



Summary of Recent Funding Calls Illustrating opportunities for collaboration with business or for funding new businesses

Funding for Business/University collaboration

Strength in Places Fund

Led by UK Research and Innovation, Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) is a new competitive funding scheme that takes a place-based approach to research and innovation funding, to support significant regional growth. Closing 25th July. Likely UCL will put forward one collaborative bid.

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/strength-in-places-fund/>

EPSRC Prosperity Partnerships

A third call for Prosperity Partnerships is planned for late Summer 2018. The opening date is 23 August 2018 for Expression of interest, no closing date (yet). "A third call for Prosperity Partnerships is planned for late Summer 2018. There will be up to £20 million available from EPSRC to support existing, strategic, **research-based partnerships between businesses and universities.**"

More info: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/prosperity-partnerships/>

KTN Open Competition

New call from KTN, an open competition for the best cutting-edge, disruptive ideas or concepts with a view to commercialisation. For this KTN call, ideas can come from any area of technology, science or engineering, including arts, design, media or creative industries, and be applied to any part of the economy. Up to 70% of costs covered: total project costs up to £2m. Total funds available: £20m. Projects can be led by universities or businesses. **KTN deadline 11 July.** Learn more about KTN funding here:

<https://ktn-uk.co.uk/funding/open-programme-funding-competition-round-1-for-all-sectors>

Meridian 2: Connected Vehicles Data Exchange

UK businesses or research and technology organisations can apply for a share of up to £5 million to create the world's best connected vehicles data exchange or trading platform.

To lead a project, you must:

- be based in the UK
- be a business of any size or a research organisation
- carry out your project in the UK
- work in collaboration with others, such as businesses, research organisations or third sector organisations

Open now, closing 5 September

Meridian 3: Autonomous highway, rural and parking test facilities

UK businesses and research and technology organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million to create the second phase of the UK connected and autonomous vehicle test 'ecosystem'. Eligibility same as for Meridian 2. Open now, Closes 5 September

Plastics Innovation

UK businesses can apply for a share of up to £4 million to develop new solutions to reduce persistent plastics entering our environment.

To lead a project you must be:

- UK based
- a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) if project costs are below £100,000
- a business of any size or a research and technology organisation (RTO) if project costs are over £100,000
- All projects must involve a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise.

If your project costs are below £100,000 you can work alone or collaborate with others.

Projects with costs over £100,000 must be collaborative.

Opening 18 June, closing 18 August

Funding for Businesses

Govtech Catalyst Fund

The government has announced its first set of challenges to be tackled through its £20m govtech catalyst fund including:

- Tracking waste through the waste chain (opening June)
- Tackling loneliness and rural isolation (opening July)
- Cutting traffic congestion (opening August)
- Deploying smart sensors on council vehicles to improve services (opening September).

All of these could have transport/mobility components. Aimed at companies to pitch solutions. Tech firms bidding to the fund will have free rein to create innovative fixes. Those that are successful will receive funding to cover their research and development costs.

<http://www.digital-agenda.co.uk/features/20m-govtech-fund-challenges-set/>

SMMT Future Mobility Challenges

The Future Mobility Challenge is a new initiative from The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), which will create new partnerships, investments and acquisitions

between the world's leading automotive brands and innovative technology start-ups and SMEs. Five automotive brands, BMW, Jaguar Land Rover, Bosch, Ford and Toyota, have partnered with SMMT to challenge start-ups and SMEs to devise innovative solutions to seven key mobility challenges:

Challenge 1: Harnessing the potential of mobility data

Challenge 2: Intelligent solutions for intelligent fleets

Challenge 3: Urban mobility solutions for future cities

Challenge 4: Innovative shared and on-demand mobility models

Challenge 5: Creating new and superior customer experiences in the age of hyperconvenience

Challenge 6: New connected car services

Challenge 7: Future vehicle technologies

To participate, start-ups and SMEs are encouraged to submit their interest to pitch solutions addressing one or more of the challenges. The **deadline for applications is 30 June 2018**.

Pitches will be 17 October 2018. <https://www.smmt.co.uk/events/future-mobility-challenge>

APC 10: advancing the UK's low carbon automotive capability

Up to £30 million of collaborative match funding is available for UK-developed late stage R&D to support advanced low carbon propulsion technologies in automotive. **Eligibility:**

To lead a project you must:

- have an active business base in the UK
- base your project in the UK
- work in collaboration with others, including a vehicle manufacturer or tier 1 supplier and a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)
- be a grant recipient

Opened: 30 April 2018 Closes: 27 June 2018

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/150/overview>

Startup Acceleration Programme: startups to transform the travel industry

Accelerator offered by Hangar 51 with British Airways, Avios and IAG Cargo. Six core themes include:

- **Connected service:** innovative devices, including wearables and IoT solutions, which can assist in providing an excellent experience for customers and employees.
- **Smarter operations:** big data analytics, robotic processes and smart contracting to optimise business operations.
- **New products:** creative solutions to enhance the products and services portfolio which can be integrated into existing platforms to improve the customer journey.
- **Future cargo logistics:** shipping analytics, asset tracking, and measurement and monitoring tools to optimise cargo operations.
- **Loyalty and rewards:** tech solutions and platforms, such as card-linking and alternative payment options, which are easily integrated into Avios, the airlines' channels and retail partners.
- **Wildcard:** any new disruptive ideas that have the potential to reshape the travel industry.

Benefits include press coverage, initial investment, commercial pilot test of product.

Application deadline 5 August 2018

<https://www.hangar51.com/accelerator/>

Innovation Loans

Innovate UK pilot programme of **loan** competitions over 2 years to the end of 2019. **For UK** small or medium-sized enterprises (SME) to scale up and grow by developing new or improved products, processes or services.

- Single applicant SME only
- Low interest 3.7%
- Up to 10 years
- Up to 100% of project cost
- Loan size £100K to £1M