

Automation that works for you.

Update on the Automated Distribution & Manufacturing Centre (ADMC)

26 January 2024

Andy Dean, ADMC Project Manager www.theadmc.co.uk

ADMC Vision

The ADMC aims to be a national centre of excellence for automation, based in Ashfield and for the Midlands region.

ADMC Mission

The ADMC will work with businesses to create and implement bespoke automation strategies and solutions that improve productivity and enable prosperity and growth.













Background

- £44m project (£20m investment plus £24m future match over 10 years).
- Flagship Ashfield District Council Towns Fund project.
- 3,500sqm GFA building.
- Centre piece of a dedicated Innovation and Technology Park adjacent to Lowmoor Road.
- Due to open in September 2025.
- Working in partnership to deliver automation support now.















Why Ashfield?

- Can draw on a strong manufacturing and growing distribution base.
- Is well located being adjacent to the A38 and M1, within the East Midlands Combined Authority Investment Zone, close to the East Midlands Freeport and within easy access to the key Midlands conurbations.
- Offers significant potential benefits to local and regional businesses.
- Provides an opportunity to make a tangible difference to the local economy through growth, inward investment and upskilling.













You Spoke, We Listened

- Significant market insight review undertaken.
- Demand for automation and skills to support it is growing.
- ADMC offer shaped by business feedback incorporating the needs of local and regional businesses.
- Input from automation technology suppliers.
- Four pillars of activity have been identified.













What will the ADMC Do?

Pillar 1 - Research and Development (R&D)

- Collaborative R&D using UK Government and European funding.
- Privately funded bespoke R&D.
- NTU is a strategic partner.

Pillar 2 - Prototyping and Proof of Principle

- Concept development to define the project scope and objectives.
- Structured work planning.
- Modelling potential outcomes and solutions.
- Prototyping to provide surety that an automated solution will work.













What will the ADMC Do?

Pillar 3 - Showcasing and Demonstration

- Increasing awareness and understanding of automation benefits.
- Based on strong partnerships with hardware, software and ancillary equipment suppliers as well as systems integrators.
- Potential for co-location.

Pillar 4 - Skills and Training

- Helping to create the automation workforce of the future.
- Accredited programmes through strategic partners WNC and NTU.
- Non-certified industry focused courses delivered by the ADMC and selected third party members.





