

LIST OF FUNDING, FINANCE AND SUPPORT SCHEMES

July 2012



THE SOCIETY OF
MOTOR MANUFACTURERS
AND TRADERS LIMITED

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The SMMT List of Funding, Finance and Support Schemes

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









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

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

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

Programme Key

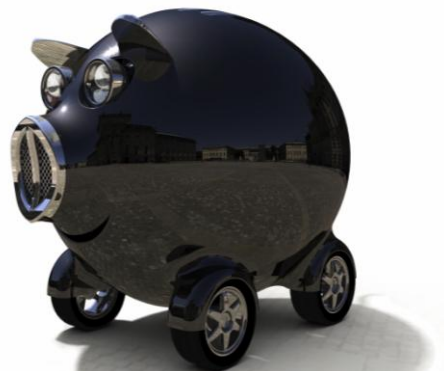
Many sources of funding and finance can be used for a variety of business purposes. Where possible, and sensible, the funding/finance facility has been categorised. A [check list of schemes](#) and their categories can be found at the end of the report.

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

We welcome any contribution as to schemes that should be included in this document. Suggestions should be sent to Luke Hampton at lhampton@smt.co.uk.

Version History

VERSION	AUTHOR	DATE
V8	Luke Hampton	23/07/12
V7	Luke Hampton	06/03/12
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V4	Samantha Larner	04/04/11
V3	Samantha Larner	22/10/10
V2	Samantha Larner	30/08/10
V1	Samantha Larner	06/08/10



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SMMT updates this document regularly but cannot guarantee that the latest available information will be reflected here. You are strongly advised to contact the scheme provider before taking action.

European Framework Programme FP7



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

Eligibility

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

Description

FP7, the Seventh Framework for Research and Technologies Development is the main source of funding for research within the EU. 4 main programmes fall under FP7 (Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities), with the majority of funding available within Cooperation, requiring a consortium approach to projects. FP7 is running from 2007 to 2013 with a total budget of €50.5 billion. Work is currently taking place to set the agenda for FP8. The automotive sector can access funding for research and technology through the European Green Car Initiative, a Private Public Partnership (PPP) with a budget of €1 billion (€500m from EC FP7, the rest from industry). The Green Car Initiative covers a wide range of research topics and vehicle types. It is not just for passenger cars.

Additional Information

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

The National Contact point for Surface Transport is Cliff Funnell: cliff.funnell@ncp-sst.org.uk

Useful Links

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

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

Green Car Initiative specific FP7 calls: <http://www.green-cars-initiative.eu/public/open-fp7-calls>
Information postings for FP7UK: <https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/fp7uk>

Details of the Surface Transport Sub-Group can be found here:
<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/surface-transport>

Eurostars Programme



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: €1.5m per project

Eligibility

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

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

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

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

Graham M Mobbs: graham.mobbs@tsb.gov.uk

European Operations Manager

Technology Strategy Board

A1, North Star House

North Star Avenue

Swindon, SN2 1UE

Useful Links

Website: www.Eurostars-eureka.eu

ERA-NET Transport Programme



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: call specific

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

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

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

Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU)



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Varies by competition call

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

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

Contact Details

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

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

Useful Links

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

Information about the SET plan can be found at:

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

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

<http://cordis.europa.eu>

An overview of FCH and implementation plan to 2013:

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

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP)



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

Three programmes operate under the CIP banner:-

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

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

Additional Information

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

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

Application Information

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

Email entr-cip@ec.europa.eu for programme information and details on how to engage with the CIP programme. Call details and deadlines are found at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/newsbytheme.cfm?displayType=fo&tpa_id=1007&lang=en

Contact Details

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

The ICT UK National Contact Point for CIP is Peter Walters
pwalters@tuvnel.com

The Intelligent Energy Europe Contact Point is Ms Helen Fairclough
energie@enviros.com

Useful links

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>

Europe Network is a useful source of information. http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

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



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

Website: www.eif.org

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

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



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

An opportunity to access loans via the EIB which are targeted to either R&D activities aimed at new technologies to reduce emissions AND/OR upgrading of production facilities, new tooling etc. that will help achieve emissions/fuel efficiency targets but will not lead to a net increase in capacity at the plant. The loan term is up to 10 years. The current allowance for the ECFT is €8bn running from 2009 to 2012.

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.eib.org/products/loans/special/ectf/index.htm?lang=-en>

Individual Loan from EIB European Investment Bank (EIB)



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

Email: info@eib.org

For guidance on application contents see
http://www.eib.org/attachments/application_documents_en.pdf

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



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

Application Information

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

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

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

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

Email: info@eib.org

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



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

Eligibility

Available to SMEs only.

