MAS can help your manufacturing business grow, sign up for a free manufacturing review at <http://www.mymas.org/resources/manufacturing-review-sign-up-page>

Contact Details

Helpline phone number: 0845 658 9600 or email them at advice@mymas.org.

Useful Links

MAS website: <http://www.mas.businessgrowthservice.greatbusiness.gov.uk/>

Business Growth Service



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

Eligibility

Small businesses with fewer than 250 employees, based in England and with under £40m of turnover.

Description

The service provides tailored business support to small and medium sized firms with ambition and potential to grow.

How does it work for SMEs:

- Service makes it easier to get Business Support for businesses with the potential to improve and grow
- One stop shop for Manufacturers
- Work with a dedicated 'Business Growth Manager' who really understands manufacturing and will be the key contact manager
- Discuss your needs and barriers to growth, identify the areas of support that are right for your business and introduce you to the experts that can help
- Develops and Action plan for the business

Application Information

For further details please contact Manufacturing Advisory Service (contact details below).

Contact Details

Steve Gregory
Stephen.gregory@mymas.org

Tel: 0300 456 3565

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.greatbusiness.gov.uk/businessgrowthservice/>

Equity Growth Fund (England) UK Steel Enterprise



Minimum award: £25,000
Maximum award: £750,000

Eligibility

The Fund is available to businesses based in the following areas of England: Tees Valley, Derwentside, West Cumbria, South Yorkshire, Chesterfield, Worksop, Humberside, The Black Country, Stoke-on-Trent and Corby.

All projects must be able to demonstrate job creation and funding can be used for almost any purpose as long as it is supporting growth.

Description

In addition to the many benefits of accessing investment finance from UKSE, the Equity Growth Fund also offers

- Higher levels of support – up to £1m for established businesses
- Larger amounts of our funding in shares
- More projects able to be supported
- Early stage projects will be considered
- Discounted interest rates

Application Information

Applicants are encouraged to make general finance enquiries via the online [form](#).

Contact Details

For local contact details click here: <http://www.uksteelenterprise.co.uk/contact-us>

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.uksteelenterprise.co.uk/finance-your-business/equity-finance/equity-growth-fund-for-england>



Minimum award: £40,000
Maximum award: £1 million

Eligibility

Open to all SME businesses which are unquoted and that meet one or more of the following criteria with regard to their location;

- have (or will have) their principal place of business within an eligible coalfield ward
- employ (or will employ) a significant proportion of their workforce from an eligible coalfield ward
- bring (or will bring) material economic benefit to an eligible coalfield ward

Additionally businesses must not operate in any of the excluded sector and are able to produce a commercial return to the Funds on their investment.

Description

The Coalfields Funds were established by Communities and Local Government to finance growth-orientated companies and encourage entrepreneurship in England's former coalfield areas.

The Coalfields Funds are able to offer investment of up to £1.5 million in the form of equity and equity-related funding and are flexible in their approach. Companies at any stage in their development may apply for investment from the Funds, from start ups and early stage companies, to ongoing development capital and management buy-outs and buy-ins of more established businesses. In addition to providing finance, the Funds also offer a broad range of support and guidance in assisting companies with their strategic, market and operational development, and in achieving their full potential.

The Funds provide equity and equity related funding ranging from a minimum of £40,000 to a maximum of £1 million, normally structured as equity with loan or preference share capital, or a combination of both.

Application Information

All applications that meet the Funds' criteria for investment are welcomed with each proposal assessed on its own commercial merits.

Contact Details

All enquiries and applications should be made directly to the investment team at Enterprise Ventures Ltd who will be happy to discuss your requirements with you or receive your application for funding.

Check the [contact page](#) full details.

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.coalfieldsfunds.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 Information

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

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

Growth Accelerator Business Growth Service



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

Eligibility

Small and medium sized businesses based in England with fewer than 250 employees and a turnover of under £40m.

Description

Growth Accelerator is designed to support a wide variety of businesses to achieve a growth rate of 20% year on year.

Eligible companies are required to pay a subsidised fixed fee in return the Growth Accelerator provides dedicated coaching and mentoring. 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.

In addition to the guidance and support mentors provide companies will have access to master classes, workshops and online diagnostic tools. These 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 Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Email: enquiries@growthaccelerator.com

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.growthaccelerator.com/>

Developing your International Trade Potential 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.

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 within England. Applications can come from individual companies or consortia.

Description

The Regional Growth Fund, 2011-2016 is a funding operation worth £3.2 billion across England. An additional £350m has been committed to the fund.

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.

Check the web site for further information and available rounds:
<https://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund>

Application Information

Further details are listed in the [Information for applicants](#) document page 5.

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>

Regional Programmes Guide: <https://www.gov.uk/regional-growth-fund-programmes-guide>

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.

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.

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/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund#exceptional-regional-growth-fund-ergf>

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

AGE 16-24 Apprenticeships Grant



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £1,500

Eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- confirm that you are not able to recruit an apprentice without the Grant
- have fewer than 50 employees in the United Kingdom, as recorded by the Employer Data Service (EDS).
- not have had an employee start an apprenticeship in the 12-month period before the start date of the **first** apprentice for whom you apply for the Grant.* If you are eligible, you can claim up to 5 Grants during the time the Grant is available.
- Please note you do not have to wait 12 months between the first and any subsequent applications. Only one Grant will be paid per employer for any particular individual
- commit to employ your apprentice(s) for a minimum of 12 months on the apprenticeship programme or the time it takes them to complete their apprenticeship, whichever is the greater
- confirm you are aware of and do not breach any State Aid rules by receiving the Grant and
- agree to pay the apprentice in line with legal minimum
- Apprentice lives in England

Description

The AGE 16 to 24 grant for employers aims to support businesses, who would not otherwise be in a position to do so, to recruit individuals aged 16 to 24 into employment through the apprenticeship programme.

The Skills Funding Agency 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 up to 5 grants in total.

The grant will be available, subject to availability up until December 2015.

Application Information

To apply, contact your local training organisation.

Contact Details

For more information call the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600.

Employers who are not already linked to a training provider can complete the [online enquiry form](#) or call 08000 150 600 - an adviser will contact you to discuss the support available in more detail.

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-grant-employer-fact-sheet>

Factsheet:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388156/AGE_Employer_Fact_Sheet_Dec_14_.pdf

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/services/attract-investment/scottish-coinvestment-fund/scif-eligibility>

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 Information

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/services/attract-investment/scottish-coinvestment-fund/scif-application/scif-search>

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-coinvestment-fund/scif-overview>

<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/industry-support>

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/services/attract-investment/scottish-venture-fund/svf-eligibility>

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 Information

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/services/attract-investment/scottish-venture-fund/svf-application/svfpartners>

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-venture-fund/svf-overview>

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

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 Information

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/services/attract-investment/scottish-loan-fund/overview>

Maven Website: <http://www.mavencp.com/scottish-loan-fund.aspx>



Minimum award:
Maximum award: £600,000

Eligibility

SMEs based in Scotland which are of technological advance within their 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.

Full eligibility details are listed here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/smart-scotland/are-you-eligible>

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 six 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 six 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 Information

Applications are initiated and managed online, using the following contact form:

https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/~//media/SE_2013/Documents/SMART%20SCOTLAND/SMART%20form%20and%20guidance%20notes%20August%202013.pdf

Contact Details

Contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/smart-scotland/how-to-apply/application-to-fund-r-and-d-projects-and-feasibility-studies>

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/smart-scotland/overview>

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

Telephone: 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 Information

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

Contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/rd-grant/how-to-apply/rd-grant-eoi-form>

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/rd-grant/overview>

Resource Efficient Scotland SME Loans Energy Saving Trust



Minimum award: £1,000
Maximum award: £100, 00

Eligibility

The scheme is aimed at Scottish businesses that fall within the EC definition of Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME).

Description

Funded by the Scottish Government, the scheme aims to support businesses that are looking to reduce costs through improved energy, material resource and water efficiency.

Application

Applicants can apply for a wide range of measures (e.g. lighting, glazing and biomass boilers) however the measure you want to install must be recommended in a qualifying report.

A qualifying report can either be a [Green Deal Advice Report](#) (generated from a Green Deal assessment) or a report from Resource Efficient Scotland. The cost of a non-domestic Green Deal assessment can be added to this loan application.

Contact Details

Phone: 0808 808 2282

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/businesses/getting-support/sme-loan-scheme>

Invest Northern Ireland



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

Eligibility

Businesses based in and looking to (re)locate to Northern Ireland.

Description

Invest Northern Ireland is the regional business development agency that helps new and existing businesses to compete internationally.

Invest NI offers the Northern Ireland business community a single organisation providing high-quality services, programmes, support and expert advice.

Support is tailored to your needs and can include;

- Skills: Skills Growth, HR advice and Leadership Programmes.
- Developing business or export strategies.
- Technical advice and support for engineering, manufacturing, product, process, environmental, and health and safety issues.
- Finding Funding
- Developing Products and Services
- Finding new markets

Application Information

If you are interested in getting advice and support call 0800 181 4422 or fill in the [online enquiry form](#).

Contact Details

Phone: 0800 181 4422

Useful Links

Website: www.investni.com/

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:
Northern Ireland: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/NI/NI/business-loans/pages/loans-eligibility.aspx>
Wales: <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 four years
- online technical content
- web tools
- advice line

Application Information

To apply, contact the Carbon Trust

Contact Details

Carbon Trust
Tel: 01865 885 850
Northern Ireland: loans@carbontrust.co.uk Wales: contactwales@carbontrust.com

Application support hotline: 0800 085 2005

Useful Links

Website:
Northern Ireland: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/NI/NI/business-loans/pages/loans.aspx>
Wales: <http://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/wales>

Full selection of Carbon Trust business services: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/products-services/business-loans/pages/loans.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 can be obtained from Business Wales.

Contact Details

To get further information please contact Business Wales on 0300 060 3000 and visit <http://business.wales.gov.uk>.

Useful Links

Brochure:

http://business.wales.gov.uk/sites/business-wales/files/documents/Innovation/Innovation_RDI_Funding_Brochure_English.pdf

Skills Growth Wales (SGW)



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

Eligibility

Businesses based in Wales who can demonstrate that they have a credible growth plan which will lead to the creation of employment opportunities. Your plan could include a new market, new products, new services, and new contracts or planned investment.

Description

Approved companies will be able to access funding up to an average of £2,500 per individual for training that will directly help bring about the growth.

There is also a requirement to take up accredited training programmes or modules that lead to qualifications. This includes Leadership and Management, Business Improvement Techniques and other relevant, nationally recognised vocational qualifications at level 2 and above (a GCSE graded A*-C is at level 2 and a AS or A level is at level 3). Training that achieves widely recognised industrial standards is also acceptable.

All companies accessing SGW will be supported by a Human Resource Development (HRD) Advisor. The advisor will assist them in identifying training provision that provides best quality and value for money. They will help the company develop a training plan, evaluate the quality and impact of the training delivered and undertake a review of the benefits and impacts of the company's participation in SGW.

Companies will be invited to apply for support by the SGW team who will ensure that appropriate companies are identified.

Application Information

Call the Business Skills Team who will review your company's eligibility and advise what support programme best suits your needs.

Contact Details

Business Skills Team: 0845 606 6160

Useful Links

Website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/skillsgrowth/?lang=en>

Business Wales: Advanced Materials and Manufacturing



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

Eligibility

Your business must work in any of the following areas:

- aerospace and defence
- automotive technologies
- opto-electronics
- advanced materials and composites
- process manufacturing

Description

If your business works in any of the above areas, Business Wales is able to help you with:

- advice on [international trade](#)
- advice on [research and development and innovation](#)
- finding [new business premises](#)
- advice on improving [workforce skills](#)
- [e-business support](#)
- tendering for [public and private sector contracts](#)
- [introducing faster broadband to your business](#)

For more information contact Business Wales or follow the links above.