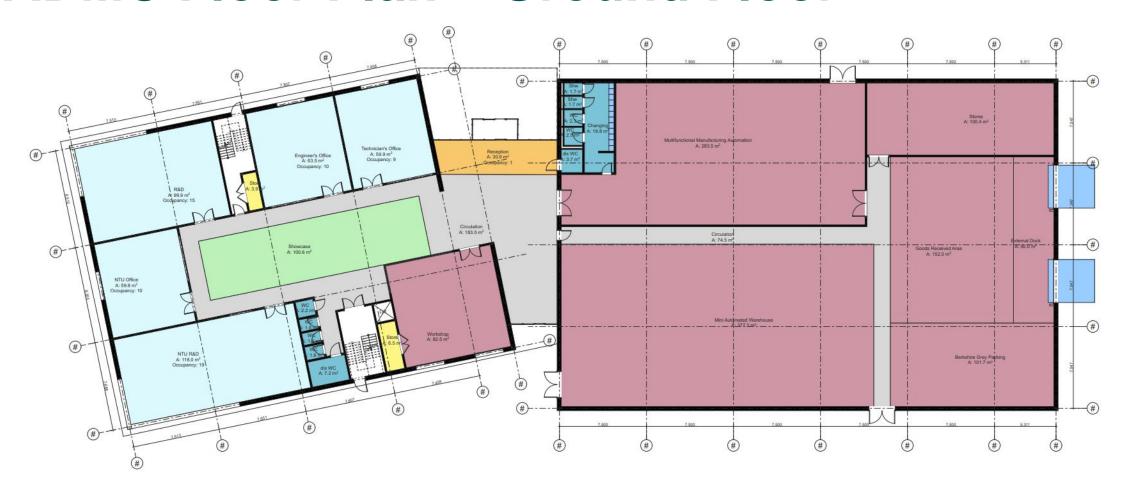








ADMC Floor Plan – Ground Floor









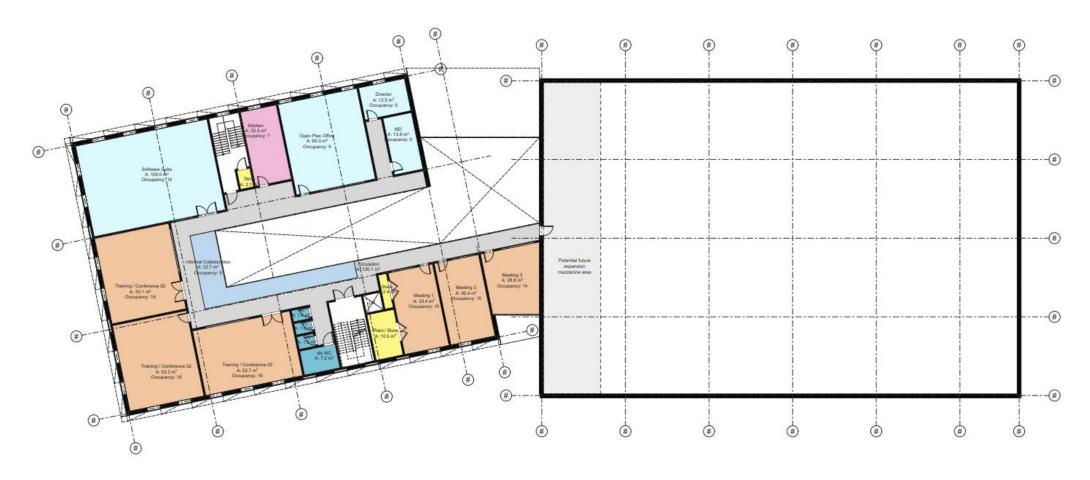






Automation that works for you.

ADMC Floor Plan – First Floor















ADMC 'Next Steps' Plan

To start to assist companies NOW stimulating their automation agendas.

- Challenges & needs that automation could address.
- Diagnostics resource.
- Solutions paths.

ADMC team is working with specific partners who can assist now, ahead of the ADMC being ready.













Theme Groups

Three industry-based Theme Groups will work with the ADMC to specify in detail the ADMC offer and facilities ahead of procurement.

- Technology Users.
- Technology Suppliers.
- Skills & Training.

Opportunity to join these groups is still available.













Questions?

From ADMC

- Do you have opportunities/challenges that could benefit from automation?
- Do you need specific support now?

We would be pleased to visit and discuss your automation needs at your convenience.

