



LIST OF FUNDING, FINANCE AND SUPPORT SCHEMES

August 2017



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The SMMT List of Funding, Finance and Support Schemes

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

We recommend that you always access this document on-line to ensure you are using the latest version and to always visit the schemes home website before embarking on any application activity.

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

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

Programme Key

Many sources of funding and finance can be used for a variety of business purposes. Where possible, and sensible, the funding/finance facility has been categorised into the following groups.

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

Regional Scheme Color Categorisation

Each scheme has a color bar down the right hand side. This bar identifies the regional location of the scheme.

International Schemes

UK Scheme

National Scheme

Northern Regional Schemes

South East

South West

West Midlands

Yorkshire

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@smmmt.co.uk

PATENTSCOPE

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

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

Eligibility

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

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

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.

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

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>

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

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

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

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.

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.

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/>

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

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

Horizon 2020

Minimum award: call specific
Maximum award: call specific

Eligibility

For details on specific calls please visit the Participant Portal.
Application process varies depending on the specific call, for more details please see the Horizon website.

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.

Contact Details

Please check here to find a national contact point.

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

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

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

Horizon 2020's SME Instrument

Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: depends on the project

Eligibility

It is applicable to high growth, highly innovative SMEs with global ambitions that want to disrupt the established value networks and existing markets.

Description

As part of the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission is hand-picking potentially disruptive businesses to invest in and support as part of the SME Instrument. Applying SME could receive funding up to €2.5 million in funding and world-class coaching.

The instrument will take place in three phases, with the aim of transforming disruptive ideas into concrete, innovative solutions with a European and global impact.

SMEs are recommended to apply for Phase 1, but may also apply for subsequent phases depending on the progress of their proposals. For more information please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/horizons-2020-sme-instrument#2016-2017>

Contact Details

Please use the online search tool to find the national contact point:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html#c,contact=country/sbg/United%20Kingdom/1/1/0&function_details..function_abbr/sbg/SMEs/1/1/0&person.last_name/desc

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/horizons-2020-sme-instrument#2016-2017>

Work programme:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-sme_en.pdf

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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 Join 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.

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://www.fch.europa.eu/page/call-2017>

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

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

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.

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

Tel: +352 42 66 88 1

Fax: +352 42 66 88 280

Website: www.eif.org

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

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

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.

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.

Contact Details

Email: info@eib.org

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

Contact Details

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

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

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.

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 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.

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/>

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

Overseas Market Introduction Services (OMIS) Department of Investment and Trade (DIT)

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.

Contact Details

DIT 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 DIT website

<https://www.contactus.trade.gov.uk/enquiry/topic>

Telephone: 0845 278 9600

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-customers-export-opportunities>

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

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.

Contact Details

Address:
65 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EU

Tel: 020 7654 5800

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

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

Passport to Export Department Of Investment and Trade (DIT)

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 DIT services plus up to £1500 matched funds to make your plans happen.

Contact Details

DIT has HQs both in London and Glasgow; however it is worth highlighting that it also has 2,400 staff in 96 countries.

<https://contact-us.export.great.gov.uk/eig>

Telephone: 0300 456 3565 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm).

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

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

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 Department of Investment and Trade (DIT), 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.

Contact Details

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

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

Export Communications Review Department of Investment and Trade (DIT)

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 bases 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 eligibly for a DIT 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.

Contact Details

For more information contact the DIT ECR team:

Telephone: 0845 034 2111

Email: info@ukecr.co.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment/about/about-our-services>

<https://www.newable.co.uk/exporting>

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

Export Marketing Research Scheme Department of Investment and Trade (DIT)

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.

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

The DIT 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

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment/about/about-our-services>

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

UK Export Finance (UKEF)

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

Eligibility

- Company must be carrying on business in the UK.
- To support and develop supplies to buyers carrying on business outside the UK.

Description

Government-backed financial solutions to help UK companies compete, manage cash flow and get paid when trading internationally.

UK Export Finance (UKEF) can help:

- win export contracts by providing attractive terms to the buyers
- fulfil contracts by supporting working capital loans
- get paid by insuring against buyer default.

It can support exports for any size of company and across all sectors, from capital goods to services and intangibles such as intellectual property.

Note: UK Export Finance's role is to complement, not compete with the private sector. It works with 70 private credit insurers and lenders. If equivalent support is available from the private sector alone (i.e. from a commercial lender or insurer) UKEF will typically direct you to this support in the first instance.

Contact your nearest Export Finance Manager from UKEF, who will provide a free and impartial consultation on how best to meet your requirements.

Contact Details

www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-an-export-finance-manager.

