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Advanced manufacturing supply chain innovation: CR&D Consortia building event

Date: **11th May 2026**

- Welcome
- We won't cover the competition details – please watch the recording of the briefing
- Use Q&A function to ask questions
- Help to meet potential partners for applications
- Reach out from our desks to make a connection



Agenda

- 10:30 Welcome, Intro, Agenda
- 10:35 Brief intro to programme and competition
- 10:40 Q&A focussed on collaboration requirements – Use Q&A for questions
- 10:50 How to use B2Match
- 11:00 Breakout rooms: Round 1 (selected by participants)
- 11:20 Good application guide: in brief
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- 12:00 Close

Recent Competitions

Innovate UK is developing programmes to support the government's **Industrial Strategy and Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan**, with a focus on the six frontier industries.

Initial funding has already been made available through:

- **£5 million Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Innovation Feasibility Studies competition**
Closed 11 March 2026
434 applications submitted
- **£2 million Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chains: Potential High Growth SMEs competition**
Closed 22 April 2026 11:00am
258 applications submitted

Funding competition
Advanced manufacturing supply chain innovation FS

UK registered businesses and research and technology organisations (RTOs) can apply for a share of up to £5 million for feasibility studies. These will make supply chains more resource efficient and resilient through addressing cross cutting challenges.

Competition opens: Monday 2 February 2026
Competition closes: Wednesday 11 March 2026 11:00am

▲ This competition is now closed.

Start new application

Summary | Eligibility | Scope | Dates | How to apply | Supporting information

Description

Text update 11 February 2026: wording amended for clarity.

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), will invest up to £5 million into supply chain innovation projects. This is subject to a sufficient number of high quality applications being received.

The aim of this competition is to support feasibility studies to explore new ways of making supply chains more resource efficient and resilient.

This will be achieved by addressing cross cutting challenges faced by the six Industrial Strategy's growth driving sectors and the Advanced Manufacturing frontier industries in scope.

Funding competition
Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chains: Potential High Growth SMEs

UK registered micro, small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs) can apply for a share of up to £2 million for pre-commercialisation projects. This funding is from Innovate UK.

Competition opens: Wednesday 18 March 2026
Competition closes: Wednesday 22 April 2026 11:00am

▲ This competition is now closed.

Start new application

Summary | Eligibility | Scope | Dates | How to apply | Supporting information

Description

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), will invest up to £2 million in this competition. This is subject to a sufficient number of high quality applications being received.

The aim of this competition is to enable micro, small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to unlock barriers to commercialisation and scaling in the UK.

Advanced manufacturing supply chain innovation CRD

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), will invest up to **£6.5 million** into supply chain innovation projects. This is subject to a sufficient number of high quality applications being received.

The aim of this competition is to support collaborative industrial research projects to explore innovative ways of making supply chains more productive, resource efficient and resilient.

- Collaborative industrial research [Categories of research and development – UKRI](#)
- Project lead must be a UK registered business of any size
- grant funding request of between £250,000 and £1 million
- Projects last between 12 and 36 months

Scope

Your project must:

- be collaborative industrial research
- focus on solutions that are either new or not yet widely used
- address improvements in supply chain productivity, resource efficiency, resilience, or a combination of these
- identify one theme and at least two Advanced Manufacturing frontier industries you are targeting
- address supply chain validation through involvement of at least one named end user in the project, for example, an OEM, Tier 1, or other organisation further downstream in the supply chain

Please see the competition brief for the full details

[Competition overview - Advanced manufacturing supply chain innovation: CRD - Innovation Funding Service](#)

Scope – specific themes and advanced manufacturing frontier industries

Choose one specific theme

Your project must focus on one of the following themes:

- measurement, sensing and instrumentation
- additive manufacturing
- digital manufacturing and industrial AI
- robotics and intelligent automation
- power electronics

Choose two advanced manufacturing frontier industries

Your project must focus on at least two of the following Advanced Manufacturing frontier industries:

- automotive
- aerospace
- advanced materials
- batteries
- agri-tech
- space

Projects we will not fund

We are not funding projects that:

- are focused solely on the defence sector (we will recognise dual use innovations providing the primary focus is on civil applications)
- are focused on food and beverages manufacturing
- are focused on beauty and cosmetics manufacturing
- are focused on construction, unless specifically benefiting advanced manufacturing frontier industries
- are focused on chemicals, unless specifically benefiting advanced manufacturing frontier industries
- have their main exploitation route outside the advanced manufacturing frontier industries

This is only an extract, please see the full list in the competition brief

Q&A - Collaboration requirements



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Network platform - B2Match

Why?

