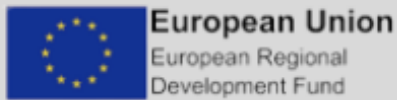




UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM ERDF PROJECT SUCSESSES



The University of Birmingham has delivered eight European Regional Development Fund funded projects which closed in 2023. These spent a total of £33.8m, of which £16.8m was funded by ERDF. These projects have delivered a significant impact on the local economy:



Over 1150 enterprises supported



Over 55 jobs created



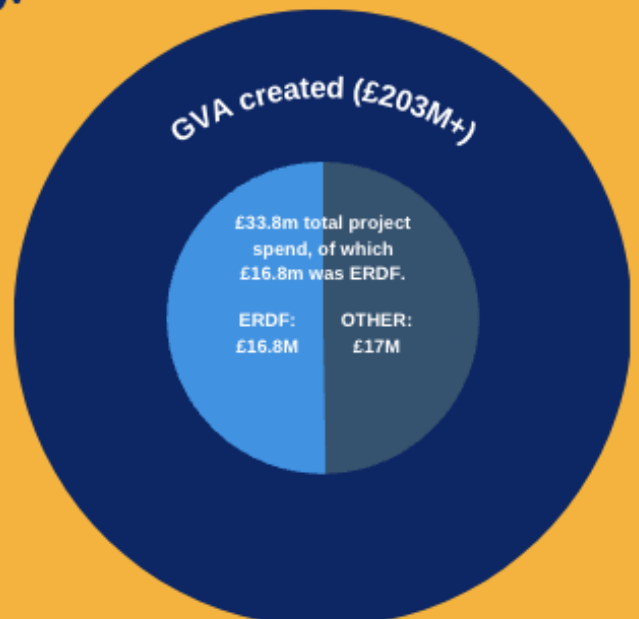
Over 710 enterprises collaborating with research institutions



Over 143 enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products



Over 165 enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products



AMTECAA



AMTECAA



Budget:
£11.1m



Dates:
Oct 2018-Jun 2023

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies to Create, Activate and Automate (AMTECAA) is an £11.1m, 4.5-year business support programme, providing targeted business support focused on promoting research and innovation around manufacturing technologies amongst SMEs active in the Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas.

The programme offers tailored advice and technical support for businesses to develop sustainable manufacturing of products, services and practices that will ultimately drive business growth.

The project is led by the University of Birmingham. Match funding is being provided by the University of Birmingham, Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), Yamazaki Mazak (UK) Ltd, Lasea S.A., Laser Lines (UK) Ltd, Keyence (UK) Ltd, and HMK Robots Ltd. It ran from October 2018 until June 2023 and included £7.3m of revenue spend and £3.8m of capital spend.

The project was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Achievements identified in the evaluation:



230 enterprises
receiving support



18 new jobs
created



224 enterprises
cooperating with
research institutions



20 enterprises
supported to introduce
new to the market
products



32 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to the
firm products

ATETA



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Budget:
£5.7m



Dates:
2020-Jun 2023

The Accelerating Thermal Energy Technology Adoption (ATETA) programme's aim was to promote research and innovation in the adoption of low carbon energy technologies for SMEs within the Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham and Solihull and Worcestershire LEP areas. The project ran between 2020 and June 2023 with a total budget of £5.7m.

The ATETA programme provided fully funded support to SMEs to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy demand, adopt lower-carbon forms of energy, and test and demonstrate new ideas and products. These had the dual aims of making progress towards net zero whilst helping businesses grow.

The project was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Achievements identified in the evaluation:



200 enterprises
receiving support



81 enterprises
cooperating with
research entities



31 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to the
firm products

AMCASH 2



Budget:
£7.1m



Dates:
Jan 2020-Jun 2023

The AMCASH (Advanced Materials Characterisation And Simulation Hub) project, has been designed to link the University of Birmingham's expertise to SMEs in order to encourage investment in the innovation sector of Advanced Manufacturing. The project offers SMEs technical assistance with materials science related projects to promote business investment in research and innovation by enhancing the knowledge transfer between the university and local SMEs. AMCASH2 is delivered across the Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Stoke and Staffordshire, The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership areas.

