



DIRECTORY OF UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

Directory of University Business Support Interventions

By George Bramley, Samantha Lithgow, Juliane Schwarz and Freya Williams

April 2022

Aims of this directory

This directory was developed to provide an overview of business support interventions in the West Midlands where a university is the primary or a significant partner in the delivery of support. It was developed over 2021 and provides a snapshot of publicly funded business support. It includes schemes that have been funded in the last rounds of the European Regional Development Fund and other sources where information is publicly available.

The directory was created to:

- Provide an overview of activity (scale and scope)
- Provide a sampling frame to investigate the impact of university-based support for business.

Given the changing funding environment, it does not provide a definitive list of current programmes rather it provides a record of support that is or has been recently available at the time it was prepared.

We provide an overview of each scheme identified in the form of a table that provides the following information.

- **Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ individuals:** overview of eligibility criteria.
- **Contact:** Contact details.
- **Geography:** The geography of eligible businesses that can access the support.
- **Partners:** Any collaborators of the programmes in addition to the university.
- **Type of intervention:** Whether centre, programme, or infrastructure.
- **Nature of funding:** Whether funding available to businesses is fixed-term, project-based and single or multiple.
- **Funders** The organisations that are providing funding for the scheme.
- **Funding:** How much funding is awarded from each funder over a specified period. *For all UK based projects awarded ERDF funding see this government [document](#).*
- **Established:** When the scheme was established. In some cases, this is difficult to establish as a scheme may change its name or focus when seeking renewed funding.
- **Rationale:** Reason behind the scheme.
- **Aims:** What the scheme wants to achieve. These are usually the aims stated in a document or scheme website.
- **Services offered:** The support available to businesses. This is usually nonfinancial support but also includes access to grant funding under this heading.
- **Facilities provided:** The physical offerings of the schemes for businesses.
- **Expertise:** Specialism of the scheme: The knowledge they are trying to transfer.

- **Evaluated?:** Whether evaluation of the intervention could be located and is publicly available.
- **Open to applications?:** Any information available about the scheme being open.

Contents

Aston University	7
Advanced Serviced Growth: Developing Innovative Strategies for Improved Growth in SMEs	7
Agri-Tech Growth and Resources for Innovation (AGRI) Project	8
Aston Business Mentoring Programme.....	9
Aston Programme for Small Business Growth	10
BSEEN	11
Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME)	12
Diverse Supply Chains (DSC)	14
EBRI: Business Investment in Research- Successor Project GBS.....	15
Enabling Technologies & Innovation Competences Challenge Project (ETICC)	17
Innovation Vouchers	18
Low Carbon SMEs	19
Repowering the Creation and Extension of UK-Centric Supply Chains	20
Small Business Leadership Programme.....	21
Smarterials: Promoting Functional Materials in SMEs	22
Think Beyond Data	23
University of Birmingham	25
Accelerating Thermal Energy Technology Adoption (ATETA)	25
Advanced Manufacturing Technologies to Create, Activate & Automate (AMTECCA)	27
Advanced Materials Characterisation and Simulation Hub (AMCASH)	29

Alternative Raw Materials with Low Impact (ARLI)	31
BioHub.....	33
BizzInn	34
Centre for Innovation in Advanced Measurement in Manufacturing (CIAMM)	35
Centre for Research into Environmental Science and Technology (CREST).....	35
Data-Enabled Medical technologies And Devices Hub (DEMAND Hub)	38
DIGI-RAIL	39
MD-TEC	42
Speed to Scale Region (SSR).....	44
UoB Elevate at the Exchange (B-Enterprising)	46
Birmingham City University	47
BCU Advantage	47
Ecrofit	48
Higher Level Skills Match (HLSM)	49
STEAMhouse	50
Coventry University.....	52
Coventry & Warwickshire Green Business.....	52
Coventry & Warwickshire Innovation Test Bed Project	53
Enterprise Hub	54
Focus Digital.....	55
Innovation2Succeed (i2s).....	57
Innovation Networks	57
Proof of Concept.....	59
Keele University.....	60
Healthcare and Medical Technology Business Support	60
Healthcare Business Network	60

Business Bridge	61
Innovation Leadership Programme	62
Keele Gateway	64
Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme (KRISP)	64
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)	66
MICRA Incubator	67
Smart Energy Network Demonstrator	68
University of Wolverhampton	70
Black Country Digital Passport	70
Brownfield Research and Innovation Centre (BRIC)	70
Built Environment Climate Change Innovations (BECCI)	72
Composite & Additive Layer Materials Engineering Research & Innovation Centre (CALMERIC)	73
Connect 2 Grow	74
Construction Futures Research Centre (CFRC)	75
Environmental Technologies & Resource Efficiency Support Service (EnTRESS)	76
Knowledge Exchange & Enterprise Network (KEEN)	77
Science in Industry Research Centre (SIRC)	78
SciTech Innovation Hub	79
Smart Concept Fund	81
SOLVD	82
Spark Incubator	83
SPEED	85
University of Wolverhampton Science Park	86
Technology Centre	86
University of Warwick	87
Advanced Propulsion Centre Hub	87

Software Incubator	88
University of Warwick Science Park	90
Access to Finance (A2F)	91
Business Ready	92
Ignite	93
Minerva Business Angel Network	94
Digital Innovation for Manufacturing (DI4M)	96

Aston University

Advanced Serviced Growth: Developing Innovative Strategies for Improved Growth in SMEs

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Manufacturing SMEs or a business innovating through technology	Contact	Named individuals on the website who can provide a free consultation (p.cresswell@aston.ac.uk) or register interest in attending workshops (GBSLEP, (p.cresswell@aston.ac.uk) or Black Country (harrid10@aston.ac.uk)).
Geography	GBSLEP or Black Country LEP.	Partners	Aston University and company partners (e.g. Alstom, DHL, Kimble and Rolls Royce)
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	ERDF: £701,923 (50% of costs) covering 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2021.
Established	2012	Aims	Help businesses achieve sustainable growth Help capture untapped value from customers. Help businesses gain an understanding of steps required for servitization (achieving business transformation by focusing on value propositions). Help businesses develop advanced services offering.
Rationale	To support businesses in achieving sustainable growth and enable them to capture significant untapped value from their customers through the process of servitization. This process achieves transformation by focusing on a business's value propositions.	Facilities provided	None listed.
Services offered	Access to peer network of like-minded SMEs, online group workshops, 1-2-1 online support, 3 roundtables a year and an annual conference.	Evaluated?	The scheme website includes quotes from SMEs that have participated and the following statistics: created over £30m Gross Value Add (GVA) and 150 new jobs in over 300 SMEs supported.
Expertise	Assisting SMEs with servitization.	Open to applications?	Yes, at the time website was checked.
Weblink	SME Programme advanced services advancedservicesgroup.co.uk	Notes	Also received £723,200 of ERDF funding from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2021 for 'Advanced Services Growth: Developing Strategies for Improved Growth in Manufacturing SMEs (ASG)'. According to the website, there are 2 programmes for SMEs,

			however, there is no explanation given to as what the difference between these programmes is.
--	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Agri-Tech Growth and Resources for Innovation (AGRI) Project

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs operating in or planning to diversify into the Agri-Tech, food and drink sector.	Contact / Lead	Contact email address provided info@agri.org.uk
Geography	Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin region.	Partners	Midlands Engine, Harper Adams University and Aston University.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	ERDF: £1,225,342 (57.5% of costs) covering 01/03/2017 to 30/09/2022.
Established	2017.	Aims	To provide free knowledge transfer and business support to Agri-Tech and food & drink focused SMEs to become more innovative, productive, or efficient.
Rationale	Businesses face barriers to innovation and increased efficiency and productivity.	Facilities provided	None specified.
Services offered	Two stages of support are offered: First stage: Innovation review with an innovation specialist. Second stage: Longer, more in-depth support allowing additional work and knowledge transfer to take place as necessary. Provision of free knowledge transfer and business support to Agri-Tech and Food & Drink focused SMEs in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin region drawing on specialists from Aston or Harper Adams who work with individual businesses in a one-to-one capacity.	Evaluated?	There are also quotes from participating businesses on the website . And the following outputs: over 110 companies supported in the Marches since 2017 who received over 3,766 hours of free support provided since 2017.
Expertise	Aston is the lead partner who provided support for innovation by assisting companies who needed expertise in sensing technologies, logistics, supply chains, the internet of things and sustainability and the Circular Economy and funding proposal preparation. Harper Adams University provided expertise in new product development in the Food/ Drink sector, waste valorisation,	Open to applications?	Yes, at the time website was checked.

	nutritional Calculations, R&D, prototype development, automation, and smart farming.		
Weblink	About – The AGRI Project (agriprojects.org) Work With Us - Agri-tech Growth and Resources for Innovation (AGRI) Harper Adams University (harper-adams.ac.uk)		

Aston Business Mentoring Programme

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Members of management teams of SMEs and Community Interest Companies (CIC) with a minimum turnover of £50k turnover and 3 employees that have traded for 12 months and can engage in the programme for at least 3 months.	Contact	The contact email is provided: mentoring@gslepgrowthhub.co.uk
Geography	GBSLEP.	Partners	Aston Centre for Growth and GBSLEP
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Has received ERDF funding.	Funding	Not known.
Established	Not known.	Aims	To allow business leaders to build resilience, increase productivity and address barriers to business growth.
Rationale	To allow successful SME leaders to benefit other regional SME leaders.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	A series of bespoke and structured one-to-one mentoring sessions delivered over 3 months.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain.
Expertise	Business strategy and planning. Innovation Technology adoption. Sales & Marketing. Financial management. Leadership.	Open to applications?	Opened in September 2021, the current programme runs from September 2021 to September 2022.
Weblink	Aston University Website		

Aston Programme for Small Business Growth

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Founder/ CEO of businesses in early stages of development with identifiable growth potential that has been trading for 12 months and employs one FTE (this can include the CEO/ Founder) who is willing to make a significant commitment of time and effort and required to attend all workshops.	Contact / Lead	Named contact is provided and an Application Form is provided on the website
Geography	Greater Birmingham and Solihull or Coventry and Warwickshire LEP areas.	Partners	Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP and Coventry and Warwickshire LEP
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	The programme has received a second round of ERDF funding under 'Aston Programme for Small Business Growth 2'. £329,319.87 (50% of costs) covering the period 01/07/2016 to 30/06/2019. And £506,309 (50.8% of costs) covering 01/07/2019 to 30/06/2022 was awarded in the second round of funding.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Support SMEs to grow by increasing turnover and creating jobs within Coventry and Warwickshire and Greater Birmingham and Solihull.
Rationale	Managers of new high growth businesses require support in developing leadership and management skills to successfully manage the challenges they face in growing their business.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	Access to a network of other early-stage business owners from the Midlands, workshops (covering topics such as strategy and business models, opportunities and innovation, managing business finances and options for external finance, leadership, culture and people, marketing strategies, operations and processes), one-to-one support for tackling business challenges and pitch growth strategy to external finance experts.	Evaluated?	The programme (2016-2019) contribution to WM and UK economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 173 jobs were created. • Uplift of £22 million turnover overall of which £1.3m was additional. • Additional £1 million GVA. • 38% average turnover increase for a business one year after completing the programme. • 94% of participants were confident in growing their business. • 18% higher turnover for programme participants within 12 months compared to counterparts. • 79% of participants improved their ability to use financial data in decision making.

			There are also participant testimonials on the website and in the brochure .
Expertise	Supporting early-stage businesses.	Open to applications?	Business owners can express interest in the next cohort.
Weblink	Aston Programme for Small Business Growth Aston University Aston Programme for Small Business Growth Brochure.pdf		

BSEEN

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Driven and entrepreneurial students or recent graduates from local universities (Aston University, Birmingham City University, University College Birmingham, and Newman University) or based in Birmingham if recently graduated from another UK university. International graduates are also eligible but need a start-up visa. Excludes the retail sector.	Contact / Lead	Contact email address is provided bseen@aston.ac.uk
Geography	Residential address and plans to register a business in the GBSLEP area.	Partners	Aston University, Birmingham City University, Newman University. University College Birmingham
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (office space)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	The programme has received two rounds of ERDF funding: £729,885 (50% of costs) covering 01/06/2016 to 31/05/2019. And £1,173,802.01 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2019 to 30/06/2023.
Established	2012	Aims	To support aspiring student and graduate entrepreneurs from launch and beyond. To equip highly skilled students and graduates from the world-class universities in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (GBSLEP) with the skills and confidence to set up, sustain and grow new innovative businesses. Ensure 225 student and graduate entrepreneurs have the best chance to start-up and grow their business in the first year of trading.

