



THE ADVANCED MACHINERY  
& PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE

# Innovation for Machinery (I4M)

Round 2 | Research Partner Brief

Emma Green

November 2024



UK Research  
and Innovation

# I4M Overview

- The Innovation for Machinery (I4M) scheme provides SME businesses in Greater Manchester (GM) and West Yorkshire (WY) with access to advanced machinery\* expertise to accelerate the development of the next generation of machinery and create new jobs and growth in this sector.
- I4M aims to encourage the development of new manufacturing technology within advanced machinery, robotics, automation, or associated industries†.
- This scheme is managed by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) on behalf of the AMPI and funded through UKRI's Strength in Places Fund.
- The scheme is designed to remove the barriers to innovation funding for SMEs‡.

## Notes:

\* Advanced machinery refers to technologically advanced equipment and systems used for manufacturing, production, and other complex operations. These machines incorporate innovative technologies to improve efficiency, accuracy, productivity, flexibility, and safety in industrial processes.

† [See scope details](#)

‡ Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are defined in the [EU recommendation 2003/361](#)



# Scope

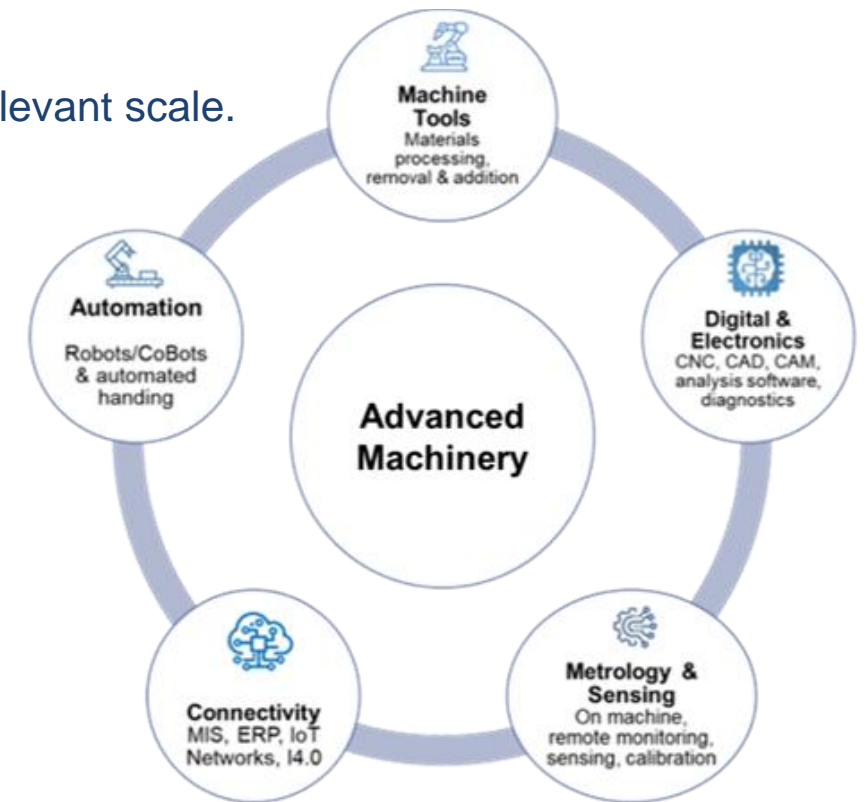
Projects **must** focus on delivering advancements in machinery for manufacturing.

## They must also look to:

- show clear benefit technically and demonstrate innovation at an industrially relevant scale.
- demonstrate clear market opportunity and a credible route to that market
- show clear benefit in creating or safeguarding jobs.

## They should aim to:

- develop new technology for use in current or future products
- develop and disseminate best practices to support industry
- demonstrate improvement in business productivity and competitiveness
- enhance capabilities within the broader advanced machinery industry



# Scope

## Target machinery industries *could* include:

- machine tool manufacturers
- robotics manufacturers
- other machine\* manufacturers  
\* Machine \* Advanced machinery which makes, or supports the manufacture of, 'something'.
- machine control system manufacturers
- providers of digitalisation systems for manufacturing, including sensing and control
- machinery subsystems manufacturers
- automation system manufacturers

## Target technologies for machinery *could* include:

- machine tool, robotic, and automation systems
- advanced controllers and PLCs
- in-situ and in-process measurement systems
- intelligent software systems
- on-machine sensor networks
- true digital twins of machinery
- hybrid and reconfigurable systems
- sustainable† machine development

† Environmentally sustainable e.g., circular processes, recycling etc.

# Funding Streams

## Stream 1: Research Route

- Enables **access machinery expertise at no cost** from NPL or any university based in the GM or WY.
- Provides funding of up to £50,000 in project costs direct to the selected deliverer.
- Project must involve at least one university or NPL based in the GM and WY regions.