Andy Dean, ADMC Project Manager andy.dean@ashfield.gov.uk 07920 563820



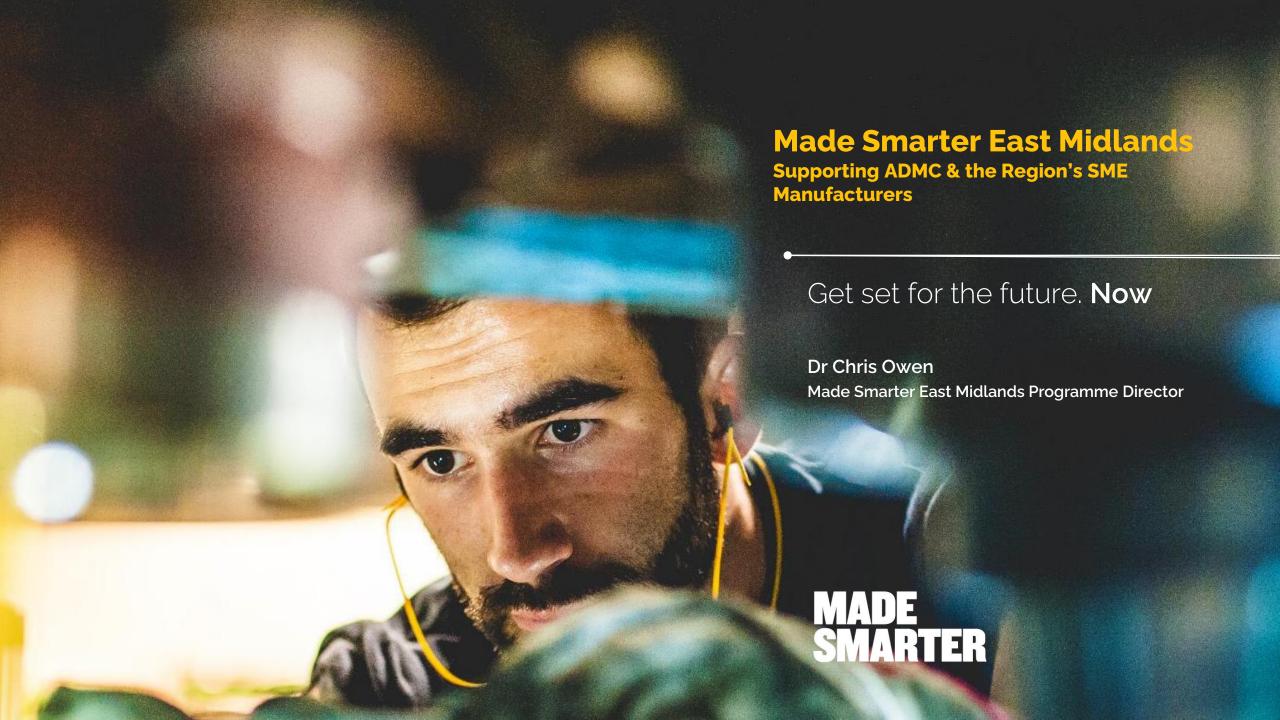












Contents

- Programme details
- Eligibility
- Customer journey & programme elements
- Types of projects supported
- How to get involved

Made Smarter helps makers keep their competitive edge, with digital tools that help people make an everyday difference to their business.



...and now available in the East Midlands

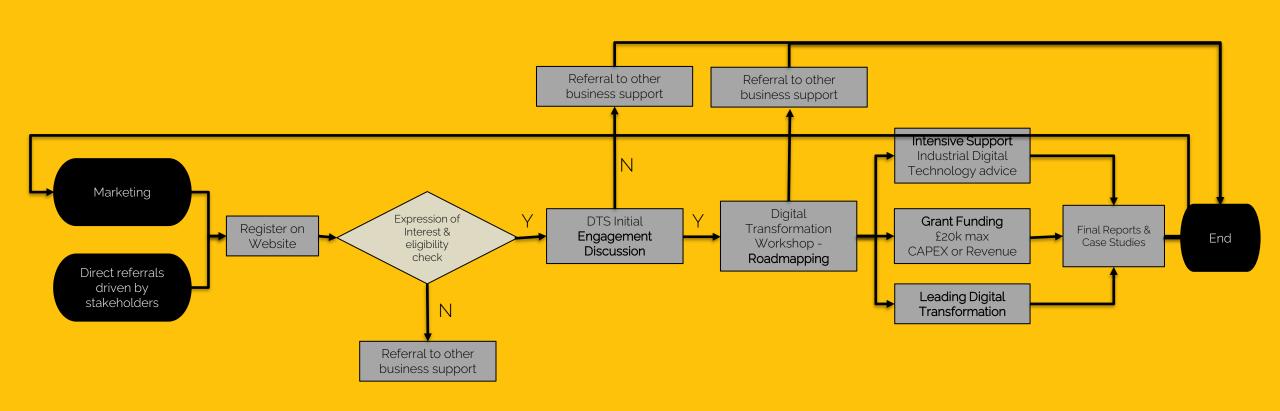
Key Programme Details

- £3m of HM Government Investment
- Programme launched 12th December 2022 First EOIs managed
- Programme closes 31st March 2025
- Over 400 engagements with Manufacturing SMEs across the East Midlands region
- Over 130 Manufacturers undertaking free Digital Transformation Road Mapping
- 80 Manufacturers to receive free intensive technical advice and expertise
- Over 50 grants available for CAPEX or Revenue Projects
- 36 Places available for the "Leading Digital Transformation Programme"