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Information

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

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

E-mail: jeremie@eif.org

Useful Links

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

JEREMIE Leaflet: http://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/Jeremie-leaflet-2011.htm

Collaborative Research & Development Projects Technology Strategy Board



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

Full details are available here:

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

Application Information

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

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

Contact Details

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

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

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

Email: support@tsb.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 321 4357

Useful Links

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

SMART: Grant for Research and Development Scheme Technology Strategy Board



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

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

Description

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

Three types of projects are supported:

Proof of Market (up to £25,000 grant)

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

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

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

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

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

Application Information

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

www.innovateuk.org

Email: support@innovateuk.org

Telephone: 0300 321 4357

Useful Links

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

Website for 'Single Business': <http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/grant-for-rd-single-business.ashx>

Grant research and development brochure

http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/0511/rd_grants_2ndeditionsep2011.pdf

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



Min award: N/A

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

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

Application Information

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

Full application details are available here:

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

Contact Details

Contact the TSB with all enquiries relating to the SBRI

Email: enquiries@tsb.gov.uk

Telephone: 01793 442700

Useful Links

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

Competition list:

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

SBRI Brochure: http://www.innovateuk.org/_assets/pdf/Corporate-Publications/SBRI%20intro%20brochure.pdf

Knowledge Transfer Networks Technology Strategy Board (TSB)



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

For the full description visit the website:

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

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

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

An overview of the Transport KTN is available here:

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

Application Information

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

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

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

Contact Details

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

neil.ridley@transportktn.org

Useful Links

Website:

<https://ktn.innovateuk.org>

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Technology Strategy Board (TSB)



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

Full background is available here:

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

Application information

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

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

Contact Details

KTP Helpline on 0870 190 2829

Useful Links

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

Read case studies from previous projects at:

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

EPSRC Research Funding Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

There are a number of schemes listed on the site, including specific project calls. Latest call information can be found at: <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact Details

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

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

Useful Links

Website: www.epsrc.ac.uk

Information on connecting with the EPSRC can be found here:
<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/business/Pages/default.aspx>

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

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

The real benefit of being involved with an LEP is the opportunity to be directly engaged with your local government and to have a say in the direction of the economic growth in your area. Priorities, strategy and direction will all be influenced by the businesses involved, granting participants greater say in their local community.

Application Information

Application for funding, finance and support available to your LEP is managed directly by them. Programs available will vary between LEPs. For the full list of LEPs across England, see below:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/local/localenterprisepartnerships/>

Contact Details

LEP Principal Contacts are available here:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/2004475.xls>

Useful links

Website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/local/localenterprisepartnerships/>

Map of LEPs: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1968608.pdf>

Enterprise Zones



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

Eligibility

Open to all businesses within an Enterprise Zone

Description

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

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

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

The zones are one of the ways LEPs can help ensure economic decisions are more business-led and have the maximum possible impact on economic growth in the area.

Application information

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

Contact Details

LEP Principal Contacts are available here:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/2004475.xls>

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/lep-toolbox/enterprise-zones>

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

A map of which LEPs contain Enterprise zones:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1872110.pdf>

National Loan Guarantee Scheme



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

- Aldermore
- Barclays
- Santander
- Lloyds
- RBS

Application Information

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

Contact Details

N/A

Useful Links

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

Common questions:

http://nationalloanguaranteescheme.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/national_loan_guarantee_scheme_faq.pdf

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



Minimum award: £1m
Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

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

Description

The initial Regional Growth Fund was a £1.4bn fund that was due to operate for 3 years between 2011 and 2014. This was used up in the first 2 rounds of the process for 176 projects and leveraged more than £7.5bn of private sector investment. An additional £1bn has been committed to the fund

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

The fund also aims to leverage further investment for projects from the private sector. In 2011, Government announced an extra £95 million investment to help small businesses with support from HSBC, Natwest and RBS. The RBS and NatWest scheme is tied into the Regional Growth Fund and will distribute £70 million while the HSBC scheme is called the Assisted Asset Purchase Scheme and will distribute £25 million. SMEs can qualify for a grant if they are going to invest in new capital assets and create new jobs. Grants of up to £500,000 will be awarded alongside the award of a new bank loan on commercial terms. To qualify for the NatWest/RBS scheme, SMEs need a turnover of less than £25 million and for the HSBC scheme a SME will need a turnover of less than €50 million.

A fully detailed brochure is available here:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/economic-development/docs/r/11-845-regional-growth-fund-information-for-applicants.pdf>

Application Information

Application forms can be found at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund/how-to-apply> as well as guidance documents on how to fill in applications. This site also gives you contact details for your region, with contact telephone numbers listed.