## Stream 2: Consultancy Route

- Supports companies to procure **consultancy, services, or training to support a machinery project.**
- I4M will provide funding of up to £10,000 on a 50% match funded basis.
- Funding is for purchased services only (excludes materials, equipment, T&S, etc. and must be used to support a machinery development project that meets the fund scope.
- Services can be sought from any company in the UK offering eligible services.

# Eligibility

Lead organisation must be a UK registered SME in GM or WY

Project work must be carried out in GM or WY

Projects must intend to exploit results from or in the UK

Projects can include partners that do not receive funding

Projects must start 3 months following approval

Projects must last between 3-6 months and finish by June 2026

A business can only lead ONE application. A university/NPL cannot lead

Previous beneficiaries are only eligible for Stream 2

# Out of Scope

We will not fund projects that:

- are outside of the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire regions
- do not meet the eligibility or scope or are not industry led
- do not collaborate with a university/NPL based inside the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire regions (relevant for Stream 1 only)
- are capital expenditure or infrastructure projects
- do not evidence the potential for their idea to lead to significant return on investment (ROI), positive economic and regional impact, growth and scale-up of the business

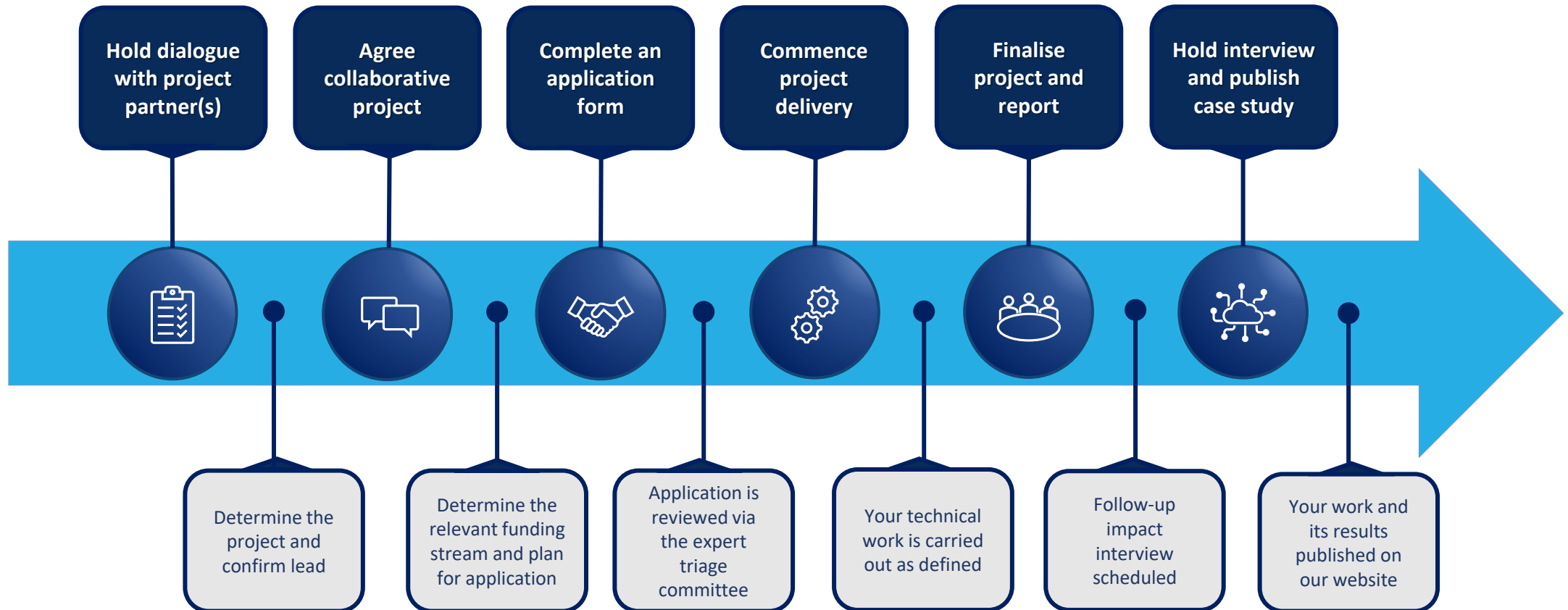
# Key Information

- This is an assessed process with a defined budget; therefore, funding is not guaranteed. All applications will be assessed by a triage committee.
- Should a company require support in developing their project, submitting their application, or finding a collaboration or service provider, AMPI will support.
- All applications must be made through the I4M portal on the AMPI website. Please read the full scope and eligibility criteria on the website before applying.