Contact Details

Phone: 0300 060 3000

Useful Links

Website:

<http://business.wales.gov.uk/advancedmaterialsandmanufacturing>

Connected and autonomous vehicles Innovate UK



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: up to £20m

Eligibility

The scheme welcomes consortia led by any sized company and particularly encourages proposals from medium-sized companies. Research organisations may participate as collaborators in a consortium but business partners must incur at least 70% of the total eligible project costs. It is expected that the collaborative R&D projects would range in size from total costs of £1 million to £5 million. The overseas-based partners are welcome to participate in consortia by conducting their R&D in the UK.

Description

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is to invest up to £20 million in collaborative R&D projects and feasibility studies (delivered by Innovate UK on behalf of BIS) to stimulate developments in autonomous vehicles and connected transport systems.

Building on the government's 'Introducing driverless cars to UK roads' collaborative research initiative, this competition aims to encourage development of connected and autonomous vehicles, focusing on three themes – connectivity, autonomy and customer interaction – along with catalysing new business models.

Proposals must be led by a business and be collaborative. The fund is looking for collaborative research and development (industrial research). Small business partners could receive up to 70% of their eligible project costs, medium-sized businesses 60% and large businesses 50%.

Application Information

The competition opens for both types of project application on **20 July 2015**. The deadline for applications is at **noon** on **30 September 2015**.

Contact Details

Support phone number: 0300 321 4357
Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:

https://interact.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/connected-and-autonomous-vehicles

Competition brief:

<https://connect.innovateuk.org/documents/1524978/1866952/Connected%20and%20autonomous%20vehicles%20-%20competition%20brief>

Closed National Schemes

The following schemes are now closed please refer to the page reference for more information.

England:

[Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme \(England\)](#)

[Access to Finance Grant Scheme \(England\)](#)

[UK Steel Enterprise](#)

Scotland:

[Scottish Seed Fund \(SSF\)](#)

Wales:

[Wales Economic Growth Fund](#)

LEP:

[Understanding Finance for Business](#)

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.

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. 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.net/leps/>

Contact Details

LEP Principal Contacts are available here:
<http://www.lepnetwork.net/leps/>

Useful links

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

For more information about what local LEPs can offer automotive companies visit the [Automotive Councils website](#).

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.

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.net/leps/>

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 and each enterprise zone has its own sectors of focus. Each one is managed by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that it falls within. 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.

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. 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.

Enterprise Zones with an automotive focus include:

- [MIRA, Hinkley](#)
- [Black Country](#)
- [North East \(Low Carbon Vehicle site near Sunderland\)](#)
- [Northampton](#)
- [Mersey Water](#)

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.net/leps/>

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>

Coaching for High Growth SMEs 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 three years of starting trading or to have at least ten employees within three 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 Innovate UK and UKTI
- Access to business and knowledge networks.

Application information

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

Contact Details

Management of the coaching falls to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to ensure local economies interests are prioritised and that local business support services are fully integrated. For more information contact your local LEP - <http://www.lepnetwork.net/leps/>

Improving your resource efficiency 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

For further details contact 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.net/leps/>

Greater Lincolnshire Business Capital Growth Fund



Minimum award £10,000
Maximum award £250,000

Eligibility

Grants available to local businesses based in Lincolnshire area who can demonstrate growth investment proposals linked to significant job creation.

Description

The Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce has been successful in bidding for the Regional Growth Fund award (£2 million), following support from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and Lincolnshire County Council.

The pot of money, called the Greater Lincolnshire Business Capital Growth Fund, is a capital grant programme which will provide grant funding on a competitive basis and support for businesses in preparing an application.

Application Information

For more information or to download an Expression of Interest form, visit - <http://www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/2m-regional-growth-fund>

Contact Details

Contact Ian Jones on 01522 523 333 or email ian.jones@Lincs-Chamber.co.uk.

Useful Links

Website: www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk

Useful link:

<http://www.businesslincolnshire.com/advice-grant-scheme-finder/131/greater-lincolnshire-business-capital-growth-fund>

D2D2 Unlocking Investment for Growth



Minimum award:

Maximum award up to 25% in support of capital investment projects with a minimum overall project value of £200,000

Eligibility

Eligible companies should be based in the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Local Enterprise Partnership area.

Description

The Local Enterprise Partnership for D2N2 has secured £6.8m from the Government's Regional Growth Fund and the European Regional Development Fund to help local businesses grow and create new jobs.

Unlocking investment for growth will be of interest to businesses with a substantial capital investment project that will create long term jobs but who can't quite raise all the finance to purchase the necessary fixed assets.

Application Information

The process is competitive and applications will be rigorously assessed, with priority being given to the 6 key sectors (Bio-science, Food & Drink, Construction, Transport Equipment Manufacture, Low Carbon and the Visitor Economy). However all applications that can demonstrate a well thought out business case, significant job creation and value for money will be considered.

The criteria for assessment will be:

- The overall strength of the business case in terms of deliverability, impact and risk minimisation.
- The number of new sustainable, private sector jobs created.
- The level of private sector investment that is leveraged by the grant funding.
- Eligibility for RGF support - including State Aid compliance.
- Value for money.

Contact Details

For more information please contact EMB Ltd who manages the fund on behalf of D2N2.

Email: U14G@embltd.co.uk

Phone: 01332 826 366.

Useful Links

Websites:

<http://www.d2n2lep.org/U14G>

<http://www.embltd.co.uk/investment/unlocking-investment-for-growth/>

Finance for Business North East



Minimum award: £1,000

Maximum award: £1.25m

Eligibility

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:

- 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

In July 2013, the negotiations started to secure additional funding to allow the programme to continue investment through to December 2015.

Application Information

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>

Let it Grow



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

Eligibility

Let's Grow is available to SME's based in the North East of England and is aimed towards manufacturing businesses.

Successful applications must meet eligibility criteria and:

- Create new, sustainable jobs within the applicant company
- Offer good value for money in terms of value of grant per new job created
- Make a clear case for needing grant support
- Have adequate private sector funding for the project
- Comply with State Aid regulations

Description

Let's Grow offers grants from £50,000. Levels of support available depend on factors such as location of the project, type of expenditure planned, the size of the company and the level of job creation, and will range from 10% to 30%. In some cases large organisations can access Let's Grow but this will normally be restricted to R&D projects or inward investment by overseas businesses not currently operating in the UK.

Application Information

Let's Grow is run as a series of quarterly competitions, the deadlines for which are shown below. To apply please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#). Applicants whose Expression of Interest are approved will be invited to submit a full application.

	Expression of Interest deadline	Full Application Deadlines
Competition 1	1 August 2014	29 August 2014
Competition 2	17 October 2014	14 November 2014
Competition 3	23 January 2015	20 February 2015
Competition 4	24 April 2015	22 May 2015
Competition 5	31 July 2015	28 August 2015
Competition 6	6 November 2015	4 December 2015

Contact Details

Tel: 0191 426 6408
Email: letsgrow@be-group.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.be-group.co.uk/services/commercial-development-programmes/lets-grow/>

North East Business Support Fund



Minimum award:
Maximum award: £1400

Eligibility

SME businesses based in the North East Region with a business to business client base.

Description

NBSI offer a £1400 fund to support businesses in the North East who are looking to use external expertise to deliver business improvement projects. You can use the grant for almost any type of support to help your business grow.

BBSL offer up to 40% support to a maximum of £1400 and assistance in finding external experts if required.

Application Information

To apply fill out the [online application form](#) and one of the advisors will arrange to visit your business.

This fund is open to applications until the end of June 2015.

Contact Details

NBSL
6 Ester court
Wansbeck Business Park
Rotary Oarkway
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8AP

Tel: 01670 813322
Email: info@nbsl.org.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.nbsl.org.uk/north-east-business-support-fund>

Rosebud Business Loan



Minimum award: £10,000
Maximum award: £1million

Eligibility

SMEs based in Lancashire.

Description

Rosebud is looking to support growing businesses in the following high growth business sectors:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Finance and professional
- Creative and digital
- Energy and environment

Application Information

For more information and to arrange an advisor to contact you to discuss the application process, please click [here](#).

Contact Details

Phone: 01772 536 651.
Email: rosebud@lancashire.gov.uk

Useful links

Website: <http://new.lancashire.gov.uk/business/finance-and-funding/rosebud-business-finance.aspx>

Boost Business Lancashire



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

Eligibility

For businesses who are;

- Based in Lancashire
- Employ fewer than 250 full-time employees
- Have an annual turnover of less than £40 million and/or over
- Have an annual balance sheet total of less than £35 million
- Have received less than £160,000 of publicly funded support in the last 3 years
- Is not a retail business

Description

Boost is a £7.2million ERDF-backed Lancashire Business Growth Hub led by the Lancashire LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) which aims to grow the county's economy by £20m and create at least 1,200 new jobs and safeguard 700 more by 2015.

The role of Boost is to help growth-hungry Lancashire businesses realise their potential by providing simple access to a range of leading-edge funded programmes, delivered by specialists with a track record of supporting growth – of both start-ups and established businesses.

Boost also helps businesses access specialist private sector business support, as well as other nationally funded programmes, where relevant.

Contact Details

For more information complete the [online form](#) or call 0800 488 0057

Email: info@boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/vision>



St Helens Jobs and Growth Fund

Minimum total value of the project £20,000

Maximum award - grants of up to 20% of the total project value

Eligibility

The St Helens Jobs and Growth Fund provides grant funding for businesses planning to expand or invest in St Helens, creating new jobs for local people.

Description

Funded through the Government's Regional Growth Fund, grants of up to £70,000 are available to provide investment for growth, when suitable finance is not available elsewhere. Grants are available for a range of projects that will create new employment opportunities, such as purchasing new premises, expanding current premises or capital expenditure on plant and machinery.

Application Information

If business employs less than 250 people and is planning a capital expenditure project which will lead to the creation of jobs the company can register by completing [expression of interest form](#).

Once the expression of interest form has been evaluated the candidate will be contacted to arrange an initial appointment to discuss completion of the application.

Applications will consider the following factors:

- Eligibility for grant support
- Job creation
- Business performance
- Project outline
- Project costs and funding.

Contact Details

For more information about Business Grants contact Geoff Bates at St Helens Chamber on 01744 742 087 or email geoff.bates@sthelenschamber.com or for information on Start-up grants contact Tracey Rigby on 01744 742082 or email Tracey.Rigby@sthelenschamber.com.

Useful Links

Websites: http://www.sthelenschamber.com/business_grants

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 and Creative
- Energy and 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 December 2015, with a subsequent realisation period through to December 2022.

Application Information

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, call 01925 418 232.

Useful links

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

Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF)



Minimum award £25,000

Maximum award £75,000 or £750,000 (depending on the size)

Eligibility

SMEs across the East England region.

Description

The Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF) is a venture capital fund which makes early-stage investments as equity or convertible loan between £25K and £750K alongside co-investors. The investee companies must be small or medium enterprises (SMEs) based within the East of England that are developing new and innovative products or processes in a low carbon, environmentally sensitive manner.

The East of England is defined as the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Hertfordshire and the unitary areas of Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Thurrock, Peterborough, Luton and Southend on Sea.

LCIF offers two routes to funding depending on the amount required and the stage of the company: the [Smaller Investments Scheme](#), for investments between £25K and £75K, and the [Main Fund](#), for investments between £75K and £750K.

Application Information

The Fund was launched in September 2010 and will run until December 2015. Applications can be made at any time [via the website](#). Registering on the website grants you access to the application portal. You will also receive LCIF's quarterly newsletters, which contain information about LCIF investments and sector news.

Contact Details

Applicants wishing to have an informal discussion about a potential application please call Kevin Murphy at the Fund Manager, Turquoise International, on 020 7248 1506.

Useful Links

Websites: <https://www.lowcarbonfund.co.uk/LCIF/Process>

London ESF AGE 16-24 Apprenticeships Grant



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £3,000

Eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- confirm that you are not able to recruit an apprentice without the Grant
- have fewer than 249 employees within one of the 32 London boroughs or the City of London

Description

London ESF AGE is a grant of £3000 for London employers who recruit an apprentice under the terms of the [national AGE 16 to 24](#) offer. The grant is available from January 1 2015 to June 30 2015. Employers can be paid up to five grants in total.