Meet potential collaborators through the platform during the competition window

How?

Would you like to opt in to join our event's networking platform (B2Match) to connect with other participants for community building and professional networking?

YES - 363 registered (8th May)

Missed the event registration? – you can register separately

Join the networking platform

<https://www.b2match.com/e/advanced-manufacturing-supply-chain-innovation/sign-up/create-account>

If you have issues with access please contact:

Jessica Dobbyne <jessica.dobbyne@iukbc.org.uk>



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1. Create Account

If registered, you will have a profile already



Advanced manufacturing supply chain innovation - networking platform >

22 April - 10 June 2026

- Create an account
- Complete your profile

[Cancel registration](#)

Create new Account

or [log in](#) with your existing b2match account

Your email address

Password



First name*

Last name*

or



Continue with LinkedIn



Continue with Google

2. Complete your profile

If registered, you will have a profile already

Complete your profile

First name*

Christopher

Last name*

Pilgrim

Profile image



Change image

Delete

The image you select should be a JPG, PNG or GIF file, and it should not be larger than 800 KB.

Organisation name*

Innovate UK Business Connect

Job position*

Knowledge Transfer Manager - Materials

About me

B I | |

Please get in touch if you'd like support on the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chains Innovation CR&D competition

My skills

Add tags that show what you are good at.

Add tag

50

My interests

Add tags that show what you are interested in.

Add tag

50



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Advanced manufacturing supply chain innovation - networking platform

22 April 2026 - 10 June 2026



3. Start interacting



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Breakout rooms

- Choose your breakout room depending on your interest area
- 2 sessions so you can attend more than 1 topic area

- Rooms allocated based on preferences in registration
- More than one breakout room for most topics

- Each room has a facilitator
- Format:
 - Elevator pitches from some people
 - Open floor for introductions – raise hand to speak, use chat

- Use the time to meet others
 - On camera
 - Review B2Match



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Breakout rooms

Session 1

Name	Facilitator	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
Measurement, Sensing and Instrumentation 1	Chris Pilgrim	Barton Blakeley Technologies	
Additive manufacturing 1	Mili Thakaran	First Graphene	
Digital manufacturing and industrial AI 1	Becky Bolton	Aston Business School	Horizon Intelligence
Robotics and intelligent automation 1	Chris Hawkins	Archipelago Technologies	
Power electronics 1	Venn Chesterton	REWIRE	DER-IC Newcastle University
Measurement, Sensing and Instrumentation 2	Fiona Coomer	Phorest Diagnostics	
Additive manufacturing 2	Richard Cooper	3D Printing Industry	
Digital manufacturing and industrial AI 2	Lily Melody	EntroMetrix	Hycomplate
Robotics and intelligent automation 2	Nick Cliffe		
Digital manufacturing and industrial AI 3	Robert Quarshie	Enverse	Loughborough University Advanced Virtual Reality Research Centre
Clinic	Kasia Maltby Abbie Wood		



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Good application guide

11th May 2026

**Advanced manufacturing supply chain
innovation: CR&D
Consortia building**

Dr Christopher Pilgrim
Knowledge Transfer Manager - Materials

iuk-business-connect.org.uk/



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Key features of a good application

1. Alignment to the competition scope
2. Quality of research and innovation
3. A strong business case / a convincing value proposition
4. A credible plan for Research and Development
5. The right consortium (e.g. supply chain and route to market)
6. A clear need for support
7. Sufficient risk



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1. Alignment to scope

- Read the briefing document carefully
- Be very clear and specific about how your project fits the scope
- Don't assume assessors are experts in your field
 - Use layman's terms
 - Avoid acronyms
 - Avoid over emphasizing
- If you are not sure you can ask: support@iuk.ukri.org



If assessors don't think the project is in scope, the rest of your work will be wasted!



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Scope assessment

Once your application is submitted, scope check is conducted based on the scope section of the application.