Rationale	Suboptimal formation and retention of new graduate led businesses and graduate entrepreneurs within the region is a potential barrier to innovation and productivity growth.	Facilities provided	Free workspace at Innovation Birmingham Campus and other partner institutions.
Services offered	Grants to help cover start-up costs and fund the first marketing campaign. Mentoring to benefit from experienced entrepreneurs. Each BSEEN intake starts with an intensive 5-day Bootcamp to introduce and hone business skills.	Evaluated?	590 Businesses started with BSEEN support. 94% of participants would recommend BSEEN to other entrepreneurs. 738 individuals have taken part in a BSEEN Bootcamp. 80% consider themselves more enterprising after taking part in BSEEN. The independent evaluation of the project that ran from 2012-2015, reported that '97% of surveyed BSEEN participants said that they found the intensive start-up training useful in helping them to develop the skills needed to develop their proposed businesses'. The website also has case studies of past participants.
Expertise	Supporting start-ups.	Open to applications?	Applications closed for September 2021 12-month programme. Applications are open for April 2022 Bootcamp, with various closing dates in February depending on the university attended.
Weblink	BSEEN supporting student and graduate entrepreneurs in Birmingham, UK (b-seen.biz)		

Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	CREME delivers two programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity from Below: microbusinesses (less than 10 employees with a particular focus on the retail, catering and creative sectors. • Pathway to Enterprising Futures: ethnic minority women. 	Contact / Lead	CREME contact centre manager Gurdeep Chima: chimag3@aston.ac.uk
Geography	CREME programmes have different geographical focuses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Business Support Ecosystem: businesses located in Lozells, Small Heath and Sparkhill. • Productivity from Below: West Midlands. • Pathway to Enterprising Futures: GBSLEP. 	Partners	ACH, Citizens UK, Aston Centre for Growth, Enterprise Research Centre, Punch Records. CREME also collaborate with academics from Aston Business School and other universities.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based

	Infrastructure (labs)		Single / Multiple
Funders	<p>Current and recent funders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and Social Research Council. Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. Institute for Public Policy Research. British Bankers Association. Leverhulme Trust. Low Pay Commission. Equalities and Human Rights Commission. Local Authorities. 	Funding	Not known.
Established	2004 Was originally established as a joint venture with East Midlands Development Agency.	Aims	Differs depending on the project but aims to support ethnic minority entrepreneurs directly or through research.
Rationale	<p>CRÈME programmes are underpinned by three guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged scholarship: applying insights and findings from their 'high quality internationally recognised' research to real-world business issues. Transforming practice: Working with a range of stakeholders to influence policy and practice. Outstanding engagement and dissemination: Organising events to bring together local entrepreneurs, business policymakers and academics to encourage networks and disseminate valuable information. 	Facilities provided	Not known.
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive Business Support Ecosystem: deliver bespoke support to participants and develop a unique and scalable model of business support. Productivity from Below: develops productivity-boosting interventions to support microbusinesses in the West Midlands. Pathways to Enterprising Futures: Give women from diverse backgrounds the opportunity and knowledge to start a business. 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain.
Expertise	Ethnic minority entrepreneurs.	Open to applications?	Differs depending on the project.
Weblink	CREME Website Project details Productivity from Below		

Diverse Supply Chains (DSC)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Diverse and minority-owned businesses include businesses owned and managed by women (particularly women with children), people with limiting disabilities, people who are LGBT+, people of ethnic minorities and young entrepreneurs (16-25). A business is eligible for the project if one or more of the directors is from one of these groups.	Contact / Lead	Contact email address diversesupplychains@aston.ac.uk
Geography	West Midlands.	Partners	Aston University Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CRÈME). Midlands Engine. Diverse Supply Chains, Balfour Beatty Vinci, HS2, NatWest, Birmingham City Council and GBSLEP Growth Hub
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£547,219 (50% of costs) covering 01/11/2019 to 31/10/2022.
Established	Not specified.	Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to increase confidence and aspirations amongst diverse businesses to compete for tenders from major contractors. • Greater tendering activity from minority-owned businesses. • Higher turnover and jobs created in diverse companies. • Helping to elevate a company's CSR reputation and improve 'Triple bottom line.' • Facilitate relationships between diverse businesses and large private and public sector corporate contractors.
Rationale	Identified the need for a more socially inclusive and diverse supply chain that provides sustainable growth and draws fully on the region's assets.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to the value of £2,500 with a 50% maximum intervention rate • Access to free online workshops with a chargeable value of £2,500 covering themes such as introduction to procurement, achieving Health, Safety, Environmental and CDM Compliance, effective product/service positioning and marketing, raising 	Evaluated?	There are testimonials on the website.

	aspirations and confidence and promoting leadership skills & confidence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-to-one coaching through surgery events. 		
Expertise	Supporting minority-owned businesses to enter supply chains.	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	Diverse Supply Chains		

EBRI: Business Investment in Research- Successor Project GBS

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs in the West Midlands that are interested in developing new products and services in the energy and bioproduct sector	Contact / Lead	bioenergy@aston.ac.uk
Geography	West Midlands	Partners	None listed on the website
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	Received 2 rounds of ERDF funding: £481,695.90 (50% of costs) covering 01/05/2016 to 30/04/2019 and £348,281.61 (50% of costs) covering 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2022. EBRI is a result of a £20 million investment.
Established	EBRI was established in the 1970s. The ERDF supported project was established in 2016.	Aims	To support companies to explore and maximise opportunities in the energy and bioproduct sector.
Rationale	SMEs need affordable support to become, resilient, and low carbon future businesses including information and practical support to adjust to rising customer demand for low carbon goods and services.	Facilities provided	Demonstration facilities used in collaborative projects include: Unique 1MW Fully instrumented gasification pilot plant. Combined heat and power facility capable of meeting the heat, electricity, and cooling needs of the building. UK-first demand-side management and vehicle to grid capability.
Services offered	Working collaboratively with businesses and professions to help deploy sustainable supply chains, technical know-how and financial advice needed to make renewable biofuels. Helping to support the development of a regional supply chain that will benefit the region. Help create new and exciting high-growth sectors in the field of Smart Cities, to unlock opportunities nationally and internationally.	Evaluated?	Using HM Treasury "Green Book" methodologies, the economic impact of EBRI's support for businesses included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of 234 new jobs in the West Midlands, including the provision of support to businesses and the wider supply chain. An increase of over £28.9 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) through business support.

	<p>Specifically, the programme offers:</p> <p>Specialist advice and guidance: EBRI provides one-to-one sustainability health checks and low carbon challenge surgeries for business decision-makers and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Tailored reports: Including market overviews and economic feasibility studies. Providing assessments of products/ services in development.</p> <p>Technology advice and assessment in identifying the best process for products or feedstock.</p> <p>Process modelling in the areas of bioenergy, waste to energy and bioproducts.</p> <p>Events include a series of tailor-made workshops and seminars to build awareness of bioenergy, energy systems and their applications.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in RD&I spend of over £1.97 million after businesses partnered with EBRI. <p>Knowledge Transfer and Economic Impact (independent feedback- EBRI Interim Evaluation Reports published June 2015 and April 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of businesses felt that the support received from EBRI had had a positive impact on their company. 47% said EBRI improved their competitiveness. 76.5% said EBRI increased their awareness of bioenergy. 26% had invested in bioenergy. 28% had placed more orders with suppliers. 28% of businesses had increased their investment in Research, Development and Innovation. <p>EBRI has supported 387 small and medium-sized enterprises in the West Midlands (Oct 2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 211 companies have attended EBRI's highly acclaimed 'Value from Waste' Master Class and Challenge Based Consultations – devised to help SMEs develop new products and services. 97% of EBRI Master Class business attendees have rated the two-day course as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'. <p>There are also case studies on the website.</p>
Expertise	<p>Research and technology capabilities include a range of advanced thermal technologies and biological conversion processes. These include gasification, pyrolysis, catalysis, and thermochemical refining of biomass, wastes and plastics for high-quality products and fuels.</p> <p>They also provide expertise in energy systems, supply chains, techno-economic analysis, transport logistics, analytics, engines and energy systems.</p>	Open to applications?	Yes, there does not seem to be set programme dates.
Weblink	<p>EBRI Website</p> <p>Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute Aston University</p>		

Enabling Technologies & Innovation Competences Challenge Project (ETICC)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs that are interested in the application of laser technology from the following sectors: life sciences, digital and creative, low carbon, advanced manufacturing/ advanced engineering, and transport technologies (including aerospace and automotive). building technologies/construction, environmental technologies and business services	Contact / Lead	The website provides a contact email eticc@aston.ac.uk
Geography	GBS and Black Country LEPs.	Partners	None specified.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by ERDF	Funding	ERDF awarded £879,767 (50% of costs), covering 01/08/2018 to 31/07/2021. A total of £2,000,000 Grant funding was received for the project.
Established	2018	Aims	To stimulate innovation in SMEs and help them grow. Support 129 SMEs project and 26 Research Collaborations.
Rationale	SMEs need access to specialist knowledge and expertise to help them develop new solutions, products and processes.	Facilities provided	Use of relevant laboratories and equipment.
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) stream offers expertise and support to SMEs in the development of new innovative products and services using the following technologies. The industrial Application of Sensor Technology stream focuses on exploring sensor technology applications together with SMEs <p>Specialist early-stage/ new product development services to help small businesses overcome technical and resource barriers.</p> <p>Access to specialists, capabilities, and state-of-the-art analysis facilities available in the Aston University Institute of Photonic Technologies and Aston Institute of Materials Research.</p> <p>Supporting grant application, referral to specialists in the Intellectual Property Office, Department for International</p>	Evaluated?	Unclear. No evaluation report was identified in the public domain.

	Trade and others, and identifying opportunities for collaboration across Aston University.		
Expertise	Photonics. Advanced materials. Micro and nanoelectronics. Nanotechnology. Industrial biotechnology. Advanced manufacturing technologies. Digital technologies.	Open to applications?	The most recent call for applications was from 26 th February 2021 to 31 st December 2021. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.
Weblink	About – Enabling Technologies & Innovation	Other info	

Innovation Vouchers

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs in Advanced Manufacturing including Automotive and Aerospace, Low Carbon, ICT, Digital and Creative or Life Science who have received less than €200,000 de minimis state aid in the last three years	Contact / Lead	The website provides a contact email: innovation-vouchers@aston.ac.uk and Contact Form and Application Form .
Geography	Birmingham, Solihull, Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest (based on Kidderminster)	Partners	Birmingham City University.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	Two rounds of ERDF funding: £592,567.50 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2016 to 30/09/2019 and £803,273 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2019 to 30/06/22.
Established	2016	Aims	Encourage SMEs to innovate in collaboration with research institutes thereby increasing their capacity to innovate successfully through access to resources. Help SMEs pay for new processes and systems that will improve efficiency and help bring new products to market.
Rationale	Business owners often need initial support to explore innovative ideas and a relatively modest investment at this stage has the potential to raise levels of innovation in the region that can lead to new business models, products and increased productivity.	Facilities provided	None.

Services offered	The scheme provides a small grant to businesses, an Innovation Voucher, to a value of £2,500 (to be matched by the business) and innovation support and assistance to beneficiaries to ensure they maximise the value of the voucher they receive including access to free workshops (example topics: Envisioning Growth through Innovation, Leadership & Strategy for Innovation and Marketing for Innovation.)	Evaluated?	From the last phase of Innovation Vouchers, the average increased turnover as a result of attending the full workshop series was £11,500 p/a with future expected benefits over 3 years of over £200,000 p/a.
Expertise	Providing funding to eligible SMEs.	Open to applications?	Yes, at the time website was checked.
Weblink	Innovation Vouchers – Innovation Vouchers Website (innovation-vouchers.com/index.pdf) (innovationpolicyplatform.org)	Other Information.	The voucher can be spent on various activities including external expertise with knowledge-based organisations; developing customer interface; process improvement; market research, innovation planning & business model development, quality improvement, supply chain management and logistics, and exploiting advanced information technologies

Low Carbon SMEs

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs in high energy use manufacturing sectors (e.g. Chemical Engineering, Cement, Foundries, Petrochemicals)	Contact / Lead	The website provides a contact email: smelowcarbon@aston.ac.uk
Geography	Black Country LEP and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP.	Partners	None specified.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	ERDF award of £1,172,519.92 (50% of costs) covering 01/03/2017 to 28/02/2023.
Established	Not known.	Aims	To help SMEs concerned about their energy usage.
Rationale	Lack of funding and information can prevent businesses identify and implementing energy strategies that provide a return on investment as well as contribute to energy efficiency that has wider societal benefits.	Facilities provided	None specified.
Services offered	Services offered:	Evaluated?	100+ organisations have joined the programme.

	<p>Free energy audit: Diagnostic and benchmarking energy management performance to identify potential for improvement.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Grants: Matched funding of up to £12,250.</p> <p>Collaborations: drawing on expertise in Aston University to address specific tough challenges</p> <p>Workshops to share expertise and best practice, help a business to</p>		Supported over 85 businesses. Funded 47 energy efficiency projects.
Expertise	Low carbon and energy efficiency.	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	Energy efficiency audits Free audit Birmingham Midlands (smelowcarbon.co.uk)		

Repowering the Creation and Extension of UK-Centric Supply Chains

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs in the manufacturing, automotive, engineering, food and drink sectors	Contact / Lead	info@ukcentricsupplychains.co.uk
Geography	Marches (Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin) and Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP areas.	Partners	Marches LEP and Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£256,821 (60% of costs) covering 01/10/2018 to 30/09/2021.
Established	2018	Aims	Increase sourcing in UK supply chains
Rationale	Increase the resilience and diversity of regional supply chains through exploring and developing UK sources of components and inputs.	Facilities provided	N/A
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting companies map, assess and improve the capabilities of their supply chains with the view to grow and maximise UK content. A better understanding of your supply chain in terms of geography/location and relationships with suppliers/customers. 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the maturity of a company's supply chains, concerning existing capabilities, for a given product or a specific product category. Action planning 		
Expertise	Manufacturing, automotive, engineering, food and drink sectors	Open to applications?	Unclear – website still live
Weblink	https://www.ukcentricsupplychains.co.uk/		

Small Business Leadership Programme

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Members of senior management teams/ decision-makers in SMEs employing between 5 and 249 people and established for more than one year that can commit to attending the full programme.	Contact / Lead	Contact email centreforgrowth@aston.ac.uk
Geography	West Midlands and Southwest (Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire and West of England, including Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire)	Partners	19 Small Business Charter (SBC) accredited business schools.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.	Funding	Part of a £20million package.
Established	Not known.	Aims	<p>To enable participants to develop strategic leadership skills and the confidence to make informed decisions to boost business performance.</p> <p>To make businesses more productive and resilient.</p> <p>Enable participants to access a network of small business leaders and business experts in the region the business is in.</p> <p>Help to ensure the culture of the organisation is more innovative, productive and agile.</p> <p>Embed responsible business practices.</p>
Rationale	There is an identified need that some senior leaders in businesses with potential for productivity growth would value support in developing their leadership skills in building their business's resilience and recovery from the impact of Covid-19.	Facilities provided	None.

Services offered	Participants receive eight 90-minute webinars across ten weeks and complete up to two hours of independent study and peer-supported learning per week. The programme covers Innovation and markets, leadership and employee engagement; creating a vision, purpose, and branding; market segmentation, targeting and positioning; operational efficiency and financial management; and developing an action plan for resilience and productivity.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation in the public domain.
Expertise	Delivered by SME experts, business schools accredited by SBC and supported by BEIS	Open to applications?	Can express interest in joining the next cohort.
Weblink	Small Business Leadership Programme Aston University		

Smarterials: Promoting Functional Materials in SMEs

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact	Contact email provided smarterials@aston.ac.uk
Geography	Not specified.	Partners	None specified.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	ERDF awarded £350,287 (50% of costs) covering 01/09/2018 to 31/08/2021.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Help businesses develop and grow their business through a partnership built on research, testing and expertise in material science.
Rationale	Regional competitiveness can be improved by companies incorporating new materials into their products and adopting new processes to make their business more effective in global markets.	Facilities provided	Labs and equipment in these four main areas: Aston Institute of Materials Research 3D printing for business Test Equipment Material Development
Services offered	Access to leading academics in materials and the following disciplines: Chemistry and biochemistry.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation in the public domain.

