

SME support available through the University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham currently has six initiatives that support SMEs across various Local Enterprise Partnership areas. These initiatives cover a broad remit from material characterisation to the testing and evaluation of medical devices. Eligibility for these projects varies according to funding stream however; projects funded through existing European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) may offer free bespoke support to SMEs (geographic eligibility does apply).

Advanced Materials Characterisation and Simulation Hub (AMCASH)

AMCASH is an ERDF funded initiative established to support SMEs across four Local Enterprise Partnerships areas (LEPs); Greater Birmingham and Solihull Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire and the Marches. Areas of support include industrial research and new product development across **microscopy, polymers and modelling**.

For more information about AMCASH please contact:

AMCASH@contacts.bham.ac.uk or 0121 414 3436

Accelerating Thermal Energy Technology Adoption (ATETA)

ATETA is designed to provide high level access to **energy related R&D facilities** to SMEs within the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area. The programme provides free advice and technical support to SMEs to:

- identify and initiate market opportunities in new energy markets and technologies
- access to laboratory services
- innovate energy products and energy efficient processes and;
- grow and improve their business

For more information about ATETA please contact:

David Terry – Business Engagement Manager: d.terry@bham.ac.uk

Alternative Raw Materials with Low Impact (ARLI)

Through partnerships the ARLI project will drive collaborative R&D amongst SMEs within the Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership area to enable the development of products and processes that provide efficiency gains in the use of **raw and waste materials and effective alternatives to their use** to:

- (1) address acute raw material deficiencies currently crippling industrial supply chains
- (2) deliver improved environmental impact with cost effective solutions realised through reduced carbon emissions
- (3) spur growth through the commercialisation of novel products

For more information about ARLI please contact:

Jon Roberts – Project Manager: J.Roberts@bham.ac.uk

Medical Devices Testing and Evaluation Centre (MD-TEC)

MD-TEC (Medical Devices Testing and Evaluation Centre) provides **Med-Tech and Life Sciences** companies, within the GBSLEP area, access to the latest state-of-the art simulation and usability facilities and dedicated medical device expertise from the academic and clinical environment. The centre will accelerate products being taken to market, at less cost and with reduced risk. SMEs can ensure their products match "need" and avoid the re-engineering and re-evaluation caused by an initial lack of user testing and the hurdles of regulatory blockages.

For more information about MD-TEC please contact:

Sian Dunning – Project Manager: Sian.Dunning@uhb.nhs.uk

Innovation Engine

In partnership with University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) the University of Birmingham are involved in the **Healthcare Technology and Medical Devices** aspect of the Innovation Engine. This project provides SMEs across the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area with support to increase investment in research and innovation. The two-fold approach of lowering the risk of innovation and increasing the market demand results in a more effective and sustainable method of bringing new products, processes and services to market.

For more information about Innovation Engine please contact:

Naomi Green: N.C.Green@bham.ac.uk

Incubation Support

The University of Birmingham has a suite of incubation support available through the BizzInn and The BioHub Birmingham. Through the BizzInn we are able to provide an extensive start-up and growth programme with support tailored to individual needs and easy access to University of Birmingham facilities and expertise.

In addition The Biohub Birmingham is a fully serviced biomedical laboratory and vibrant innovation office designed to provide entrepreneurs and start-ups with access to affordable facilities and equipment.

For more information about the BizzInn please contact:

Andrew Cruxton – Incubation Manager: a.cruxton@bham.ac.uk

For more information about the BioHub please contact:

thebiohub@contacts.bham.ac.uk

For general enquires please contact: businesssteam@contacts.bham.ac.uk