Contact Details

Regional Growth Fund
Department for Business Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H

For most relevant phone number follow link <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/regional-growth-fund>

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund>

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website <http://www.bis.gov.uk/>

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



Minimum award: n/a

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

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

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

Application Information

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

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

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

The award of a grant is discretionary.

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

The Business Link website www.businesslink.gov.uk

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

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



Minimum award: £10,000

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

Application Information

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

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

www.businesslink.gov.uk

An overview of the scheme can be found here

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

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



Minimum award: £1,000

Maximum award: £1m

Eligibility

Any business with turnover up to £44 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.

The EFG also supports lending for business growth and development in cases where a sound proposition may otherwise be declined.

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

The Guarantee will continue until 2014-15 providing up to £600million of additional lending to around 6,000 SMEs in 2011-12 and, subject to demand, over £2billion in total over the next 4 years.

Application Information

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

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

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

Contact Details

Please contact your lender for more details.

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-finance-guarantee>

The Business Link website www.businesslink.gov.uk

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

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



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

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

Application Information

Applications are made through referrals. These occur through publicly funded Investment Readiness programmes and sign posting through Business Link, 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 www.bis.gov.uk

Useful Links

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

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



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

Eligibility

Open to any SME with the potential for high growth.

Description

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

Application Information

Not all businesses will be ready or able to make use of Designing Demand. To find out if your business is one that could make use of Designing Demand please visit www.businesslink.gov.uk for an initial assessment.

Contact Details

Email: designingdemand@designcouncil.org.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/Support/Designing-Demand/>

www.businesslink.gov.uk

www.bis.gov.uk

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



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

Eligibility

Open to all businesses in England.

Description

This scheme is about saving money by using raw materials, energy and water more efficiently which lead to a number of benefits, such as:

- Cutting your business costs
- Improving your business' reputation with customers, investors, the public, employees and other stakeholders.
- Reducing the impact your business has on the environment.

All businesses have the potential to manage their resources more efficiently and can make businesses more competitive as well as demonstrating reduced environmental impact.

In some cases where the tool has highlighted areas of improvement, your local Business Link can provide expert advice focusing on energy and design issues. In addition, a site visit by an expert will provide you will a report recommending possible solutions to reduce cost and improve performance

Application Information

To access this support, businesses need to complete a resource efficiency diagnostic using recent utility bills, either online or with a Business Link adviser. Business link will then request a referral to Improving Your Resource Efficiency.

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

The Business Link website www.businesslink.gov.uk

The Carbon Trust www.carbontrust.co.uk

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

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



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

The MAS website www.mas-uk.org.uk

Useful Links

The Business Link website www.businesslink.gov.uk

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

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



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: N/A

Eligibility

This product is available to:

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

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

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

Description

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

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

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

Contact Information

Telephone: 0854 300 4443 (Patricia Mathieson)

All contact goes through your local Business Link office.

Useful Links

Full Business Link contact details around the UK are available here:

[http://online.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/bsfResults?page=1&purposelid=0&title=SfB finance for business&viewPersonalList=false](http://online.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/bsfResults?page=1&purposelid=0&title=SfB+finance+for+business&viewPersonalList=false)

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



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

Eligibility

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

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

Description

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

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

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

Application information

At the moment, applications are not open. When the programme is launched in January 2012, you should contact your local LEP.

Contact Details

For additional information, contact Chris Hepworth at BIS

Telephone: 0207 215 1069

Email: chris.hepworth@bis.gov.uk

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps/lep-toolbox/helping-smes/coaching>

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



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

Contact details are dependant on your area. Contact your local Development Agency for more information.

Useful Links

Online information, page 17: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/s/11-776-solutions-for-business-government-funded-business-support>

www.businesslink.gov.uk

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



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

Eligibility

This program is only available to SMEs

Description

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

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

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

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

Application information

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

Both the Workplace Training and SME Leadership and Management Training are managed by:
www.businesslink.gov.uk

You will need to contact your local Business Link office for more information

Contact Details

See above

Useful Links

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

www.businesslink.gov.uk

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



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

Eligibility

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

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-capital-funds/ecf-faqs>

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

Application process

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

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-capital-funds>

Contact Details

Contact details for Fund Managers are available here:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-capital-funds>

Useful Links

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-capital-funds>

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



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

The GIF will only support initiatives that will realistically:

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

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

Application Process

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

Contact Details

Email: GIF.questions@ukces.org.uk

Useful links

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

Guidance notes: <http://www.ukces.org.uk/assets/bispartners/ukces/docs/gif/gif2-guidance-notes.pdf>

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

Research and Development Relief for Corporation Tax HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: The budget has enhanced the amounts available to claim. SMEs can claim 200% of qualifying R&D costs. This is due to rise to 225% from April 2012. Large organisations can claim 130% of qualifying R&D costs as long as R&D expenditure is at least £10,000 per annum.