Eligibility

- Must be a Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise
 - Micro & Small
 - Headcount 1-49
 - Turnover or Balance Sheet < €10m
 - Medium
 - Headcount 50-249
 - Turnover or Balance Sheet < €50m
- Must be a Manufacturer A maker of a product
- For companies which have group structures please discuss with the Made Smarter East Midlands Programme Office
- Must be within Greater Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire

Customer Journey



Road Mapping - Your Digital Transformation Plan

- Business Strategy/Plan review
- Business Operations and Capabilities
- Organisational Culture
- Business Challenges
- Digital Readiness Level (DRL) Assessment
- Digital Roadmap A plan to digitalise the business, where to start, sequence, logic
- Initial Implementation What to focus on first and any support needed from MS

Intensive Support - Specialist impartial advice

- Support Initial Implementation plan developed during Road Mapping
- Average 4 days (40 hours) of expert support free of charge for larger companies
- 10 Hour packages for Micro size companies
- Experts available across 9 disciplines
 - Additive Manufacturing (3D printing)
 - AR & VR
 - Big Data & Analytics
 - Cognitive Computing & AI (machine learning)
 - Data & Systems Integration
 - Industrial Cyber Security
 - Internet of Things/ CPS (sensors, Barcode, QRCode, RFID, NFC, bluetooth etc)
 - Mobile Devices & Wearables
 - Robotics Process Control & Automation

Grant Funding

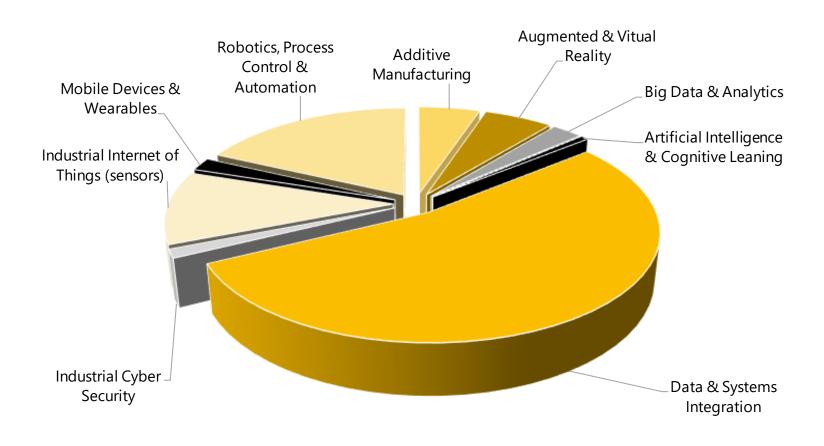
- To be used to support implementation of the Road Map and/or the Initial Implementation Plan
- CAPEX or Revenue
- £20k max
- 1 Grant per company
- Minimum of 50% match
- Claimed and paid in one single stage

Leading Digital Transformation

- 3 Month programme
- 8 Bite-sized workshops
- Cohorts of 12 Manufacturing leaders All leading digital transformation
- Must have completed Road Mapping & Digital Readiness Level Assessment

Session 1	Session 2 & 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8
Contextualizing your Digital Transformation	Strength Based Leadership	Creating the Digital Manufacturing Future you Want	Leading Digital Change	Leading Practice in Digital Transformation	Agile Project Planning for Success	Capstone Review

Types of projects supported by Made Smarter



Projects supported by Made Smarter East Midlands



Jig UK Ltd.

"Boosting Productivity & Capacity"

"Due to increasing demand we needed to boost production capacity and improve productivity"

How Made Smarter helped: Made Smarter provided road mapping and grant funding to support process automation and robotics, process control, use of bar coding and vision systems.

What was the outcome: Jig UK are now well on the way to a three-fold increase in production capacity







Global Rocket Ventures Ltd.

