



# Global Business Innovation Programme AI in Construction - Switzerland

## Innovate UK's Global Business Innovation Programme

consists of a Get ready preparation phase, a 6-day innovation visit, an Exploit the opportunity workshop and support from an Innovate UK Business Growth innovation & growth specialist, helping your business maximise the opportunities identified, including developing innovation projects with partners in the territory.

Innovate UK is committed to ensure that anyone, from any background, has an equal opportunity to be successful.

### Focus Areas:

This programme is particularly relevant for companies who are involved in developing or integrating AI solutions in construction that drive business productivity. Areas include, but are not limited to:

- **Architecture**
- **Offsite construction**
- **Materials**
- **Energy efficiency**
- **Project management / risk identification**

- **Tunnelling underground**
- **Maintenance**
- **Supply chain**

### Why Switzerland?

Switzerland is ranked first in the world in the Global Innovation index\* and is recognised as a European leader in AI, alongside the UK.

AI in Construction is an emerging trend in Switzerland, with established research centres (Design++ and EMPA NEST), designed specifically to de-risk technology and techniques to facilitate the transfer of research to industry.

The innovation visit will focus on Zurich, the region with the highest number of AI companies in Switzerland, and home to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), regarded as a driving force for Swiss innovation and industry. It will host the [AI+X Summit](#) on 3 - 4 October, which delegates will attend during the innovation visit.

AI has the potential to greatly increase the efficiency, quality and sustainability of the construction sector. This programme presents an opportunity for bilateral R&I collaboration that will support the UK's Net Zero goals, and help to accelerate ambitious ideas into real-world solutions.

### Benefits:

- Explore and gain insights into the AI in Construction commercialisation landscape in Switzerland.
- Develop a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of doing business in Switzerland.
- Find potential innovation collaborators and partners and develop your network in the UK and globally.
- Improve your company value proposition to international partners and investors.

\*<https://analytics.dkv.global/AI-in-Switzerland-2021-Q4/Report.pdf>

## KEY DATES:

**Applicant Briefing:**  
17 June  
2024

**Applications close:**  
22 July  
2024

**Get ready workshop:**  
4 - 5  
September  
2024

**Visit the market:**  
30 September -  
5 October  
2024

**Exploit the opportunity workshop:**  
21 January  
2025

## WHAT TO EXPECT:

The Global Business Innovation Programme is structured around three main stages and each business will have a designated Innovate UK Business Growth innovation & growth specialist to support them for at least the duration of the offering, including developing a work plan to capitalise on the opportunities identified. The three main stages of the Global Business Innovation Programme are:-

- **Get ready:** A two-day workshop to build knowledge and understanding of the market and potential opportunities, including how to do business, cultural aspects, how to protect your IP, and training on how to better articulate your value proposition.
- **Visit the market:** Explore the opportunities first-hand through meetings with key companies, research organisations, and potential collaborators and partners, through pre-arranged meetings and organised matchmaking.
- **Exploit the opportunity:** An exploitation workshop and one-to-one support from an Innovate UK Business Growth innovation & growth specialist to help you follow up and maximise the opportunities identified through the programme.

## VISIT THE MARKET ITINERARY - EXAMPLE (subject to change):

Date	Activity
Mon 30 September 2024	Travel UK to Switzerland
Tues 1 October 2024	Reception, pre-arranged meetings, networking, and site visits with local stakeholders (e.g. Swiss Global Enterprise, InnoSuisse and Implenia)
Wed 2 October 2024	Pre-arranged meetings, networking, and site visits with local stakeholders (e.g. Swiss Global Enterprise, InnoSuisse and Implenia)
Thurs 3 October 2024	Attendance at AI+X Summit (Zurich)
Fri 4 October 2024	Attendance at AI+X Summit (Zurich)
Sat 5 October 2024	Travel Switzerland to UK

## TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME, YOU MUST:

Be a UK based innovation-led company with ambitions to grow and internationalise

Be a company with fewer than 250 employees

Be the CEO, founder, or senior decision maker in the business and able to attend and complete all activities.

## WHAT IS THE COST?

Innovate UK will fund & organise international flights, accommodation, in-market travel, & conference fees in Switzerland for successful applicants. Innovate UK will also pay for any reasonable adjustments throughout the initiative. Only one representative from each company will be funded. On acceptance to the initiative a commitment fee of £1,000 will be obtained from each delegate, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities & agreed work plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all of the commitment fee.

## HOW TO APPLY:

The Global Business Innovation Programme has a competitive application process where only the best applications will be successful following an evaluation process. All applications must be made online through the Innovate UK Business Growth website and received no later than 1700 on 22 July 2024. To support potential applicants, a briefing will take place between 1000 & 1100 on 17 June 2024.

Please note: successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to Switzerland. The safety of our delegation is a priority.

Innovate UK is committed to improving the diversity of who we support. We welcome applications from underrepresented groups.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

To fill in the online application form or to register for the applicant briefing event, please visit the [Innovate UK Business Growth website](#). For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact Molly Foulger at [molly.foulger@innovateukedge.ukri.org](mailto:molly.foulger@innovateukedge.ukri.org) or call +44 (0)20 3108 8957.