



THE ADVANCED MACHINERY
& PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE

Innovation for Machinery (I4M)

Briefing Slides

July 2025



UK Research
and Innovation

I4M Overview

- The Innovation for Machinery (I4M) funding 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 and capabilities 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](#)



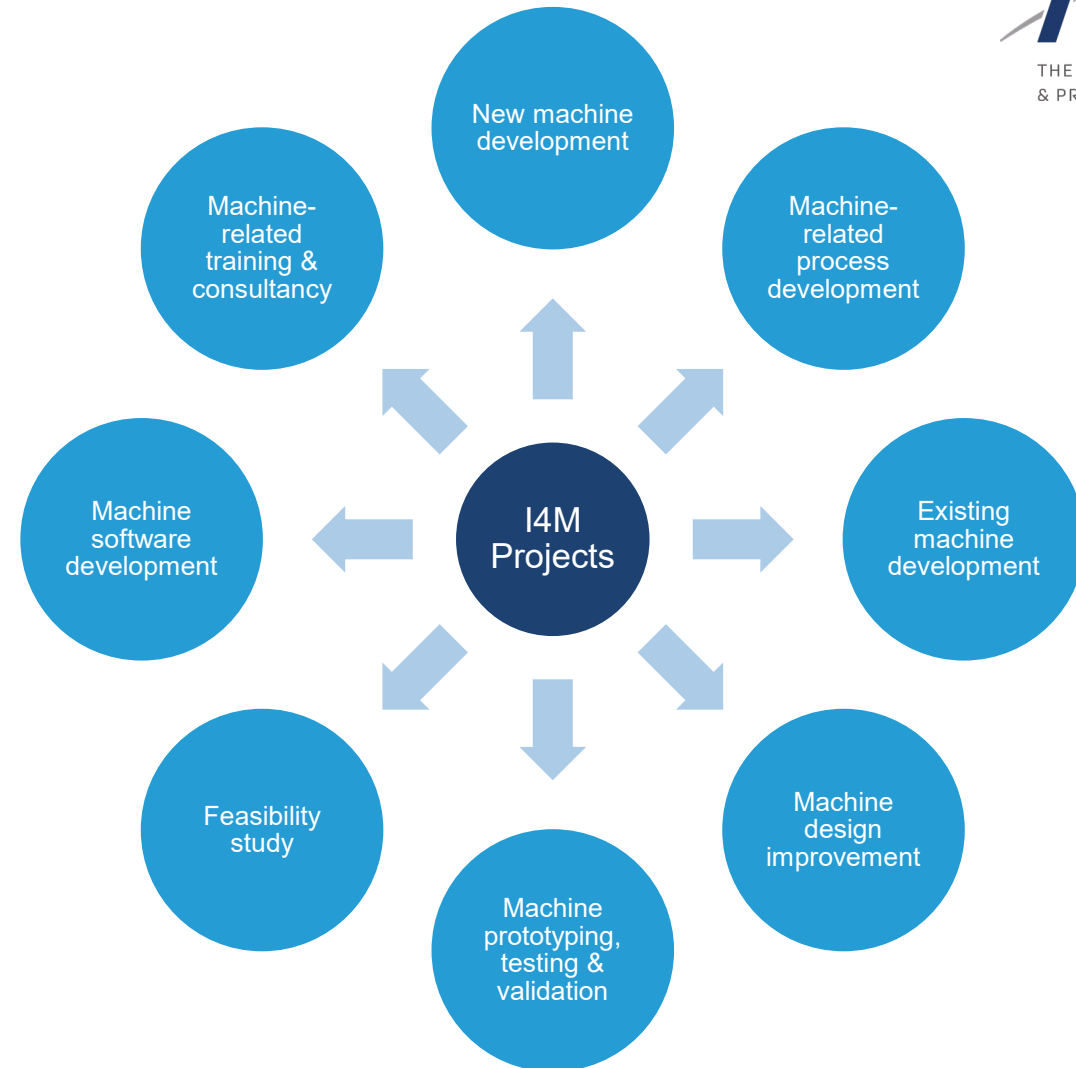
Project Types

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

Not sure if your idea is within scope?

We recognise that it is often difficult to demonstrate significant regional impact in the earlier stages of R&D, so we assess each application on a case-by-case basis and can provide upfront steer and support prior to submission.

Contact us for support: AMPI.SIPF@npl.co.uk



Breadth of Application Scope

Target **machinery industries** *could* include:

- Machine tool manufacturers
- Robotics manufacturers
- Other machine* manufacturers
- 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.

In addition to technical courses relating to columns one and two, **courses for machinery upskilling** *could* include:

- Technical project management
- Risk management
- Engineering management
- Product management
- IP and exploitation
- Conformity assessment (e.g. UKCA, CE, ATEX)

Funding Streams Available

Stream 1: Research Route

- Projects must have a total funding request of **no more than £50,000**.
- The project 'deliverer' (research institution) will supply a project proposal and costings following application approval.
- Funds will be issued at the end of the project upon receipt of a final project report and participation in an impact interview.

Stream 2: Consultancy Route

- Projects must have a total funding request of **no more than £10,000** (excluding VAT).
- Funding is provided on a 50% match funded basis, therefore if your total projects costs are £20,000 then I4M will reimburse £10,000.
- Funds will be issued at the end of the project upon receipt of a valid invoice and final project report.