# Process Flow



# Expectations

## Process Stages 1-2

### APPLICATION

- Contact the AMPI Engagement Manager to spot any potential opportunities.
- Start conversations with potential companies and their possible projects.
- Confirm you have resource available to support.
- Support lead partner companies through the application as required.
- Confirm that the project is clearly impactful and viable prior to submitting.



### TRIAGE

- Support lead partner companies to provide the Triage Committee with further information, where/if requested.
- Prepare to answer several proposal questions on resources, finances and work breakdown (should the application be successful and approved).

# Expectations

## Process Stages 3-4

### LEGAL & FINANCE

- Complete proposal questions, providing greater detail on the viability and cost of the project.
- Work with lead partner companies to complete any Non-Disclosure Agreements.
- Be aware of additional steps required by the lead partner company:
  - Confirm final cost for financial statement
  - Undertake NPL's supplier set-up process (Stream 2)



### PROJECT KICK-OFF

- Ensure you provide all company points of contact for access within the AMPI SharePoint Site.
- Host a project kick-off meeting with the partner(s) (Stream 1)
- Clarify reporting responsibilities, project tracking approach and any templates needed (Stream 1)
- Commence project delivery with partner(s) within 3 months of funding approval.

# Expectations

## Process Stages 5-6

### PROJECT REPORTING & CLOSURE

- Report project status and risks to AMPI monthly (Stream 1)
- Enrich reports with any content deemed appropriate, as desired.
- If requested by the lead partner company, collate research data into one final technical report.
- Communicate project closure with AMPI. For Stream 2, this includes sending an invoice for 50% match funding.



### IMPACT EVALUATION

- Introduce AMPI to lead partner company contact.
- Get involved in the follow-up Impact Interview to be scheduled by AMPI, alongside the lead partner company (and other relevant parties where appropriate).
- Alongside lead partner company, confirm if happy to proceed with a case study (in a format to be agreed on a case-by-case basis).
- Work with AMPI and partners to provide logos and approval where needed.

# Key Resources



## AMPI I4M Lead

Emma Green

[Emma.green@npl.co.uk](mailto:Emma.green@npl.co.uk)

## AMPI Industry Engagement Manager

Rob Woollin

[R.Woollin@hud.ac.uk](mailto:R.Woollin@hud.ac.uk)

## General Enquiries

[AMPI.SIPF@npl.co.uk](mailto:AMPI.SIPF@npl.co.uk)

## More information:

Visit the AMPI Funding Programmes webpage for more information on eligibility, scope, process and case studies:

<https://ampiuk.org/funding-programme/>

## Post-Application Questions:

We will be hosting two 30-minute drop-in sessions post competition go-live for any specific queries when applying.

# Appendix A: Target Geographies

Our target geography is the region encompassing Greater Manchester and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority areas. This covers the following postcode districts:

BD1 BD10 BD11 BD12 BD13 BD14 BD15 BD16 BD17 BD18 BD19 BD2 BD20 BD21 BD22 BD3 BD4 BD5 BD6 BD7 BD8  
BD9 BD97 BD98 BD99

HD1 HD2 HD3 HD4 HD5 HD6 HD7 HD8 HD9 HX1 HX2 HX3 HX4 HX5 HX6 HX7

LS1 LS10 LS11 LS12 LS13 LS14 LS15 LS16 LS17 LS18 LS19 LS2 LS20 LS21 LS22 LS23 LS24 LS25 LS26 LS27 LS28  
LS29 LS3 LS4 LS5 LS6 LS7 LS8 LS88 LS9 LS98 LS99

S71 S72 S75

WF1 WF10 WF11 WF12 WF13 WF14 WF15 WF16 WF17 WF2 WF3 WF4 WF5 WF6 WF7 WF8 WF9 WF90

BL0 BL1 BL11 BL2 BL3 BL4 BL5 BL6 BL7 BL78 BL8 BL9

M1 M10 M11 M12 M13 M14 M15 M16 M17 M18 M19 M2 M20 M21 M22 M23 M24 M25 M26 M27 M28 M29 M3 M30 M31  
M32 M33 M34 M35 M38 M4 M40 M41 M43 M44 M45 M46 M5 M50 M52 M6 M60 M61 M7 M8 M9 M90 M99

OL1 OL10 OL11 OL12 OL14 OL15 OL16 OL2 OL3 OL4 OL5 OL6 OL7 OL8 OL9 OL95

SK1 SK10 SK12 SK13 SK14 SK15 SK16 SK2 SK22 SK3 SK4 SK5 SK6 SK7 SK8 SK9

WA12 WA13 WA14 WA15 WA3 WN1 WN2 WN3 WN4 WN5 WN6 WN7



THE ADVANCED MACHINERY  
& PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE

[ampiuk.org](http://ampiuk.org)



UK Research  
and Innovation