Supporting Business Innovation

Nigel Walker
Access to Finance
Technology Strategy Board
“The Technology Strategy Board is the UK’s national innovation agency. Our goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation.”
Our Strategy focuses on five key areas

1. Accelerating the journey between concept and commercialisation
2. Connecting the innovation landscape
3. Turning government action into business opportunity
4. Investing in priority areas based on potential
5. Continuously improving our capability
Where do we invest?
Projected Programme Budget 2014/15
Who gets the money (£ awarded)

- 0%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%
- 60%
- 70%
- 80%
- 90%
- 100%

2009 2010 2011

Unkown
SME
Large Company
Academia
Our Toolset

Range of Tools with different objectives / characteristics
Innovation Vouchers
Innovation Vouchers

The Innovation Voucher can enable your business to access knowledge for all types of innovation – for example:

- ideas for new or improved products, processes and services
- using design to improve your ideas
- managing your intellectual property
Who can apply?

• you need to be a start-up, micro or small and medium-sized business located in the UK
• it should be the first time that you have worked with your selected knowledge supplier
• the idea should be a challenge for your business that requires specialist help
• your idea must be applicable to one of the thematic areas
Innovation Vouchers – next round

Applications are invited from businesses in these areas:

- Agrifood
- Built Environment
- Energy, Water and Waste
- Open Data Innovators and Inventors
- Cyber Security

- voucher value up to £5k
- October, January, April, July entries
Smart
• A grant scheme to support projects at key stages of development
• Open to businesses from all sectors and all technologies
• For single company, UK based SMEs - open to Pre start-ups and Start-ups
• Always open for applications
• Fast process - 30 day decision turnaround, projects start as soon as 20 days after decision
• It is competitive! Only the best, most innovative and commercially promising ideas will get funding
• **Proof of Market**  
  – assess commercial viability  
  – market research  
  – initial planning for commercialisation

• **Proof of Concept**  
  – initial feasibility studies  
  – basic prototyping, specialist testing and or demonstration  
  – investigation of production options.  
  – Pre-clinical research studies

• **Development of Prototype**  
  – pre-production prototype  
  – IP protection  
  – trials and testing (including clinical)  
  – identifying routes to market
**Features of KTP**

- Project duration between 6 months and 3 years
- Associate recruited jointly but employed by knowledge base partner
- Associate located wholly or mainly at business premises with Business Supervisor
- KB Supervisor spends approx. half a day per week at the business premises
Biomedical Catalyst

- Joint Technology Strategy Board and Medical Research Council programme investing £180m over 3 years

- Delivers growth to the UK life sciences sector through supporting and driving the development of innovative life sciences products and services

- Supports both academically- and commercially-led research and development and encourages partnership between clinicians, academics and industry

- Aims to move innovative life sciences products and services quicker and more effectively to commercialisation – and ultimately healthcare

Watch the video on http://ow.ly/bz2Da
Biomedical Catalyst

• Open to both business led and academic led projects

• Feasibility Award
  – enables the exploration and evaluation of the commercial potential of an early-stage scientific idea

• Early Stage Award
  – to evaluate the technical feasibility of an idea and establish proof of concept in a model system

• Late Stage Award
  – takes a well-developed concept and demonstrates its effectiveness in a relevant environment
• Open competitions addressing Public Sector challenges
• Applications assessed and most promising ones awarded development contracts
• Project risk is managed through a phased process
  – Phase 1 Proof of Feasibility: 2 - 9mths & £20k to £100k
  – Phase 2 Prototype Development: up to 2 years and £1M (depends on challenge)
• 100% funded
• IP rests with the company
• Possibility of long term contracts
• Competitions within specific technology themes
• Supports collaboration between businesses and between businesses and academia
• Open to businesses of any size including Start-ups and Micros
• £25k - £1m grant
• Programmes run from few weeks up to 2/3 years
• Intervention rate varies – typically 50% - 60%
Catapult Centres

Business-focused centres that make world-leading technical capability available to businesses to solve their technical challenges

The Catapults will provide:

• Access to world-leading technology & expertise
• Access to world-leading science
• Capability to undertake collaborative R&D projects and contract research with business
• Strongly business focused with a professional delivery ethos
• Critical mass of activity creating a focal point
• Skills development at all levels
Seven Catapult Centres have now been announced:

- High Value Manufacturing
- Cell Therapy
- Offshore Renewable Energy
- Satellite Applications
- Connected Digital Economy
- Future Cities
- Transport
# Knowledge Transfer Networks

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Welcome to _connect

Welcome to _connect. This new platform, brought to you by the Technology Strategy Board, provides an effective and powerful way for you to collaborate online, network and share knowledge with other innovators.

Join _connect
_connect Investment Network

Investment Network
Community Network

Welcome to the Investment Network.

The aim of this network is to bring together businesses who are seeking private sector investors, as well as those providing and seeking investment opportunities. We hope that this network will act as a magnet to attract entrepreneurs, business angels, venture capitalists, lenders and professional advisors – to find information, to share ideas and to make connections.

As this network develops, we will aim to bring useful content, to relate news and ideas and encourage blogging through discussions, notify people of events and establish groups relating to specific activities.

In the “Our Network” section we have placed some content and useful links that we hope will be useful for entrepreneurs seeking to ask the right questions about Access to Finance.

Newest members

- Mike Pitts, Sustainability Manager
- Praveen Kumar, Joined: 06 September
- Kate Lowes, CTO, Joined: 03 September
- Richard Hall, Chief Executive, Joined: 29 August
- Mark Edwards, Joined: 29 August
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