In his Autumn Statement 2011, Chancellor George Osborne announced plans to review the tax credit system to an 'above the line' system that will encourage larger companies to spend on R&D in the UK. The Government plans to consult on the detail at Budget 2012 for implementation in 2013. We will keep this section updated as more information becomes available.

Eligibility

You can only claim R&D Relief if your organisation is liable for Corporation Tax. There are two schemes for claiming relief, depending on the company size, with varying relief levels available. Although just to add extra complexity, if you're an SME there may be certain situations where you may not be able to claim under the SME scheme but can under the Large Company Scheme.

Description

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

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

Tel: 0115 974 1250
Fax: 0115 974 2954
[Email: Small Company Enterprise Centre](mailto:SmallCompanyEnterpriseCentre@hmrc.gov.uk)

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

The EIS Association www.eisa.org.uk

Tel: 020 8785 5560
Fax: 020 8785 5561

Email: members@eisa.org.uk

Useful Links

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

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

Capital Allowance Investment Scheme HM Revenue and Customs



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

Here is a list of some of the schemes available:

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

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

Application Information

Claim allowances via your company's tax return.

Contact Details

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

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

Useful Links

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

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

HMRC: www.hmrc.gov.uk

Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA) HM Revenue and Customs



(see Capital Allowances: previous page)

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 <http://etl.decc.gov.uk/etl/criteria/>
- 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: <http://etl.decc.gov.uk/etl/find/>

Application Information

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

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

Contacts

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

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

Useful Links

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2010/march/bn11.htm>

<http://www.eca.gov.uk/etl/default.htm>

Time to Pay Arrangements (TTP) HM Revenue and Customs



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

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

HMRC website - www.hmrc.gov.uk

Patent Box HM Revenue and Customs



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

Email: corporatetaxreform@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

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

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

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

CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Department of Energy and Climate Change



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

If you think your organisation is liable for CRC then you should register at:
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/117652.aspx>

Contact Details

For general enquiries, email: CRCHELP@environment-agency.gov.uk

Useful Links

To join the mailing list:
<http://dmtrk.co.uk/AYH-2U0/s2.aspx>

User guide documents
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/crc/user_guidance

For FAQs on the scheme, please visit:
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/105868.aspx>

For more information about 'meters and metering guidance':
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/116646.aspx>

Plugged-In Car Grant Office for Low Emissions Vehicles



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

The subsidy is applicable from January 2011. The rate of subsidy has been agreed until 31 March 2012 with a review in January 2012. There is a total of £300m allocated for the lifetime of this government, with £43m being available up to the end of March 2012.

Cars eligible for the subsidy will have to demonstrate compliance against safety and performance criteria which will be published by OLEV at www.dft.gov.uk/olev

Additional Information

Plugged in Places, a fund targeted at supporting the development of EV infrastructure saw finance given initially to London, Milton Keynes and the North East for the creation of 11,000 charging points in public places. This has since been increased to the East of England, Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, Northern Ireland and the Scotland areas of the UK.

Application Process

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/olev/plug-in-car-grant/>

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/olev/>

Green Bus Fund Department for Transport (DFT)



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

Eligibility

Open to local authorities and bus companies in England.

Description

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

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

Application Process

There is a document providing advice on how to prepare bids available at:
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/greenbusfund/round2-bidding.pdf>

Contact Details

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

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

Useful Links

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/greenbusfund/>

Lambert Tool Kit Intellectual Property Office



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

Eligibility

Open to all businesses and organisations

Description

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

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

Both university and business interests are represented by appropriate content.

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

Application Process

N/A

Contact Details

Telephone: 0300 300 2000

Email: information@ipo.gov.uk

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

Useful Links

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

[Intellectual asset management for universities](#)

Developing your International Trade Potential Solutions for Business UKTI



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

Eligibility

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

Description

The Programme gives you access to:

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

E-Brochure:

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1075078368&type=RESOURCES>

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

Tradeshaw Access Programme (TAP Grants) UKTI



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: Up to £1800 towards stand costs.

Eligibility

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

Description

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

Application Information

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

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

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

Overseas Market Introduction Services (OMIS) UKTI



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

Open to exporters.

Description

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

Application Information

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

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

Contact Details

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

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

Telephone: 0845 278 9600

Useful Links

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

Passport to Export UKTI



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

Eligibility

Open to new and inexperienced exporters.

