INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & ENTERPRISE

Grants for SMEs
There is a range of funding options available for Small to Medium Businesses working in collaboration with Universities. Some are rolling programmes and others are one-time competitions with set deadlines. Options include:

Innovation Vouchers - TSB
http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/innovation-vouchers.ashx

TSB Innovation Vouchers for Start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses. Provide a grant of up to £5000 to work with a supplier for the first time for knowledge or technology transfer.

- The idea that you want help with should be a challenge for your business that means you need to look for specialist help
- This should be the first time that you have worked with the knowledge supplier
- Your idea should be applicable to one of the three priority sectors

The themes in the first round are Agrifood, Built Environment and Space.

Smart grants – TSB
http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/smart.ashx

Innovation funding for SMEs (was Grant for Research and Development)

- Proof of market grant
- Proof of concept grant
- Development of prototype grant

Pre start-ups, start-ups, and small and medium-sized businesses from all sectors across the UK may apply for the Smart programme. Rolling programme, apply any time

Convergence in a digital landscape – TSB
http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/convergence-in-a-digital-landscape-challenge-3.ashx

Projects that address the converged nature of the digital landscape. Seeks projects that investigate the potential of cross-platform analytical metrics and feedback tools to help content producers better understand the consumption of their products in a converged digital landscape.

Projects must be business-led and are open to small and micro companies working either singly or in collaboration with one another. Academics can apply, but only as part of a consortium.

Projects should last up to 12 months and are eligible for grants of up to £56,250 or 75% of total costs. Total project costs must not exceed £75,000.

Deadline: 21/11/2012
Disruptive technologies in low carbon vehicles II - TSB
http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/disruptive-technologies-in-low-carbon-vehicles-ii.ashx

Projects to support the further development of innovative technologies with the potential to transform the automotive industry. Seeking highly innovative, vehicle-centric, business-led, proof-of-concept projects to become part of Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform Integrated Delivery Programme.

Grants of between £250k and £750k. Up to 50% public funding is available for industrial research, though some small elements of basic research may attract up to 75% public funding. Projects are expected to last between 12 and 24 months.

A briefing event will be held on 22 January 2013, and a networking event to facilitate consortia-building for this competition will be held on 27 November 2012.

Deadline: 20/02/2013

Eurostars – TSB/Eureka
http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/

Providing funding and support for market-oriented research and development specifically with the active participation of R&D-performing SMEs [The Eurostars definition of research performing SMEs is a company that invests 10% or more of turnover or full-time equivalent to research activities].

Maximum grant 300,000 Euros

Deadline: April 2013

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