UK Export Finance Homepage
www.gov.uk/uk-export-finance

Exporting is GREAT
<https://www.exportingisgreat.gov.uk/>

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

A connected and autonomous vehicle ecosystem

Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £55 million

Eligibility

CAV testing and Production Company that can deliver operational facilities and be open for business within 12 to 18 months.

The registration deadline is midday on 12 July 2017.

Description

The Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) is investing up to £55 million to make the UK's connected and autonomous vehicle testing ecosystem the world's most effective.

Project streams

UK businesses and research organisations can make applications in 3 streams.

Stream 1

In stream 1 looking for projects that develop a public test environment in an urban, highly-dense city location. Up to £35 million is available to support up to 2 projects.

Stream 2

For this stream the fund is looking for one controlled test facility that is representative of an urban or city environment. Examples might be a semi-controlled environment, such as a university campus or science and industry park, or a simulator that incorporates physical elements into a virtual environment. Up to £7 million is available.

Stream 3

For this stream the fund is looking for one realistic, controlled high-speed, limit-handling environment. The expected environment should allow the creation of a diverse range of test scenarios. This may include vehicle to everything (V2X) interactions, collision avoidance and limit handling. Simulators may also be included. Up to £13 million is available.

In all cases preference will be given to projects that can deliver operational facilities and be open for business within 12 to 18 months.

Contact Details

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-connected-and-autonomous-vehicle-ecosystem-apply-for-funding>

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

Market Visit Support Department of Investment and Trade (DIT)

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

Eligibility

To qualify for the Market Visit Support service the company needs to be small or medium-sized business (SME), with up to 250 employees. The organisation should also be either new to exporting or new to the market.

Description

The Market Visit Support service helps companies with their visits to overseas markets, either as part of an organised group or on an individual basis. Visits can help businesses make new contacts, and research into overseas markets.

DIT provides:

- Help preparing for the visit
- Support from British Embassies, Consulates and High Commissions overseas
- Financial support to eligible companies.

Support varies according to company needs. The purpose of your visit can include:

- Market research
- Visits to potential sales leads
- Trade fair visits
- Meetings with potential agents or distributors.

The minimum financial support available is £200, and the maximum is £950, depending on the market visited. There's a limited amount of funding available so it can't be guaranteed for every applicant.

Contact Details

[Contact your International Trade Team](#) to apply for the service or to find out more information. A member of the team will be in touch within five working days to discuss your needs and the service options which are best suited to you.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/market-visit-support>

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

For more information on how to apply contact RBS.

Contact Details

Phone: 0800 529 8096 or 0800 210 0235

Website: www.natwest.com/international

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

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

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 Financial services.

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.

Websites:

<http://british-business-bank.co.uk/enterprise-finance-guarantee-strategic-and-operational-design-review/>

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

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

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

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.

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/departments-for-business-innovation-skills>

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

British Business Bank

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

Description

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.

Government confirmed at the spring Budget 2016 up to £1 billion of commitments to support small businesses to access the finance that they need to grow by:

- Agreeing with LEPs in the Midlands and the British Business Bank to establish a Midlands Engine Investment Fund to invest in local SMEs, subject to final funding arrangements
- Launching the first transactions from the British Business Bank's Help to Grow programme from spring 2016
- Extending the British Business Bank's Enterprise Finance Guarantee programme until at least 2018.

According the Autumn Statement (2016) the government will encourage private investment with £400 million from the British Bank to unlock £1 billion of new investment in innovative firms planning to scale up, and a doubling of capacity to support exporters through UK Export Finance.

Contact Details

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>

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

Lloyds Bank Automotive Tooling Finance

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

Eligibility

For established business with a proven track record in the automotive supply chain.

Description

Based on our understanding of automotive manufacturing, we see the UK as one of the most attractive locations for investment in the sector. To help you seize these opportunities, we have developed a Tooling Finance solution that will support automotive manufacturers and suppliers in funding bespoke tooling.

How does Lloyds Bank Automotive Tooling Finance work?

- Finances your tooling order book
- Typical terms of up to 24 months
- Funding provided for up to 90% of the project cost.

What are the benefits?

- Tooling Finance can help alleviate working capital pressure
- Frees up cash otherwise tied up in funding tooling
- Provides you with capital to invest in your business and strengthen your balance sheet.

For more information please refer to our Tooling Finance factsheet which you can find at [lloydsbank.com/manufacturing](https://www.lloydsbank.com/manufacturing).

To find out more please contact one of our experienced manufacturing specialists below.

Contact Details

Website: <https://www.lloydsbank.com/manufacturing>

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

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.

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](#).

Contact Details

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>

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

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.

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

Contact Details

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

Phone: 020 7702 0888

Website:

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

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

KEEP+

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

Eligibility

Details about eligibility, terms and conditions can be found on [KEEP+ eligibility page](#).

Description

From September 2016, KEEP+ will be able to help your business achieve its goals for growth by helping to overcome barriers to innovation.