Description

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

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

Telephone: 0845 278 9600

Useful Links

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

Gateway to Global Growth UKTI



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application information

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

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

Contact details

Tel: +44 (0)845 539 0419

Email: enquiries@ukti-invest.com

Useful Links

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

Export Communications Review British Chambers of Commerce



Minimum award: N/A

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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

Application Information

Email Stephanie Assi at the British Chambers of Commerce:
s.assi@britishchambers.org.uk

Contact Details

British Chambers of Commerce

Oak Tree Court, Binley Business Park,
Harry Weston Road,
Coventry CV3 2UN

Tel: 024 7669 4484

Email: emr@britishchambers.org.uk

Web: www.britishchambers.org.uk/ecr

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/zones/export/export-communications-review>

Export Marketing Research Scheme British Chambers of Commerce



Minimum: N/A

Maximum: Up to 50% funding of overseas marketing research

Eligibility

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

Description

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

Online flyer is available here:

http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/toolkit/emrs_a4_leaflet-pdf.html

Application Process

A detailed proposal for the research needs to be put forward to the British Chamber of Commerce.

Contact Details

Email: info@britishchambers.org.uk

The British Chambers of Commerce

Oak Tree Court
Binley Business Park
Harry Weston Road
Coventry
CV3 2UN

Tel: +44 (0)24 7644 6615

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/zones/export/export-marketing-research-scheme>



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

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

Application information

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

Contact Details

General Enquiries: +44 (0)20 7512 7000
Email: <http://www.ecgd.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-services>

Useful Links

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

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

Applied Research Grant The Carbon Trust



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

For projects to be eligible they must demonstrate:

- Innovation – a unique advance in the current market.
- Potential for CO₂ emission reduction based on scientific principles.
- Commercial viability and that there is a demand from the target market with results planned.
- The project can be taken forward without the grant.
- Benefits to the UK low carbon economic growth.
- The impact of the project.

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

Application Information

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

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

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

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

The Carbon Trust www.carbontrust.co.uk

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

Business Incubator The Carbon Trust



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

Eligibility

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

In order to qualify, you must demonstrate:

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

Description

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

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

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

Application Information

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

Contact Details

Carbon Trust 0800 085 2005

Useful Links

Website www.carbontrust.co.uk

Entrepreneur Fast Track The Carbon Trust



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

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

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

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

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

Application Information

The first step is to call the customer centre on 01789 200 306 for information.

Contact Details

Telephone: 01789200306

Useful Links

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

Carbon Trust Website: www.carbontrust.co.uk

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



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

Eligibility

You must be an SME in Northern Ireland or Wales.

Full eligibility criteria are listed here:

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

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

Description

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

The benefits for the loans are:

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

Application Information

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

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

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

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/products-services/business-loans/pages/loans-calculator.aspx>

Contact Details

Carbon Trust 01865 885 850

Application support hotline: 0800 085 2005

Useful Links

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

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

Venture Capital Investments The Carbon Trust



Minimum award: N/A
Maximum award: up to £4m, 50% of total transaction

Eligibility

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

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

Description

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

Application Information

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

The criteria for the business proposal include the following:

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

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

Contact Details

Carbon Trust: 0800 085 2005

Useful Links

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

Energy Efficiency Financing The Carbon Trust



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

Eligibility

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

Description

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

Application Process

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

Contact Details

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

Useful Links

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

Scottish Co-investment Fund (SCF) Scottish Enterprise



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

Eligibility

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

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

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

Description

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

Application Process

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

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful links

Main website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/scif.aspx>

Full eligibility rules: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/Scottish-Investment-Bank/SCIF/SCIF-Rules-and-eligibility.aspx>

Scottish Venture Fund (SVF) Scottish Enterprise



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

Eligibility

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

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

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

<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/svf/svf-eligibility.aspx>

Description

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

Application process

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

Contact Details

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/svf.aspx>

Scottish Seed Fund (SSF) Scottish Enterprise



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

Eligibility

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

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

Description

The Scottish Seed Fund (SSF), managed by The Scottish Investment Bank (SIB), is designed to improve the availability of finance for start-up and young growing companies in Scotland. The SSF can invest between £20,000 and £100,000 on an equity basis in early stage businesses that meet the SSF criteria and are keen to grow. Priority is given to businesses demonstrating high-growth potential in terms of launching new products, entering new markets and increasing employment.

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

Application Process

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

Contact Details:

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/seed.aspx>

Scottish Loan Fund (SLF) Scottish Enterprise



Minimum award: £250,000
Maximum award: £5 million

Eligibility

The SLF will consider Scottish based SMEs with:

- Sustainable operating profits and positive cash generation
- Annual turnover of at least £1 million in the preceding 12 months of trading
- A proven management team operating in a growth sector

Restrictions apply to SLF investments for businesses in a limited number of sectors (mainly finance or property related). A full list eligibility terms and business sector restrictions are available here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/scottish-loan-fund.aspx>

Description

The Scottish Loan Fund (SLF) provides [mezzanine loans](#) ranging from £250,000 to £5 million to qualifying Scottish SMEs. The SLF is focused on established businesses that have growth potential or are engaged in exporting from Scotland. The Scottish Investment Bank has provided £55 million of cornerstone funding to the SLF, which is part financed by the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In addition £39.2 million of private sector investment has been generated, giving a cumulative fund value of £94.2 million. Maven Capital Partners has been selected to manage the SLF.

