

Business
INNOVATION
 Programme

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The West Midlands Region



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“Helping today’s smartest SMEs to
 provide tomorrow’s brightest innovations”

Further details of this programme
 can be obtained from: www.birmingham.gov.uk/bip





The Business Innovation Programme (BIP) aims to stimulate innovation within SMEs to encourage and enable existing businesses to invest for the future, to lever private sector investment, create new and safeguard existing jobs.

BIP will focus on supporting existing SMEs which have been trading for 6 months or more and are ready to undertake investment in innovative production processes. This must lead to new products, which are "close to market".

The programme is open to SMEs across the Midlands which are looking to invest, create new jobs and safeguard existing jobs.

BIP offers grant based financial assistance. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate a combination of one or more of the following:-

- **Capital Expenditure**
 - the purchase of capital equipment and improvements in systems or processes.
- **New Product Development**
 - assistance towards concept development, testing, prototyping and product launch.
- **New Marketing Development**
 - assistance for carrying out studies, product branding, attendance at exhibitions and trade fairs.
- **Business Innovation Mentoring**
 - including consultancy support to implement new innovation processes within the business.

A grant award of between £10,000 and £30,000 is available to support eligible SME's.

Each application will be required to demonstrate viability, need, job creation, sustainability and new investment being linked directly to the creation of new jobs and safeguarding of existing jobs.



The eligible cluster groups are:

Environment & Energy Technologies	Aerospace
Rail	Business and Professional Services
Medical Technologies	Building Technologies
IT & Digital	Advanced Materials & Manufacturing
Digital Media	Food and Drink

Eligibility Checklist

Financial Assistance Grant Scheme

- The business must be profit-seeking and have been trading for more than 6 months.
- The business should not have received more than 200,000 euros of State Aid assistance in the last 3 financial years.
- The business must be a small to medium sized enterprise (SME) that:
 - have between 1-249 employees
 - have an annual turnover less than £42m
 - have a balance sheet less than £36m
 - is less than 25% owned by a larger company or combination of larger companies.
- It is expected that in addition to the match funding there will be the following requirement to create and safeguard FTE jobs:-
 - Grant of £10,000 - a business must create a minimum of 2 jobs and safeguard 1 job.
 - Grant of £10,001 - £30,000 - a business must create a minimum of 3 jobs and safeguard 2 jobs.These jobs must be sustainable for at least one year.
- The business must be able to implement an investment plan to develop, and innovate growth within the business.
- The business's premises must, or will be going to pay its business rates to one of the local authorities within the West Midlands Region (see map on back page).
- The business must be in an eligible cluster group.

