

CIF ONLINE GUIDE TO FUNDING OPTIONS

Business & People Development

- [Growth Accelerator business development](#)
- [Commercialise innovation](#)
We work with you to spot the opportunities to create new, improved products and services to secure your competitive edge.
- [Business development](#)
We can help to change behaviours and improve business performance by transferring skills and knowledge in to your business. We'll also help you to create and implement a high growth strategy to keep you focussed on your goals.
- [Access to finance](#)
We work alongside you to improve your investment readiness and become more attractive to new sources of finance.
- [Develop leadership skills](#)
We work with business owners and leaders refining skills and competencies in order for them to direct and develop their own teams more effectively.
- [BIC self - development workshops & match funding](#)

To help you develop a culture of innovation practice workshops are now open for bookings. In addition the BIC currently has its own Consultancy Fund of up to £2,500 to help businesses in Staffordshire to grow!

Manufacturing & Supply Chain Development

- [TSB Developing the offshore renewable energy supply chain](#)
This targeted call for KTPs aims to stimulate and support innovation in the offshore renewable energy supply chain. It is part of an £11.2m programme and is running in parallel with a £10m investment in developing the offshore wind supply chain by the Technology Strategy Board and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).
- [MAS grants & funding](#)
Through MAS you could access a grant of between £300 - £3000 towards your next improvement project. A standard MAS project will deliver a return of at least 66:1 against your initial investment.

New Product R&D

- [TSB Proof of market, concept grant and proof of prototype grants](#)

SMART, formerly known as Grant for Research and Development, is available to single companies. Three types of grant are available:

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

- [TSB Resource efficiency: new designs for a circular economy](#)

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £1.25m in feasibility studies into the re-design of products, components and systems to retain material within the economy over several cycles of use – ‘closing the loop’. The new designs should lead to products with a lower environmental impact and/or that are less dependent on the use of strategic materials.

- [TSB Technology inspired innovation](#)

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £10m in fast-track and collaborative research and development projects that stimulate innovation across the key enabling technology areas of advanced materials, biosciences, electronics, sensors and photonics and information and communications technology.

- [TSB Technology challenge in low carbon vehicles](#)

The Technology Strategy Board is investing up to £16.5m in highly innovative collaborative R&D projects within low carbon vehicles that aim to cut CO2 from road transport. The technology challenges have been defined are based around the following four technology areas.

- internal combustion engines
- energy storage and energy management
- electric machines and power electronics
- lightweight vehicle and powertrain structures.

Projects must be industry-led and include one lead partner and at least two project partners. Companies working outside the automotive sector that can bring technical expertise and knowledge to a consortium are particularly welcome. We expect total project costs to be between £1m and £5m.

- [WRAP Capital grant for product repair and re usage](#)

As part of a package of support for re-use, repair and recovery WRAP has launched a capital grant competition designed to increase re-use and repair of key products in the following categories: textiles, electricals and furniture. There is maximum funding support of £50,000 or 50% of the total capital. Eligible items that could be funded via this grant will include (but are not limited to):

- equipment needed for collections and sorting;
- equipment for assessment and testing;
- cleaning, repair and remanufacture equipment;
- storage and stock management systems;
- packaging systems for repaired and re-useable products; and
- alteration of workshop or retail premises

Export

- [UKTI](#)

Are you thinking tentatively about exporting, or keen to do business with international buyers but want to know where to start? UKTI can work with you to help you grow your business and offer a number of key services which can be tailored to meet the needs of your company. UKTI's International Trade Teams are located in local offices all over the country. Every UK region has dedicated sector specialists, helping new and established exporters every day.