	Biology. Chemical engineering. Mathematical modelling. Mechanical engineering. Physics. Process and formulation engineering. The use of state-of-the-art labs for testing.		
Expertise	Materials science.	Open to applications?	Not clear from the website.
Weblink	Homepage Smarterials Smarterials-Programme.pdf (sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk)		

Think Beyond Data

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact	Contact email: info@thinkbeyonddata.com
Geography	Located in Greater Birmingham and Solihull, or the Marches LEP.	Partners	Ministry of Defence Midlands Engine
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part ERDF funded. Innovate UK.	Funding	ERDF awarded £515,815 (50.17% of costs) covering 01/08/2020 to 31/05/2023.
Established		Aims	Bring Artificial Intelligence and business efficiency to businesses. Help businesses by using algorithms to help businesses turn data and analytics into new products, new job opportunities, business growth and more efficient ways of working.
Rationale	Businesses are missing out on new business opportunities and potential efficiencies in process processes that would them more competitive because they are sub-optimally using the data they hold.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	Helps businesses to develop optimal solutions to meet their objectives using algorithms to increase efficiency.	Evaluated?	Client Feedback key points:

	This involves identifying the right model and tailoring it. Formalising, capturing and streamlining business processes starting with a one/ two-day fact-finding session with a member of the team. Using the latest AI, machine learning, data visualisation, optimisation, and analytics to work with data. Projects last between 3 to 6 months to help company growth.		<p><i>"The work from Think Beyond Data has led to us greatly improving our technical proposition and commercial endeavours".</i></p> <p><i>"The quality of each report was outstanding and the consequent debate and discussions with us were very informed and involving; there was a real sense of innovative collaboration"</i></p> <p><i>Geoffrey N. Smith, Managing Director at Folding Space</i></p> <p>Case studies can be found here.</p>
Expertise	Data analytics and artificial intelligence.	Open to applications?	Not specified.
Weblink	Homepage - Think Beyond Data	Other information	<p>Benefits of support:</p> <p>Automating and scaling business processes.</p> <p>Providing better, more efficient solutions.</p> <p>Gaining new insights and deeper understanding.</p>

University of Birmingham

Accelerating Thermal Energy Technology Adoption (ATETA)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact	ateta@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Geography	The following LEP areas: Black Country Coventry and Warwickshire Worcestershire Greater Birmingham and Solihull	Partners	Birmingham Energy Institute. Possibly Catapult.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	Received 2 rounds of ERDF funding: £2,034,792 (50% of costs) covering 01/03/2017 to 29/02/2020 and £613,293 (50% of costs) covering 01/03/2020 to 28/02/2023.
Established	2017	Aims	Help organisations overcome obstacles and unlock business opportunities. Promote research and innovation in the adoption of zero-carbon energy technologies for SMEs.
Rationale	Businesses in energy and related sector need access to specialist knowledge, expertise and facilities to develop and commercialise their ideas.	Facilities provided	State-of-the-art research facilities and laboratories.
Services offered	Support businesses by: Providing a platform to test and demonstrate innovative ideas in their state-of-the-art labs and develop enhanced products and services through adopting new technologies to reduce energy. Working with businesses to identify and initiate market opportunities in new energy markets and technologies Offering businesses support with product/ process research and development for energy technologies such	Evaluated?	Net income for the local economy created to date is £25million. Has helped over 100 businesses to date. Figures from a report by EPM consultancy are quoted in this blog . The report does not seem to be publicly accessible. Case study on ATETA from Catapult.

	<p>as Thermal materials, Energy storage, Distributed energy generation</p> <p>Fuel cell technologies</p> <p>Identifying the right solution for a business's power security needs.</p> <p>Providing businesses with energy market intelligence.</p> <p>Providing independent and impartial evidence in support of product or service claims</p>		
Expertise	<p>Expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thermal Energy Technologies (thermal energy storage systems; development and application of thermal materials; clean cold energy systems; advanced manufacturing technologies) Smart Grids and System Integration (distributed energy system design and grid integration; power systems and smart grid economics; smart power grids and real-time simulation; monitoring and control systems) Renewable Power and Fuel Cell Technologies (fuel cell and hydrogen technologies; power generation technology and alternative fuels; EFW technology, simulation and design) 	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	ATETA - University of Birmingham		

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies to Create, Activate & Automate (AMTECCA)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs looking to apply advanced manufacturing technologies across the manufacturing and healthcare sectors.	Contact	amtecaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Geography	Greater Birmingham and Solihull Black Country Coventry and Warwickshire Stoke and Staffordshire.	Partners	Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), Lasea (precision laser solutions), Laserlines, HMK (Automation & Drives), Mazak, Keyence, Midlands Engine
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF funded Smart Factory Hub Project	Funding	Smart Factory Hub received £2,811,198 (50% of costs) covering 01/10/2018 to 30/09/2021.
Established	Not known.	Aims	To enable businesses to increase productivity or competitiveness by using advanced manufacturing technologies.
Rationale	Suboptimal adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies is a potential barrier to regional competitiveness. Establishing an evidence base that supports innovation using knowledge exchange and access to university research and facilities to benefit local firms and the regional economy.	Facilities provided	Available equipment includes: 3D printing facilities. CNC machining systems. Mazak i-400 AM Integrex hybrid machine. Lasea LS4 system (7 axes – 5 mechanical and 2 optical) with femtosecond laser. Innophysics µPlasma Printing Station with 24 micro electrodes. Four Techman Robots (1xTM5 and 3xTM14).
Services offered	Support from AMTECAA includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topical workshops on advanced manufacturing technologies Bespoke collaborative projects give access to equipment and expertise focused on a business's needs. Can provide support in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product creation with Additive, Subtractive and Hybrid Manufacturing. 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface activation with Laser and Plasma Processes. • Process automation with Robotics. <p>Dedicated healthcare support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and development of medical devices and biomaterials • Additive Manufacturing • Simulation using computational modelling • Mechanical testing, material characterisation, in vitro testing • Medical Device Regulations, clinical trials, and route to market 		
Expertise	<p>Advanced manufacturing technologies specifically:</p> <p>Additive manufacturing</p> <p>Subtractive manufacturing</p> <p>Hybrid manufacturing</p> <p>Laser processing</p> <p>Plasma processing</p> <p>Robotics</p>	Open to applications?	Not clear, the website encourages contacting the AMTECAA team.
Weblink	AMTECAA - University of Birmingham		

Advanced Materials Characterisation and Simulation Hub (AMCASH)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact / Lead	AMCASH@contacts.bham.ac.uk +44 (0)121 4143436
Geography	LEPs: Greater Birmingham and Solihull Black Country* Coventry and Warwickshire* The Marches Stoke and Staffordshire *Current funding extension only covers these regions.	Partners	None specified.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part ERDF funded.	Funding	Received two rounds of ERDF funding: £2,034,792 (50% of costs) covering 01/03/2016 to 31/12/19. And £582,176 (50% of costs) covering 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2022.
Established	January 2017 to March 2023.	Aims	To support West Midlands based SMEs to improve their products and processes To enable local businesses to benefit from the University of Birmingham's materials science expertise and state-of-the-art facilities.
Rationale	Regional competitiveness can be improved by companies incorporating new materials into their products and adopting new processes to make their business more effective in global markets.	Facilities provided	AMCASH offer a wide range of equipment including: Numerous Jeol and FEI Scanning Electron Microscopes (SEM) Nikon H225 X-ray tomography (XRT / CT) FEI Quanta 3D FEG Focused Ion Beam (FIB) SEM Laser FLASH - Netzsch 427 Laser Flash Apparatus Dynamic mechanical thermal analysis (DMTA) - Polymer Labs/ Netzsch DMTA. Rheology – Malvern Kinexus Pro Rheometer, TA Instruments Ares Rheometer. Numerous academic-licenced CFD and FE commercial software packages. The University of Birmingham super-computer, BlueBEAR Infrared Thermometer

			<p>Tensile & Compressive testing load-frame</p> <p>Charpy Impact testing for notched specimens fracture toughness.</p> <p>Powder characterisation facility (particle size, molecular mass, surface area)</p> <p>High-resolution chemical analysis; interfaces, grains, grain-boundaries</p> <p>Thermal conductivity, thermal expansion analysis</p> <p>An extensive list can be found on the website under 'Equipment Available'</p>
Services offered	<p>Technical assistance of around 2 days, within materials science-related projects, including:</p> <p>Access to R&D facilities.</p> <p>Analytical services.</p> <p>Research.</p> <p>Consultancy.</p> <p>Collaborative projects.</p>	Evaluated?	<p>Supported over 300 SMEs with a £50m economic net impact.</p> <p>There is a 2019 report assessing AMCASH by the University but does not appear to be publicly available.</p>
Expertise	<p>Mechanical Testing</p> <p>Microstructure Characterisation</p> <p>Metallurgy</p> <p>Polymers</p> <p>Ceramics</p> <p>Simulation & Process Monitoring</p>	Open to applications?	Yes, contact for more information.
Weblink	<p>What we do - AMCASH Funded Technical Support</p> <p>AMCASH - University of Birmingham</p>		

Alternative Raw Materials with Low Impact (ARLI)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs particularly those in the construction and manufacturing industry.	Contact / Lead	arli@contacts.bham.ac.uk .
Geography	LEP Areas: Greater Birmingham and Solihull Black Country Coventry and Warwickshire	Partners	ARLI and ATETA partnering with The Centre for Research into Environmental Science and Technology (CREST) . This is a partnership between the University of Chester and Reaseheath College
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	ARLI has received 2 rounds of ERDF funding: £864,794 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2017 to 30/06/2020. And £399,341.41 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2023.
Established	01 June 2017.	Aims	To develop innovative low-carbon products and processes for/with SMEs. Aims to provide through areas of expertise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generation of new materials from waste – spurring growth through the commercialisation of novel products • Address acute raw material deficiencies which are crippling industrial supply chains. • Aid efficiency and improve environmental impact, with cost-effective solutions realised through reduced carbon emissions • Better infrastructure asset management • Preventative maintenance
Rationale	Regional competitiveness can be improved by companies incorporating new materials in their products and adopting new processes to make their business more effective in global markets and contribute to environmental policy goals by providing more sustainable goods.	Facilities provided	Laboratories.

	Enable businesses to increase energy efficiency in the use of raw and waste materials by collaborating with University of Birmingham academics.		
Services offered	<p>In particular, the ARLI team works with SMEs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced raw material use, improve resource efficiency and understanding of the benefits of the Circular Economy. Reuse waste streams by developing innovative new materials and products. Substitute harmful or non-biodegradable materials with natural, eco-friendly materials. Enhance sustainability within their supply chain. Explore innovative engineering solutions including infrastructure. Develop alternative materials for use in building systems, construction and off-site manufacturing. Understanding Life Cycle and Whole Life Costing and providing Carbon analysis of materials and processes. Unlock new opportunities and create jobs. 	Evaluated?	<p>Case studies can be found here. Has worked on projects focusing on sustainability and alternative materials, for example:</p> <p>Processing bike tyres into products like roof tiles</p> <p>Reinforcing concrete with carpet fibres and testing for mechanical performance and durability.</p> <p>Investigating the sustainability of alternative textile materials for bags and backpacks and testing the biodegradability and solubility of alternative polymers.</p>
Expertise	<p>ARLI areas of expertise are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing raw material use Material substitution & waste reduction Reuse of waste streams Geotechnical engineering including buried infrastructure Infrastructure monitoring and assessment Erosion detection and monitoring Design for disassembly Sustainability in the supply chain 	Open to applications?	Yes, contact the team to find out more.
Weblink	ARLI - University of Birmingham		

BioHub

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Support for biomedical companies.	Contact / Lead	thebiohub@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Geography	West Midlands	Partners	Institute of Translation Medicine, Birmingham Health Partners
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs) Incubator and Accelerator	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Not specified.	Funding	£6.8m development.
Established	2015	Aims	To support biomedical companies and act as a gateway to the facilities, equipment and support available at the University and Birmingham Health Partners. To house life science companies from proof of concept to expansion.
Rationale	The region has identified life sciences as a strategic sector and a major engine of future competitiveness and productivity growth. To enable this there needs to be practical support for biomedical businesses to develop a vibrant cluster that draws on and utilises regional STEM assets provided through Birmingham Health Partners.	Facilities provided	Conference and meeting facilities. On-site café. Commercial office space can be used by biomedical and hi-tech companies. Services for radioactive and waste handling, along with specialist gas supply. A multitude of equipment like microscopes and spectrophotometers Expertise in microbiology, drug development, laboratory health and safety.
Services offered	As well as the facilities, two dedicated full-time laboratory managers ensure companies can use facilities and equipment.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Providing incubator and accelerator space for biomedical companies.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	The Biohub Birmingham - University of Birmingham BioHub Birmingham Birmingham Research Park	Other information	Current tenants: on this link

BizzInn

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Entrepreneurs of all types including academics, graduates, and innovative local business people in hi-tech innovators sectors companies.	Contact	0121 414 6132
Geography	Birmingham	Partners	None specified.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs) Incubator	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Private Funding	Funding	Not specified.
Established	Not known.	Aims	To provide specialist facilities and expertise to help hi-tech innovators or companies develop or grow their business.
Rationale	Targeted support of potential new high growth businesses contributes to increasing starts and survival and regional competitiveness and productivity growth.	Facilities provided	Specialist facilities.
Services offered	Help with business planning, Intellectual Property, R&D, product testing, and translational funding. Business and enterprise training, delivered by entrepreneurs and mentoring from advisors and industry specialists. Programmes offered include Entrepreneurship for those considering new ventures; Business Growth for businesses that have just launched; Business Scale: for businesses with under 20 employees who wish to scale covering the introduction of specialised business functions including modules consisting of planning, logistics, finance and HR; Talent Growth that covers training on how to attract, recruit and retain the right people for the business; Medici Enterprise Training for academics and researchers with modules covering IP, assessing market potential, finance, and business planning and; Pitch To Investors: training for Pitchfest and VentureFest on how to develop and deliver a pitch to investors.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Supporting entrepreneurs and innovators.	Open to applications?	Not clear, there is a contact form, but BizzInn.
Weblink	BizzInn - University of Birmingham		

