

Innovation for Machinery: Round 2

Eligibility

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.

Projects must also:

- start within 3 months following approval and last between 3 months and 6 months
- carry out its project work within the Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire regions (see postcode list)
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- end by 30 June 2026

To lead a project your organisation must:

- be a UK registered SME with significant technical operations based within the Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire regions
- carry out your project work within the defined regions
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- be within your Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA)¹ limit
- involve at least one university based in the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire regions

Stream 2: Consultancy Route

Projects must have a total funding request of no more than £10,000 (ex-Vat, so I4M will pay up to £12,000 in total). Funding is provided on a 50% match funded basis, therefore if your total projects costs are £20,000 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.

Project must also:

- start within 3 months following approval and last no more than 3 months
- carry out its project work within the Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire regions (see postcode list)
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- end by 30 June 2026

To lead a project your organisation must:

- be a UK registered SME with significant technical operations based within the Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire regions
- carry out your project work within the defined regions
- procure services from companies within the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- be within your Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA)¹ limit

¹ Applicants will be responsible for determining their own current Minimal Financial Assistance (previously De Minimis) status. Successful applicants will be provided with proposed project costs in advance of commencing work.

Stream 3: Training Route

Training must have a total funding request of no more than £10,000 per organisation, maximum of two people (ex-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.

Training must also:

- be completed within 3 months following approval²
- Provided in the UK, by a UK Provider.
- end by 30 June 2026

To benefit from this training support your organisation must:

- be a UK registered SME with significant technical operations based within the Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire regions
- carry out your work within the defined regions
- procure services from companies within the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- be within your Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA)¹ limit

¹ Applicants will be responsible for determining their own current Minimal Financial Assistance (previously De Minimis) status. Successful applicants will provide proposed project costs in advance of commencing work.

² If the selected training is not available within 3 months, a revised timeline can be agreed directly with the I4M Lead.

Additional Eligibility Information 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 1 further application per stream. Feedback will be provided to support re-applications.

Additional Eligibility Information 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.

In applying to this scheme you are entering into a competitive process. The scheme has a funding limit, so we may not be able to fund all proposed projects.

Postcodes of 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

Accessibility and Inclusion

We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to making our application process accessible to everyone. This includes making reasonable adjustments, for people who have a disability or a long-term condition and face barriers applying to us. You can contact us at any time to ask for guidance.

How to Apply

All applications must be made through the AMPI I4M portal: <https://ampiuk.org/start-application/>

Should you require support in developing your project, submitting your application, or finding a collaboration or service provider, please contact AMPI at ampi.sipf@npl.co.uk.

This scheme is managed by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) on behalf of the Advanced Machinery and Productivity Institute (AMPI) and funded through UKRI's Strength in Places Fund.