The apprentice must be in learning for a minimum of 13 weeks before the training provider can make payment to the employer.

Application Information

To apply contact your local training organisation.

Contact Details

Employers can claim the London ESF grant through their training provider. For more information call the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-grant-for-employers-london-esf-age>

Factsheet:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/400818/London_ESF_AGE_for_Employers_from_Jan_15-v1dec09.pdf

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

South West Growth Fund



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £1million

Eligibility

An ambitious business, based in the South West wanting to create new jobs and achieve growth within their company.

Description

The South West Growth Fund is designed to start investment and create 1,000 jobs in the South West of England. The scheme is collaboration between SWMAS Ltd, Plymouth University's GAIN team, South West Water Business Services and the Western Morning News.

Grants support:

- Capital Expenditure - investment in new equipment, technology and processes to realise enhanced adaptability, improved productivity and environmental performance.
- Training - skills for your workforce to embed new technologies and processes, alongside strategic skills for management to explore new business models and opportunities.

Application Information

To help with the application process please email swgf@swmas.co.uk or visit www.gaininbusiness.com/swgf.

The applicant will need the following details:

- company details including address and postcode
- anticipated project cost and timescale
- number of jobs being created as a result of your investment.

Contact Details

Tel: 0845 608 3838

Email: swgf@swmas.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: www.swmas.co.uk/business-support/south-west-growth-fund-0

Warwickshire SMEs funding



Minimum award: £1,000
Maximum award: £75,000

Eligibility

Warwickshire micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) who are having difficulty accessing loans to fund their growth, are being given the chance to get financial support from a new package of funding worth £500k.

Description

The funding is being provided by Warwickshire County Council through its Growth Fund, and Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust. The loans are designed to help businesses access capital investment that will help them diversify or modernise their operations, leading to economic growth and job creation.

Application Information

SMEs across Warwickshire are able to apply for loans worth £1,000 to £75,000 from the Growth Fund. Successful applicants need to demonstrate how the cash would directly create new jobs in the county or protect existing employment.

Loans are available towards the costs of capital assets such as buildings, plant, machinery and equipment.

Contact Details

Email: cwrt@fair-finance.net
Tel: 024 7655 1777

Useful Links

<http://news.warwickshire.gov.uk/blog/2015/10/16/new-loan-fund-available-for-warwickshire-businesses/>

Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS)



Minimum award £10k
Maximum award £100k

Eligibility

Loans are offered to businesses making a positive contribution to the social, environmental or economic well-being of the West Midlands. We lend to most market sectors including construction, engineering, IT services, manufacturing, service providers and wholesalers.

Description

The loan fund has been especially designed to meet the needs of West Midland's based businesses that are unable to get loans from traditional sources such as banks. We understand that getting business finance can sometimes be a problem. Lack of track record, unreasonable security arrangements, past financial problems or simply not meeting conventional credit scoring methods may be hindering the process.

A BCRS loan can be used for a wide range of projects including working capital, purchasing equipment, start-ups, recruitment and marketing.

Application Information

Interested companies as a first should complete the enquiry [form](#). This will be sent to the BCRS administration team who will look at the information provided and direct your enquiry to the relevant Business Development Manager.

Contact Details

Tel: 0845 313 8410
Email: enquiries@bcrs.org.uk

Useful Links

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

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 Information

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 was created through Lloyds Development Capital (LDC), the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The fund will focus upon high growth businesses in the West Midlands region and managed by Midven.

Application Information

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?id=304>
Midven: <http://midven.co.uk/funds/exceed/>

Black Country GOLD Programme



Minimum award: £1,000
Maximum award: £16,000

Eligibility

The GOLD programme offers business development support and financial assistance to SME based in:

- Dudley
- Sandwell
- Walsall
- Wolverhampton

Description

The GOLD programme is looking to support growing businesses in the following sectors:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Business services
- Environment technologies
- Transport technology
- Building technology

BC GOLD offers eligible businesses the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £16,000 to support expansion projects that will enable the business to grow by up to 20%.

The grant covers 50% of project costs with the balance being contributed by the business e.g. to receive a £5,000 grant the business has to contribute £5,000 towards the project.

The grants can be used for capital and revenue projects.

The business development strand of Black Country GOLD includes:

- 1-2-1 support to develop a Growth Plan for the business
- Free access to business seminars delivered by leading consultants

Application Information

The application process has three parts:

Part A – Expression of interest
Part B – Business Growth Plan Analysis
Part C – Completion of a full application form

To register your interest follow the link on the [website](#)

Contact Details

Phone: 01902 321 272
Email: enquiries@wolverhamptonbsc.com

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.wolverhamptonbsc.com/bcgold>



Birmingham Business Loan Fund

Minimum award: £100,000

Maximum award: £1,000,000

Eligibility

SMEs based in Birmingham that pay business rates to Birmingham City Council are eligible.

Description

Launched in January 2010, this groundbreaking initiative offers a £10 million package of loans to small and medium businesses (SMEs) based in Birmingham. The loan fund supports a diverse range of solid profitable Birmingham companies, which have previously been unable to access funding.

Application Information

For further information, contact [Finance Birmingham](#).

Contact Details

Finance Birmingham
Baskerville House
Centenary Square
Birmingham
B1 2ND

Phone: 0121 233 4903

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.financebirmingham.com/funding/>

FAQ: <http://www.wolverhamptonbsc.com/faq-bcgold>

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 Information

For further information or to apply for a loan call 0121 704 6154 or visit [Solihull for Success](#).

Contact Details

Phone: 0121 704 6151

Useful Links

Website:

https://www.solihullforsuccess.com/locate-your-business/support-and-finance/grants_and_loans

Innovation University Enterprise Network (i-URN) Coventry University Enterprises



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

Eligibility

SME's based in the West Midlands.

Description

i-UEN supports businesses based within the West Midlands to create, develop and implement new business opportunities through tailored consultancy and open innovation principles.

The i-UEN project offers direct support to SME's by assisting them in developing a growth strategy. The support covers advice and information required by growth businesses to support product and service development. The appropriate support will be agreed between you and Coventry University Enterprises Ltd in a tailored business support package which could include:

- support to become investment ready and explore new funding opportunities;
- strategic planning assistance for commercialising new ideas;
- market research and development;
- social media and marketing assistance;
- new collaboration opportunities to expand your business;
- intellectual property advice;
- an introduction to Open Innovation practices and principles;
- business planning, support and guidance.

The assistance you receive will come in one of the following forms:

- a one-day master class or workshop followed by one-to-one consultancy;
- two days of one-to-one consultancy delivered through our network of external consultants.

Additional support may be available upon further assessment.

Application Information

For more information contact Louise Marjoram, email lmajoram@cad.coventry.ac.uk or phone 024 7623 6001

Contact Details

See above

Useful Links

Website: www.opentoinnovation.net

Performance Improvement Initiative Coventry University



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

Eligibility

Companies with:

- fewer than 250 full-time employees
- have less than €50M or £35M turnover
- have less than €43M or £30M balance net worth
- Be less than 25% owned or controlled by a non-SME
- Be based in the West Midlands region

Description

Performance Improvement Initiative is a 100% funded consultancy service that empowers ambitious small and medium sized manufacturing businesses. The service provides up to 20 days of free independent advice normally worth £10,000 covering areas such as:

- Business management
- Engineering design
- Sales and marketing
- Problem solving
- Operation management
- Supply chain management
- Technical

Application Information

For application details contact the Performance Improvement Initiative team directly

Contact Details

Faculty of Engineering and Computing
Priory Street
Coventry University
CV1 5FB

Email: business.ec@coventry.ac.uk

Phone: 024 7765 9009

Useful Links

Website: www.coventry.ac.uk/pii

Touch Digital



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

Eligibility

SME's based in the West Midlands

Description

Touch Digital supports West Midlands SMEs to understand and integrate digital technologies into their business strategy, helping them to become more creative, productive and competitive. Touch Digital do this through a mixture of tailored advice and support, an events programme designed to develop knowledge and understanding, plus access to the Touch Digital TechLab to try out the latest business-related digital technologies.

Application Information

For more information contact the Tough Digital project team email info@touchdigital.eu or phone 024 7615 8207

Contact Details

Address:
Puma Way
Coventry
West Midlands
CV1 2TT

[Contact Page](#)

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.touchdigital.eu/>

Technology and Innovation Future West Midlands



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

Eligibility

Companies based in the West Midlands with less than 250 employees and a turnover of less than €50m and an annual balance sheet or less than €43m.

Companies will also need to undertake a short needs analysis to identify the areas that Technology and Innovation Futures West Midlands (TIF WM) can best help with.

Description

The project helps companies to examine existing technologies, investigate new solutions and implement changes. The project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund and helps business with computer hardware, computer software, design and rapid prototyping, manufacturing systems and processes, quality control and measurement and energy usage and environmental issues.

Application Information

For more information contact TIF WM email info@tifwm.co.uk or phone 02476 158 206

Contact Details

See above

Useful Links

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

Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub



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

Eligibility

Businesses based in/or relocating to Coventry and Warwickshire.

Description

Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub works with advanced manufacturing and engineering businesses who could benefit from specialist brokerage, advice and support and, even, access to finance & funding opportunities.

Clearing House staff work with you to access public funding & finance opportunities; work with you and your local College or University to resolve your skills and recruitment needs; act as a point of liaison between you and your Local Authority should you wish to expand your business; add value to your business by encouraging and supporting your investments in innovation and R&D; ensure that your business gets the very best out of your local and national services from Coaching For Growth, the Manufacturing Advisory Service, the UKTI International Trade Service, Warwick Manufacturing Group, the Manufacturing Technology Centre, the MIRA Enterprise Zone, Coventry University Enterprises and more

Contact Details

Email: contact@cwgrowthhub.co.uk
Phone: 0300 060 3747

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.cwlep.com/growth-hub/>

Green Shoots Plus Fund



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: up to £20m

Eligibility

SMEs operating in Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Shropshire, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Please check further criteria: <http://www.wolverhamptonbsc.com/eligibility>

Description

The Green Shoots Plus Fund aims to help small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) operating in the areas listed above to create new jobs and promote growth in the region

Application Information

All interested business need to complete the Expression of Interest form. The form asks for basic information about the business and the proposal for growth. The following information will be asked:

- Company registration number (if applicable)
- Number of employees
- Company turnover
- Details of your project proposal
- Information about why you need Green Shoots funding to help
- Estimation of the number of jobs to be created and safeguarded
- Amount of investment required (ranging between 20% and 30% depending on your application and strength of the project)
- Forecast of total project cost

Contact Details

Phone 01902 321272
Email: enquiries@bcgrowthhub.com

Useful Links

Website:
<http://www.wolverhamptonbsc.com/greenshoots>

Useful tips:
<http://www.wolverhamptonbsc.com/application-tips>

Response project



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

The main criterion is that organisation is SME in Leeds City Region. Please check for all criteria [here](#).

Description

The Response project is an ESF initiative led by Leeds City College and funded via the Skills Support for the Workforce programme. A new scheme has been created with the aim of helping small businesses in the Leeds City Region invest in developing the skills of their workforce. The programme is benefiting from more than £10m of funding from the European Union and UK government which is being made available through the Skills Funding Agency to finance training for people in employment.

The Response Project aims to support employers across the Leeds City Region by providing support and advice on a range of training matters. This could include taking on an apprentice, coaching and mentoring or enabling existing employees to gain new skills so they can support business growth plans.

Application Information

- Contact the Response Hub at Leeds City
- The Response Hub will put you in touch with one of the 28 Delivery Partners, best able to meet your needs. Delivery Partners are located throughout the Leeds City Region and comprise of Further Education Colleges and Private Training Providers
- The Delivery Partner will contact you to discuss your needs in greater detail.
- Working with the Delivery Partner, employers will identify the employees they want to train, and their training will commence subject to eligibility.