Centre for Innovation in Advanced Measurement in Manufacturing (CIAMM)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs in the civil engineering, high-performance computing, med-tech, satellite technology, scientific instrument and transportation sectors	Contact / Lead	Contact Form
Geography	GBSLEP	Partners	GBSLEP UK National Quantum Technology Hub: Sensors and Metrology.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by ERDF	Funding	ERDF award of £640,534 (50% of costs) covering 01/09/2018 to 31/08/2021.
Established	Not specified.	Aims	Help eligible SMEs to discover and explore the use of quantum technologies to Improve accuracy and precision in your processes Save costs and time with current methodologies and procedures Get more from investments made in laser and sensor technologies Create a distinct competitive advantage within your markets.
Rationale	Increased competitiveness of SMEs through the application of new technologies in their products and services, in this case, quantum technologies.	Facilities provided	Access to laser equipment including for example Tunable Cateye 679nm Laser / 707nm Laser / Dipole Laser / Frequency Comb / Frequency Doubled Telecom Laser System / Cateye Amplified 461nm Laser / RF Spectrum Phase Noise Analyser / M2 Solstis Ti: Sapphire Laser / Wavelength Meter More information
Services offered	Two days of pre-funded support, access to specialist technical equipment, workshops, and masterclasses, mentoring and coaching and technical expertise Connections with the UK National Quantum Technologies programme and opportunities for collaborative venture through a network of researchers and partners Support with accessing finance	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Quantum technologies	Open to applications?	Not clear, contact to find out more.
Weblink	CIAMM - University of Birmingham		

Centre for Research into Environmental Science and Technology (CREST)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Environmental science-based SMEs and SMEs that want to reduce their environmental impact by developing new products and services. Trading business to business.	Contact / Lead	crest@ucshrewsbury.ac.uk
Geography	Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.	Partners	University of Birmingham's ARLI and ATETA , University of Chester, Reaseheath College
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	The University of Chester received £2,023,826.09 (60% of costs) covering 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2023.
Established	Not specified.	Aims	To support SMEs in reducing their environmental impact. To address the area's issues and challenges relating to productivity. Help bring products and services to market. To provide specialist guidance on development and innovation. Want to help businesses prosper and get businesses off the ground.
Rationale	Businesses need specialist support to adopt environmental technologies to reduce their environmental impact and introduce new products and services to increase their competitiveness and contribute to regional economic growth.	Facilities provided	State-of-the-art laboratories. Drones and geospatial service.
Services offered	CREST provides 12 hours of free business innovation support and potential further support through longer-term research projects which may include student placements and internships. Business Development Managers. Access to innovation workshops and masterclasses, academic experts and laboratory facilities, drones and a geospatial service as well more specialised business support through links with the University of Birmingham ARLI and ATETA business support programmes.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain 80% of businesses stated CREST involvement had a positive impact on growth/ innovation. 42% cited an increase in turnover. 22% created jobs after CREST support.
Expertise	CREST website offers expertise in the following areas: Specialised business support (such as market research, business model , value proposition , marketing and accessing finance). Research and development. Feasibility studies. Testing.	Open to applications?	Yes, contact to find out more.

	<p>Product development. Laboratory services, including air, water and soil analysis. Support with funding applications. Low carbon R&D and LOCOP funding. Academic expertise. Drones and remote sensing. Waste and resource assessments. Developing innovative low-carbon products and processes.</p>		
Weblink	<p>CREST - University of Birmingham Environmental research & business support - Shropshire - CREST UCS (crestatucs.com) What We Do - Help you bring your idea or product to market - CREST UCS (crestatucs.com)</p>		

Data-Enabled Medical technologies And Devices Hub (DEMAND Hub)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs in or looking to enter the healthcare market.	Contact	demandhub@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Geography	Black Country, Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Coventry & Warwickshire and Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire	Partners	The LEPs in which they operate.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£1,464,967 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2023.
Established	July 2020.	Aims	To support SMEs wishing to enter the healthcare market.
Rationale	Medical technologies have been identified as a strategic sector and companies entering the sector require specialised advice and support	Facilities provided	Laboratories.
Services offered	<p>The programme offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business development support: DEMAND Hub supports businesses with knowledge of IP and access to specific funding for medical technologies and digital healthcare • Digital Tech support: We provide a unique “Data Sherpa” model of industry support. DEMAND Hub provides access to individuals who understand the local NHS, academic and business environments and can deliver the appropriate study design, data linkage, extraction and analyses to provide SMEs with the insights they need to support their product development. • Validation and commercialisation: DEMAND Hub provides Technical and Clinical understanding to help evaluate the relevance of solutions, the evidence required and the optimal developmental pathway, including potential service redesign. • Technician and Lab support: We provide highly-skilled support utilising our extensive laboratory 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain

	<p>infrastructure to underpin effective product design, development and testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Studies and Trials support: DEMAND Hub has expertise in the design of clinical trials and studies attuned to the medical technology regulatory environment and can guide businesses in the testing and evaluation needs and designs for specific product types. Clinician/patient/user experience support: We help to facilitate user experience and accessibility testing and development by connecting businesses to appropriate stakeholders and guiding the appropriate design and evidence tools. 		
Expertise	Medical technology and devices.	Open to applications?	The programme is live.
Weblink	University of Birmingham DEMAND Hub		

DIGI-RAIL

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs wanting to enter or grow in the rail industry, specifically the Digi-Rail industry.	Contact / Lead	digi-rail@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Geography	West Midlands (GBS, CW and BC LEPs) and Sheffield City regions.	Partners	Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Black Country LEP Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Sheffield City Region Derby, Derbyshire and Nottingham LEP Birmingham Chamber of Commerce UniPart Rail The Rail Alliance
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the University of Birmingham	Funding	DIGI-RAIL at the University of Birmingham received two different ERDF awards:

			DIGI-RAIL: £957,795 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2018 to 31/03/2022. DIGI-RAIL (Sheffield City Region): £1,132,349 (50% of costs), covering 01/10/2020 to 30/06/2023.
Established	Not specified.	Aims	To help businesses enter or grow their business in the digital rail sector. To give businesses a clear understanding of how they can fit into the future digital railway.
Rationale	Not specified.	Facilities provided	BCRRE is home to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. This includes: Electronic fabrication laboratories Railway simulators Supercomputing resources Testing rigs Data analysis tools.
Services offered	<p>A Business Engagement Manager (BEM) will discuss a business' goals and ambitions, and how DIGI-RAIL can help to grow a business. BEM will suggest relevant workshops and content. Help businesses outline where their business fits in to the digital railway. A Technical Officer will then discuss options with the business regarding product/ service development, and if this is wanted, a collaborative development project. All clients will get a minimum of 12 hours of free support and there is the possibility of a longer-term collaborative project.</p> <p>Specialist technical support available: Technical Officers: specialist in one or more of the digital technologies and innovations covered by the project. A business can engage one or more of the team and discuss ideas, work together and create prototype products (if relevant). Senior Technical Officers: bring expertise in railway systems, the rail supply chain and specific needs of the SME community to offer clients expert business and technical advice and support. Senior Technical Officers</p>	Evaluated?	<p>Quote from an SME: Dave Oakes, Managing Director at Powelectrics says: <i>"Powelectrics are thrilled with the work DIGI-RAIL has done for us as we continue to develop our wireless sensor solutions. The project outputs are a major step toward self-powered IIoT solutions with energy harvesting capabilities so that systems can be deployed in circumstances where replacing batteries and getting other power sources is a challenge, further enhancing desirability. Thanks to all at DIGI-RAIL for your hard work."</i></p> <p>More quotes and analyses from SMEs who have worked with DIGI-RAIL can be found on this page.</p>

	<p>discuss business objectives and ambitions and will liaison between a business and the Technical Officer.</p> <p>Academics: BCRRE is one of the world's largest academic centres of its kind. There are over 100 academic staff and research.</p> <p>Facilities: (see facilities)</p> <p>Advisory non-technical support includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business analysis and advice Get into Rail seminar series Signposting toward innovative funding Guiding into a wider network of the rail supply chain to benefit an organisation 		
Expertise	<p>DIGI-RAIL supports a broad range of Digital Systems areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Railway Operations and Control Traffic Management Rolling Stock Design Energy Optimisation Railway Traction BIM and Industry 4.0 Smart Ticketing Future Wireless Networks Station Information Systems Smart Stations IoT and Cyber Security 	Open to applications?	Yes, contact to find out more.
Weblink	More about DIGI-RAIL - University of Birmingham		

MD-TEC

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Medical and life sciences	Contact / Lead	Enquires can be made through a contact form.
Geography	West Midlands	Partners	University Hospitals Birmingham University of Birmingham
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£3,367,165 (50% of costs) covering 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2019 (awarded to University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust).
Established	2017	Aims	Provides Med–Tech and Life Sciences businesses access to the latest state-of-the-art simulation and usability facilities alongside dedicated medical device expertise from the academic and clinical environment.
Rationale	Businesses developing medical devices require additional specialist support to bring their innovations to markets including meeting the evidence needs of regulators and healthcare commissioners	Facilities provided	Access to University of Birmingham and University Hospitals Birmingham research facilities.
Services offered	<p>Usability Suite: Human factors engineering is focused on the user (ergonomics) and the use (usability) of medical devices.</p> <p>Clinical Trials Consultancy will enable you to determine if a Clinical Investigation (trial) is necessary for your medical device to pass this assessment and, if so, assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Evaluations • Which medical devices need a Clinical Investigation • Costings and timelines • Clinical Investigation planning and design • Regulatory approval from Competent Authority/Ethical Committee • Protocol required procedures • Investigations and tasks in line with the Medical Device Regulations. <p>Commercialisation support includes:</p>	Evaluated?	<p>The website includes several case studies.</p> <p>Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating the translation of R&D through ISO-accredited characterisation of devices from testing, design and manufacturing processes. • Advice and guidance on quality management system implementation at your facilities. • Meeting the requirements of the regulatory bodies for technical documentation. 		
Expertise	Health Technology Assessment.	Open to applications?	Enquires can be made through a contact form .
Weblink	https://www.md-tec.com/		

Speed to Scale Region (SSR)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs and Multinationals in the manufacturing sector.	Contact	ssr-enquiries@contacts.bham.ac.uk .
Geography	West Midlands.	Partners	The University of Birmingham. Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) The University of Warwick and WMG Supporting organisations include: Acuwomen, BAE Systems, BAXI Heating, Beama, Birmingham City Council, Binding Site, Energy Systems Catapult, Cisco, CoGen, Dignio, EnergyCapital, Enegie, GBSLEP, Green Finance Institute, Holosphere VR, Hugo (technology), Mondelez International, OrbsenTherapeutics, Pepsico. Renishaw, Rolls Royce SGN. Tyseley Energy Par, Vital Energi and Bosch
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Not specified. Possibly some funding from partners.	Funding	Potential £390 million investment.
Established	2020.	Aims	To deliver immediate economic impact and recovery and longer-term clean, inclusive, sustainable growth.
Rationale	Long term regional inequalities and the changing industrial environment, combined with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, have put the West Midlands in a precarious situation both economically and socially. The West Midlands has the technology advantage and the manufacturing base on which to build, and the world has an urgent need and appetite for clean growth and medical products.	Facilities provided	State-of-the-art assets to be provided.
Services offered	Supporting regional businesses with re-skilling: up-skilling and future-proofing the regional workforce Access to STEM assets within the region for research and product development, testing and validation and use of facilities. (e.g. laboratories, testing facilities and specialist equipment) Providing scale-up support: manufacturing acceleration, mentorship and leadership training, business incubator facilities, funding and systems integration.	Evaluated?	An ex-ante appraisal estimates a GVA impact of £2.1billion 20,000 jobs Predicted Impact Region Wide Impact See page 2 for a more detailed analysis of the potential impact.

Expertise	Low carbon heating. New medical technologies. Low emission urban mobility. Secure connectivity.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out more.
Weblink	Speed to Scale Region Programme - University of Birmingham	Other information	This is a large project and SME work is a small part of this.