Application Process

To find out how to apply, visit the Maven website: <http://www.mavencp.com/scottish-loan-fund>

Contact details

To speak directly to a member of Maven's SLF Investment Team, call 0141 206 0121

Email: slfenquiries@mavencp.com

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/scottish-investment-bank/scottish-loan-fund.aspx>

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



Minimum award: £0
Maximum award: £600,000

Eligibility

Companies interested in applying must be SMEs based in Scotland with a technological advance of significance in its sector. The company must also have the rights to exploit the intellectual property and be in a position to make a commercial success of it but that financial assistance is essential.

Description

SMART: SCOTLAND provides discretionary grants to support technical and commercial feasibility studies, and research and development (R&D) projects.

For studies involving early stage R&D to enable informed decisions on the technical and commercial feasibility of a new product or process, support is available on a discretionary basis at up to 75 percent of the eligible project costs. Projects must last between 6 and 18 months, and the maximum grant is £70,000. One third of the grant is paid upfront when the project starts. The remainder is normally paid quarterly in arrears against claims submitted.

For projects that aim to develop a pre-production prototype of a new product or process, support is available on a discretionary basis at up to 35 percent of the eligible project costs. Projects must last between 6 and 36 months, and the maximum grant is £600,000. The grant is normally paid quarterly in arrears and minimum project costs should be £75,000.

Application process

Applications are initiated and managed online, using the following contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland/smart-how-do-i-apply.aspx>

Contact Details

Contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland/smart-contact-us.aspx>

Telephone: 08456078787

Useful Links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland.aspx>

Full Eligibility details are listed here: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/smart-scotland/smart-can-i-apply.aspx>

R&D Grant Scottish Enterprise



Minimum award: £0

Maximum award: £40,000 (up to 35% of project costs for SMEs, 25% of project costs for large companies)

Eligibility

Open to all SMEs based in Scotland. The Grant can only be used for projects that represent a significant innovation for the company concerned with a realistic route to market and suitable promise for commercial success. Companies must demonstrate that the grant will provide crucial financial support. Projects where the work has already started or commercial contracts are in place are not eligible.

Description

The R&D Grant supports businesses developing new products, processes and services to improve company competitiveness and to benefit the Scottish economy. Projects must represent a significant innovation for the company concerned and significant risks should be associated with the challenge of developing a new product, process or service. The selection process will also look at the wider picture, accounting for the broader possible impact of the project from securing jobs to how it will affect the environment.

Application process

The application process begins by contacting Scottish Enterprise. The process involves filling out an expression of interest form as well as a project proposal and business plan. These will all be reviewed by both internal and external assessors with both technical and financial expertise to ensure the project will be of a wider local benefit than just to the applicant company.

Contact Details

Email contact form: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/rd-grant/rd-grant-contact-us.aspx>

Telephone: 0845 607 8787

Useful links

Website: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/fund-your-business/innovation-and-rd-grants/rd-grant.aspx>

UKFunders



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

Eligibility

Open to all businesses

Description

UKFunders offers a number of services to companies looking for financing. Activities are based on a database of information collected on funding organisations providing finance to UK businesses, At cost, UKFunders can provide details and forecasts on specific sectors, details of finance deals recently completed, and a list of financing and grant programmes currently available.

UKFunders will also provide SMMT members with a free 30 minute consultation on available and best suited business financing options, along with relevant contact information. Only if finance or funding is successfully raised would a referral cost would be recovered.

Application process

In the first instance, please contact Pravish Patel at pravish.patel@ukfunders.co.uk

Contact details

Telephone: 0800 612 6768

For full contact details, please click [here](#).

Useful links

<http://about.ukfunders.co.uk/>

Venture Capital and Business Angels



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

Description

There are a range of venture capital companies and business angels that may invest in your business for a percentage share of your business.

It can prove a useful source of funding and business expertise.

During the next months SMMT will be compiling a list of companies with a willingness to invest in automotive and low carbon businesses. Until such time you should contact the relevant industry associations or ask your regional business link office for information about companies operating in your locality.