"Data & Systems Integration"

"We had many software applications but lacked the ability to get one single overall view of the business from top to bottom"

How Made Smarter helped: Made Smarter provided road mapping and grant funding to purchase software solutions which could be integrated to improve end-to-end data flows across all functions of the business

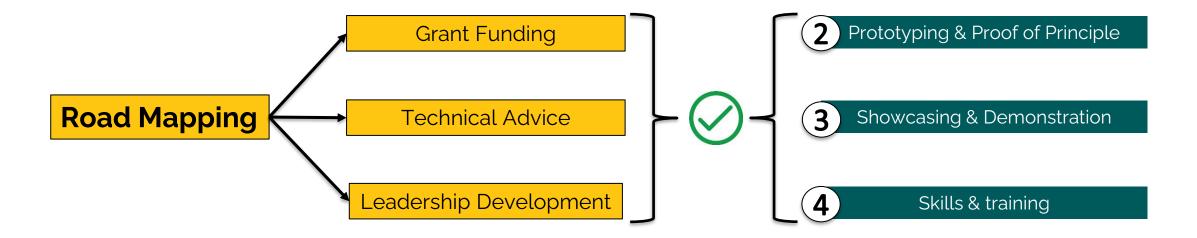
What was the outcome: Global Rocket Ventures now have one single set of top level management dashboards from sales leads to cash and seamless flows of operational data across all company functions to help them manage day-to-day execution of work.

Made Smarter East Midlands – Supporting ADMC





Research & Development



Made Smarter East Midlands - The story so far...

Made Smarter East Midlands was launched just one year ago...

400 Expressions of Interest

80+

Companies creating
Digital Road Maps for
their business

£1m Invested

Grant Funding

- Data & systems integrations
- Robotics
- Process control & automation
- CAD & Simulation
- Additive Manufacturing

Free Technical Expertise Delivered

- Data & Systems Integrations
- Sensors, barcodes, mobile devices
 - Process efficiency & capacity