UoB Elevate at the Exchange (B-Enterprising)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	University of Birmingham student and graduate start-ups with high potential early-stage ideas. Social enterprises or other community impact organisations that can demonstrate traction. Businesses with at least 50% University of Birmingham student/graduate ownership preferred.	Contact / Lead	
Geography	Must have attended or currently attend the University of Birmingham.	Partners	Not specified.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs) Incubator	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Not specified.	Funding	Not specified.
Established	Incubator at the Exchange set up in 2021.	Aims	Support University of Birmingham student and graduate entrepreneurs to the next level of growth.
Rationale	Not specified.	Facilities provided	Incubator space in city centre iconic Exchange building
Services offered	Opportunity to join a cohort of growth businesses Dedicated support and guidance Access to regional business support schemes, alumni mentoring schemes, and support with hiring student interns, consultancy schemes, funding schemes and investor networks, special offers and discounts from business service providers and Enterprising events . £15,000 start-up scholarship.	Evaluated?	Only recently established.
Expertise	Supporting start-ups.	Open to applications?	Applications for September 2021 intake have closed. Dates for new cohorts will be released soon. Can apply here .
Weblink	Start-Up and Freelance University of Birmingham UoB Elevate		

Birmingham City University

BCU Advantage

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	All sectors.	Contact / Lead	Contact Us - BCU Advantage
Geography	GBSLEP	Partners	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. Aston University. Newman University. Tamworth Borough Council. University College Birmingham. GBSLEP Growth Hub. UKRI Innovate UK. UKRI Research England. Cannock Chase Council. Lichfield District Council.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Not specified.	Funding	Not specified.
Established	Not specified.	Aims	Help achieve business goals through collaborations with BCU experts, business specialists and recruitment professionals along with partner organisations and funding bodies.
Rationale	Not specified.	Facilities provided	The university offers a variety of spaces for businesses to hire: Meeting rooms. Lecture theatres. Exhibition space. Film, TV, radio and music recording studios. Postproduction faculties. Musical performance theatres and rehearsal facilities. Facilities and Venue hire

Services offered	Offers 4 main sectors of support: Starting a business Growing a business Innovating a business Covid-19 help and advice Support measures: Business Advice and Resources Business Recovery : Institute of Technology (IoT) BCU Tools, Training and Webinars	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain.
Expertise	Supporting businesses to start, grow, innovate and recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	About Us - BCU Advantage		

Ecrofit

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs whose products or services make houses more energy-efficient,	Contact	https://ecrofit.co.uk/enquiry-form/
Geography	Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership geography	Partners	Birmingham City University and ABBE – the Awarding Body for the Built Environment
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£717,086 (50% of costs) covering 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2022
Established	2020	Aims	None is stated on the website.
Rationale	Support to transition to NetZero	Facilities provided	None stated
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous professional development for people involved in domestic energy assessments and retrofits Expert advice and consultancy for tailored research collaborations Networking and Events 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the new iRet solution – a building simulation software 		
Expertise	Energy efficiency	Open to applications?	Yes, at the time the website was checked.
Weblink	About - Building a smart and sustainable future (ecrofit.co.uk)		

Higher Level Skills Match (HLSM)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs.	Contact / Lead	Higher Level Skills Match (HLSM) - Enquire Today BCU Advantage (inquiring about services)
Geography	GBSLEP	Partners	Aston University and Newman University
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	European Social Fund	Funding	HLSM has received 2 rounds of ESF funding: £1,656,128 (50% of costs) covering 01/04/2017 to 31/01/2020 and £2,245,185 (51% of costs) covering 10/01/2020 to 31/12/2022.
Established	Not specified.	Aims	Help to upskill the workforce. Expand the skillset of teams. Recruit additional employees to realise growth.
Rationale	To enable the skills of graduates to be utilised in the region.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	Confirm your business goals and identify your skills requirements Create a personalised skills development plan for your business Identify workshops and training opportunities to upskill your workforce Develop JDs and job ads and manage your recruitment process Review and screen applicants and confirm a shortlist Invite selected candidates to interview Plan and deliver interviews	Evaluated?	The project signed agreements with 329 businesses and completed 189 skills projects with businesses. A survey of business participants reported that: 87% saw a positive impact on their business. 88% believed HLSM helped sustain or grow their business. 88% believed HLSM made it more likely they'd engage with universities in the future. 211 HLSM business staff members benefitted from skills support.

	Update candidates with results Identify opportunities for you to receive additional business support		
Expertise	Matching graduate's skillset with business needs.	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	Recruitment and upskill your workforce BCU Advantage		

STEAMhouse

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Entrepreneurs Start-ups Early-stage businesses Different criteria specified on the Birmingham City University Advantage website, must be either: Birmingham City University student or graduate. UK based entrepreneur within the Creative Sector and have a strong desire to develop a business idea.	Contact / Lead	Contact Form
Geography	West Midlands	Partners	Birmingham City University Avison Young Aukett Swanke Bowmer + Kirkland
Type of intervention	Infrastructure	Nature of funding	Fixed-term, project-based, multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	Two different ERDF amounts were awarded. STEAMhouse: £1,763,998 (50% of costs) covering 30/09/2016 to 31/03/2020. STEAMhouse Digital Technologies Enabling Innovation: £1,739,207 (50% of costs) covering 01/10/2019 to 30/09/2022. Arts Council ERDF GBSLEP UKRI Midlands Engine
Established	30 th September 2016	Aims	Dedicated to providing a space for collaboration, innovation and the development of new ideas, start-ups and ventures.

Rationale	STEAMhouse aims to provide an innovation ecosystem in the form of a collective; a living, breathing community of business experts, innovators, disrupters, thought leaders, design practitioners, academics, SMEs, large organisations, and corporate firms, who join together to drive business growth and overcome commercial and societal challenges through collaborative innovation.	Facilities provided	Facilities provided: Support to Start-up and Grow Support to Innovate Support to learn Office Space What makes STEAMhouse:
Services offered	Provides businesses with access to state-of-the-art facilities packages of business support. Access to like-minded collaborators from the business, academia, creative and digital communities. Advice and guidance from business experts and academic specialists. Entry to an exclusive community of like-minded businesses and organisations. Access to facilities, workshops and technicians for product prototyping. Community collaborations to fill knowledge gaps and drive innovation. Business support to take commercial ventures and projects to the next level.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise		Open to applications?	
Weblink	Welcome to STEAMhouse! The perfect place for your business to grow!		

Coventry University

Coventry & Warwickshire Green Business

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs for energy-efficient measures. Fewer than 250 employees.	Contact / Lead	greenbusiness@coventry.gov.uk businesssolutions@cueltd.co.uk 02467 236 406
Geography	Coventry and Warwickshire.	Partners	Coventry City Council Coventry University Coventry University Enterprises Ltd. Midlands Engine Coventry and Warwickshire LEP
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Partly funded by ERDF	Funding	ERDF awarded £5,215,752 (48.69% of costs) covering 01/01/2019 to 30/06/2023 to Coventry City Council for this scheme.
Established	Originally 2016. Additional funding for a further three years started in January 2019.	Aims	Supporting and promoting energy and resource efficiency and the adoption of low carbon technologies to SMEs within the Coventry and Warwickshire region.
Rationale	Help businesses identify where energy, water and waste savings can be made, as well as low carbon product development.	Facilities provided	Equipment to produce low carbon-related products.
Services offered	Provide grants and free energy and resource efficiency audits. Energy and resource efficiency grants - £1k-£50k (with 40% intervention) Free energy and resource efficiency audits to help identify energy, water and waste savings Continued free membership to the Green Business Network A new scope of audits to include advice on waste and water savings	Evaluated?	Since 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been over 14,000 tonnes of CO2 savings • 60 new jobs have been created • 150 SMEs have received non-financial support • 1450 organisations have joined the Green Business Network

	Access to other specialist support to enable growth and innovation Free events, workshops and 1:1 support		
Expertise	Efficiency and low carbon.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	About the Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme Coventry City Council Green Business Programme CUE		

Coventry & Warwickshire Innovation Test Bed Project

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	An SME operating in the following areas: Digital healthcare Assistive technology E-health Advanced manufacturing & engineering Creative industries & ICT Intelligent mobility Professionals' services and culture & tourism sectors. If not in these sectors, a business must be developing a product that might be applied to these areas: Have a product the business wants to develop, evaluate and/or take to market.	Contact / Lead	02476 236 406 businesssolutions@cueltd.co.uk Contact Form
Geography	Coventry and Warwickshire	Partners	Coventry University Coventry Council
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	Coventry City Council was awarded £3,558,181 (46.92% of costs) for this project covering 01/01/2019 to 31/12/21.
Established	Established 01 January 2019.	Aims	Support product development in the listed sectors.
Rationale	Drive innovation in Coventry and Warwickshire.	Facilities provided	None.

Services offered	Free services offered: One-to-one business mentoring. Workshops that aim to help enhance knowledge and skills, specifically in new product development and user testing. Usability tests and user evaluations are carried out on behalf of the business to provide impartial feedback which can be used in developing and marketing products.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Supporting product development.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	C&W Innovation Test Bed - CUE Business Solutions CW Innovation Test Bed – The Grid (the-grid.com)		

Enterprise Hub

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Anyone looking to use the space needs an area to work. Geared towards entrepreneurs and business individuals.	Contact / Lead	myidea@coventry.ac.uk 02477 659 542 Enquiry Form
Geography	In Coventry centre.	Partners	None listed.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs) Incubator	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Not known.	Funding	Not known.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Incubation, collaboration and knowledge base. Provide a nice space for people to work individually or collaboratively.
Rationale	Provide a welcoming environment to explore enterprise and develop entrepreneurial talent.	Facilities provided	Open between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday Facilities open for walk-ins: Hot desking: using a hot desk space inside the office. Some desktop computers are available and spaces with access to electrical sockets for laptops. Free Wi-Fi: access the internet.

			<p>Meeting rooms: three meeting rooms, each with plasma screens, telephones and access to free Wi-Fi.</p> <p>Reception service and on-site manager.</p> <p>Free refreshments: Access to a fully stocked kitchen with tea and coffee making facilities.</p> <p>Large meeting space: Can hire a large, open-plan meeting area with a 'grassy knoll' seating area and multimedia presentation facilities for up to 20 people.</p> <p>Cost of the facilities walk-in: Small meeting room - £75 per day* Big meeting room - £150 per day* Hot-desking (During operational hours) - £10 per day / £30 per week* *All prices include VAT</p>
Services offered	On-site manager.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Providing space for working.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	The Enterprise Hub CU Social Enterprise (coventry.ac.uk)		

Focus Digital

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs in the following sectors: digital, ICT and creative industries, assisted living and community healthcare, tourism, leisure and the visitor economy, business and professional services.	Contact / Lead	focusdigital@cueltd.co.uk contact form
Geography	LEP areas: Coventry & Warwickshire Greater Birmingham & Solihull Black Country	Partners	Midlands Engine
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple

Funders	ERDF, Midlands Engine, Focus Digital Support is part-funded to eligible businesses through the European Regional Development Fund.	Funding	ERDF award of £1,067,783 (49.92% of costs) covering 01/10/2016 to 30/09/2022.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Allow businesses to scale up the digital ladder.
Rationale	Adoption of new technology to support productivity and innovation.	Facilities provided	Not provided.
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-to-1 support on Graphic Design (including Digital branding for a new product; Website designs; Website reviews; Branding and marketing materials; Brand Guidelines, Infographics) Workshops (topics included: Branding, YouTube, Social Media Marketing, Website Development., Digital Photography/Video) Six hours of 1-to-1 support from a graphic designer. Grants offer between £1,000 and £6,000 with a maximum 40% intervention rate on projects up to £12,500 which could include for example: Introducing a CRM system; Purchasing CAD software & hardware; Development of an automated web booking system; Creating 360-degree images of proposed architectural developments; Adding a client eLearning portal to an existing website; Augmented Reality walk through of new building designs; App for a mobile workforce to avoid reliance on the internet and Wi-Fi; Development of bespoke Business Management Software 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Coventry University Ltd Graphic Designers	Open to applications?	Contact to find out more.
Weblink	Focus Digital - CUE Business Solutions WARWICKSHIRE MEANS BUSINESS -		

Innovation2Succeed (i2s)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMES who show innovation and growth potential. All, Creative, Digital & Technology, Social Enterprise, Life Sciences, Health and Social Care, Manufacturing, Energy Technologies, Mentoring	Contact / Lead	This scheme has now closed
Geography	GBSLEP	Partners	Innovate UK ERDF Innovate UK Enterprise Europe Network
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£256,145 (50% of costs) covering 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2019.
Established		Aims	Help SMEs enhance innovation management capacity.
Rationale	Innovation to support productivity growth	Facilities provided	
Services offered	The support was targeted at companies who want to unlock their innovation management potential and offered up to 7 days of fully funded, one-to-one, tailored support to help SMEs: plan innovation and commercialisation activity develop and implement practical innovation management processes connect to high-quality specialist advice, support and facilities create a culture of sustainable innovation become investment-ready and secure funding or finance	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Innovation	Open to applications?	No
Weblink	Innovate to Succeed i2s (gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk) innovate2succeed (i2s) - CUE Business Solutions		

Innovation Networks

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs who are working with at least 2 other businesses.	Contact / Lead	ccolbyjohnson@cad.coventry.ac.uk 02476 236 406
Geography	LEP Areas: Coventry & Warwickshire Black Country Greater Birmingham and Solihull	Partners	ERDF, Midlands Engine
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£983,596.90 (50% of costs) covering 01/10/2016 to 30/09/2022.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Enable SMEs to develop innovative new products, processes, or services.
Rationale	Drive innovation in the West Midlands.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	Revenue grants are available to cover product development costs. For example, parts and materials, prototype development, testing and I.P protection. Or Capital grants to cover costs of tooling and machinery needed to develop new products.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Providing funding for innovation.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out more.
Weblink	Innovation Networks - CUE Business Solutions Funding Opportunities for SMEs Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub (cwgrowthhub.co.uk)		

Proof of Concept

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact / Lead	businesssolutions@cueltd.co.uk
Geography	SMEs within Coventry & Warwickshire and Greater Birmingham & Solihull	Partners	Coventry University
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	Received two amounts of ERDF funding: Round 1: £700,178 (49.85% of costs) covering 01/10/2016 to 30/09/2019. Extension: £815, 997.80 (50% of costs) covering 01/10/2019 to 30/09/2022
Established	2019	Aims	The support aims to help determine and shape the commercial potential and routes to market of innovative ideas through proof of concept.
Rationale	Helping businesses to focus research, design and innovation resources on viable ideas will help to increase the likelihood and decrease the timescales involved in bringing innovative new products and processes to market.	Facilities provided	
Services offered	Grants of up to £4,000 to SMEs who are considering the viability of new products.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Innovation	Open to applications?	Yes, at the time the website was checked
Weblink	Proof of Concept - CUE Business Solutions		

Keele University

Healthcare and Medical Technology Business Support

Healthcare Business Network

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Creating a regional forum for companies in all sectors looking to grow their business and make new contacts in the healthcare and medical supply chain.	Contact / Lead	01782 734467 k.salmon@keele.ac.uk
Geography	Not known.	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Likely part of the ERDF funded mentioned below.	Funding	Not known.
Established	2018	Aims	Help businesses connect with like-minded businesses, supply chain partners and the NHS
Rationale	To allow peer-to-peer support and learning in the healthcare sector.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	Events. International speakers. Funding opportunities. Regular newsletters. Signposting to other business support. Supply chain contacts. Promotional opportunities. Introduction to NHS partners. Sector-specific updates. Discussed Topics: Digital Health Augmented & Virtual Reality Diagnostics Medical Devices Regulatory Compliance	Evaluated?	150+ SMEs connected through the Healthcare Business Network Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain

Expertise	Healthcare network.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	Healthcare Business Network - Keele University Keele Deal Health - Keele University PowerPoint Presentation (keele.ac.uk)		

Business Bridge

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Support to SMEs specifically in the Healthcare and Medical sector based in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	Contact / Lead	k.salmon@keele.ac.uk 01782 734467
Geography	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	Partners	Staffordshire County Council. Stoke-on-Trent City Council. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	The Business Bridge has been identified as a key priority within the New Keele Deal with an investment of £70m. Also received ERDF funding.	Funding	ERDF: MRDC Phase 1: £623,657 (60% of costs) covering 01/10/2016 to 31/12/2018. MRDC Phase 2 (Business Bridge): £999,873 (60% of costs) covering 01/01/2019 to 30/09/2023.
Established	June 2018	Aims	To help businesses develop new products and accelerate and identify new opportunities in healthcare markets.
Rationale	Support Healthcare and Medical Supply Chain businesses.	Facilities provided	Facilities and equipment provided.
Services offered	Access to researchers and clinicians who can advise or collaborate on a business's products. Regulatory compliance and helping to access the NHS as a supplier. Access to unmet market needs identified by Business Ready's clinical academics. Helping to improve connections with local businesses.	Evaluated?	The Business Bridge programme has thus far supported 35 local businesses helping them to create develop and get new healthcare-related products and services to market in the first phase. Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain

	<p>Low-risk product development.</p> <p>Medical regulatory advice.</p> <p>Market access support.</p> <p>Business Bridge offers Innovation Vouchers that are worth between the values of £2,000 and £3,000 to qualifying businesses. These vouchers can then be exchanged for access to an Experts Panel of specialists in Healthcare and Medical markets or specialist support including:</p> <p>Support for market access.</p> <p>Product design, prototyping and testing.</p> <p>CE marketing and other regulatory advice.</p>		
Expertise	Like-minded business network, supply chain partners and NHS.	Open to applications?	Can apply via a simple application process for a prompt decision from the Business Bridge team.
Weblink	Healthcare and MedTech - Keele University business-bridge-flyer.pdf (keele.ac.uk) Keele's Business Bridge programme to support another 39 local businesses after being awarded £1m ERDF funding - Keele University Healthcare and MedTech - Keele University		

Innovation Leadership Programme

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Support business leaders and early-stage entrepreneurs. Open to aspiring entrepreneurs	Contact / Lead	mcil@keele.ac.uk 01782 733001
Geography	SMEs in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.	Partners	External spotlight speakers include: Grant Leboff Hazel Carter-Showell Professor Carolyn Roberts Les Jones
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple

Funders	The Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership programme is delivered through the Keele University Science & Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub which received ERDF funding.	Funding	The Keele University Science & Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub received £10,229,918 (60% of costs) covering 13/04/2017 to 30/09/2023.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Support aspirational business leaders and early-stage entrepreneurs to develop the skills, knowledge and attribute to take their business to the next level.
Rationale	To use University knowledge to support local businesses.	Facilities provided	Access to the wide scientific and technological infrastructure of Keele University. Be part of a unique innovation network. Learn from fellow hand-picked entrepreneurs and social innovators.
Services offered	Services offered include: Six two-day sessions: programme consists of 12 sessions across six months. Exclusively online: the programme is currently online. The platform has digital materials and lectures, break out rooms and one-to-one meetings. Participants gain access to: Coaching, advice and guidance A unique blend of action learning - including one-to-one sessions, peer review, activity-based learning, creative challenge-based activity, and self-directed learning Innovation-focussed action plan development for your business Access to the latest thinking around innovation and social value, dedicated masterclasses and a unique innovation eco-system	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Supporting businesses to grow.	Open to applications?	Applications open for April 2022 (Cohort 6) applications. Possibly open for Cohort 7 (October 2022 to March 2023).
Weblink	Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership - Keele University	Other information	

Keele Gateway

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact / Lead	gateway@keele.ac.uk 01782 733001
Geography	Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Programme dependant.	Funding	Not known.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Support regional businesses.
Rationale	To play a part in regional business support.	Facilities provided	Programme dependant.
Services offered	Benefits of the Keele Gateway include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear, easy and accessible entry route for all businesses, particularly local SMEs • A specialist team who understands business and universities • Providing access to Keele's talent, expertise, facilities and networks • Backed up by significant investment of resources at the heart of the New Keele Deal, including ERDF-funded programmes, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and Keele University Science & Innovation Park. 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	University business support.	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	Keele Gateway		

Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme (KRISP)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Local SME businesses based in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire area. Need to have innovative ideas and growth potential. Also have student internships.	Contact / Lead	KRISP@keele.ac.uk 01782 733001
Geography	Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire area.	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	The Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme is delivered through the Keele University Science and Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub which received ERDF Funding.	Funding	The Keele University Science and Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub received £10,229,918 (60% of costs) covering 13/04/2017 to 30/09/2023.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Give access to cutting-edge research, knowledge, techniques or technology that can help to drive your business forward.
Rationale	To enable university research to help local businesses.	Facilities provided	Possibly have access to equipment and facilities needed.
Services offered	The website outlines how The Keele Research and Innovation Programme can help support, analyse and evaluate options in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New markets • Channels and supply chains • Working practices • Policy and procedure • Strategy, alliances and partnerships Provides access to: Research. Knowledge. Techniques and technology. Support covers the following four main areas: New product & service development Digital acceleration, transformation & innovation Realising environmental & social gains Reimagining your business Facilities provided fully-funded include:	Evaluated?	Success stories Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain

	A business-facing team that includes a Business Engagement Manager and Innovation Advisor. Student or graduate consultant working in a business as a Research, Development and Innovation Associate. Additional academic expertise to ensure the project reaches its full potential.		
Expertise	200 businesses to date have been supported by this scheme.	Open to applications?	Yes, contact to find out more.
Weblink	Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme - Keele University		

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Businesses and not-for-profit organisations. The specifications outlined for a KTP include: Being based in the UK and a large enough company to support the project. Have the financial capacity to contribute to costs. The project needs to show impact, innovation, challenge and cohesiveness.	Contact / Lead	gateway@keele.ac.uk 01782 733001
Geography	National	Partners	UK Government
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part of the cost of a KTP is funded by a grant, applied for in a competitive bid for submissions from the national innovation agency, Innovate UK , and other government co-funders. 67% of the total KTP budget for SMEs is met by Government funding (for larger companies, this is up to 50%). In certain cases, the KTP may also be eligible for Research and Development tax credits.	Funding	Given on a project basis.
Established	2003	Aims	To help businesses improve their competitiveness and productivity through better use of knowledge, technology and skills.

Rationale	Create connections between businesses, academia and research organisations to deliver strategic innovation projects. To realise positive transformational change and growth. Using a graduate, the partnerships create new expertise, stimulate business growth and facilitate innovation.	Facilities provided	KTPs provide cost-effective access to resources in the knowledge base, including technology, equipment and facilities.
Services offered	Access to resources of the academic or research organisation. A dedicated team to deliver your strategic project. Expert academic and research input, bringing additional knowledge to support the Associate and the project. The consultancy and guidance of a highly experienced Knowledge Transfer Adviser. 1. Each project has a KTP Associate , which is a graduate or postgraduate. The KTP programme is complemented by the Management KTP Programme (mKTP) , which focuses on helping a business to change its culture or expanding management capacity to help them build resilience, adaptability and growth.	Evaluated?	There has been some evaluation on a national level.
Expertise	Knowledge Transfer	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	Knowledge transfer partnerships - Keele University ktp-info-sheet-june-2018.pdf (keele.ac.uk) Home - Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (ktp-uk.org)	Other info	Note: This is a national programme offered at all institutions in this directory.

MICRA Incubator

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs. Companies with a current level of innovation and wanting to base themselves in an office space at Innovation Centre 1 or co-working facilities at Innovation Centre 6.	Contact / Lead	MICRA Incubation Support Grant: a.j.lomas@keele.ac.uk Science & Innovation Park: j.caine@keele.ac.uk
Geography	Want to base themselves in Keele.	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based

	Infrastructure (labs)		Single / Multiple
Funders	Not known.	Funding	Not known.
Established	Not known.	Aims	To provide start-ups and SMEs with lower-cost access to the office/co-working facilities necessary to build transformative technologies as economically and efficiently as possible, to enable them to drive the commercialisation of their research to market and can also provide funding for specialised labs, equipment and tools
Rationale	To use university resources to support local start-ups and SMEs.	Facilities provided	Office space. Labs. Equipment.
Services offered	Funding to offset direct costs incurred when renting an office/ co-working space at the Science and Innovation Park for a period of up to 12 months.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Providing incubator space.	Open to applications?	Applications closed in February 2020.
Weblink	MICRA Incubator - Keele University		

Smart Energy Network Demonstrator

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Staffordshire based SMEs. SEND want SMEs to focus on solutions to contribute to the UK Renewable Energy Road Map .	Contact / Lead	Julian Read, SEND Business Engagement Manager j.r.read@keele.ac.uk 01782 733121
Geography	Staffordshire.	Partners	UK Government.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	European Regional Development Fund as part of the England 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Growth Programme. UK Government. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).	Funding	ERDF awarded £9,971,246 (59.95% of costs) covering 01/01/2017 to 30/09/2023.
Established	Not known.	Aims	To help companies research and develop solutions to tackle climate change.

Rationale	Businesses and universities are important to each other in driving the innovation the UK needs for clean growth and in tackling climate change - one of the biggest barriers to future prosperity. SEND is about developing new opportunities from the challenge.	Facilities provided	Smart Energy Network Demonstrator: a living laboratory.
Services offered	<p>Two RD&I programmes are currently available:</p> <p>25 x three-month projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Places available. <p>16 x three-year projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This programme is now full. <p>Some services that have already been offered to businesses working as part of SEND include:</p> <p>Access to SEND's position in at-scale smart energy network demonstration.</p> <p>Research support from Keele University or other University partners to use the skills/ expertise of academic experts.</p> <p>Placement of a researcher who is a specialist to the company at three months' salary for no fee.</p> <p>Access to Open Innovation and networking events with industry leaders on smart energy, generation, networks and systems.</p>	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report identified in the public domain
Expertise	Specialist researchers are matched to business needs to help develop innovative technologies, systems and improved energy management.	Open to applications?	Places available for 3-month projects.
Weblink	SEND and your business - Keele University		

University of Wolverhampton

Black Country Digital Passport

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact / Lead	CLOSED – funded to 2019
Geography	Black Country LEP area	Partners	
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£529,450 (50% of costs) covering 20/04/2017 to 31/12/2019.
Established		Aims	Found no record in the public domain
Rationale	Knowledge exchange to support innovation and productivity	Facilities provided	
Services offered	The project provided subsidised graduate placement and consultancy support to SMEs to help develop new products.	Evaluated?	Unclear -
Expertise	Digitalisation	Open to applications?	Closed
Weblink	None found		

Brownfield Research and Innovation Centre (BRIC)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Construction	Contact / Lead	Enquiry form
Geography	Black Country	Partners	None provided.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (e.g. labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£3,180,216 with ERDF contribution of £1,590,105.

			ERDF: £2,173,890.03 (50% of costs) covering 01/10/2017 to 31/03/2023.
Established	October 2017	Aims	Support to Black Country SMEs involved in brownfield remediation and redevelopment thereby bringing more brownfield sites back into economic use.
Rationale	The Black Country has an industrial heritage extending back to the 18th century and consequently has many brownfield sites that have resisted redevelopment and reuse.	Facilities provided	Access to equipment can be accessed, free of charge including a 3-D Scanner, 2 Drones, Ground-penetrating radar, an XRF scanner to detect heavy metals and other contaminants and advanced survey equipment for developing an accurate picture of structures and features on brownfield sites. Access to soil and water testing Lab (Total Organic Carbon, Gas Chromatography), BRIC also has access to the University's labs and can take advantage of their XRF and XRD equipment. Both allow BRIC to identify the presence of contaminants in soil and water
Services offered	free services to Black Country SMEs and has a target of providing 12hrs of initial business support to 60 SMEs and up to 100hrs of detailed research and development support to 30 SMEs. The support provided falls into one of the following five categories including access to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BRIC research team and University of Wolverhampton academics 2. Field equipment to investigate brownfield sites and derelict buildings. 3. Laboratory Testing -. 4. Networking. workshops, training and an annual brownfield conference. 5. Site Identification database of all the Black Country's Brownfield sites. 	Evaluated?	There are case studies on the BRIC website.
Expertise	BRIC consists of a core team of six, with additional support provided by University of Wolverhampton academics	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	BRIC: University of Wolverhampton	Other	Governance: To ensure that the support provided by BRIC remains current and business-focused, its activities are reviewed on a six-monthly basis by an Advisory Board. This

			board includes representatives from the following organisation: the 4 Black Country Local Authorities, Environment Agency, Homes England, Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, The British Geological Survey, Canal & River Trust, Coal Authority, CLAIRE, Arup Ltd, McAuliffe Ltd, Landmark Ltd., Arcadis Ltd., Balfour Beatty, Dunton Environmental Ltd, Walsall Housing Group and Delta-Simons Ltd.
--	--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Built Environment Climate Change Innovations (BECCI)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact / Lead	BECCI@wlv.ac.uk
Geography	Black Country, Shropshire, and Herefordshire	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF	Funding	£2,851,628 with ERDF contribution of £1,519,350 over period 2016 to 2021 (ERDF summary) Current ERDF funding runs out on 31/12/2021.
Established	Possibly 2016.	Aims	To support companies to successfully implement their ideas, strategies and practical leadership in what is an unfamiliar and fast-moving competitive sector.
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to achieve substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and the region has some large-scale social housing programmes that could go a long way to meeting the national target, through retrofitting of their existing housing stock 	Facilities provided	Testing facilities.
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of information and engagement with SMEs, linking them to our academic experts to drive product and service innovation that will contribute to reduced CO2 emissions. 	Evaluated?	Case Studies are available. No overarching evaluation report is in the public domain.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in adopting innovations in insulation, building fabric, ventilation, heating and cooling controls, battery storage and smart grid. 		
Expertise	Reducing CO2 emissions includes the following areas: Insulation, Building fabric, Ventilation, Heating and Cooling Controls, Battery Storage, and Smart grid.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out more.
Weblink	BECCI		