By partnering with Anglia Ruskin University, KEEP+ will provide small to medium sized enterprise (SME) with a flexible programme that will help to innovate. KEEP+ is designed to help company:

- Develop new products or services;
- Increase profitability;
- Reduce costs;
- Provide you with a stepping stone to larger-scale innovation opportunities;
- Access graduate talent.

The programme offers four interventions. To find out more about how each intervention can help, click on the relevant link:

1. [Knowledge Exchange and Embed Partnerships \(KEEPs\)](#)
2. [Research and Innovation Collaborations \(RICs\)](#)
3. [Innovation Internships](#)
4. [Innovation Network Events](#)

Contact Details

To register your interest in KEEP+ and learn more about how the programme can help, get in touch with University's Knowledge Exchange Team - Simon Daly, Knowledge Exchange Manager, +44 (0)1245 683173, email: simon.daly@anglia.ac.uk.

Website:

<http://www.anglia.ac.uk/business-employers/knowledge-exchange/what-is-keep-plus>

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

Manufacturing and Materials Round 2 Innovate UK

Minimum award: £50k

Maximum award: £2m

Eligibility

- be a UK-based business
- carry out your project in the UK
- be an SME if you wish to work alone on a project no longer than 12 months and with costs of less than £100,000
- work in collaboration with others (businesses, research base and third sector), if your project has costs over £100,000 or is longer than 12 months.

Description

The aim of this competition is to stimulate and broaden innovation in manufacturing and materials. Innovate UK will fund a range of projects that address identified technical or commercial challenges. These aim to lead to increased productivity, competitiveness and growth for UK businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). A project may focus on technical feasibility, industrial research or experimental development. This will depend on the challenge identified.

You must show how your proposal will enable a step change in competitiveness and productivity for at least one UK SME involved in the project.

To apply:

- the lead applicant must [register online](#)
- read the [guidance for applicants for this competition](#)
- complete and upload your online application on secure server.

Contact Details

If you need more information, contact the competition helpline on 0300 321 4357 or email support@innovateuk.gov.uk.

Competition briefing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-competition-manufacturing-and-materials-round-2/competition-guidance-materials-and-manufacturing-round-2>

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

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.

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.

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 266 8860

Email: enquiries@businessgrowthfund.co.uk

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

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

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

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.

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

The EIS Association www.eisa.org.uk

Email: members@eisa.org.uk

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

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

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

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.

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>

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

Contact Details

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

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

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.

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 further advice on financing your business, please call the Business Support Helpline on 0300 456 3565

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

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

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

For new car capital allowances the 100% First Year Allowance (FYA) for businesses purchasing low emission cars is to be extended for a further 3 years to April 2021. However, the threshold will be cut to 50 grams/kilometre of CO₂ from April 2018, reflecting falling vehicle emissions. The main rate threshold for capital allowances for business cars falls to 110 grams/kilometre of CO₂ from 130 currently.

Government announced (Autumn statement 2016) that from 23 November until the end of March 2019 the government will offer 100% first-year allowances to companies investing in charge-points for electric vehicles.

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.

Contact Details

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

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

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

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>

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

HMRC website: www.hmrc.gov.uk

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

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.

According to the spring 2016 Budget announcements Government will modify the operation of the Patent Box to comply with a new set of international rules created 106 Budget 2016 by the OECD, making the lower tax rate dependant on, and proportional to, the extent of research and development expenditure incurred by the company claiming the relief. This will come into effect on 1 July 2016.

Contact Details

Email: corporatetaxreform@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

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

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

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.

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

Contact Details

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

Fast Track Website: <https://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/technology/innovation>

Carbon Trust Website: www.carbontrust.co.uk

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

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

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

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>

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

Website: <https://connect.innovateuk.org/knowledge-transfer-networks>

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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.
- 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

www.erasmusplus.org.uk

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

Apprenticeship Levy

Minimum award:

Maximum award:

Eligibility

Please check the website for further details.

Description

In April 2017 the way the government funds apprenticeships in England is changing. The apprenticeship levy requires all employers operating in the UK, with a pay bill over £3 million each year, to make an investment in apprenticeships. Each company needs to pay the apprenticeship levy from any sector with a pay bill of more than £3 million each year. The levy will be charged at a rate of 0.5% of the annual pay bill. Company will have a levy allowance of £15,000 per year to offset against the levy which must be paid. This means the company will only pay the levy if the pay bill exceeds £3 million in a given year. The levy will be paid to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) through the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) process.

Key changes government has introduced from the announcement in August include:

- Extending the length of expiry of digital vouchers from 18 to 24 months.
- A commitment to allow levy-paying employers to transfer up to 10% of the annual value of funds entering their digital accounts to other employers or apprenticeship training agencies. This mechanism will be introduced in 2018 and government has set up a new employer group to help develop this system.