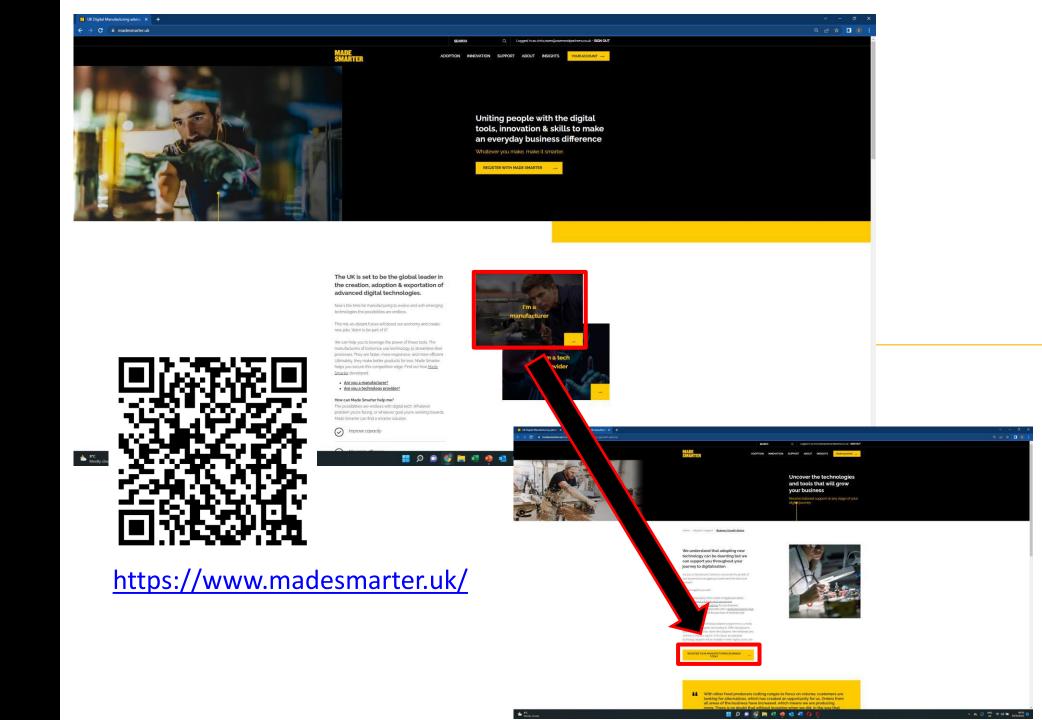
160+

Digital Transformation
Specialist Engagements
with Manufacturers

Leading Digital Transformation 2024 Programme -Filling quickly

Get involved

How to make an expression of interest



Get involved

Connect with us



company/made-smarter-east-midlands



@MadeSmarterEM



https://www.facebook.com/MadeSmarterEM

- News
- Events e.g. Technology Transfer Workshops
- Case studies
- Advice
- Helpful links to all things digital





Get set for the future. Now

Q & A

Thank you for your attention

Join Made Smarter East Midlands

Dr Chris Owen chris.owen@owenandpartners.co.uk Programme Director



Paul Humphreys

Head of Innovation Services
East Midlands Chamber





Topics I'll cover

East Midlands Accelerator Programme

East Midlands Manufacturing Network

Innovate UK, The UK's Innovation Agency



The Accelerator project provides support to businesses across the East Midlands to help them start, sustain, grow and innovate.





Getting Involved

- 600 EOI's to date
- Simple engagement process
- 5 themes Start-Up, Sustainability, High Street, Innovation & Financial
- Contact East Midlands Chamber

Ashfield Accelerator



- Help with Net Zero SMEs will be supported by a consultant to identify their carbon footprint and to develop a practical action plan
 to make energy efficiency improvements. Micro and small sized business can also access a capital grant of up to £3,000 to help
 them implement agreed energy improvement measures.
- **Help with Innovation and Digital Technology –** Enable SME's to explore and adopt new technologies and take advantage of any national programmes such as Innovate UK EDGE and Made Smarter.
- **Help with trading overseas** SMEs will receive 1-on-1 support from a specialist consultant to assist them with finding and accessing new markets, sourcing suppliers and distributors to strengthen supply chains reducing operational costs, and to identify any international trade fair.
- **Help with sourcing grants** Advisers will assist SMEs to identify and apply for available funding opportunities which will support commercial growth by increasing operational efficiencies.
- **Growth vouchers** Providing up to £2,000 (100% funded) for specialist 1-on-1 consultancy services which are linked to strategic plans developed with a business adviser. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis.





east midlands manufacturing network



Nottinghamshire Manufacturing Network

- 77 are registered to attend the North Nottinghamshire network. 31 of the 77 are Ashfield District Council located. 36
- The network is hosted by NTU at their campus at Vision West Notts just outside Mansfield. The network is Chaired by Mark Goldby
- We have approximately 320 people registered across the East Midlands network

Innovate UK The UK's Innovation Agency



Innovate UK – Driving Business Growth

Vision: UK to be a global hub for innovation by 2035.

Built on five strategic themes:

- Future Economy
- Growth at Scale
- Global Opportunities
- Innovation Ecosystem
- Government Levers

We work to:

INSPIRE innovative businesses to create value though innovation

INVOLVE talented organisations and people to create a vibrant and successful innovation ecosystem

INVEST in innovation to make a clearly tangible positive impact on the UK's economy and society