Contact Details

Telephone: 0113 216 2064
Email: response@leedscitycollege.ac.uk

Useful Links

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

Finance Yorkshire



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

Eligibility

SME's based in Yorkshire, Humber, North or East Lincolnshire (the Yorkshire and Humber region). Additional eligibility criteria applies to each finance package.

Description

Finance Yorkshire provides Seedcorn Finance, Business Loans and Equity linked finance ranging from £15k to £2m for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

Finance Yorkshire's packages help businesses fill the gaps in funding they need for growth and development, where conventional sources of finance are insufficient or unavailable. Packages include;

- [Seedcorn Finance](#) - £150k to £780K
 - Early stage proof of concept and commercialisation
 - Technology and Knowledge- based business
- [Business Loans](#) - £15k to £250k
 - Typically unsecured
 - Sliding scale of interest rebates depending on stage of business
 - A manufacturing or service sector business
- [Equity Linked Investments](#)- £100k to £2m
 - Minority equity stakes sought
 - Interest rates charged in loans with equity options

Application Information

For application details please refer to each finance package.

Contact Details

Email: info@finance-yorkshire.com
Phone: 0845 649 0000

Useful links

Website: <http://www.finance-yorkshire.com/>

Skills Funding for Engineering companies



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £31k (depending on project)

Eligibility

Businesses with new products, services or process improvements and opportunity to increase employment across the Yorkshire and Humber region by working with one of the local universities.

Description

The Fund was specifically designed to help Yorkshire and Humber Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) work with local universities to make things happen. It also enabled businesses with similar needs to work together and grow.

Funding is directed to the relevant University to undertake the activity.

- Small Innovation Projects: up to £10,000 eg, working on a prototype new product or service offering to grow existing customers and attract new ones.
- Research & Development Projects: up to £31,000 eg developing a new improved product, service or production and delivery process – to open up new markets, retain and grow customers or attract new customers.
- Graduate R&D and Innovation Placements: either 6-12 months duration (up to £20,000 support) or 12-18 months duration (up to £30,000 support), helping with the cost to bring a fresh perspectives and new ideas by providing an expert pair of hands.

Application Information

To help with the application process please email info@red-sky.co.uk.

Contact Details

Tel: 01765 650 126

Email: info@red-sky.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.red-sky.co.uk/grants-yorkshire/#growth-grants>

<http://www.yorkshireinnovationfund.org/>

Leeds City Region Loans and Grants



Minimum award: £10,000
Maximum award: £1million

Eligibility

- Project must create permanent new jobs in the Leeds City Region
- There must be private finances available: either own, from a bank, or other commercial finance to invest alongside
- For every £1 of LEP funding sought, applicant must be able to provide at least £4 of private sector investment
- Projects must support the City Region's key growth sectors: specifically life sciences and related industries, digital and creative industries, food and drink, low carbon and environmental industries, manufacturing and financial and business services.

Description

Different loans and grants are available for businesses to invest in capital projects across the Leeds City Region.

The loans are designed for projects that are ready to proceed but have been delayed, and now need support to start the development. The funding for a loan is between £500,000 and £1 million.

Grants are for small and medium sized businesses that will use the funding for capital investment in land, buildings, plant, machinery and equipment, or research and development activity, creating permanent jobs in the Leeds City Region. Between £10,000 and £500,000 can be awarded.

The funding is available to support infrastructure projects that will help to accelerate economic growth, deliver new jobs, remove barriers to development and use resources more efficiently.

Application Information

The applying organisation needs to complete the [enquiry form](#) to check if your project is eligible. The team will contact applicant within five working days to discuss the project or provide guidance on completing the application form.

Alternatively, please contact business growth team at BusinessGrowth@the-lep.com.

Contact Details

Tel: 0113 34 81818

Email: info@the-lep.com

Useful Links

<http://www.the-lep.com/for-business/business-finance/lep-grants/>

<https://www.finpoint.co.uk/>

Let's Grow North and East Yorkshire



Minimum award: £25k
Maximum award: £1million

Eligibility

SME's located within the York, North Yorkshire, East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership area (which includes local authority areas of Craven, East Riding, Harrogate, Hambleton, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough, Selby, York).

Description

This grant funding is focused on job creation and growth. Applicants can be from all industries but have to be trading for at least 12 months.

Application Information

To help with the application process please email info@red-sky.co.uk.

Contact Details

Tel: 01765 650 126
Email: info@red-sky.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.red-sky.co.uk/grants-yorkshire/#growth-grants>

Sheffield City Region Growth Hub



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

Eligibility

Businesses based in Sheffield city Region.

Description

The Sheffield City Region (SCR) Growth Hub aims to provide a central point for business advice and support. The aim is to put in place a 'world-class' business support offer that ends the postcode lottery of support across the region, enabling businesses to access the same high quality support and advice they need to help with potential growth. The Growth Hub will provide support for entrepreneurs and new start-up businesses, whilst supporting established and growth businesses to access finance, to export and to innovate. Businesses can also be referred into other parts of the Growth Hub for a wider package of support, and for fast growing businesses facing a number of challenges there can be developed a bespoke Growth Deal to address all the areas of support. All the Growth Hub specialist advisors are highly experienced, many of whom are specialists in their field who have successfully ran businesses or grown their own businesses, who now choose to pass on their expertise to others through the SCR Growth Hub.

Application Information

For further information visit www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk or email growthhub@sheffieldcityregion.co.uk.

Contact Details

Mark Loraine
Tel: 0800 043 5522
Email: growthhub@sheffieldcityregion.co.uk

Useful Links

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

Yorkshire Innovation Fund



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £31k (depending on project)

Eligibility

Businesses with new products, services or process improvements and opportunity to increase employment across the Yorkshire and Humber region by working with one of the local universities.

Description

The Fund was specifically designed to help Yorkshire and Humber Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) work with local universities to make things happen. It also enabled businesses with similar needs to work together and grow.

Funding is directed to the relevant University to undertake the activity.

- Small Innovation Projects: up to £10,000 eg, working on a prototype new product or service offering to grow existing customers and attract new ones.
- Research & Development Projects: up to £31,000 eg developing a new improved product, service or production and delivery process – to open up new markets, retain and grow customers or attract new customers.
- Graduate R&D and Innovation Placements: either 6-12 months duration (up to £20,000 support) or 12-18 months duration (up to £30,000 support), helping with the cost to bring a fresh perspectives and new ideas by providing an expert pair of hands.

Application Information

To help with the application process please email info@red-sky.co.uk.

Contact Details

Tel: 01765 650 126

Email: info@red-sky.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.red-sky.co.uk/grants-yorkshire/#growth-grants>

<http://www.yorkshireinnovationfund.org/>

Closed Regional Schemes

The following schemes are now closed please refer to the page reference for more information.

East Midlands:

[Innovation funding and support search \(East Midlands Innovation\)](#)
[Global Derbyshire Small Business Support Programme](#)

[LUMINATE Project](#)

[Encsite programme \(East Midlands\)](#)

[Lincoln Growth Fund \(LGF\)](#)

[Derby Enterprise Growth Fund \(DEGF\)](#)

North East:

[Shell Springboard Low Emission Transport Collaborative Project Fund \(North East\)](#)

[Northumberland Business Growth Fund](#)

[Investment for Growth \(North East England\)](#)

[Environmental Management Support Initiative \(North East\)](#)

North West:

[Corridor Growth Fund \(Manchester\)](#)

[Accelerating Business Growth \(Lancashire\)](#)

South East:

[AGE 16 to 24 Employer Incentive \(London\)](#)

South West:

[Innovation 4 Growth \(South West England\)](#)

West Midlands:

[Growing Priority Sectors \(Black Country\)](#)

[Black Country Business Property Investment Programme \(Black Country\)](#)

[Birmingham Post Growth Fund](#)

[Business Development Programme](#)

[Business Innovation Programme](#)

[Express and Star Green Shoots Fund \(Black Country\)](#)

[Innovation Networks \(West Midlands\)](#)

[Eco Business](#)

[Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme \(GBSCP\)](#)

Other Funding and Support Guides

To aid the reader we have included a number cross-sector funding guides below.

Business Finance and Support Finder The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

The Business Finance and Support Finder is a searchable database of public funding available in the UK.

Search for government-backed support and finance for business, including:

- Grants
- Finance and loans
- Business support e.g. mentoring and consultancy
- Funding for small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups

Customise your search by location, size and activity.

Support may be available in a number of forms, including financial assistance and free or subsidised advice services. There may also be specific initiatives to help with starting up, managing or growing a business.

Business Support Helpline Information: <https://www.gov.uk/business-support-helpline>
Website: <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support-finder>

Ripe for the Picking: A guide to alternative sources of finance Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

The alternative finance guide intends to address a significant knowledge gap by educating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on the broad range of finance options available to help them grow, including asset-based lending, equity investment, crowd funding and peer-to-peer (P2P) lending.

Guide: http://www.cbi.org.uk/media/2072014/cbi_alternative_finance_guide_for_growing_businesses_embargoed_0001_200513.pdf

North East Access to Finance

North East Access to Finance provides guidance for north east businesses to direct them to sources of finance and support that are relevant to their needs and currently available in the region through both their guide and website.

Website: <http://www.nea2fguide.co.uk/>

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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 €5 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 44% 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>

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 structure 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 on 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

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 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

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 applications 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

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 of production facilities, new tooling etc. that will help achieve emissions and efficiency targets but will not lead to a net increase in capacity at the plant. The loan term is up to 6 years. The current allowance for the ECFT is €85m 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 its normal lending activities. Please contact the Communication Department for further details: 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/resources/jeremie/index.htm

FAQ: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/instruments/jeremie_en.cfm

Leaflet: http://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/jeremie-leaflet.htm

Gateway to Global Growth UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)



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

Eligibility

Companies need to be either SMEs, have two to ten 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 grow 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

Telephone: 0845 539 0419
Email: enquiries@ukti-invest.com

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/gateway-to-global-growth>

Export Credits Guarantee Department UK Export Finance



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

Useful Links

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

Aspire Funds British Business Bank



Minimum award: £100K
Maximum award: £1 million

Eligibility

Established and growing business in all sectors which are led by women.

Description

A £12.5m Fund, making equity investments of between £100k and £1m, on a co-investment basis

The fund helps to increase the number of successful women-led businesses within the UK, and to ensure those with real potential to succeed are not held back through a lack of growth capital.

Any investment will need to be supported by a lead investor, which in many cases will be a Venture Capital firm or an experienced Angel investor.

Application Information

Contact the British Business Bank

Contact Details

Phone: 0114 206 2131

Email: aspire@british-business-bank.co.uk or info@british-business-bank.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/market-failures-and-how-we-address-them/aspire-fund/>

Leaflet: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/British-Business-Bank-Aspire-Leaflet.pdf>

This scheme is now closed

Manufacturing Competencies



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 the potential to be applied successfully across other sectors or applications as well.

TSB are seeking projects across the whole manufacturing life cycle, 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>

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>

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.

Companies can now bid for a share of £100 million from a government scheme to help them strengthen their domestic supply chains and help bring manufacturing back to the UK.

Application Information

Full competition details and information can be found on the [AMSCI 2014 website](#).

Contact Details

Finance Birmingham contact: andypovey@financebirmingham.com
AMSCI helpdesk: email: amsci@financebirmingham.com phone: 0121 233 4917

Useful Links

AMSCI 2014 guidance for applicants and application materials are available at Finance Birmingham's AMSCI one-stop-shop Helpdesk website at www.financebirmingham.com/amsci/2014

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

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
- HSBC

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

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

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-aa/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 30-35%

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.berr.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>

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 only support initiatives that will realistically

- Make a significant impact on enterprise, productivity and 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 Information

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>

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 Information

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>

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 Information

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>

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 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

**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

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

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

DECC Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot (EDR)



Minimum award:
Maximum award:

Eligibility

The EDR pilot is open to all sectors of the economy across Great Britain with projects that can deliver at least 100 kilowatts of savings throughout the winter peak.

Description

The Pilot aims to test whether efficiency projects can compete in the forthcoming Capacity Market and offers the chance to organisations to bid for funding to support projects that deliver lasting reductions in electricity demand, e.g. through the installation of a more efficient lighting system or pump.