The levy should be calculated, reported and paid to HMRC through the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) process alongside tax and National Insurance Contributions (NICs). Any apprenticeship levy payment to HMRC will be allowable for Corporation Tax.

Contact Details

For more information please contact employer helpline:

Email: nationalhelpdesk@apprenticeships.gov.uk or phone: 08000 150 600.

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>

SMMT July 2016 webinar slides on the Levy could be found [here](#).

SMMT February 2017 webinar slides on the Levy could be found [here](#).

[Government press release](#)

[CBI press release](#)

[EEF press release](#)

[EEF blog post](#)

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

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.

Contact Details

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

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

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.

Contact Details

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

Email info@uk-cpi.com

Press Release:

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

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

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 Leaderships 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.

Contact Details

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

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

Business Growth Service phone 0300 456 3565

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Contact Details

Website: <http://www.mentorsme.co.uk/finding-a-mentor>

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

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.

Allowance prices for CRC compliance years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 will increase in line with RP (spring Budget announcement 2016).

Contact Details

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

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>

<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>

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

Plug-in car, motorcycle and van grants

Minimum award: percentage off vehicle

Maximum award: percentage off vehicle

Eligibility

There are 6 categories of low emission vehicles. The grant you can get depends on the category of the vehicle. You can't get a grant for second-hand vehicles or category 2 or 3 vehicles with a recommended retail price of £60,000 and over.

<https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants/eligibility>

Description

You can get a grant towards the cost of a new electric (plug-in) car, van or motorcycle as long as it meets certain conditions.

The grant covers:

35% of the cost of a car, up to a maximum of either £2,500 or £4,500 depending on the model.

20% of the cost of a van, up to a maximum of £8,000.

20% of the cost of a motorcycle, up to a maximum of £1,500.

The 'cost' is the full purchase price you pay for the basic vehicle - including number plates, vehicle excise duty and VAT. It doesn't include delivery charges, the first registration fee or any optional extras.

The amount of your grant will be automatically deducted from the price of your car or van when you buy it.

The dealership will complete the paperwork, so there are no application forms for you to fill in, but you may be asked to complete a short questionnaire.

Contact Details

Website - <https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants/what-youll-get>

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

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.

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

Website: <https://www.carbontrust.com/about-us/our-investments/>

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

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

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.

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](#).

Website: <https://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/technology/implementation-and-finance/>

Siemens Financial Services:

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

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

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.

CCL main rates will increase in line with RPI from 1 April 2017 and 1 April 2018. (Finance Bill 2016)

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.

Website:

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

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

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.

Public and private funding provider can also add and manage their own funding opportunities and promote to the relevant industries.

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.

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

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

Green Investment Bank

Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

Any Business in the UK.

Description

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

GBI 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)

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

Contact Details

Email: enquiries@greeninvestmentbank.com

Phone: 03301232167

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

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

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.

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:

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

Switchboard: 01793 444000

EPSRC Helpline: 01793 444100

Email: info@epsrc.ac.uk

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>

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

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.

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

Website: https://interact.innovateuk.org/-/collaborative-r-d?redirect=https%3A%2F%2Finteract.innovateuk.org%2Ffunding-support%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_0Xfz4OoNUs4%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

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

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.

Contact Details

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

Website: <https://interact.innovateuk.org/-/smart>

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

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

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

Website: www.nichevehiclenetwork.co.uk

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

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, 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

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

For large organisations, the new ATL system will be paid at a rate of 10% and is fully payable (after tax) to companies that have no corporation tax liability. The new ATL system will run alongside the existing 130% super deduction 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.

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>

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

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.

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.

Online enquiry [form](#).

Contact Details

Website:

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

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

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.

Contact Details

Contact Kevin Rimmer, Head of Manufacturing:

07770 284 550

kevin.rimmer@eu.nabgroup.com

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

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

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

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

Contact Details

Steve Gregory
Stephen.gregory@mymas.org

Tel: 0300 456 3565

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

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

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

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>

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

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

Coalfields Fund

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator

Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £9.2 million

Eligibility

Match funding is required under this programme, in compliance with EU State Aid Legislation. The proportion of funding available depends on whether the work is classified as industrial research or experimental development, the size of the organisation, and whether the work is through collaboration. The maximum funding proportion is capped at 60% for industrial research and 40% for experimental development.

Description

A £9.2 million Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator to help strengthen the global competitiveness of British industry. Over the next four years the IEEA will aim to lower costs and increase the number of available energy efficient technologies for a range of industrial sectors, through demonstration of near to market innovations.

The programme is open to all sectors and is technology neutral, targeting near-commercial innovations that will have the largest cross-sectoral impact on industrial energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. The first competition will be open from September 2017 to January 2018, full details to be announced.