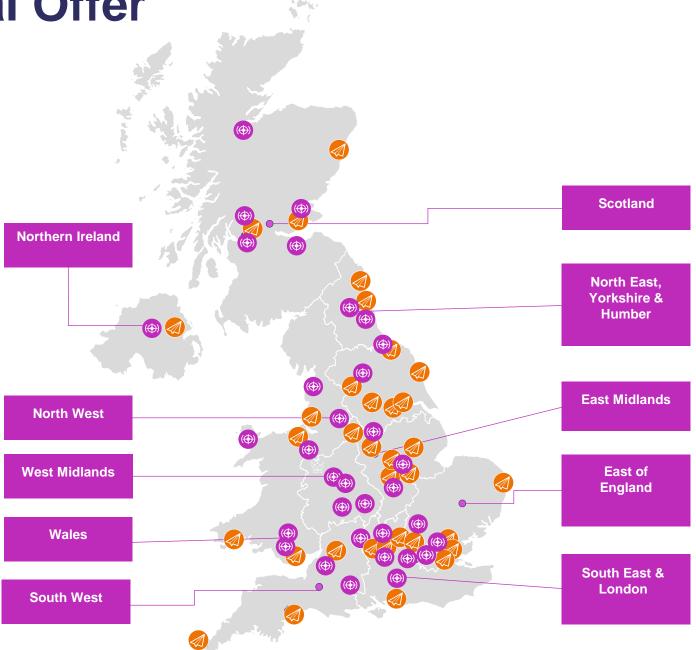
Place: Strong Regional Offer

From funding and advisory services to facility and technology access, Innovate UK and our partners offer innovation support to businesses across every national and region in the UK.

The geographical distribution of our staff and facilities ensures we engage place-based stakeholders and meet the needs of the regions and nations of the UK.







Domain: Digital and Technologies

"Innovate UK is unleashing the power of technology and creativity for the UK growth. The adoption and diffusion of emerging technologies, underpinned with our strong foundations in research, is impacting business growth from manufacturing to transport, healthcare to creative technologies."





Domain: Net Zero

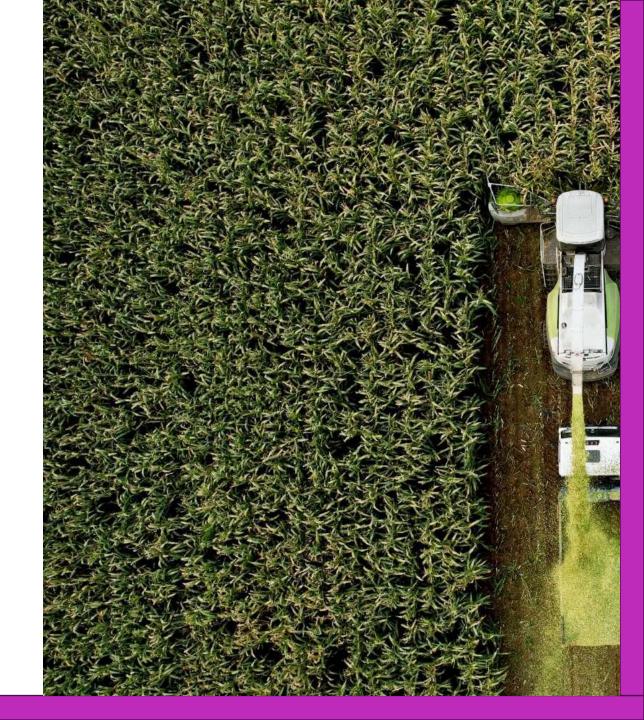
"We want the UK to prosper from being the economy that transitions fastest to net zero, and the first economy to realise energy-secure, low-carbon growth."





Domain: Healthy Living and Agriculture

"Our vision is to enable people to live longer healthier lives by driving transformational change in food production, wellness, early detection and treatment of disease, to underpin population health and drive economic growth in the U.K"





Innovate UK – Breakdown of Services



Access to Funding & Finance

Innovation competitions

Filter competitions	
Keywords	
Innovation area	
Any	,
Any	
Update results	

35 competitions

Creative Catalyst 2024

UK registered micro or small businesses in the creative industries sector can apply for funding of up to £50,000 with a package of tailored support to grow their business. This fully funded grant programme is from Innovate UK.

Eligibility

This competition is open to single applicants only.

To lead a project you must:

- be a UK registered micro or small business
- have not previously received funding from Innovate UK
- be from, or support, the creative industries sector
- have a demonstrable ambition for growth
- engage with Innovate UK EDGE to maximise growth opportunities



Click here to view funding opportunities

Priority Service Areas

Each small to mid-sized business is supported by a dedicated Innovation & Growth Specialist, helping to identify the most productive ways to accelerate innovation & growth.