Stream 3: Training Route

- Training must have a total funding request of **no more than £10,000** per organisation, maximum of two people (excluding VAT, so I4M will pay up to £5,000 per person).
- Funds will be issued at the end of the training upon receipt of a valid invoice and Certificate of Completion.

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

Eligibility for all funding streams

Projects must:

- Be a UK registered SME with significant technical operations based within the Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire regions
- Start within three months following approval and last between three to six months
- Carry out its project work within the Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire regions (see Appendix A)
- Intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- Be within your Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) limit
- Involve at least one university based in the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire regions
- End by 30 June 2026

Additional eligibility for all streams:

- Your project can include partners that do not receive any of this scheme's funding, for example businesses outside of the defined regions.
- Suppliers can be from anywhere in the UK and you must select them through your usual procurement process.
- A business can only lead on one application per stream.
- Unsuccessful applicants are permitted to make one further application per stream. Feedback will be provided to support re-applications.

Additional Eligibility for Research Route (stream 1)

Projects must have a total funding request of **no more than £50,000**. The project ‘deliverer’ (research institution) will supply a project proposal and costings following application approval.

Additional eligibility for stream 1 only:

- Non-Time Costs are limited to 20% of total project costs. Non-time costs include subcontracting, materials, equipment, and T&S.
- Subcontractors can be from anywhere in the UK and you must select them through your usual procurement process. All subcontractor costs must be justified and appropriate to the total project costs.
- A university can collaborate on any number of applications but cannot lead or work alone

Additional Eligibility for Training Route (stream 3)

Training must have a total funding request of no more than £10,000 per organisation, maximum of two people (excluding Vat, so I4M will pay up to £5,000 per person).

Funds will be issued at the end of the training upon receipt of a valid invoice and Certificate of Completion.

Additional eligibility for stream 3 only:

- If the selected training is not available within three months, a revised timeline can be agreed directly with the I4M Lead.

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
- are not industry-defined
- 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

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/training 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.



Key Resources



AMPI I4M Lead

Emma Green

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AMPI Industry Engagement Manager

Rob Woollin

R.Woollin@hud.ac.uk

General Enquiries & Support

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/>

Pre-application support:

Contact us to request a review of your project proposal before you submit.

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

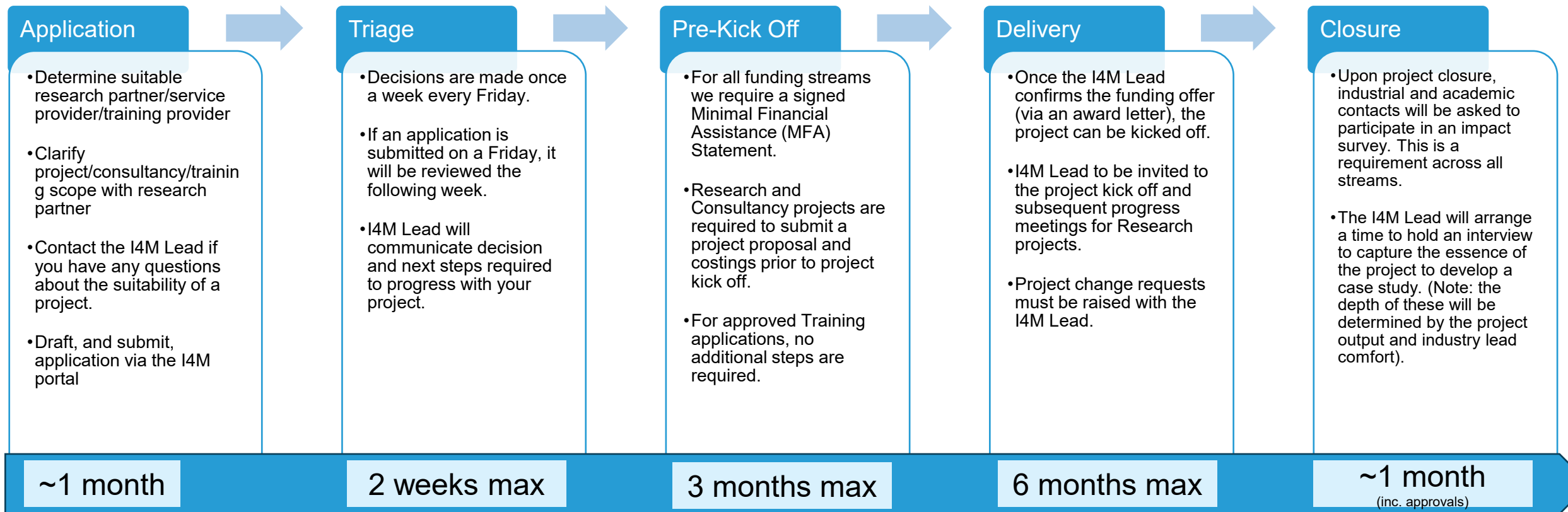
OL1 OL10 OL11 OL12 OL14 OL15 OL16 OL2 OL3 OL4 OL5 OL6 OL7 OL8 OL9 OL95

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

Appendix B: What to expect...

Although projects should last between 3-6 months, an I4M project is a ~12-month commitment





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