Composite & Additive Layer Materials Engineering Research & Innovation Centre (CALMERIC)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Businesses that operate medical technology, transport technologies (including automotive, aerospace), wind energy supply chains, applied materials and environmental technologies sectors.	Contact	calmeric@wlv.ac.uk
Geography	Shropshire and Staffordshire	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Funding	£1,854,020 including ERDF contribution of £1,112,412 covering January 2019 to December 2021
Established	Not known.	Aims	Supports advanced engineering and manufacturing companies to develop high-performance components that are lightweight and make efficient use of materials.
Rationale	To support the adoption of advanced components manufactured using composite or additive layer technologies.	Facilities provided	Access to following resources and equipment: resin 3d printer for UV curing; high-pressure oven – autoclave; 3 and 5 axis CNC manufacturing equipment; faro edge blue laser 3d scanning; compression testing for tensile fracture, toughness, fatigue; optical SEM microscopy; CMM and reverse engineering; auto clave; wind tunnel – subsonic & supersonic facilities; powder particle size and shape analysis machine; CT scanning – x-ray microscopy – non-destructive 3d analysis/micron resolution; powder bed fusion; melt pool monitoring machine and non-destructive testing

Services offered	<p>CALMERIC works in collaboration with companies that don't presently have full in-house capability to develop advanced components manufactured using composite or additive layer technologies. Research Collaborations typically involve high-level design and engineering analysis, prototyping, testing and material or microstructure analysis.</p> <p>Services and benefits to businesses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced technical support • Engineering analysis and design • Process and materials development • Prototyping • Materials testing • Stress analysis of advanced materials • Additive layer manufacturing • Direct metal laser sintering • Fibre-reinforced composite materials • Research and innovation • Access to academic specialists, skills and resources 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Expertise	Composite and additive layer materials.	Open to applications?	The project is due to close in December 2021.
Weblink	CALMERIC University of Wolverhampton		

Connect 2 Grow

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact	Closed
Geography	Marches LEP	Partners	Marches Growth Hub
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by ERDF	Funding	£585,998 (56.24% of costs) covering 01/04/2017 to 31/12/2021.

Established		Aims	The project supports the LEP's strategic priority to create an exceptional business support environment.
Rationale	Overcome barriers to product innovation,	Facilities provided	N/A
Services offered	The project will provide subsidised graduate placement and consultancy support to SMEs to help develop new products.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Expertise	Not specified	Open to applications?	No
Weblink	No live link found		

Construction Futures Research Centre (CFRC)

Also known as Sustainability and Construction Futures Research and Innovation Centre.

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Construction.	Contact / Lead	Contact Form
Geography	Not specified.	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	part-funded by ERDF.	Funding	£1,666,890 with ERDF contribution of £917,816 April 2017 to 30 June 2020 – extended to 2023. Unclear whether time only or with additional funding.
Established	Not known.	Aims	To improve the efficiency of the construction sector. To develop ground-breaking methodologies for process simulations leading to significant productivity and gains for the region, impacting housing and major infrastructure projects.
Rationale	Decisions made early in the design stage can have a significant time and cost impact on manufacture and construction later in the process.	Facilities provided	Not known.
Services offered	Assistance with optimising production processes including: 1. DES Reducing bottlenecks 2. Building Information Modelling	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,

	3. ISO19650 4. Supply chain process improvements 5. Digital techniques		
Expertise	Improving efficiency in the construction sector.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	CFRC University of Wolverhampton		

Environmental Technologies & Resource Efficiency Support Service (EnTRESS)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs on the adoption of environmental technologies and resource efficiency processes	Contact / Lead	EnTRESS@wlv.ac.uk
Geography	Black Country Stoke and Staffordshire	Partners	Midlands Engine.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund	Funding	Received two rounds of ERDF funding: Round 1: £604,771 (50% of costs) covering 01/01/2017 to 30/06/2020. Extension: £445,472 (50% of costs) covering 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2023.
Established	2014	Aims	to increase business competitiveness, improve productivity and identify new market opportunities for SMEs through the adoption of environmental technologies and the reduction of waste.
Rationale	Globally EnTRESS aligns with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) priorities and the UN's Sustainability Development Goals. Regionally EnTRESS will support the Black Country and Stoke and Staffordshire to become a low carbon economy.	Facilities provided	N/A

Services offered	Working across a variety of sectors, and with key stakeholders, EnTRESS can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver one to one mentoring and business support • Identify new to market opportunities for SMEs • Promote innovative projects to large commercial and public sector organisations • Engage with leading academic research on R&D projects • Provide exhibition space at industry networking events • Provide in-house baseline audits on resource efficiency 	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Expertise	Environmental technologies.	Open to applications?	Yes, contact to find out more.
Weblink	EnTRESS University of Wolverhampton	Other	ERDF summary mentions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will support 90 enterprises. • Support the introduction of 15 new to firm products. • 10 of these enterprises will be new enterprises.

Knowledge Exchange & Enterprise Network (KEEN)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs	Contact	Closed
Geography	Black Country LEP, the Marches LEP, Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP.	Partners	Aston University, Birmingham City University, Coventry University and Coventry University Enterprises.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Funding	£1,931,792 including ERDF contribution of £965,896
Established	2012	Funding Period	January 2016 to December 2018

Rationale	Smaller businesses unable to participate in collaborations	Aims	The project aimed to deliver 73 innovation and/or research-intensive company interventions across the mentioned LEP areas.
Services offered	The programme entails a company employing a graduate, known as an Affiliate, who with an academic mentor, transfers knowledge from the knowledge base to the company on projects lasting between 6 to 24 months	Facilities provided	
Expertise	Knowledge exchange	Evaluated?	Yes, a summary of research into Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise Network (KEEN) projects. Report 2 (openrepository.com) . Various reports have been uploaded to ResearchGate.
Weblink			

Science in Industry Research Centre (SIRC)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Companies in the West Midlands developing new science-based products in the areas of biotechnology, polymers and life-sciences	Contact / Lead	Email: SIRC@wlv.ac.uk Or complete our enquiry form online .
Geography	Black Country Greater Birmingham and Solihull The Marches Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.	Partners	Midlands Engine University of Wolverhampton
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Funding	£2,454,995 including ERDF contribution of £1,519,350
Established	October 2019	Funding Period	October 2019 to September 2022
Rationale	Current innovation research suggests that the largest innovation gains (patents filed, radical products developed) are being derived at the interface between scientific disciplines.	Aims	SIRC will have two strands of complimentary activities that are specifically designed to support regional businesses:1. An applied research & development strand where Midlands-based businesses with a science focus can seek

			support in the development of new products. The objective of this strand of activity is to increase the innovative output of science-based businesses within the West Midlands region. 2. An original research and industrial dissemination strand. The emphasis of this second strand of activity is to bring together life science-based research groups to work at the interface of their disciplines. We intend to focus on solving industrial challenges by bringing together research specialists in the fields of biotechnology, polymers and life-sciences
Services offered	<p>Eligible applicants benefit from initial fully-funded support to refine their product concept and its development requirements. For businesses with an innovative product of high potential, additional support can be provided by specialist academic, technical and research staff at the University of Wolverhampton in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Property (IP) review and guidance • IP grants • scientific research • new product design and prototyping • laboratory testing. <p>SIRC is now open for applications and is expected to close in early 2022.</p>	Facilities provided	Lab facilities
Expertise	Innovation	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain.
Weblink	Science in Industry Research Centre - University of Wolverhampton (wlv.ac.uk)		

SciTech Innovation Hub

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Inventors	Contact	SciTechInnovationHub@wlv.ac.uk
Geography	Not stated on the website	Partners	Not stated on the website

Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Not stated on the website	Funding	Not stated on the website
Established	Not stated on the website	Funding Period	
Rationale	Information failures related to innovation	Aims	
Services offered	<p>The SciTech Innovation Hub offer includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAD modelling and engineering analysis • Development of design concepts • Market research • Review of intellectual property • Access to technical graduate placements <p>Help 4 inventors service was set up to help inventors commercialise their ideas. In return for a fee of £65 charged for each innovation reviewed by the SciTech Innovation Hub For innovations judged to have particularly good commercial potential, there is the offer of entering a Development Partnership Agreement.</p>	Facilities provided	
Expertise	Commercialisation	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Weblink	https://www.wlv.ac.uk/business-services/funding-and-support/support-for-inventors/scitech-innovation-hub/help-4-inventors/		

Smart Concept Fund

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs operate in the following sectors: Transport technologies (including aerospace and automotive); Building technologies/construction; Advanced manufacturing including advanced engineering; Environmental technologies; Applied materials; Agri-Tech /agriculture, food and drink; Medical technology; Energy generation; Defence and securities.	Contact	
Geography	Black Country, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Hereford	Partners	
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Funding	£881,790 (50% of costs) covering 01/04/2017 to 30/06/2023.
Established		Aims	<p>The Smart Concept Fund aims to support companies to carry out a programme of development work, where third-party suppliers are contracted to provide expert services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design modelling • Engineering analysis • Protection of intellectual property • Preparation of intellectual property agreements • Market research • Pre-clinical tests • Phase 1 clinical trials • User trials • Product testing (including compliance with product standards) • Prototyping
Rationale	Overcome proof of a concept barrier to commercialization.	Facilities provided	

Services offered	The Smart Concept Fund offers a Proof of Concept grant designed to support the commercialisation of new technologies. The Fund can award successful applicants a grant of up to £16,500 at an intervention rate of up to 55% to help fund an approved product development project, subject to eligibility conditions. The Fund is open to applications and closure is expected in early 2023	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Expertise			
Weblink	https://www.wlv.ac.uk/business-services/funding-and-support/the-smart-concept-fund/		

SOLVD

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Start-ups and SMEs in the Business to Business (B2B) sector	Contact	solvd@wlv.ac.uk
Geography	Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire	Partners	Telford and Wrekin Council
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part ERDF funded	Funding	
Established		Aims	Supports businesses in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin through technology road mapping and the use of AI, Deep Learning, Visualisations, and Data Analytics.
Rationale	The adoption of digital technologies to improve productivity and profit	Facilities provided	
Services offered	The types of assistance available to eligible businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,100 worth of free consultancy from industry experts. Up to 12 hours of ‘deep dive’ business consultancy (support) will be available at no cost Workshops to develop a bespoke technology strategy and a roadmap for a digital future. 	Evaluated?	Case studies are available https://www.wlv.ac.uk/business-services/funding-and-support/solvd/case-studies/

	SOLVD provides advice and support related to business start-up; business planning & strategy; product development & testing; rapid prototyping; product analysis: focus groups/market research and soft market testing; business case: market segment analysis & competitor analysis; value proposition development; investor readiness assessment; product commercialisation; and business operations		
Expertise	Areas of expertise include Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML); 5G Communication; Immersive Technologies (Augmented/Virtual/Mixed Realities); Robotics; Cybersecurity; Internet of Things (IoT) and Sensors; Big Data Analytics; and Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)		
Weblink	https://www.wlv.ac.uk/business-services/funding-and-support/solvd/		

Spark Incubator

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Start-up and entrepreneurs in creative or technology sectors	Contact	enquiries@sparkspace.co.uk Apply with a form
Geography	Wolverhampton and West Midlands area.	Partners	Black Country Growth Hub
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	European Regional Development Funds provided set up funding Wolverhampton Science Park Limited Funding.	Funding	
Established	2004	Funding Period	
Rationale	Increase survival and growth of start-ups in engineering, creative media, and ICT sectors	Aims	The hub has an aim to raise the region's profile and importance regarding technology, specifically engineering, creative media and ICT.
Services offered	Black Country Growth Hub is a signposting service for business support:	Facilities provided	15,000 sq. ft. of subsidised office space photography studio

		Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain, but the following outcomes have been reported: 557 businesses started. 1,809 jobs were created.
Weblink	The Home of Start-ups – SPARK Business Incubator Wolverhampton – Supporting the success of your business with space (sparkspace.co.uk)		

SPEED

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Students and graduates from ANY subject area can develop their idea into a business to run alongside their studies, after graduation or alongside employment in a supportive environment Primarily support STEM and Creative entrepreneurs	Contact / Lead	
Geography	SPEED operates out of University Centre Telford which is also the base for providing general business support in Shropshire. The programme is promoted across Black Country and Marches LEP	Partners	Marches Growth Hub Black Country LEP Marches LEP'
Type of intervention	Centre Programme	Nature of funding	Fixed-term? Project-based? Single / Multiple
Funders	part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),	Funding	£4,203,691 including ERDF contribution of £2,101,845
Established		Funding Period	To 31 st December 2021
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support packages are offered via specialist workshops, match-funded grants and business consultancy. bespoke business development workshops cover core business acumens such as Marketing, Finance and other key elements opportunity to attend additional workshops at the Business Solutions Centre opportunities to network and connect with like-minded people within Shropshire 	Facilities provided	Can hire rooms from University Centre Telford for business planning days, staff training, recruitment interviews, meetings, workshops, events etc
Expertise	General business support and advice	Evaluated?	Case Studies are available. No overarching evaluation report located in the public domain,
Weblink	https://www.wlv.ac.uk/uctelford/support-for-business/business-engagement/		

University of Wolverhampton Science Park

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Creative, Scientific and Technological SMEs	Contact	The following page provides contact details and a contact form: https://www.wolverhamptonsp.co.uk/contact-us
Geography	Black Country	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Country Chamber of Commerce Black Country Growth Hub
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs etc)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Services offered	<p>Support for start ups</p> <p>Science Centre provides specialist support and equipment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tissue culture facilities drug testing facilities PCR thermocycler scanning spectrophotometer Microbial Fermentation Suite for microbial culture (up to 6 x 7 litres) particle sizing sampling equipment technical services provision research collaborations. <p>Technology Centre provides access to specialist professional service providers such as patent attorneys, Health and Safety experts, tax specialists, chartered accountants, and financing bodies to mention a few.</p>	Facilities provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> home for around 100 businesses working in a broad range of technological and creative disciplines including software development, environmental management, engineering design and consultancy, photography and videography, graphics, website design, water technology, training and education, biocidal coatings, healthcare and business support services. Office Accommodation Workshop and Laboratory Space Meeting Rooms and Boardroom Access <p>The Creative Industries Centre is home to SPARK Business Incubation Centre which supports the launch and nurturing of new/young businesses in the creative sector thanks to its structured programme of support and a subsidised start-up package. Has three meeting rooms, accommodating between 10 and 40 delegates and a cafe outlet</p> <p>Science Centre provides Science, Technology and Prototyping facilities including high-quality laboratories and workshop space to help to attract inward investment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 laboratories for tenants (17 to 100m²) 3 small, fitted laboratories for short-term hire 5 workshops (approx. 100m²) up to 46 office spaces (from 20m² upwards). <p>Technology Centre houses a wide range of technology-related businesses; users include scientific testing and consultancy services, production of small form factor electronics, mobile</p>

			communications, etc. Houses conference centre venue, housing several rooms of varying sizes and a 200 seat, fully raked auditorium, all with dedicated AV equipment
Expertise	Business incubation and innovation	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Weblink	https://www.wolverhamptonsp.co.uk/ updated 22 September 2020	Other	<p>Website signposts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support for COVID 19. • Black Country Chamber of Commerce • Black Country Growth Hub • Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills - ECMS - employer-led training facility funded by The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and collaboration between, the University of Wolverhampton, Dudley College, Cast Metals Federation, Confederation of British Metalforming and Institute of Cast Metals Engineers. The Elite Centre has two main centres as part of the Hub and Spoke model. The Hub is based at the University of Wolverhampton's Springfield Campus and the National Foundry Training Centre is based in Tipton, here there will deliver short courses and training.