Contact Details

The British Business Angels Association
www.bbaa.org.uk

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

Business Growth Fund



Minimum award: £1m
Maximum award: £10m

Eligibility

The BGF will consider UK based companies with the following characteristics:

- Demonstrate a strong growth trajectory (10%+ annual growth)
- Turnover between £5m and £100m
- Requiring an investment between £2m to £10m

Description

In July 2010, the chief executives of some of the largest UK banks, including Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, RBS, Standard Chartered and the British Bankers' Association (BBA) set up a Business Finance Taskforce to consider what more could be done to help the UK return to sustainable growth. The initiative followed publication of government's green paper, 'Financing a private sector recovery' in July 2010. The BGF wants to work closely with the companies in which they invest over a 5-7 year period.

The BGF aims to work in partnership with a wide variety of organisations across the UK, forming strategic partnerships with business representative bodies, professional business advisers (including company lawyers and accountants), and national and regional governments.

The BGF is developing excellent working relationships with regional and local business chambers of commerce, business schools, Local Enterprise Partnerships and local councils. The BGF will install regional investment managers and will have strong connections with their local and regional business communities.

Application process

The application process begins by contacting the BGF directly. The process involves filling out an application form. This will all be reviewed and the BGF will make contact with you.

Contact Details

Email contact form: https://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk/downloads/BGF_Application_Form.pdf

Telephone: 0845 266 8860

Useful links

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

Link to the BGF webinar: <https://www.smmmt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services/support-services/webinars/business-growth-fund/>

The North West Fund



Minimum award: £50,000
Maximum award: £2million

Eligibility

SMEs based in, or relocating to the North West of England.

For full eligibility criteria, please click [here](#).

Description

The fund is broken down into six individually managed funds that provide debt and equity financing options to SMEs operating in the North West of England looking to develop their business:

- Venture capital
- Development capital
- Business Loans
- Digital Creative
- Energy & Environmental
- Biomedical

Whilst each fund has a specific focus, applications for businesses in all stages of development will be considered for investment. Businesses considered to be in “financial difficulty” will not be considered.

The Fund is financed by a £92.4m grant from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and a matched European Investment Bank loan, under the JEREMIE programme, which is expected to keep the fund open for investment until the end of 2015.

Application process

Applications are submitted online. Following that, the process will involve:

1. Initial review by a respective fund manager
2. Face to face meeting
3. Assessment by fund managers and deal structuring
4. Agreement of investment terms
5. Conduct a due diligence assessment
6. Legal documentation completed
7. Completion
8. Ongoing support and monitoring

For full details, please click [here](#).

Contact Details

To contact the fund, please click [here](#).

Alternatively, contact 01925 418 232

Useful links

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

Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering



Minimum award: £1million
Maximum award: £1million

Eligibility

Internationally open to an individual or team of up to three people responsible for a groundbreaking advance in engineering.

Description

The prize came about through government recognition of a need for an initiative to highlight UK engineering excellence to the world.

The award is open to any individual or team up to three people that have achieved a groundbreaking engineering advancement. The award is for £1million, which will be run every two years.

The prize will be judged by an internationally recognised panel of experts and will be presented by the Queen in Spring 2013.

Application process

Applications close on 14 September 2012

Contact information

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

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

Useful links

<http://qeprize.org/>

Panasonic Trust Awards



Minimum award: N/A

Maximum award: up to 50% of course fees

Eligibility

Open to qualified engineers who are EU citizens or have permanent residency in the UK.

Description

This scheme provides grants for professional development and retraining of qualified engineers with a focus on developing understanding and skills of new engineering developments and technologies.

Funding is directed at individuals wishing to study part-time modular Masters' degree courses provided by UK universities, which are designed to develop or update knowledge and skills in new or emerging technologies and fields of engineering, manufacturing, materials science, environmental technology and IT.

Courses employing distance learning or internet based techniques as well as conventional teaching methods are also eligible.

Application Information

Applicants must be supported by both their Course Director/Tutor and line manager at their current employer to confirm that they are suitable for the course and it will benefit their professional development. This information should be submitted in electronic form by email.

Applications should be completed at least four weeks before the commencement of the course to enable a decision to be made in good time. Full details and instructions for applications can be found at:

<http://www.panasonictrust.net/common/instructions.aspx?s=awards>

The award of a grant is entirely at the discretion of the Selection Committee with any decision of the Committee being final on all matters.

Contact Details

ian.bowbrick@raeng.org.uk

Useful Links

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

Application form: <http://www.panasonictrust.net/awards/appform.aspx>

Shell Springboard



Minimum award: £20,000
Maximum award: £40,000

Eligibility

To be eligible, businesses need to:

- Be established UK based SMEs or partnerships
- Have a project which is their own and/or which they are free to disclose
- Have a project that has not been previously supported by a Shell Springboard award

Description

Shell Springboard supports innovative low carbon business ideas with a cash injection of up to £40,000. Entrants are divided into three regional areas, the South of England, the North of England and Scotland. Each has a winner who will receive between £20,000 and £40,000. These are then put forward to be named the National Winner. Ideas need to be based around a product or service which will lead to greenhouse gas emissions reductions, is commercially viable and is innovative. Judges also take into consideration the likely material impact that the Springboard award will have on your project and the credibility of the team behind the project.