The project provided SMEs with access to R&D facilities, consultancy, research and analytical services, workshops and innovation programmes (e.g. product design) and facilitation of collaborative projects. The project started in January 2020 and ran until June 2023 with a £7.1m budget. The project followed on from AMCASH1 which ran from January 2017 for three years.

The project was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Achievements identified in the evaluation:



275 enterprises
receiving support



240 enterprises
cooperating with
research entities



37 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to
the market products



36 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to the
firm products

ARLI



Budget:
£3.47m



Dates:
Jul 2020-Jun 2023

The Alternative Raw Materials with Low Impact - 2 (ARLI-2) project is a targeted revenue funded business support programme that is focused on supporting SMEs and new enterprises to develop new products from waste, utilise alternative materials to reduce environmental impact, develop new processes, increase productivity and competitiveness and to create jobs through collaborative R&D. This £3.47m revenue funded project was delivered across the Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire, and Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership areas. The project started in July 2020 and runs until June 2023.

The programme is designed to support better end-of-life/reuse of resources and diversion of waste materials to high value routes, increased awareness of technology and research that can be used to spur innovation, increasing innovation investment by businesses, accessing of new low-carbon business growth opportunities, and development of new to business and new to market products and processes that improve their business and have a positive environmental impact.

The project was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Achievements identified in the evaluation:



154 enterprises
receiving support



59 enterprises
cooperating with
research entities



17 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to
the market products



37 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to the
firm products

Digi-rail Sheffield



Budget:
£2.3m



Dates:
Oct 2020-Jun 2023

The Digi-RAIL Sheffield City Region (DRSCR) programme was an SME-focused project, part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the University of Birmingham and Unipart Rail. The project started in October 2020 and ran until the end of June 2023. The project had a budget of £2.3m.

The DIGI-RAIL programme brought together international and national rail industry buyers with SMEs and research expertise, to solve challenges within the industry and to access a growing number of commercial and research opportunities within the sector. The DRSCR programme provided access to world-class technical expertise, demonstration infrastructure, research programmes, existing technology providers and rail industry buyers. The programme facilitated small-scale collaborative R&D partnerships to develop new digital rail products and services. By engaging with SMEs on specific R&D challenges, the aim was for new products, processes and services to be developed, to grow the supply chain and increase business revenue and employment in the region.

The project was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Achievements identified in the evaluation:



62 enterprises
receiving support



36 enterprises
cooperating with
research entities



5 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to
the market products



5 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to the
firm products

Digi-Rail West Midlands



Budget:
£4.2m



Dates:
Jul 2018-Feb 2023

The Digital Rail Demand-Led Demonstrator West Midlands (DIGI-RAIL WM) was an SME-focussed project, part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the University of Birmingham. The project started in July 2018 and ran until the end of February 2023. The project budget was £4,208,576 with 50% funding from ERDF.

This DIGI-RAIL WM project brought together national and international rail industry buyers with the region's businesses and research expertise to solve challenges within the industry and access the increasing number of digital rail commercial/research opportunities that exist in the sector. DIGI-RAIL WM supported SMEs active in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull (GBS), Coventry & Warwickshire (C&W), and the Black Country (BC) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas.

The project was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Achievements identified in the evaluation:



151 enterprises
receiving support



73 enterprises
cooperating with
research entities



21 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to
the market products



22 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to the
firm products



16 new jobs
created

DEMAND Hub



Budget:
£4.3m



Dates:
Jul 2020-Feb 2023

DEMAND Hub (Data-Enabled Medical technologies ANd Devices Hub) supported SMEs within the Black Country, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, Coventry & Warwickshire, and Stoke-On-Trent & Staffordshire LEP regions to support medical technology innovation and boost product development.

The programme supports SME businesses in, or looking to enter, the healthcare market. The project ran from July 2020 to June 2023 with a budget of £4.3m.

The University of Birmingham, in collaboration with the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, delivered the project. This included a wide range of services such as business development support and Digital Tech assistance, as well as validation and commercialisation. They also provided technician and lab support, helped with clinical studies, and trials and provided clinician, patient, and user experience data.

The project was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Achievements identified in the evaluation:



110 enterprises
receiving support



43 enterprises
supported to
introduce new to the
market products



15 new jobs
created