University of Warwick

Advanced Propulsion Centre Hub

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SMEs developing innovative automotive-related technology, product or service which could support the shift to zero-emission vehicles or net-zero carbon automotive products.	Contact	The Advanced Propulsion Centre UK Ltd, IIPSI Building, University Road, The University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL
Geography	National	Partners	

Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	SMEs fund their projects	Funding	Not known.
Established	2013	Aims	Help the UK become a centre of excellence for research, development, and production of low carbon propulsion technology. Facilitate low-carbon technology.
Rationale	Not given.	Facilities provided	Not given.
Services offered	Three SME Support Projects: Technology Developer Accelerator Programme (TDAP) provides technical support and business mentoring to help start-ups, spin-outs and SMEs bring their innovations to life, focusing on five key areas of development: new product development, market strategy, intellectual property management, investor readiness and networking. Collaborative R&D Competitions , in which the Hub works with organisations to help form collaborative projects and provides support and guidance concerning the funding application process and shares strategic industry insights. Niche Vehicle Network (NVN) Collaborative R&D Production Readiness Competition is a collaboration with the Niche Vehicle Network (NVN) that supports SMEs through small competitions for technologies in the early stage of development.	Evaluated?	Created/safeguarded nearly 50,000 jobs in the UK and projected to save over 288m tonnes of CO2 emissions. There are Case Studies for Technology Developer Accelerator Programme (TDAP) which has been running for over 5 years. Reported outputs include funded £5.4million of support, 57 businesses engaged, 27 completed the programme and over £17m investment/debt raised for participating businesses. Businesses average a 50% increase in headcount following TDAP.
Expertise	Automotive industry	Open to applications?	TDAP opens in October 2021. APC2020 is open from 10/01/2022 to 02/03/2022. NVM competition closed for 2021.
Weblink	TDAP-Wave-5-brochure-2020-v08.pdf (apcuk.co.uk) SME Support - APCUK		

Software Incubator

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Entrepreneurs with a connection with the University of Warwick (students, alumni, researchers, staff etc) with a software-based business idea. 3 Modes of entry:	Contact / Lead	ventures@warwick.ac.uk
-------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------

	Mode 1: Pre-incorporation Mode 2: Incorporated company Mode 3: An incorporated company that requires investment.		
Geography	Not specified as eligibility based on links to the University.	Partners	Warwick Ventures
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs) Incubator	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Not known.	Funding	Not known.
Established	2000 The Incubator was established in 2013.	Aims	To help participants develop software ideas into a commercial reality.
Rationale	Not given.	Facilities provided	Incubator space.
Services offered	Access to incubator space. Access to mentoring and Business Development Managers who can assist with introductions and contacts and negotiating early licensing deals Access to business advice. Help to move from an idea to creating software, to forming a company. Incubator tenants have access to a range of services including: Business consultancy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping incorporation of a company. Access to business documents (NDAs etc)/. IP advice and management. Search for management personnel if needed. Possible Warwick Ventures representation on the board (once in Mode 2 or 3). Financial advice, identifying funding sources. Assistance in identifying potential licensees. Deal benchmarking., Deal negotiation. Warwick Venture/ University-sponsored events. Providing training sessions.	Evaluated?	Since its formation in 2000: £30 million worth of grants and contacts. 1100 innovations identified. 270 patents filed. Signed around 100 licenses with external companies, generating £2million in income. 79 spin-out companies created. £55million of venture capital raised for those companies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generated and managed a shared portfolio- valued at £4million.
Expertise	Business Development Managers at Warwick Ventures and experienced mentors.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out more.

Weblink	Software Incubator (warwick.ac.uk) guide for entrepreneurs november 2013.pdf (warwick.ac.uk)		
---------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

University of Warwick Science Park

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Available to start-ups, growing businesses and large companies. Multiple innovations and services, different specifications. Help the expansion of start-ups, growing businesses, and large companies.	Contact / Lead	contact@uwsp.co.uk
Geography	Offers services to businesses across the West Midlands. Has four locations offering office spaces and workshops across the West Midlands including Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull.	Partners	The University of Warwick. Founder of UK Science Park Association (UKSPA). Member of the International Science Park Association (IASP) and the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN). CWLEP Growth Hub, Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council . Associates: Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce. EBN Innovation Network. IASP. Solihull City Council. UK Business Angel Association. UK City of Culture 2021. UKSPA.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	The University of Warwick? Other stakeholders for individual centres.	Funding	Not known.
Established	Has had two phases. In 1982 it began as a joint capital owned by the University of Warwick, Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council, and the West	Aims	Help businesses grow and establish funding.

	Midlands Enterprise Board. In 2012 the University of Warwick became the sole owner.		
Rationale	Provide a place for knowledge and technology-based businesses to grow.	Facilities provided	Has 240 ft ² (22 m ²) starter units and self-contained units up to 20,000 ft ² (1,858 m ²) in 24 different buildings. Links to locations and facilities: The Venture Centre Business Innovation Centre Warwick Innovation Centre Blythe Valley Scale-up Space Virtual Tenancy Ignite, start-up space
Services offered	See individual schemes listed below.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Expertise	Space for knowledge and technology businesses.	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	University of Warwick Science Park Innovating Businesses		

Access to Finance (A2F)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Businesses that are looking to access funding for their businesses.	Contact	For more information on A2F, including how to apply: +44 (0)24 7632 3224
Geography	West Midlands	Partners	UWSP, Minerva Business Angel Network.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Work alongside the Minerva Business Angel Network, which has invested over £11m into over 80 companies from 2010 to 2018.	Funding	Access to Finance has helped companies raise around £1m for companies annually.
Established	Possibly 2010.	Aims	Help provide access to the right finance, overcome financial barriers and accelerate business growth
Rationale	Not given.	Facilities provided	The UWSP locations are as aforementioned.
Services offered	Services offered as outlined by the website:	Evaluated?	The team have worked with over 2,000 companies.

	Grant applications for innovative developments. Grants to enable business growth and facilitate scale-up. Loan applications for start-ups and established businesses. Equity funding applications through Business Angels or crowdfunding platforms. Developing financial plans. Pitching for investment.		
Expertise	Help raise money and new funding. Further grant funding, debt funding, equity funding and Investment Readiness.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out more.
Weblink	Access to Finance Business Support University of Warwick Science Park		

Business Ready

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Supports tech- based SMEs.	Contact	businessready@uwsp.co.uk
Geography	Companies must be based within Coventry and Warwickshire.	Partners	European Union Regional Development Fund, Warwickshire Country Council University of Warwick Science Park.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	ERDF Warwickshire County Council University of Warwick Science Park	Funding	Not known.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Aim to help growth in small businesses.
Rationale	Aims to support potential growth and help businesses overcome barriers to achieve scalability.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	Part of the Start, Grow and Scale Programme. Business Ready provides free workshops to address skills gaps on topics like finance and social media marketing.	Evaluated?	Not known.

	<p>The services provided by Business Ready include:</p> <p>Access to Finance: helping to identify funding routes and increasing investment readiness.</p> <p>Access to Markets: market assessment, competitor analysis, market research and viability evaluation.</p> <p>Access to Skills & Knowledge: connect companies to universities and knowledge resources. Also, help to upskill business owners in critical disciplines.</p> <p>Access to Incubation: providing a space physically that is for start-up and early-stage companies.</p> <p>Networking opportunities including GrowthPlus Network for scale-ups.</p> <p>Database of funding programmes - Current Business Grants & Loans - Business Ready (business-ready.co.uk)</p>		
Expertise	<p>There are a team of business advisers and specialist mentors who have had experience supporting, advising, coaching and mentoring growth businesses on specific topics.</p> <p>These topics consist of areas such as raising finance, business planning, new product development, market research and sales planning.</p>	Open to applications?	Yes, contact to find out more.
Weblink	About Business Ready - Small Business & SME Development Service (business-ready.co.uk) Business Ready Business Support University of Warwick Science Park		

Ignite

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	New start-up knowledge-based or innovation-led business with high growth potential.	Contact	ignite@uwsp.co.uk
Geography	West Midlands.	Partners	Not known.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple

	Incubator		
Funders	Not known.	Funding	Not known.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Want to help innovation-led businesses to grow faster and be more profitable. Want to help the owners/managers of innovation-led businesses realise their company aspirations.
Rationale	Increase survival and growth of new knowledge-based or innovation-led businesses.	Facilities provided	Three incubators (University of Warwick Venture Centre, Binley Business Innovation Centre and Warwick Innovation Centre) provide office space for between one and three people. Each site has up to six incubator offices that are available to start-up businesses on a simple 12-month license with all costs and rates (excluding telecoms and data and small incidental fees) built into an escalating structure that gives firms the flexibility and time to properly launch.
Services offered	Access to an experienced business mentor to support businesses plan their development and proactively identify and access resources needed to grow. Practical support includes support in developing action plans to achieve business objectives; accessing funding; marketing, accessing skills and resources from the University of Warwick and other HEIs to support research and development Provide an operational base that provides credibility in the eyes of customers and suppliers.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain,
Expertise	Supporting start-ups.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	Ignite Business Support University of Warwick Science Park		

Minerva Business Angel Network

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	Businesses with innovative solutions and market propositions with the validation of a need/route to market who have a clear exit strategy for Angel investors within 5 years.	Contact / Lead	enquiries@minerva.uk.net
-------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------

Geography	Midlands	Partners	UWSP. Universities of Aston, Birmingham, John Moores, Loughborough, Nottingham, Nottingham Trent, Warwick Business School (London) Sci-Tech Daresbury and the Black Country Growth Hub.
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs) Access to finance	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	The funders consist of Minerva companies and private investors.	Funding	Between 2010 and 2018 provided £11m to more than 80 companies. The programme can contribute around £30m more.
Established	1994 (run in current format since 2010).	Aims	Supporting tech SMEs obtain finance for growth
Rationale	Suboptimal provision of finance for high growth tech sectors. Create a pipeline that allows businesses to access other forms of funding including VC funds, banks and other Angel groups.	Facilities provided	None.
Services offered	An assessment of the suitability and readiness for equity versus debt funding, the business potential and the strengths and weaknesses of the opportunity for investors Identification of resources required and the package of support that the business needs Brokering investments from two types of Investors who are part of the scheme, passive or active. A passive investor invests smaller amounts in growth or start-up businesses and takes a more relaxed stance. Whereas an active Investor takes more of a hands-on role in the companies they invest in. Monthly meetings, for Business Angels to review pre-selected opportunities to raise between £150,000 to £2m.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain.
Expertise	People from companies in similar sectors have had professional and managerial expertise from successful companies.	Open to applications?	Yes.
Weblink	Minerva Business Support University of Warwick Science Park		

	Home - Minerva Business Angel Network		
--	-------------------------------------------------------	--	--

Digital Innovation for Manufacturing (DI4M)

Eligible Sectors/ businesses/ Individuals	SME.	Contact	wmgsm@warwick.ac.uk
Geography	Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, Leicester and Leicestershire, South East Midlands and Worcestershire.	Partners	Midlands Engine
Type of intervention	Centre Programme Infrastructure (labs)	Nature of funding	Fixed-term Project-based Single / Multiple
Funders	Part-funded by ERDF	Funding	£1,305,017 (50% of costs) covering 01/09/2018 to 31/08/2021.
Established	Not known.	Aims	Improve local businesses' competitiveness and operations using manufacturing technologies.
Rationale	Enable local SMEs to benefit from the latest manufacturing technologies and thinking.	Facilities provided	World-class facilities of WMG
Services offered	Access to a package of business support including exploring how digital technology and techniques can improve business processes and development of digital manufacturing capabilities to support new product development. Access to information and data is needed for effective decision-making.	Evaluated?	Unclear – no evaluation report located in the public domain.
Expertise	Manufacturing technologies.	Open to applications?	Contact to find out.
Weblink	WMG SME Group Digital Solutions (warwick.ac.uk)		

The West Midlands Regional Economic Development Institute and the City-Region Economic Development Institute Funded by UKRI

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM | WM REDI | CITY REDI



Aston University
BIRMINGHAM UK

Birmingham City Council

BIRMINGHAM CITY University

Black Country Consortium Ltd

Coventry University

Coventry City Council

CWLEP Coventry & Warwickshire
Local Enterprise Partnership

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

Greater Birmingham & Solihull
Local Enterprise Partnership

Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce

MIDLANDS ENGINE

UKRI Research England

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Solihull
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Transport for West Midlands

Walsall Council

West Midlands Growth Company

West Midlands Combined Authority

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON