HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

This leaflet gives a list of funding partners and organisations that can help you with your research collaborations with Heriot-Watt University.

Working with industry is a core activity for us. We develop innovative links between industry and academia.

Heriot-Watt University can help you access funding for collaborative research projects.

ACCESS TO FUNDING

SCOTLAND

Innovation Support
Innovation support provides assistance to SMEs located in Scotland or planning to establish a base in Scotland for market research, product development and market launch.

30% funding up to £30,000

R&D for Business Grant
The R&D Grant supports businesses developing new products, processes and services to improve company competitiveness and to benefit the Scottish economy.

SMEs
35% Funding up to £40,000
25% Funding above £40,000
Large Companies
25% Funding

Regional Selective Assistance
RSA is aimed at encouraging investment and job creation in the areas of Scotland designated for regional state aid under European Community Law. Businesses of all sizes can apply for RSA, whether they are Scottish-owned or owned or headquartered outside Scotland.

UK

Carbon Trust Applied Research Grant
Applied Research Grant funding is available to businesses and research institutions and aims to support the development and commercialisation of technology with the potential to reduce UK carbon dioxide emissions. Calls are open in both Summer and Autumn. 60% funding up to £500,000

EngD
A company sponsors a 4-year PhD-level doctorate degree, with an emphasis on research and development in a commercial environment. Research is focused on the needs of a company sponsor and may consist of either a single large project or a portfolio of smaller projects. For each project the company makes a minimum cash contribution of £7k per annum. Existing company employees are also eligible and will receive a grant.

Feasibility Grants
The Feasibility grants contribute to 100% of project costs up to a maximum of £5K, with match funding (in kind or cash) from the company.

CICStart:
The awards are aimed at collaborative work that will lead to new products and processes for more sustainable building design, construction and refurbishment.

EDTC Award:
Awards are open to all sectors for product development and are issued via an open call with no specific deadlines.

Innovation Voucher Scheme:
The proposed collaborative project should lead to new products and processes that will benefit the business, the institution and the Scottish economy.

RENEWNET:
Available to companies working in the area of renewable devices or services.

Technology Transfer Opportunity Mechanism (TTOM):
TTOM encompasses emerging technologies in sectors such as Energy, Life Science, Digital Media, Enabling Technologies (including optoelectronics, electronics, microelectronics and software) and Sustainable Transport Awards are via a quarterly call.

Government Grant for Research and Development

The Government Grant for Research and Development provides finance to individuals and small and medium-sized businesses in England to research and develop technologically innovative products and processes. The Government Grant for Research and Development is administered by the nine English Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). 35% – 60% of eligible project costs covered, depending on the type of grant.

Types of Projects

Development projects:
Projects to develop a pre-production prototype of a new product or process that involves a significant technological advance. Projects take six to 36 months. A grant of up to £250,000 is available to businesses with fewer than 250 employees.

Exceptional development projects:
Projects involve a significant technological advance and are strategically important for a particular technology or industrial sector. Projects take six to 36 months. A negotiable grant of up to £500,000 is available to businesses with a qualifying project.

Micro projects:
Low-cost development projects lasting no longer than 12 months. A grant of up to £20,000 is available to businesses with fewer than ten employees.

Research projects:
Projects to investigate the technical and commercial feasibility of innovative technology. A grant of up to £100,000 is available to businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Projects should last six to 18 months.

Industrial CASE Awards

Industrial CASE are three and a half year postgraduate awards allocated to companies either directly or via agents (Knowledge Transfer Networks and Regional Development Agencies). The aim of the awards is to enable companies to take the lead in defining, and arranging, projects, with an academic partner of their choice.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) enable businesses to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance through the forming of a Partnership between a business and an academic institution enabling to access skills and expertise to help business develop. KTP enables new capability to be embedded into the business. Projects duration is between one and three years.

SMEs
66% Funding
Large Companies
50% Funding

NESTA Investment and Innovation Funds

NESTA manages a range of Innovation Programmes which aim to turn ground breaking ideas into innovative products, services or techniques with commercial or social potential.

R&D Tax Credits

R&D tax credits help companies to invest more in Research & Development and can either reduce a company's tax bill or, for some small or medium sized companies (SMEs), provide a cash sum. Eligibility requires a minimum spend of £10,000 pa on R&D.

Shorter KTP

Shorter KTPs aim to address more short-term, tactical business issues. Projects may be standalone or can lead to, run in parallel with, or follow-on from a classic KTP. Shorter KTP projects can be part time and apply to existing company staff. Project duration is between 10 and 40 weeks.

SMEs
60% Funding
Large Companies
40% Funding

Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)

SBRI utilises government procurement to accelerate technology development, supporting projects through the stages of feasibility and prototyping which are typically hard to fund. SBRI funding calls are released throughout the year.

SMART

SMART provides financial assistance to SMEs to help support projects, which represent a significant technological advance for the UK. SMART also supports Research and Development Projects that aim to develop a pre-production prototype of a new product or process.

Feasibility Studies
75% funding up to £70,000
Research and Development:
35% funding up to £600,000

Technology Strategy Board (TSB) Collaborative Research and Development

Collaborative research and development (R&D) is designed to assist the industrial and research communities to work together on R&D projects in strategically important areas of science, engineering and technology – from which successful new products, processes and services can emerge. Regular competitions for funding of collaborative R&D projects are released throughout the year.

EUROPEAN

EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)

FP7 supports research in selected priority areas - the aim being to make, or keep, the EU as a world leader in those sectors. Companies must perform research in collaboration with associates in at least two other member states. Research institutes, universities and businesses of all sizes may apply.

Scottish Proposal Assistance Fund (SPAF):
The Scottish Proposal Assistance Fund (SPAF) can provide grant assistance to Scottish-based businesses that need help with the costs of developing FP7 project proposals. SPAF is particularly suited to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

For further information please contact Technology & Research Services on 0131 451 3070, www.trs.hw.ac.uk or trs@hw.ac.uk