There is no limit on maximum bid size or on total subsidy awarded to any one participant (subject to the budget constraints).

Contracts are for one year. Successful bidders will receive 50% of payment on confirmation of installation and a further payment of 50% on delivery of savings.

Application Information

Organisations are welcomed to submit applications between July and 31 October 2014. Eligible applicants will be notified and asked to submit bids for the saving they will make by the end of January 2015.

To register your interest in the pilot and receive more information, contact edr-project@decc.gsi.gov.uk or refer to the [Fact Sheet](#) for details of the application and bidding process.

Contact Details

See above

Useful links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/electricity-demand-reduction-pilot>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-business-energy-efficiency-and-electricity-sector-investment>

Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition



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

Eligibility

Open to all businesses who can demonstrate:

- Key innovations inherent in the proposed technology pathway.
- An understanding of the market context (size, readiness, target market, cost levels) with a clear view of where their product would fit.
- A clear strategy for commercialising the technology and the products.
- An expectation to produce at least 1 million litres of biofuel per year (by the end of 2018).
- That the Consortia have the necessary expertise and experience to deliver the Project to its objectives.
- The ability to match fund the project's costs (in line with State Aid rules).
- A clear strategy for communicating the successful delivery of the project, together with the technological advances, to the wider energy community and the public.

Description

The Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition was launched on the 10th December 2014 by the Department for Transport (DfT), Ricardo-AEA and E4tech to support the production of UK-based advanced biofuels. The Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition will provide up to £25 million in grant funding over three years (2015-18) for major demonstration projects providing transformative and innovative solutions.

Application Information

The Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition will operate in two phases; Phase 1 (Expressions of Interest) and Phase 2 (Funding). Phase 1 is open to applications between 10th December 2014 and 13th February 2015.

Contact Details

Email: advancedbiofuelscomp@ricardo-aea.com

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.ricardo-aea.com/cms/advanced-biofuels-comp>

Useful link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/25-million-funding-for-green-transport-fuel-plants>

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 Information

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>

Energy Catalyst – Mid Stage Awards



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: up to 60% of total project costs for SMEs or 50% for large (for full award details please visit the [site](#))

Eligibility

The Energy Catalyst is open to innovative businesses and researchers from any sector who can address the three major challenges facing the energy sector:

- reducing emissions
- improving security of supply
- reducing cost.

Description

The Energy Catalyst has been established by the Technology Strategy Board, the [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council](#) and the [Department of Energy and Climate Change \(DECC\)](#) to accelerate innovation in the energy sector from concept to pre-commercial readiness by providing investment and support at the time, in the way and at the scale innovators need it. Funding of up to £25m is available for the first round, opening 19 May 2014.

Application Information

Organisations can apply for any stage of funding at any time, depending on where in the development cycle their technology sits.

Early-stage projects must be led by an SME either working alone or collaboratively or by a research organisation collaborating with a business. Mid-stage and late-stage projects must be business-led and collaborative. Total project costs can be up to £300k for early-stage awards, between £500k and £3m for mid-stage awards, and between £1m and £10m for late-stage awards.

The competition opens on 19 May 2014. The deadline for registration for mid-stage awards is noon 27 August 2014 and the deadline for expressions of interest is noon 3 September 2014. The second-stage deadline for invited applications is at noon on 5 November 2014.

Further details concerning the mid-stage application process can be found in the [guidance for applicants](#).

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/energy-catalyst-mid-stage-awards-technology-development?p_p_auth=pJSHjL9s

Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP)



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>

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 Information

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 for 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>

Data Exploration



Minimum award

Maximum award up to 50% funding of project cost (60% for SMEs)

Eligibility

Proposals must be collaborative and business-led and include at least one small or medium-sized enterprise (SME). It is expected to fund mainly industrial research projects in which a business partner will generally attract up to 50% public funding for their project costs (60% for SMEs). Projects would range in size from total costs of £100k to £500k, although it could be considered projects outside this range, and they should last between six and 24 months.

Description

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £4.5m in collaborative research and development that addresses the technical challenges and business opportunities presented by the huge growth in data.

This competition focuses on innovations in the data exploration techniques of analytics, modelling and visualisation to generate new insight and value from large amounts of complex data.

Application Information

This competition opens for applicants on 6 January 2014. The deadline for registration is at noon on 26 February 2014 and the deadline for applications is at noon on 5 March 2014.

Applications are assessed on individual merit by an independent panel of experts. For more information and all the documents you need to read before you apply, including the Guidance for Applicants, go to the web page for this competition at www.innovateuk.org under Funding & Support > Funding competitions.

Contact Details

Competition helpline: 0300 321 4357, email: competitions@tsb.gov.uk.

Useful Links

Website:

https://www.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/data-exploration-creating-new-insight-and-value?p_p_auth=QIEuLbA7

Brochure:

<https://www.innovateuk.org/documents/1524978/1866952/Data%20exploration%20-%20creating%20new%20insight%20and%20value%20-%20Competition%20brief>

Make it lighter, with less



Minimum award N/A

Maximum award up to 50% public funding of the project costs (60% for SMEs)

Eligibility

This competition is designed to enable companies to develop new business opportunities through innovations in manufacturing technology, advanced materials and material re-use. It aims to stimulate industrial research, generally in the range of Technology Readiness Levels 3 to 6, as defined in our [High Value Manufacturing Strategy 2012-2015](#). Further details could be found [here](#).

Description

The Technology Strategy Board and the **Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)** are to invest up to £8.5m in collaborative R&D projects to develop advanced materials and manufacturing technologies which deliver lighter, better-performing and more material-efficient structures and products across a broad range of industrial sectors and global markets.

This competition aims to strengthen the UK's collective expertise in lightweighting and resource-efficient manufacturing, and to develop a more robust and competitive supply base.

Application Information

Each project consortium must include a minimum of three companies, at least one of which must be involved in the manufacturing supply chain, either currently or potentially in future. The consortium must include representatives of at least two different market or industry sectors.

This is a two-stage competition that opens for applicants on 3 March 2014.

Stage 1 – Applicants submit an expression of interest, which is assessed.

Stage 2 – We invite selected applicants to submit an application.

All applicants must first register via our website by noon on 9 April 2014. The deadline for expressions of interest is noon on 16 April 2014. The Stage 2 briefing is on 14 May 2014, and the deadline for invited applications is noon on 25 June 2014. Applicants will be advised of the results of their applications in early August 2014, and projects should start between October and December 2014.

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/make-it-lighter-with-less?p_p_auth=3hJKIfWH

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 which closed on 4 December 2013. The second stage deadline for invited applications is at noon on 12 February 2014.

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?sessionId=FCC04CFEA8E2C1CB4625CC8217E03B9F.1

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

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 contribute their own funds in order to make better use of our combined resources.

Additional information

The current, Round 2 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>

Employer Ownership: developing women engineers



Minimum award: £40,000

Maximum award: £1.6m

Eligibility

Your company must meet the following eligibility conditions:

- your organisation must be registered as a company in the UK but your corporate headquarters does not have to be in the UK
- you must directly employ people in engineering occupations
- the usual place of employment of all employees being trained must be at a location in England
- applications must be from a single company (groups of companies will not be accepted) nor will applications from sector organisations (such as Sector Skills Councils or National Skills Academies) or Training Providers
- you must not be receiving other public funding for any part of your proposals

Description

This is the second of three planned funding calls to support training that can lead to the progression of individual's engineering career. It is designed specifically to support companies to offer training that will bring women into the engineering profession – either early in their career or later if they are returning to the profession after a career break – and to increase the potential of women to advance in an engineering career.

The focus of the fund is to support:

- conversion training, to encourage employers to bring more women into engineering
- progression training, to encourage employers to invest in the progression of women through an engineering career

Funding will be available for up to 50% of the costs of training that leads to skills that are portable and can be used in other companies and occupations (transferable skills) as allowed under the State Aid exemption regulations.

This funding cannot be used to provide alternate funding for apprenticeships or traineeships.

Application Information

Applications for funding can be submitted up to **5 December 2014**. If you wish to submit an application you will need to first register on [BIS's e-Tendering Portal](#). When you have registered you will be given access to the application form. Please read the guidance for applicants before completing the application.

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-ownership-developing-women-engineers>

Guidance for Applicants:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321098/employer-ownership_developing-women-engineers.pdf

Employer Ownership: improving engineering skills in smaller companies



Minimum award: £40k
Maximum award: £1.6m

Eligibility

The organisation must be registered as a company in the UK but the corporate headquarters does not have to be in the UK. Also, the business must directly employ people in engineering. Full criteria are listed in the [guidance document](#).

Description

The Improving Engineering Careers fund is an opportunity for government to support training that can lead to the progression of individuals through an engineering career, from skilled operatives through to associate professionals and those on pathways through to professional status. Applications should make clear that the training assists in this progression. It does not need to lead to a change in professional status as a direct result of the training but should not be training that simply broadens an individual's skills at a certain level without prospect of progression.

The fund has a pot of £100 million. The offer will be a co-investment between an employer and government. Funding will be available for up to 50% of the costs of training that leads to skills that are portable and can be used in other companies and occupations (transferable skills) as allowed under the State Aid exemption regulations. The maximum funding allowable will be the sterling equivalent of the maximum allowable under the EU State Aids General Block Exemption Regulation rules. That is €2 million Euros per project. For practical purposes government will provide a maximum contribution of £1.6m.

Application Information

The fund opened to applications to 27 February 2015.

The applicants must register on the [BIS e-tendering portal and](#) then complete an application form. The process is fully explained [here](#) (page 8).

Contact Details

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
Tel: 020 7215 5000

Useful Links

Website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-ownership-improving-engineering-careers-smaller-companies>

UKCES Futures Programme: skills for innovation in manufacturing



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £150,000

Eligibility

The competition is open to all employers from the manufacturing sector of all sizes. For full eligibility and success criteria see the competition brief.

Description

The competition focuses on the range of non-technological/ STEM skills required to manage and commercialise innovation. UKCES are looking for employer-led proposals from companies of all sizes, in the manufacturing sector, to run initiatives lasting 12 months. Proposals must be joint investments, with employers investing in cash, in-kind, or both, alongside a maximum government contribution of £150,000 per project.

Projects could be focussed on:

- introducing new training for staff, line and/or senior managers
- the development of organisational structures and processes
- facilitating work placements or sharing staff between organisations;
- mentoring, coaching, peer-to-peer learning
- building new or developing existing employer networks to address the Skills for Innovation challenges
- developing or adapting tools and techniques for restructuring innovation management, aligned to broader organisational strategy

UKCES will be holding webinars on the 18 and 19 February 2015.

Application Information

The deadline for submission of proposals is midday on **Wednesday 11 March**. To register your interest complete the online expression of interest form.

Contact Details

To discuss the competition further contact email: enquiries.futuresprogramme@ukces.org.uk

Useful Links

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukces-futures-programme-skills-for-innovation-in-manufacturing-competition-brief>

Competition brief:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399577/15.01.29_UKFP_Brief_for_Comp_4_V3.1.pdf

Press release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-available-to-help-uk-manufacturing-firms-develop-skills-to-maximise-value-of-innovation>

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 proposal 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>

Innovations in Electronics Manufacturing



Minimum award: Not available yet
Maximum award: Not available yet

Eligibility

Organisations with R&D projects in manufacturing electronic systems.

Description

The Technology Strategy Board will invest up to £4.75m in Collaborative R&D projects and Feasibility Studies to stimulate innovation and growth in manufacturing Electronic Systems. The competition is looking to fund projects that use novel technologies in the manufacturing process to enhance functionality, reduce size/cost, adapt form and/or enable rapid scale-up.

The competition will be launched under 2 strands:

- Collaborative R&D projects: projects up to £500k and 12-24 months duration
- Feasibility Studies: projects up to £75k and 6-9 months duration

Application Information

Applications process opens on 17 February 2014.

The decision will be made based on:

- Sector attractiveness (large global market, growth, UK R&D intensity)
- The 22 national competencies
- Technology readiness
- Additionality

The deadline for registration is noon on 26 March 2014. The deadline for expressions of interest for collaborative R&D projects, and for applications for feasibility projects, is noon on 2 April 2014.

Contact Details

For further details please contact Andy Sellars, Lead Technologist HVM,
andy.sellars@tsb.gov.uk.

Useful Links

Websites:
Not available yet

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 £1million, 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 Information

Applications close on 14 September 2012

Contact information

Telephone: 0207 766 0600
Email: info@qeprize.org

<http://qeprize.org/contact/>

Useful links

Website: <http://qeprize.org/>

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/fundingcalls/metrcinnovationawards.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>

Final report guidelines: http://metrc.co.uk/downloads/37/0/Final_Report_Guidelines.pdf.aspx

Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme (England)



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award up to £500k

Eligibility

Eligible business is an SME located in England looking for bank finance but lacks sufficient deposit. Full eligibility criteria could be found [here](#).

Description

Lloyds Banking Group's Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme is supported by the Government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF). The bank has been allocated £25 million to provide grants to qualifying SMEs from June 2013 through to April 2015.

SMEs looking to purchase an asset and create or protect jobs but lack a sufficient deposit to meet banks normal lending requirements, could be eligible for a grant under the Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme.

The scheme is currently available and can provide: up to £500k grants; £100k of funding; £15,000 for every protected job.

Application Information

To find out more about the Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme or eligibility, speak to your Relationship Manager. Your Relationship Manager will assess your lending application in the normal way and help to determine if you are eligible for a grant.

Useful Links

Website:
http://www.lloydsbankbusiness.com/finance/regional_growth_fund.asp

Access to Finance Grant Scheme (England) UK Steel Enterprise



Minimum award: £25,000
Maximum award: £750,000

Eligibility

SMEs in manufacturing, industrial and business-to-business sectors based in England can apply for the funding.

Successful applicants must:

- demonstrate the creation of sustainable jobs or safeguard jobs which would otherwise be lost
- be planning expenditure on capital assets
- make a clear case for needing grant support
- have a commercially viable business plan which includes funding from UK Steel Enterprise
- comply with State Aid regulations

Description

UK Steel Enterprise Grant funding is available through our Access to Finance Grant Scheme and is part of the Regional Growth Fund programme which runs until March 2015. The scheme provides grant support in combination with our existing equity and/or loan funding packages and is principally available for capital investment projects which create or safeguard jobs.

The scheme provides a package of support including grant funding alongside UK Steel Enterprise loans or equity/loan packages from £25,000 up to £750,000. The amount of grant available will depend on a number of factors such as the location of the project, the size of the company, the number of jobs and the amount of funding provided by UK Steel Enterprise, but could be up to 35% of eligible expenditure.

Application Information

For application details contact UK Steel Enterprise (see below)

Contact Details

Please contact Peter Taylor or Sarah Thorpe at UK Steel Enterprise Northern Regional Office on 01642 777 888 or email north@uksteelenterprise.co.uk .

Useful Links

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

Scottish Seed Fund (SSF) Scottish Enterprise



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

Eligibility

The SSF is only available to companies that are:

- based in Scotland,
- incorporated SMEs with less than £16million of assets,
- has at least one external equity investor,
- 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:

<https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-seed-fund/ssf-eligibility>

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 Information

The application process can be started using the following contact form:

<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-seed-fund/ssf-application>

Contact Details:

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-seed-fund/ssf-overview>

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>

Understanding Finance 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's 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

Guidance: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/market-failures-and-how-we-address-them/enterprise-finance-guarantee/understanding-enterprise-finance-guarantee/>

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

<http://www.lepnetwork.net/>

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>

This programme is now closed



Global Derbyshire Small Business Support Programme

Minimum award £4,000

Maximum award £75,000 (funding for any given project will not exceed £15,000 per job created)

Eligibility

Small and medium sized organisations in Derbyshire.

Description

The programme is designed to help SMEs seeking to grow, collaborate, innovate and export to create new employment for local people and attract inward investment to the county.

The Global Derbyshire Small Business Support Programme will support companies to ensure they can access and thrive in global markets. Grants will focus on four key strands:

- Start-up businesses
- Business innovation and development (including supply chain collaboration)
- Companies helping deliver the aims of Digital Derbyshire – the county's biggest ever broadband transformation
- Export promotion.

Application Information

The Global Derbyshire Team will undertake an initial eligibility assessment of your Expression of Interest Form. If your project successfully passes this initial assessment you will be asked to complete a full application form.

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

[Expression of Interest Guidance Notes](#)

Contact Details

For more information please email globalderbyshire@derbyshire.gov.uk or telephone on 01629 538342.

Useful Links

Websites:

<http://www.derbyshireeconomicpartnership.org.uk/global-derbyshire-funding/>

LUMINATE Project Transport iNet



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

Eligibility

SMEs based in the East Midlands.

Funded projects to be related to innovation in transport equipment and infrastructure (products, processes and services)

Description

Grants of up to 30% can be awarded for activities likely to help businesses grow, create jobs and the following:

1. Innovation projects which involve businesses carrying out a new revenue activity (external costs for new product design, new process, new service, new markets, testing or a development of any of these)
2. Capital expenditure on new machinery

Funding is 30% of project costs and to be matched by company (no in-kind contributions).

Funding can be spent on revenue and capital items. Companies may also access up to 2 days of fully funded research work carried out by own internal researcher. This may be carried out prior to a funded project application or may be entirely standalone.

All Projects are expected to result in the creation of one or more jobs by the end of the funding programme (March 2015).

Application Information

Suitable SME beneficiaries will be visited by an innovation advisor who will determine the nature and type of support required. If grant support is appropriate, and the company is eligible, they will be invited to complete and submit an application for funding.

Applications are processed as they are received and can be turned around within 2 weeks.

For more information and to arrange an advisor to contact you to discuss the application process, please click [here](#).

Contact Details

For more information contact Jane Pearce on 01509 635270

Useful links

Website:
<http://www.transport-inet.org.uk/>

Encsite programme (East Midlands)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award N/A

Eligibility

Criteria are:

- SMEs
- based in East Midlands
- Transport Engineering Supply Chain (companies that are part of a supply chain to road, rail or automotive)

Description

The Encsite programme is part of a £14 million investment programme for a new park in Derby, Infinity Park.

Encsite is a joint venture between University of Derby, Cranfield University, Aston University and Derby City Council, based in the University of Derby.

It is designed to support SMEs in the Transport Engineering supply chain throughout the East Midlands.

Support available in the following ways:

- Business consultancy, primarily using the services of the University partners
- Workshops - a series of nine workshops aimed at Business Growth. Two day workshops, free for qualifying SMEs
- Investment Support for capital equipment. Total pot £700k
- Technology Support – a £1m Technology Fund to support high growth SMEs within the East Midlands. The investment is highly subsidized and comes with support to help integrate the technology into your business. The fund will be available until fully invested or until the end of June 2015, whichever comes sooner.
- Funding is at 40% of eligible costs, in the Derby Travel to Work Area, this is 100%.

Application Information

Application is available by contacting Encsite team via email info@encsite.co.uk or phone 01332 593551.

Contact Details

As above.

Useful Links

Websites:

www.enscite.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://lincolngrowthfund.co.uk/>

This programme is now closed

Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (DEGF)



Minimum award N/A

Maximum award up to a maximum of 30% of the total project costs

Eligibility

Eligible organisations based in Derby and the city's Travel to Work Area (TTWA). To check if your business is within the Travel to Work Area please download the [Travel to Work Area map](#) and [List of eligible postcodes](#).

Description

Derby Enterprise Growth Fund welcomes applications for grants and loans to assist the development, application and adoption of innovation in supply chain from enterprises primarily, but not exclusively, in the aerospace, rail and automotive sectors. Funding may be used to develop or improve your products and related services.

Enterprises with growth plans across all sectors, including social enterprises, may apply for loans and in some cases grants, for activity that will create and sustain new jobs.

Application Information

To find out more about whether you could obtain funding before you complete the application form, please complete and return the brief [DEGF expression of interest form](#).

Download the [application form and guidance notes](#) for the Innovation and Expansion funding programmes from this page.

Contact Details

For more information on the Growth Fund, please contact Christine.

Tel: 01332 641 628

Email: degf@derby.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/business/business-support-advice/degf/#Application>

Shell Springboard 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 industrial research organization 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>

Northumberland Business Growth Fund



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

Eligibility

Businesses located in or planning to locate to Northumberland with a focus on South East and Mid Northumberland. This includes the travel to work areas of Morpeth, Alnwick, Ashington and Cramlington as shown on the [map](#).

Description

The fund aims to support the provision of advanced and higher level apprenticeships in the engineering and manufacturing sector and develop a highly skilled and productive workforce.

Application Information

To apply, submit an Expression of Interest Form, which can be downloaded from the [website](#). Once the Expression of Interest Form has been processed the second step for approved projects is to submit a more detailed Full Business Case.

Contact

Arch
Ashington Workspace
Lintonville Parkway
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 9JZ

Neil McGuinness (RGF Co-ordinator)
Tel: 01670 528 461
Email: jneil.mcguinness@arch-group.co.uk or rgf@arch-group.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/northumberland-for-business/regional-growth-fund/>

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. All proposed projects must be completed before March 2016 when the fund ends.

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/>

This programme is now closed

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 through providing green apprenticeships for young people.

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.

The project will be running from 1 March 2012 until 28 February 2015.

Application Information

For more information, please contact Environmental Academy.

Contact Details

Environmental Academy
Metropolitan House
Longrigg Road
Swalwell
Gateshead
NE16 3AS

Tel: 0191 495 6248
Email: info@environmental-academy.co.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://green-manager.co.uk/about-emsj>

www.environmental-academy.com

Corridor Growth Fund (Manchester)



Minimum award N/A

Maximum award any one applicant can receive during the three-year period is around £169,500

Eligibility

This research and development related employment grant scheme is to operate within the science related facilities based in the knowledge economy district of Manchester known as 'The Corridor'. Full eligibility criteria could be found [here](#).

Description

The £2 million Corridor Growth Fund, supported by the Government's Regional Growth Fund, will provide grant funding to qualifying applicants to help underpin the private sector-led growth of the knowledge economy in Manchester's Corridor district. The Scheme, aimed predominantly at small and medium-sized enterprises, will operate from 1 April 2013 until 31 March 2015 and is expected to support the creation of at least 100 full-time jobs.

Application Information

Full details on application process could be found [here](#) or to request a form please email to corridorgrowthfund@manchester.gov.uk.

Contact Details

Please direct all queries to corridorgrowthfund@manchester.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.corridormanchester.com/on-the-corridor/corridor-growth-fund>

Accelerating Business Growth (Lancashire)



Minimum award £20k
Maximum award £150k

Eligibility

Companies based or moving into the County of Lancashire (including Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) and planning for growth and the creation of jobs. Applicants should be an SME but larger companies may be eligible subject to additional criteria. The applicant should have received less than 200,000 Euros in public support over the past three years (including the grant amount within this application). Priority will be given to the manufacturing sector and other business-to-business companies.

Description

Accelerating Business Growth (ABG) is a competitive grant scheme that will help to fund business growth projects across Lancashire which commits to: significant job creation, additional investment from other sources, and major impact on the Lancashire economy.

Application Information

Typically, grant is allocated on a 1:4 ratio, 20% of the total project cost. The application and appraisal process is partly subsidised, however all successful applicants will be charged £750 to cover the additional costs of due diligence.

Application process:

- If you are interested in applying for the fund, complete the Expression of Interest form online in the [apply](#) section.
- The Expression of Interest is assessed and if the project is deemed eligible, the applicant will be invited to complete a Full Application.
- Once completed and all supplementary information is gathered and assessed by key personnel, the application is presented to an independent panel for approval.
- Once the application has been approved and payment has been received for Due Diligence expenses, an offer letter will be issued. All grants will be paid based on defrayment of expenditure.