Contact Details

Telephone – 020 3930 4452

Website: <https://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/programmes/industrial-energy-efficiency-accelerator/>

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

Developing your International Trade Potential (DIT)

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 Department of Investment and Trade and other organisations

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

Contact Details

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

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

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.

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>

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>

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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>.

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

SMART: Scotland Scottish Enterprise

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

For further details please contact Interface directly. Contact details are listed below.

Contact Details

Telephone: 0131 651 4791

Email: info@interface-online.org.uk

Website: <http://www.interface-online.org>

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

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.

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

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

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

Resource Efficient Scotland SME Loans Energy Saving Trust

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

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.

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

Website: <http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com/content/sme-loans-scheme>

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

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

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

Website: www.investni.com/

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

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:

<https://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/technology/implementation-and-finance/interest-free-loans-wales/>

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.

Contact Details

Tel: 01865 885 850

Northern Ireland: loans@carbontrust.co.uk Wales: contactwales@carbontrust.com

Application support hotline: 0800 085 2005

Website:

Northern Ireland: <https://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/technology/implementation-and-finance/interest-free-loans-ni/>

Wales: <https://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/technology/implementation-and-finance/interest-free-loans-wales/>

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

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.

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>.

Brochure:

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

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

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.

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

Website:

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

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

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](#)
- [Innovation support](#)
- Finding [new business premises](#)
- Advice on improving [workforce skills](#)
- 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

Website:

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

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

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 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

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](#).

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

Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF)

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

Eligibility

SMEs in the Midlands Engine (ME) area.

Description

The Midlands Engine Investment Fund (announced in March 2016) is aimed at boosting the region's economy and supporting the growth ambitions of smaller businesses in the Midlands. The Fund is a joint agreement between the British Business Bank and the 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the West and East and South East Midlands. The aim of the Fund is to provide gap funding for SMEs across the whole Midlands Engine area.

The Fund is expected to be launched in early 2017. This is an ambitious target that reflects the desire of all parties to assist in the growth of the economy by getting the money working. The new Fund is expected to create jobs, support enterprises through investment and lending and assist with facilitating innovation by launching new products to market.

The British Business Bank has been invited by the Department for Communities and Local Government to implement a Fund of Funds. The Fund will be over £250m and bring together legacy funding from existing programmes, new funding from the European Investment Bank, LEP ESIF funding and the British Business Bank.

Contact Details

Please contact your [Local Enterprise Partnership](#).

Website: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/midlands-engine-investment-fund/>

MEIF seminar slides: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/MEIF-Midlands-Pre-Market-engagement.pdf>

MEIF Q&A: <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/MEIF-FAQ-V1-07062016.pdf>

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

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.

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/>

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

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

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 DIT 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:

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

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/>

Website:

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

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

Manufacturing Growth Programme

Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: depends on the project

Eligibility

You can find out if you are in one of the supported areas on the support map -

<http://www.manufacturinggrowthprogramme.co.uk/meet-the-team/>

Description

The Manufacturing Growth Programme offers support to SME Manufacturers to grow by identifying, understanding and removing barriers to growth and enabling sustainable business improvement.

Providing free advice and support to manufacturing SMEs to help:

- Identify opportunities and create plans for growth and improvement
- Work with the best external experts to implement those plans
- Cover up to 35% of the cost of implementing the plans through an improvement grant
- Connect to wider support to maximise opportunities for growth.

The Manufacturing Growth Programme (MGP), which is funded by ERDF and delivered by Economic Growth Solutions (EGS), is promising to fill the void left by MAS by providing access to specialist assistance to help firms grow and improve.

Contact Details

Manufacturing Growth Programme website - <http://www.manufacturinggrowthprogramme.co.uk/>

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

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 DIT
- Access to business and knowledge networks.

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/>

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

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.

Contact Details

For further details contact your local LEP.

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/>

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

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.

For more information or to download an Expression of Interest form, visit - www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk

Contact Details

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

Website: www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk

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

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.

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: UI4G@emb ltd.co.uk

Phone: 01332 826 366.

Websites:

<http://www.d2n2lep.org/UI4G>

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

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

Faraday Challenge: Innovation - feasibility studies

Minimum award:

Maximum award: £10million

Eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- be a UK-based business or research and technology organisation working within the limits provided in the general guidance for applicants
- carry out project work, and intend to exploit the results, in the UK
- work in collaboration with other grant claiming partners (businesses, research organisations and/or third sector)

For all research organisations, the total level of project participation is set at a maximum of up to 50% for feasibility studies. If your consortium contains more than one research organisation, this maximum will be shared between participants.

Description

As part of the government's Faraday Challenge [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#), Innovate UK is to invest up to £10 million in innovation projects. This is to support the UK to lead the world in the design, development and manufacture of future batteries for vehicle electrification.

A separate £30 million is available for [research and development](#) projects. This is being run as a linked competition.

This will fund projects that focus on identified technical or commercial challenges in battery innovation, development and manufacture through UK supply chains. These should lead to battery technologies that can be exploited at scale by the automotive sector in the UK and globally. Specifically fund is looking to build and create future electric vehicle battery supply chains in the UK. Projects should range in size from total eligible costs of £150,000 to £1 million.

Contact Details

Call 0300 321 4357 to speak to an adviser.

Send your question or query to support@innovateuk.gov.uk.

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

ISCF Faraday Challenge - Call for Establishment of a Batteries Research Institute

Minimum award:
Maximum award:

Eligibility

Only Universities who attended the information meeting on 12 July 2017 are eligible to bid for this call as the lead consortium university. Additional Universities may join the consortium prior to the submission of the final proposal.

For more information on equipment funding, please see:
<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/facilities/equipment/>

Description

The successful consortia will lead, shape and define a strategic programme of fundamental application driven research which must aim to achieve significant outputs in the area of battery technologies which can be translated through innovation and scale up activities. Within the remit of the Research Institute will be the scoping and running of subsequent research funding calls in this area, through national and international engagement with academic and industrial communities. Further to this the Institute will be responsible for developing a world leading training programme which will define the future research landscape and fulfil the developing needs of the UK to have a significant number of skilled individuals in this area.

The objectives of the institute will be to ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of novel battery technologies which will underpin our ability to be world leading in the area of energy storage. The institute will provide a national hub to promote research and its translation to address challenges in the automotive sector and the wider energy storage area.

Closes 30 August 2017

Contact Details

Dr. Derek Craig - derek.craig@epsrc.ac.uk - 01793 444112
Dr Kathryn Magnay - kathryn.magnay@epsrc.ac.uk - 01793 444337

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

Faraday Challenge Scale up - National Battery Manufacturing Development Facility

Minimum award:

Maximum award:

Eligibility

To lead a project you must:

- be a UK based organisation
- be an organisation of any size
- carry out project in the UK
- be able to clearly demonstrate the current state aid proposition that your proposal follows, and how this satisfies this regulation.

This competition is not funding projects covering:

- manufacture and development of Battery Manufacturing System (BMS) hardware and/or software
- installation of battery packs in vehicles, or the engineering of vehicles to accept battery packs.

Description

As part of the Government's Faraday Challenge Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, the Advanced Propulsion Centre are working in partnership with Innovate UK. This is to establish a UK Battery Manufacturing and Development Facility funded by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. The facility will establish and maintain a leading position in manufacturing technologies for batteries and their components.

It is expected building work of the facility to start at the end of 2017 and last a maximum of 24 months. UK organisations or consortia of any size can apply.

This brief is intended to give a brief summary of the scope and eligibility for this competition. For full details on the scope, eligibility and application process, please read the guidance for applicants. The Faraday Challenge represents a completely joined up national innovation system, supporting projects from fundamental research (EPSRC) through development and innovation (Innovate UK) to industrial scale up (APC). Innovate UK are delivering the parallel Innovation Feasibility Study and Collaborative Research and Development competitions.

Contact Details

Call 0300 321 4357 to speak to an adviser.

Send your question or query to support@innovateuk.gov.uk.

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/52/overview>

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

Faraday Challenge Innovation - research and development

Minimum award:

Maximum award:

Eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- be a UK-based business or research and technology organisation working within the limits provided in the [general guidance for applicants](#)
- carry out project work, and intend to exploit the results, in the UK
- work in collaboration with other grant claiming partners (businesses, research organisations and/or third sector)

For all research organisations, the total level of project participation is set at a maximum of 30% of total eligible project costs for collaborative R&D. If your consortium contains more than one research organisation, this maximum will be shared between them.

Description

As part of the government's Faraday Challenge Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, Innovate UK is to invest up to £30 million in innovation projects. This is to support the UK to lead the world in the design, development and manufacture of future batteries for vehicle electrification.

A separate £10 million is available for [feasibility projects](#). This is being run as a linked competition. This will fund projects that focus on identified technical or commercial challenges in battery innovation, development and manufacture through UK supply chains. These should lead to battery technologies that can be exploited at scale by the automotive sector in the UK and globally. Specifically it is looking to build and create future electric vehicle battery supply chains in the UK. Projects should range in size from total eligible costs of £1 million to £15 million. If your project falls outside of this range you will need to contact below adviser before applying. Projects should last up to 3 years.

All projects must be a collaboration between at least 2 partners.

