



THE ADVANCED MACHINERY
& PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE

Innovation for Machinery (I4M)

Information Pack

January 2026



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 on the AMPI website

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



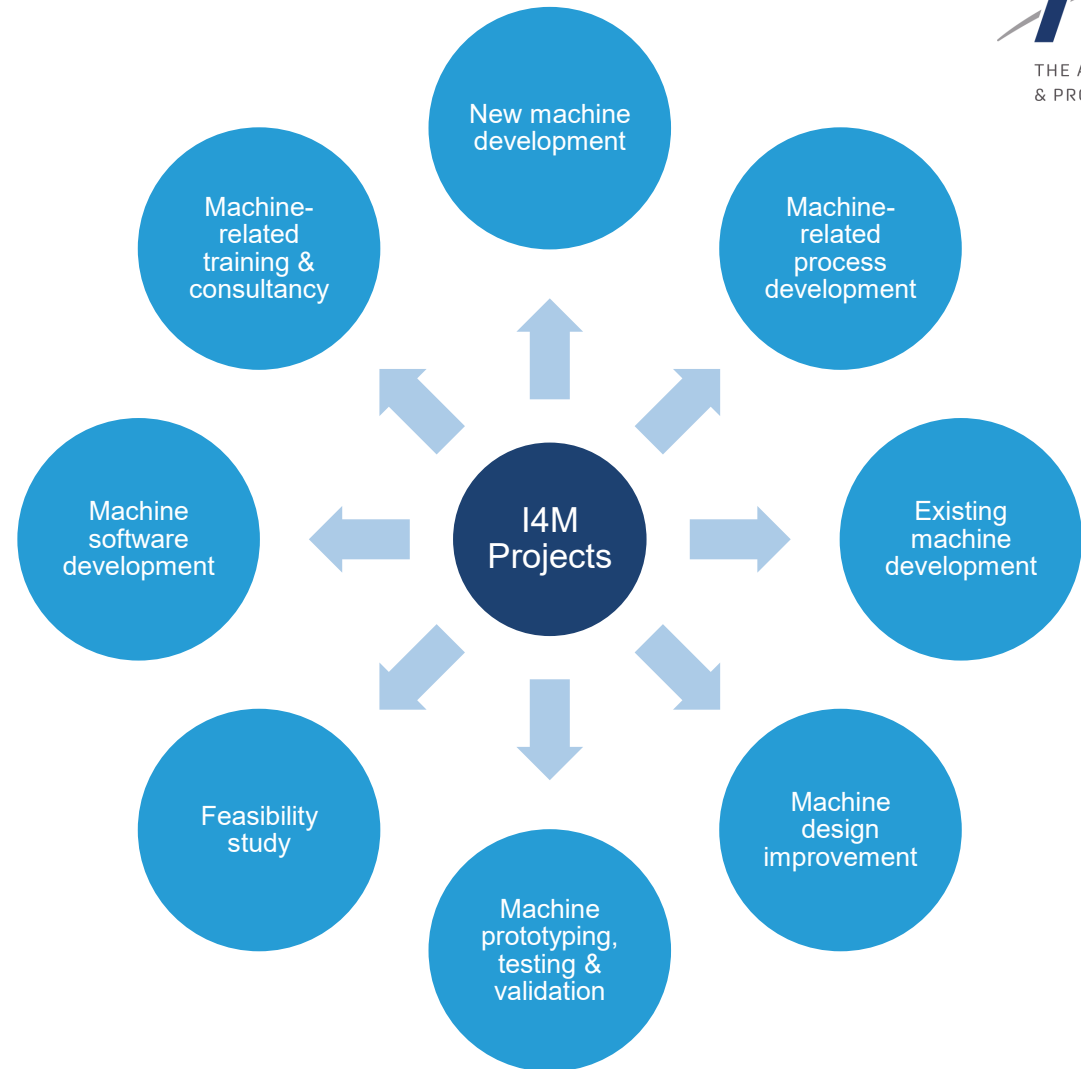
Scope

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

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



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.

Overview

Projects must focus on delivering advancements in machinery for manufacturing.

- Projects must have a total funding request of **no more than £50,000**.
- The project 'deliverer' (research institution) will supply a full 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.

Eligibility

Projects must:

- start by Monday 6th April 2026, and last a maximum of 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 Friday 8th October 2026

Additional eligibility:

- Your project can include partners that do not receive any of this scheme's funding, for example businesses outside of the defined regions.
- Unsuccessful applicants will not be permitted to re-submit due to timelines.
- 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

Key Financial Points

- Non-Time Costs are limited to 20% of total project costs. Non-time costs include subcontracting, materials, equipment, and T&S.
- Capital Expenditure is not eligible.
- Companies must be within their Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) limit. It is their responsibility to ensure this.
- We will record in-kind contributions made by companies but there is no set percentage required.

Out of Scope

We will not fund projects that:

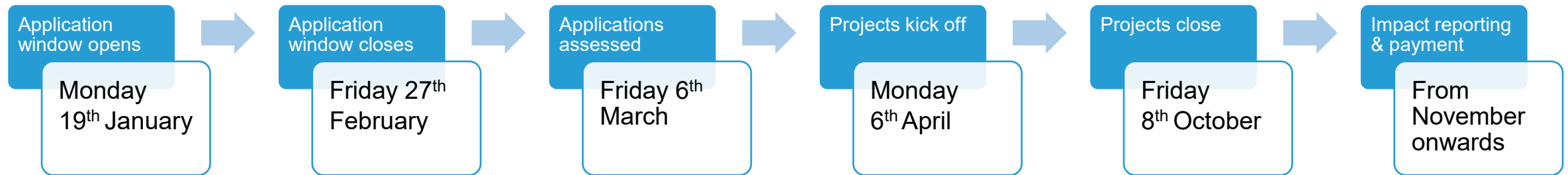
- are outside of the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire regions
- do not meet the eligibility or scope
- are not industry-defined
- do not collaborate with a university/NPL based inside the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire regions
- are capital expenditure or infrastructure projects

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 and a portfolio approach.
- Should a company require support in developing their project, submitting their application, or finding a collaborator, 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 our website before applying.

Timelines

Please consider if you can meet these non-negotiable timelines before submitting a project. AMPI will exercise flexibility for extenuating circumstances but requests for changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



Application:

- Determine suitable research partner
- Clarify project focus with research partner
- Draft, and submit, application via the I4M portal

Project setup (pre-KO):

- For all funding streams we require a company's Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) declaration, NDA and full proposal with costs known.
- An award letter will be sent confirming funds awarded and project timelines.

Project closure:

- Upon completion of project delivery, an impact interview will be scheduled with research partner and SME company to assess impact of the scheme and funding.
- A case study will be generated with consent from all parties.
- Payment will be authorised upon completion of the project, interview and case study.

Key Resources



AMPI I4M Lead

Emma Green

Emma.green@npl.co.uk

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.

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



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