Contact Details

Suite 22 The Globe Centre
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 0RE
Tel: 0800 612 2029

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.regeneratepl.co.uk/regenerate-services/accelerating-business-growth-rgf/>

FAQ:

<http://www.regeneratepl.co.uk/regenerate-services/accelerating-business-growth-rgf/abg-frequently-asked-questions/>

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

Innovation 4 Growth (South West England)



Minimum award £25,000

Maximum award SMEs up to 35% of total project costs and larger companies up to 25% (£150,000)

Eligibility

Eligible operating businesses in the South West of England (Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire) intended to do research and development work which would create and/or safeguard jobs through the development of innovative products, technologies, processes or services. Primarily the scheme aims at small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs), but will also consider applications from large businesses, albeit at lower intervention rates.

Description

Innovation 4 Growth (I4G) is a £4 million grant scheme created with funding from the UK Government's Regional Growth Fund. It is available to support businesses to develop innovative products, processes and services.

Application Information

To apply company needs to complete the [I4G Registration Form](#) providing details of the technology and market area that the project covers. Then the company will receive a unique reference number and an application form.

Projects will be assessed in two batches, with the application deadline for the first funding competition being Monday, 10 March 2014. Later applicants will have less time to carry out their projects, as these must be completed by April 2015, with all associated grants claimed by May 2015.

Further details can be found in the [Guidance for Applicants document \(PDF\)](#).

Contact Details

If you need advice please complete the online [enquiry form](#).

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.innovation4growth.co.uk>

Growing Priority Sectors (Black Country) ✓

Minimum award £50k
Maximum award £1m

Eligibility

Businesses wishing to apply for the fund should be located in one of the four Black Country Authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall or Wolverhampton. More information could be found [here](#).

Description

The Black Country LEP and partners successfully bid for over £13 million of RGF. Grant funding of between £50,000 to £1 million is available. Growing Priority Sectors is a competition fund, administered by Sandwell MBC. In order to maximise the benefits of this new round of funding, and to ensure that the programme offers good value for money, projects must ensure:

- The cost per job is £15,000 or less
- The grant request does not exceed 25% of total project costs.

Application Information

There is a two stage application process, firstly companies must complete an expression of interest form, this will be assessed and if approved, applicants will be asked to complete a full application. Applicants are encouraged to get their expressions of interest in as early as possible (this will allow more time to complete the full application). There are two application processes: Fast Track (4 weeks) and Standard (8 weeks). Further information could be found [here](#).

Contact Details

If you would like more information about Regional Growth Fund please contact your local council (the council you pay your business rates to), Manufacturing Advice Service (MAS) or the Black Country LEP:

- Dudley Council - Wayne George 01384 812001 info@dudleybusinessfirst.org
- Sandwell Council - Paul Mountford 0121 569 2101 paul_mountford@sandwell.gov.uk
- Walsall Council - Daniel Carins 01922 652545 carinsd@walsall.gov.uk
- Wolverhampton Council - Graham Clark 01902 555850 Graham.Clark@wolverhampton.gov.uk
- MAS - The Manufacturing Advisory Service 07968 025406 Rachel.Eade@mymas.org
- Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership - Sophie Thompson 01384 471116 sophie_thompson@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/business/funding-programmes/growing-priority-sectors>

Black Country Business Property Investment Programme (Black Country)



Minimum award N/A
Maximum award up to 35% of eligible development costs

Eligibility

Eligible SMEs based in Black Country.

Description

The BCBPIP is a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme which aims specifically to support small to medium sized (SME) companies by providing viability and funding for infrastructure provision – whether this is through new or refurbished business premises (comprising B1, B2 and B8 uses only) – [view use classes](#).

Application Information

Grant funding will be awarded following a two stage process where applicants will be competing for resources at both stages:

- Expression of Interest stage (EOI) – this stage is looking for eligible projects which are not only deliverable within the Programme parameters and timescales but also provide value for money
- Detailed full application including a business plan – Applicants invited to submit a full application will need to provide further details about their proposal including (but not limited to) detailed cost plans. Each project will be subject to a full and detailed technical appraisal of their proposal. This will be carried out by an independent qualified technical appraiser who will determine the level of grant funding to each project.

If you are interested in applying for funding from this Programme please view the 'Expression of Interest' form. For further information please view the [EOI guidance notes \(PDF 178KB\)](#)

Contact Details

Kauser Agha
Regeneration Officer – Project Delivery
The Black Country Business Property Investment Programme (BCBPIP)
Telephone 01922 654756
Email bcbpip@walsall.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.bcbpip.co.uk/the-programme/>

Birmingham Post Growth Fund



Minimum award: £10,000
Maximum award: £100,000

Eligibility

The Fund offers grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 for expansion and growth ideas and initiatives that will directly create jobs across Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull between 2012 and 2014.

The grants must be match-funded by the organisation, which must also prove it has been turned down for a bank loan or other support.

Description

The Post will distribute £5 million of Regional Growth Fund cash to help small and medium-sized firms in the region to grow and create jobs.

Application Information

Companies seeking funding will be required to submit an Application Form and attach Financial Information and a Cash flow. New Start Ups will also be required to complete a detailed Business Plan.

If your company meets the criteria and is in need of finance to help unlock your growth potential, please submit an application to RGF5@bournville.ac.uk

The deadline for submitting bids is 1pm on Friday 19th September 2014.

Contact Details

As above.

Useful Links

Website:

<http://businessbirmingham.com/media-hub/latest-news/birmingham-post-growth-fund-grants-for-expansion/>

<http://www.bournville.ac.uk/employers/birmingham-post-growth-fund/>

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

SMEs in the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP area. Detailed eligibility criteria can be found here: <http://centreofenterprise.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 June 2015.

Application Information

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://www.birmingham.gov.uk/bdp>

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

Business Development Programme leaflet:

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

Business Innovation Programme



Minimum award £10,000
Maximum award £30,000

Eligibility

The grant scheme is open to SME businesses within the West Midlands area which have been trading for 6 months or more and are ready to undertake investment in innovative production processes.

Description

The Business Innovation Programme (BIP) is a £8.7 million package of support, funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), aimed to stimulate innovation within SMEs to encourage and enable existing businesses to invest for the future, to lever private sector investment, create new and safeguard existing jobs.

Application Information

Applicants are encouraged to incorporate a combination of one or more of the following:-

- capital expenditure
- new product development
- new marketing development
- business innovation mentoring

The expression of interest form is available via the website and the application form is available at www.birmingham.gov.uk/BIP which will be processed within 6 weeks. The deadline for Round 7 applications is **Friday 30 January 2015**.

The application only should be emailed to suzanne.dottin-payne@birmingham.gov.uk.

Contact Details

Phil Roocroft
Business Innovation Manager
Tel: 0121 303 3448
Mob: 07766 923 918
Email: phil.roocroft@birmingham.gov.uk

Business Development & Innovation Team
Birmingham City Council
Ground Floor
Baskerville House
Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2ND

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/bip>

Express and Star Green Shoots Fund (Black Country)



Minimum award 10,000
Maximum award 50,000

Eligibility

Eligible business should be an SME operating in the Black Country (identified through Business Rates being paid to Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC, Walsall MBC or Wolverhampton MBC). Full criteria could be found [here](#).

Description

The Express and Star Green Shoots Fund aims to help small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Black Country to create new jobs and promote growth in the region.

Businesses will be able to supplement their own investment by applying for an award ranging from £10,000 to £50,000 to support capital investment projects with the money coming from the Government's Regional Growth Fund, which creates substantial new employment and safeguard existing jobs.

Application Information

Projects must be completed by January 2015. Support will be provided in the form of coaching and mentoring for successful businesses to ensure the best possible return on investment.

As a first step applicants should complete expression of interest form. Further information is [here](#).

Contact Details

For more information about the Green Shoots Fund, please contact Martin Nicholas, Green Shoots Programme Manager:

Email: martin.nicholas@wlv.ac.uk

Tel: 01902 323884 or Mob: 07837 389439

Useful Links

Website:

<http://www.wolverhamptonbsc.com/greenshoots>

This programme has now closed.

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 until June 2015.

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.

This programme has now closed.

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>

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

This scheme is now closed

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 Information

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: £500,000

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 three 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.

There will be only one funding band available in Round 17 for grant funding £20,000 up to £500,000. You will also need to apply for the [Regional Growth Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme](#).

Application Information

Round 17 is now open and the deadline for the submission of applications is **17:00 Thursday 19 February 2015**.

Use the [checklist](#) to ensure you have included all the necessary documents and supporting information for your application.

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

or Mohammed Zahir
0121 303 2956
mohammed.zahir@birmingham.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge

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 Information

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

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

Programme List

Programme Title	Funding	Finance	Support	LOW CO2	International	SME Specific	R&D	Skills	Other
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PATENTSCOPE			✓				✓		
IPC Green Inventory			✓	✓			✓		
Horizon 2020	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓
COSME					✓	✓		✓	
Eurostars Programme	✓					✓	✓		
Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH) Joint Technology	✓			✓			✓		
European Investment Fund (EIF)		✓				✓	✓		✓
Individual Loan from European Investment Bank (EBI)		✓					✓		✓
Access to EU finance									✓
SME's technological services search tool					✓				
European Regional Development Fund	✓			✓		✓			
Tradeshaw Access Programme (TAP Grants)			✓		✓				
Overseas Market Introduction Services: UKTI			✓		✓				

Export Britain					✓				✓
Passport to Export: UKTI			✓		✓	✓			
Open to Export						✓			✓
Export Communications Review			✓		✓	✓			
Export Marketing Research Scheme			✓		✓	✓			
UK Export Finance (UKEF)					✓	✓			
Tooling Funding Programme		✓							
RBS Tooling Finance		✓							
Enterprise Finance Guarantee: BIS		✓				✓			
Finance for Business : BIS		✓	✓			✓			
British Business Bank	✓								
Enterprise Capital Fund		✓				✓			
Business Growth Fund		✓							✓
UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF)	✓								✓
Enterprise Investment Scheme	✓								
Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS)		✓				✓			

Business Finance Partnership (BFP)		✓							
Business Finance for You		✓							
Capital Allowance Investment Scheme: HMRC	✓			✓		✓			
Enhanced Capital Allowances: HMRC			✓	✓					
Time to Pay Arrangements: HMRC			✓						
Patent Box: HMRC			✓				✓		
Entrepreneur Fast Track: Carbon Trust	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Venture Capital and Business Angels		✓							
Knowledge Transfer Networks			✓						
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
ERASMUS+						✓		✓	
Work Place Training, inc apprenticeships: BIS			✓			✓		✓	✓
Employer Ownership: skills project for the automotive supply chain	✓							✓	✓
The Centre for Resource Efficient Manufacturing Systems (REMS)									✓
Design Council: Business growth			✓			✓			✓
Lambert Tool Kit: Intellectual Property Office			✓				✓		

Mentorsme.co.uk						✓		✓	✓
Panasonic Trust Awards	✓							✓	
CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme: DECC			✓	✓					
Plugged-in Car Grant: OLEV			✓	✓					
Venture Capital Investments: Carbon Trust		✓		✓			✓		
Energy Efficiency Financing: Carbon Trust		✓	✓	✓					
Climate Change Agreements				✓					✓
Low Carbon Funding Landscape Navigator				✓			✓		
Integrated Delivery Programme 12							✓		
Developing Advanced Lightweight Vehicles	✓			✓			✓		
Green Investment Bank		✓		✓					
Advanced Propulsion Centre	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	✓						✓		✓
Collaborative Research & Development Projects	✓						✓		✓
SMART: Grant for Research and Development Scheme									
Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)	✓						✓		✓

Innovation Vouchers	✓								
Niche Vehicle CR&D Programme	✓						✓		✓
Research and Development Relief for Corporation Tax			✓				✓		✓
UK Steel Enterprise Business Loans		✓							
Clydesdale Bank & Yorkshire Bank Tooling Finance	✓								
Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking	✓	✓							
The Manufacturing Advisory Service			✓					✓	
Business Growth Service						✓			✓
Equity Growth Fund (England)	✓		✓						
UK Steel Enterprise Business Loans		✓							
Coalfields Fund		✓				✓			
Angel CoFund		✓							
Growth Accelerator						✓	✓		✓
Developing your International Trade Potential			✓		✓	✓			
Regional Growth Fund	✓								✓
Exceptional Regional Growth Fund (eRGF)	✓								✓

AGE 16 - 24	✓							✓	
Scottish Co-investment Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓			
Scottish Venture Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓			
Scottish Loan Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓			
SMART: Scotland	✓					✓	✓		
Interface (Scotland's universities and research Institutes)								✓	✓
R&D Grant: Scottish Enterprise	✓					✓	✓		
Resource Efficient Scotland SME Loans		✓				✓			✓
Invest Northern Ireland	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
0% Business Loans: Carbon Trust		✓		✓		✓			
SMARTCymru Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) funding	✓					✓	✓		
Skills Growth Wales (SGW)	✓		✓					✓	✓
Business Wales: Advanced Materials and Manufacturing	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
Connected and autonomous vehicles	✓						✓		
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS)	✓		✓						✓
Growing Places Fund									✓

Enterprise Zones									✓
Coaching for High Growth SMEs			✓			✓		✓	
Improving your resource efficiency			✓	✓				✓	
Greater Lincolnshire Business Capital Growth Fund	✓		✓			✓			
D2N2 Unlocking Investment for Growth	✓							✓	
Finance for Business North East	✓					✓			✓
Let It Grow	✓					✓	✓	✓	
North East Business Support Fund	✓					✓		✓	
Rosebud Business Loan	✓					✓			
Boost Business Lancashire	✓	✓	✓						
St Helens Jobs and Growth Fund	✓					✓		✓	
The North West Fund		✓				✓			
Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF)		✓		✓					
London ESF AGE 16 – 24	✓							✓	
South West Growth Fund	✓	✓							
Warwickshire SMEs funding		✓				✓			

Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS)		✓							
Early Advantage Fund	✓					✓			✓
Exceed Midlands Advantage Fund	✓					✓			✓
Black Country GOLD Programme		✓				✓			
Birmingham Business Loan Fund	✓	✓				✓			
Solihull Business Loan Fund	✓	✓				✓			
Innovation University Enterprise Network (i-URN)			✓			✓			✓
Performance Improvement Initiative						✓			✓
Touch Digital			✓			✓			✓
Technology and Innovation Future: West Midlands			✓	✓		✓	✓		
Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub			✓					✓	
Green Shoots Plus Fund	✓					✓			
Response project						✓		✓	
Finance Yorkshire	✓					✓			
Skills Funding for Engineering companies						✓	✓		✓
Leeds City Region Loans and Grants		✓		✓		✓			

Let's Grow North and East Yorkshire	✓	✓							
Sheffield City Region Growth Hub	✓					✓			✓
Yorkshire Innovation Fund						✓	✓		✓
European Framework Programme FP7	✓						✓		
ERA-NET Transport Programme	✓						✓		
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP)	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
Risk Sharing Finance Scheme (RSFF)		✓					✓		✓
European Clean Transport Facility (ECFT)		✓					✓		
Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE)		✓				✓			
Gateway to Global Growth			✓		✓	✓			
Export Credits Guarantee Department: British Chambers of Commerce		✓			✓				✓
Aspire Fund		✓							
Manufacturing Competencies	✓					✓	✓		
Resource Efficiency	✓						✓		✓
Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI)		✓					✓		✓
National Loan Guarantee Scheme		✓				✓			

Grant for Business Investment: BIS	✓								✓
Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF): UKCES		✓				✓		✓	
Motorsport Valley Launchpad	✓					✓	✓		✓
Innovation Vouchers for Cyber Security						✓			✓
Business Finance Partnership (BFP) Small Business Tranche		✓				✓			
Business Incubator: Carbon Trust			✓	✓					
Innovation Advice & Guidance: BIS			✓						✓
Disruptive technologies in low carbon vehicles	✓						✓		✓
DECC Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot (EDR)	✓						✓		
Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition	✓			✓					
Green Bus Fund: DfT			✓	✓					
Energy Catalyst – Mid Stage Awards	✓								
Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP)							✓		
Shell Springboard	✓			✓		✓			
Data exploration							✓		
Make it lighter, with less	✓						✓		

Towards Zero Prototyping							✓		
Grant for Research & Development (GDR)	✓						✓		
Employer Ownership of Skills Pilot (EOP)									✓
Employer Ownership: developing women engineers	✓							✓	✓
Employer Ownership: The improving engineering careers fund	✓							✓	✓
UKCES Futures Programme	✓							✓	
Applied Research Grant: Carbon Trust	✓			✓			✓		
Innovations in Electronics Manufacturing	✓						✓		
Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering							✓		✓
METRC Innovation Awards	✓					✓			
Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme (England)	✓					✓	✓		
Access to Finance Grant Scheme (England)	✓					✓			
Scottish Seed Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓			
Wales Economic Growth Fund		✓							✓
Understanding Finance for Business				✓		✓			
Innovation funding and support search (East Midlands Innovation)				✓			✓		✓

Global Derbyshire Small Business Support Programme	✓					✓			
LUMINATE Project	✓					✓			
Encsite programme (East Midlands)	✓					✓			
Lincoln Growth Fund (LGF)	✓							✓	
Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (DEGF)	✓							✓	
Shell Springboard: Low Emission Transport Collaborative Project Fund (North East)	✓						✓		
Northumberland Business Growth Fund	✓								✓
Investment for Growth (North East England)	✓					✓			
Environmental Management Support Initiative (North East)						✓		✓	
Corridor Growth Fund (Manchester)	✓					✓			✓
Accelerating Business Growth (Lancashire)	✓								
AGE 16 to 24 Employer Incentive (London)	✓								✓
Innovation 4 Growth (South West England)	✓					✓	✓		
Growing Priority Sectors (Black Country)	✓					✓			
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme	✓					✓			
Birmingham Post Growth Fund	✓					✓			

Business Development Programme	✓					✓			
Business Innovation Programme	✓					✓			
Express and Star Green Shoots Fund (Black Country)	✓					✓			
Innovation Networks (West Midlands)						✓	✓		
Eco Business	✓			✓		✓			
Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme (GBSCP)	✓					✓			✓
West Midlands and Liverpool City Region Programme	✓					✓			✓

Index

0% Business Loans (Wales and Northern Ireland)	95
Accelerating Business Growth (Lancashire)	195
Access to EU finance.....	16
Access to Finance Grant Scheme (England)	180
Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI)	151
AGE 16 to 24 Employer Incentive (London)	196
Angel CoFund.....	81
Applied Research Grant	175
Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme (England).....	179
Birmingham Post Growth Fund	200
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme (Black Country)	199
Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS).....	119
British Business Bank.....	32
Business Development Programme.....	201
Business Finance for You.....	39
Business Finance Partnership (BFP) Small Business Tranche	157
Business Growth Fund	35
Business Growth Service	78
Business Incubator - The Crabon Trust.....	158
Business Innovation Programme.....	202
Capital Allowance Investment Scheme	40
Climate Change Agreements	60
Closed International Schemes.....	19
Closed UK Schemes.....	76
Coaching for High Growth SMEs.....	104
Coalfields Fund.....	80
Collaborative Research & Development Projects	67
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP).....	142
Corridor Growth Fund (Manchester).....	194
COSME.....	200
CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.....	56
D2N2 Unlocking Investment for Growth	107
Data Exploration	167
Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (DEGF)	189
Designing Demand	52
Disruptive technologies in low carbon vehicles	160
Early Advantage Fund	120
Eco Business	205
Employer Ownership of Skills Pilot (EOP).....	171
Energy Catalyst – Mid Stage Awards.....	164
Energy Efficiency Financing - The Carbon Trust.....	59
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).....	66
Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA)	41
Encsite programme (East Midlands)	186
Enterprise Capital Funds	148
Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS)	36
Enterprise Zones	103
Entrepreneur Fast Track - The Carbon Trust	44
Environmental Management Support Initiative (North East)	193
ERA-NET Transport Programme.....	141
ERASMUS+	48
European Clean Transport Facility (ECFT)	144
European Framework Programme FP7.....	140
European Investment Fund (EIF)	14
Eurostars Programme.....	12
Exceed Midlands Advantage Fund.....	121
Exceptional Regional Growth Fund (eRGF)	85

Export Britain	22
Export Communications Review.....	25
Export Credits Guarantee Department.....	147
Export Marketing Research Scheme.....	26
Express and Star Green Shoots Fund (Black Country).....	203
Finance For Business North East.....	108
Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU).....	13
Funding, Finance and Support Schemes	6
Gateway to Global Growth - UKTI.....	82
Global Derbyshire Small Business Support Programme.....	185
Grant for Business Investment (GBI).....	153
Grant for Research & Development (GRD)	170
Greater Lincolnshire Business Capital Growth Fund	106
Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme.....	206
Green Bus Fund - Department for Transport	163
Growing Places Fund	102
Growing Priority Sectors (Black Country)	198
Growth Accelerator.....	82
Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF).....	154
Horizon 2020	10
Improving your resource efficiency.....	105
Individual Loan from EIB	15
Innovation 4 Growth (South West England)	197
Innovation Advice & Guidance	159
Innovation funding and support search (East Midlands Innovation)	184
Innovation Networks (West Midlands)	204
Innovation Vouchers.....	70
Innovation Vouchers for Cyber Security.....	156
Innovations in Electronics Manufacturing.....	176
Interface (Scotland's universities and research Institutes).....	91
Investment for Growth (North East England)	192
IPC Green Inventory.....	9
Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE).....	145
Knowledge Transfer Networks	46
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	47
Lambert Tool Kit - Intellectual Property Office.....	53
Leeds City Region Loans and Grants.....	134
Let's Grow North and East Yorkshire	135
Lincoln Growth Fund (LGF)	188
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)	101
Low Carbon Funding Landscape Navigator	61
Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF)	115
Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP) TSB.....	165
Low Emission Transport Collaborative Project Fund (North East).....	190
Make it lighter, with less	168
Manufacturing Competencies.....	149
Mentorsme.co.uk	54
METRC Innovation Awards	178
Motorsport Valley Launchpad.....	155
National Loan Guarantee Scheme	152
Niche Vehicle CR&D Programme.....	71
Open to Export.....	24
Overseas Market Introduction Services (OMIS).....	21
Panasonic Trust Awards.....	55
Passport to Export - UKTI.....	23
Patent Box HM Revenue and Customs.....	43
PATENTSCOPE	8
Plugged-In Car Grant.....	57
Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering	177
R&D Grant	92
Regional Growth Fund.....	84

Research and Development Relief for Corporation Tax.....	72
Resource Efficiency	150
Response project.....	131
Risk Sharing Finance Scheme (RSFF)	143
Scottish Co-investment Fund (SCF).....	87
Scottish Loan Fund (SLF).....	89
Scottish Seed Fund (SSF)	181
Scottish Venture Fund (SVF).....	88
Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS)	38
Sheffield City Region Growth Hub	136
Shell Springboard	166
Skills Funding for Engineering companies	133
Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)	69
SMART	
Grant for Research and Development Scheme.....	68
Scotland.....	90
SMARTCymru Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) funding (Wales)	96
SME's technological services search tool	17
Solihull Business Loan Fund	124
South West Growth Fund	117
St Helens Jobs and Growth Fund.....	113
The Centre for Resource Efficient Manufacturing Systems (REMS)	172
The Improving Engineering Careers fund	173
The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)	77
The North West Fund	186
Time to Pay Arrangements (TTP).....	42
Tooling Funding Programme	28
Towards Zero Prototyping	169
Tradeshaw Access Programme (TAP Grants)	20
UK Export Finance (UKEF)	27
UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF).....	34
Understanding Finance for Business.....	183
Venture Capital and Business Angels	45
Venture Capital Investments	58
Wales Economic Growth Fund	182
Warwickshire SMEs funding.....	118
West Midlands and Liverpool City Region Programme.....	207
Work Place Training, inc. apprenticeships	49
Yorkshire Innovation Fund.....	137