The Faraday Challenge represents a completely joined up national innovation system, supporting projects from [fundamental research \(EPSRC\)](#) through [feasibility studies \(Innovate UK\)](#) to [industrial scale up \(APC\)](#). The Advanced Propulsion Centre and Innovate UK are delivering the parallel Scale Up competition to establish a National Battery Manufacturing Development Facility.

Contact Details

Call 0300 321 4357 to speak to an adviser.

Send your question or query to support@innovateuk.gov.uk.

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/37/overview>

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

Connected and autonomous vehicles 3 Feasibility studies

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

Eligibility

To lead a project you must:

- be a UK-based business
- be a business of any size
- carry out your project in the UK
- work in collaboration with others (businesses, research base and third sector).

For all research organisations, the total level of project participation is set at a maximum of 50% of total eligible costs for feasibility studies (projects below £250,000 total costs).

If your consortium contains more than one research organisation, this maximum will be shared between them.

Description

It has been allocated up to £2 million to fund innovation projects in this competition.

Projects should focus on one or both of the following areas:

- connectivity
- autonomy (SAE level 4 and above)

This competition focuses on collaborative feasibility studies. It is expected projects to last 12 to 18 months. Total project costs can be up to £250,000.

A further connected and autonomous vehicles competition focuses on research and development. This will have different project costs and duration.

Contact Details

Call 0300 321 4357 to speak to an adviser (8.30am to 5.30pm, 5 days a week).

To apply please look through the application process [here](#).

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

Connected and autonomous vehicles 3

Research and development

Minimum award:

Maximum award:

Eligibility

To lead a project you must:

- be a UK-based business
- be a business of any size
- carry out your project in the UK
- work in collaboration with others (businesses, research base and third sector).

For all research organisations, the total level of project participation is set at 30% of total eligible project costs for collaborative R&D (projects £500,000 to £4 million total costs).

If your consortium contains more than one research organisation, this maximum will be shared between them.

Description

The Centre for Connected & Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) is to invest up to £23 million in industry-led research and development projects on connected and autonomous vehicles.

This competition will fund collaborative industrial research and development projects. It is expected projects to range in size from total costs of £500,000 to £4 million, and last between 18 and 30 months.

Projects need to come up with technical solutions for connected and autonomous vehicle features that provide real-world benefits to users. This includes how these vehicles will work as part of a wider transport or off-road system, and the business models that will enable them. The competition is seeking proposals where the commercial benefit is clear.

Projects focused on autonomy, or connectivity that supports autonomy, must focus on the development of solutions for SAE level 4 automation and above.

All projects must be collaborative, business-led, and with the research and development (R&D) conducted in the UK.

Contact Details

Call 0300 321 4357 to speak to an adviser (8.30am to 5.30pm, 5 days a week). Calls are free from landlines and most mobile numbers.

To apply please look through the application process [here](#).

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

HSBC funds for SMEs

Minimum award:

Maximum award:

Eligibility

Follow link to take test if eligible -

<https://creditindication.business.hsbc.co.uk/?isJSEnabled=1&businessArea=Root&channel=Root&startContext=Root.Business%20Internet%20Banking.Help>

Description

The £10 billion fund is available to both HSBC and non-HSBC customers. It's being allocated in 43 local tranches nationwide, signalling our firm commitment to helping smaller companies right across the country.

In addition to the lending, the package of SME support includes:

- 18 months of fee-free* business banking for start-ups
- 12 months of fee-free* banking for existing SMEs who switch their banking to HSBC
- Interactive business tools and a wealth of resources in our Knowledge Centre for small businesses with ambitions to grow at www.knowledge.hsbc.co.uk/tools-and-resources. The site offers inspirational profiles, expert insights and more, backed up by a comprehensive range of briefings, checklists and other resources to help launch, run and develop your business.

* Free Banking means that you will not be charged an account maintenance fee or for payments into your account covered by the standard account charges.

Contact Details

If you're an existing customer, call on: 03457 60 60 60.

From overseas: +44 1226 260 878.

If you're new to HSBC, call us on: 0800 032 1770.

From overseas: +44 1470 697032.

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

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.

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

Tel: 01670 813322

Email: info@nbsl.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Strategic Business Growth Programme

Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: £7.2Million

Eligibility

For more information contact the LEP Growth Service.

Description

A £7.2m Strategic Business Growth Programme.

This offers support to small businesses to help them realise their growth potential.

It will also provide impartial one-to-one coaching on all aspects of business growth, including financial management, sales, marketing and planning.

Contact Details

For more information on the scheme, call the LEP Growth Service on 0113 3481818 or email - businessgrowth@the-lep.com

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

Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership SME

Minimum award:
Maximum award: £9.2Million

Eligibility

This is a project to help promote SMEs in Bradford and Leeds
For more information contact the LEP Growth Service.

Description

The scheme will support SMEs to develop new products and services and access specialist expertise to achieve this.

Firms who receive some of the cash will be able to better connect to other research organisations, including Catapult Centres, which will offer access to expert technical support, equipment and other resources needed to bring to fruition firms' innovative ideas.

Contact Details

For more information on the scheme, call the LEP Growth Service on 0113 3481818 or email - businessgrowth@the-lep.com

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

Infrastructure systems for a better world Innovate UK

Minimum award:

Maximum award: £15million

Eligibility

Open to any UK based company.

Projects must be led by a UK business or research and technology organisation

Description

If you're a UK business or research organisation you can apply for a share of £15 million to develop innovative infrastructure solutions, including priorities in connected transport that encourages more efficient transportation of goods and people across more than one mode.

There is up to £5 million for projects that last between 3 and 12 months. Up to £10 million is available for projects that last up to 3 years, with costs between £100,000 and £5 million inclusive.

You can also apply into a Knowledge Transfer Partnership in infrastructure systems if you'd like to work with a recent graduate.

Contact Details

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/infrastructure-systems-for-a-better-world-apply-for-funding>

Innovate UK

Email - support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Customer support service - 0300 321 4357

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

Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund

Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: depends on the project

Eligibility

Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund is applicable to high growth, highly innovative SMEs with global ambitions that want to disrupt the established value networks and existing markets.

There are 3 main scheme options:

- [Microfinance](#) – recent start-ups and existing SME businesses seeking to borrow £25k - £100k
- [Debt Finance](#) – for SMEs needing to borrow larger amounts to finance growth
- [Equity finance](#) – for SMEs with ambitious growth plans seeking an equity injection of up to £2m.

Description

The Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF) provides commercially focussed finance through Microfinance, Debt and Equity Finance funds.

NPIF is collaboration between the British Business Bank and ten Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the North West, Yorkshire, the Humber and Tees Valley.

NPIF provides over £400m of investment to boost small and medium business (SME) growth in the North of England.

On the website you are able to sign up for the latest news and join some of the mailing lists.

Contact Details

Northern Powerhouse website - <http://www.npif.co.uk/>

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

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

In November 2015, Boost secured £7.8m of new funding to run for a further three years from January 2016. The service is aiming to support a further 3,360 businesses in the county, creating 2,000 jobs and helping to establish 200 new businesses.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

Website: <http://midven.co.uk/funds/early-advantage-fund/>

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

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.

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

Website:
LDC: <http://www ldc co uk/portfolio/companyinfo.aspx?ld=304>

Midven: <http://midven.co.uk/funds/exceed/>

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

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.

Contact Details

Finance Birmingham
Baskerville House
Centenary Square
Birmingham
B1 2ND

Phone: 0121 233 4903

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

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

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

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 ground-breaking 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.

Contact Details

Phone: 0121 704 6151

Website:

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

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

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

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.

Contact Details

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

Website: www.opentoinnovation.net

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

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.

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

Website: www.coventry.ac.uk/pii

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

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.

For more information contact the Tough Digital project team email touchdigital@cad.coventry.ac.uk or phone 024 7615 8207.

Contact Details

Address:
Puma Way
Coventry
West Midlands
CV1 2TT

Website: <http://www.seriousgamesinstitute.co.uk/applied-research/Touch-Digital.aspx>

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

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.

Contact Details

See above

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

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

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

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 DIT 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

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

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

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

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

Website:

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

Useful tips:

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

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

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.

- 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

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

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

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

Contact Details

For application details please refer to each finance package.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

Contact Details

Tel: 01765 650 126

Email: info@red-sky.co.uk

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

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

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

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.

Contact Details

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

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

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

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

Digital Enterprise Funding

Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: £10k

Eligibility

Businesses must meet strict criteria to apply for the grant which include:

- Under 250 employees
- Under €50 million turnover per annum
- Balance sheet total not exceeding €43 million
- Operating in an eligible business sector for support – which excludes primary sectors (agriculture, fishing and mining), retail and financial services i.e. no B2C sectors.
- Not received State Aid above €200,000 over the past 3 financial years.

The Digital Enterprise Grant is available to businesses within the Leeds City Region which includes:

- Leeds
- Bradford
- York
- Selby
- Wakefield
- Kirklees
- Calderdale
- Craven
- Harrogate
- Barnsley

Description

The grant is available as the digital industry is growing faster than any other and employers across all sectors will soon require digital skills. The digital industry in the North of England is creating jobs 10 times faster than other sectors and by encouraging businesses to adopt a digital transformation this should continue.

The applying business need to get three competing quotations for the service/services they are looking for. Once three quotes have been obtained the company need to complete the application.

Contact Details

For more information please contact blue digital on 0113 2375100.

Website:

<https://www.bluedigital.co.uk/digital-enterprise-funding/>

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