Funding & finance support is performed through our Ecosystem & Innovation Specialists:

Our growth and scale support



Exploit innovation to grow and > scale

Protect & harness your IP, improve innovation management and access the innovation ecosystem globally through our expertise & networks.



Source funding & finance to > grow and scale

Find the best option and get investment ready with our help, to propel your growth.



Enter new markets to grow and scale

Connections & guidance to expand into vertical & international markets and achieve scale.



UK CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

east midlands chamber

Top Tips for Growth

- Commit to your plan
- Involve others
- Surround yourself with positive people
- It's OK not to have all the answers
- Staying connected and visible to your networks can be "game changing"

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Enterprising Ashfield

Supporting local people, businesses and their employees to establish and grow new enterprise, develop their skills, and connect with local graduate and apprenticeship talent.







What is it?

NTU is delivering the **Enterprising Ashfield** project as part of Ashfield District Council's successful Government Towns Fund bid and is available to businesses, residents, and employees within the Sutton in Ashfield and Kirkby in Ashfield Towns Fund areas.

This project will run until March 2026 and will be a comprehensive, dynamic, and responsive programme, building direct access to university research, expertise, and facilities. It will provide support to enhance business productivity and improve the skills of local residents and employees.











Sue Edwards – Innovation Advisor – Knowledge Exchange

- Website: https://www.ntu.ac.uk/business-and-employers/financial-and-funded-support/enterprising-ashfield
- Facebook: <u>facebook.com/enterprisingashfield</u>
- Email: sue.edwards@ntu.ac.uk
- **Direct Phone**: 0115 848 6008

NTU

- Email: sue.edwards@ntu.ac.uk
- Your link to academic expertise and Innovation and Research funding at zero cost
- Projects funded so far with a commercial value of up to £20,000 with up to 200 hours
 of free consultancy and support.

Support available for businesses...

Growth Programme

Supporting earlystage businesses
who are
experiencing rapid
growth or want to
be more
productive. The
support is fully
funded and
available for any
size of business.

Skills Programme

Providing bespoke training programmes to upskill workforces, support continued professional development and plug skill gaps.

Graduate recruitment

Businesses can receive a grant of £2,500 towards the salary of a recent graduate who undertakes a placement for up to 12 weeks.

Apprenticeships at NTU

Advice to understand and implement higher and degree apprenticeships in a range of priority industries and disciplines.

R&D collaboration

Opportunity to collaborate with NTU experts to undertake specific research and development activities or access our state-of-the-art facilities.

Colleagues available today

- Check if you are in the eligible area
- Enrol today
- Access all strands
- Adrian Growth
- Kieran Talent
- Jaz Apprenticeships
- Amy Short and Bespoke Courses
- Kelvin Project Lead







Innovation and Research funding at zero cost

- How does it work?
 - Bespoke projects to respond to challenges in your business
 - Each individually negotiated between business and academic experts 100% designed just for you
 - Option to add on support from a Graduate Talent Grant to bring additional skills into your business to compliment your existing workforce for up to 12 weeks (matchfunded – minimum cost £2500)
 - Any problem, any innovation, anything that is impacting on your business or forms part of your growth vision.
 - Fully supported at all stages by myself and the wider EA team







Dr Patrick Barber – NTU Mansfield

Principal Lecturer, General Engineering

School of Science and Technology, Mansfield University Centre, NG18 5BH

E mail : <u>Patrick.barber@ntu.ac.uk</u>







NTU Skills and Training

- NTU Mansfield Hub
- Providing HNC and HND's in Engineering both PT and Full time
- Providing a BEng(Hons) Engineering Management
- Working with West Nottinghamshire College to provide a higher apprenticeship in Manufacturing Engineering
- Developing course in Robotics and Automation







Placements and Employment

- Access to Placement Students
- Recruitment Assistance Available in Recruiting NTU Graduates







Thank you

• Questions?