Application Process

Applications are run through the website on an online form. Applications can be reviewed and amended all the way up to the deadline. Applications are then assessed before short-listing and eventual winners being picked for the three regional events. The three successful winners are then put forward to be judged for the national award.

Contact details

help@shellspringboard.org

Telephone: 0870 850 7085

Useful Links

Main website: <http://www.shellspringboard.org/home/>

Full eligibility: <http://www.shellspringboard.org/applications/eligibility>

FAQ: <http://www.shellspringboard.org/applications/applicationsFAQ>

Programme List

	Funding	Finance	Support	LOW CO2	International	SME Specific	R&D	Other
Programme Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Framework Programme FP7	✓						✓	
Eurostars Programme	✓						✓	
ERA-NET Transport Programme	✓						✓	
Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH) Joint Technology	✓			✓			✓	
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP)	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
European Investment Fund (EIF)		✓				✓	✓	✓
European Clean Transport Facility (ECFT)		✓					✓	
Individual Loan from European Investment Bank		✓					✓	✓
Risk Sharing Finance Scheme (RSFF)		✓					✓	✓
Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE)		✓				✓		
Collaborative Research & Development Projects: TSB	✓						✓	✓
Grant for Research and Development Scheme	✓					✓	✓	
Small Business Research Initiative: TSB	✓						✓	✓

Knowledge Transfer Networks			✓					
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	✓					✓	✓	✓
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	✓						✓	✓
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS)	✓							✓
Enterprise Zones								✓
National Loan Guarantee Scheme		✓				✓		
Regional Growth Fund: BIS	✓					✓		✓
Grant for Research & Development: BIS	✓						✓	
Grant for Business Investment: BIS	✓							✓
Enterprise Finance Guarantee: BIS		✓				✓		
Finance for Business : BIS		✓	✓			✓		
Designing Demand: BIS			✓			✓		✓
Improving your resource efficiency: BIS			✓	✓				
The Manufacturing Advisory Service: BIS			✓					
Innovation Advice & Guidance: BIS			✓					✓
Coaching for High Growth SMEs: BIS			✓			✓		

Understanding Finance for Business: BIS			✓			✓		
Work Place Training, inc apprenticeships: BIS			✓			✓		✓
Enterprise Capital Funds: BIS		✓						
Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF): UKCES	✓							✓
R&D Relief for Corporation Tax: HMRC			✓				✓	✓
Enterprise Investment Scheme: HMRC		✓	✓					
Capital Allowance Investment Scheme: HMRC			✓					
Enhanced Capital Allowances: HMRC			✓	✓				
Time to Pay Arrangements: HMRC			✓					
Patent Box: HMRC			✓				✓	
CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme: DECC			✓	✓				
Plugged-in Car Grant: OLEV			✓	✓				
Green Bus Fund: DfT			✓	✓				
Lambert Tool Kit: Intellectual Property Office			✓				✓	
Developing your International Trade Potential: UKTI			✓		✓	✓		
Tradeshow Assistance Programme: UKTI			✓		✓			

Overseas Market Introduction Services: UKTI			✓		✓			
Passport to Export: UKTI			✓		✓			
Gateway to Global Growth: UKTI			✓		✓	✓		
Export Communications Review: British Chambers of Commerce			✓		✓	✓		
Export Marketing Research Scheme: British Chambers of Commerce			✓		✓	✓		
Export Credits Guarantee Department: British Chambers of Commerce		✓			✓			✓
Applied Research Grant: Carbon Trust	✓			✓			✓	
Business Incubator: Carbon Trust			✓	✓				
Entrepreneur Fast Track: Carbon Trust	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
0% Business Loans: Carbon Trust		✓		✓		✓		
Venture Capital Investments: Carbon Trust		✓		✓			✓	
Energy Efficiency Financing: Carbon Trust		✓	✓	✓				
Scottish Co-investment Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		
Scottish Venture Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		
Scottish Seed Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		
Scottish Loan Fund: Scottish Enterprise		✓				✓		

SMART: Scotland: Scottish Enterprise	✓					✓	✓	
R&D Grant: Scottish Enterprise	✓					✓	✓	
UKFunders	✓	✓	✓					
Venture Capital and Business Angels		✓						
Business Growth Fund		✓	✓					✓
The North West Fund		✓				✓		
Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering							✓	✓
Panasonic Trust Awards	✓							
Shell Springboard	✓			✓		✓		