Any answer received via email is a clarification of the competition scope, but it does not guarantee that the project will be in scope. Please make sure you provide all necessary information in the scope section of the application.

Criterion	Section of applicant's scope answer	Opinion (yes/no)
Collaborative industrial research projects		
Improvements in supply chain productivity, resource efficiency, resilience, or a combination of these		
Theme		You have to tell us which specific theme you are going to choose in Question 1. Themes
Advanced Manufacturing Frontier Industry 1		You have to tell us which frontier industry you are going to choose in Question 2
Advanced Manufacturing Frontier Industry 2		You have to tell us which frontier industry you are going to choose in Question 3
involvement of at least one named end user in the project end user must have a clear, defined role within the project governance or work plan.		



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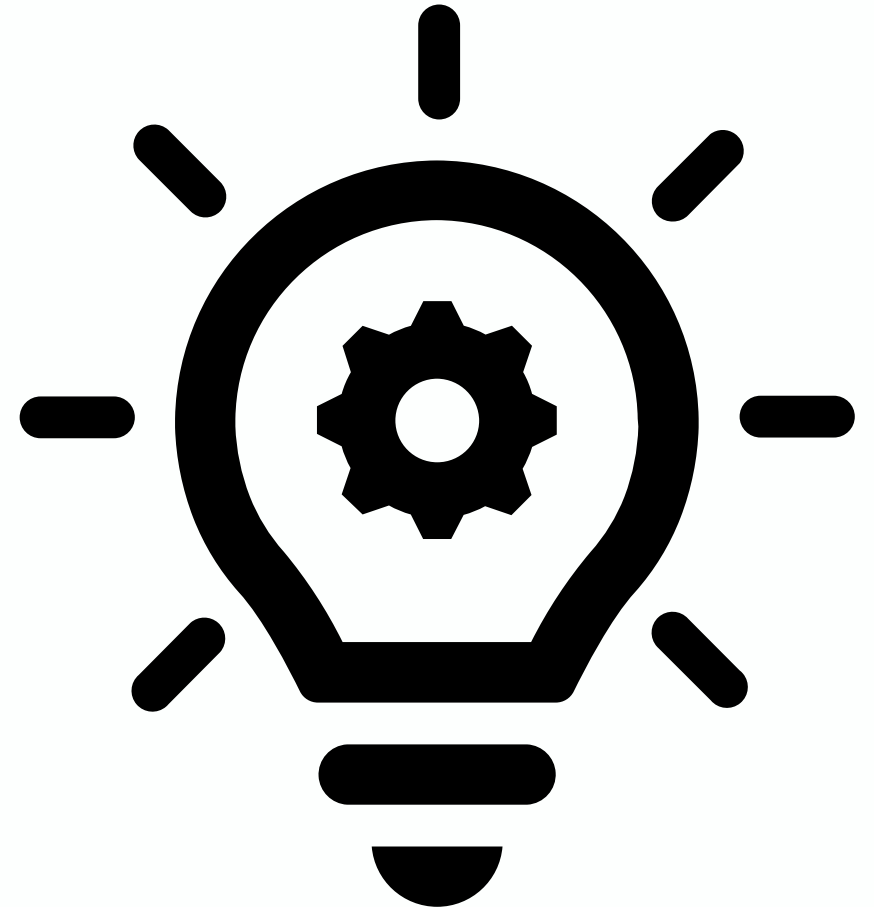
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2. Quality of research & innovation

- All projects must involve significant innovation and pushing boundaries
- Show how your project is commercially/scientifically innovative and how your research will progress understanding / deliver breakthrough
- Provide evidence to support this i.e. results of:
 - Patent searches
 - Competitor analyses
 - Literature surveys
- Freedom to operate - Detail background IP, strategy for protecting any IP generated and distribution of IPR

[Gateway to research - https://gtr.ukri.org/](https://gtr.ukri.org/)
See current and past research projects

Why is your project exemplary?



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3. Make a strong business case

- What is the need/benefit that this project will address?
- What is the current market like (size, dynamics etc.)?
- How will the partners profit from success; when and how much?
 - Quantify the Return on Investment
 - How will you commercialise over few years after project?
- Describe the route to market
 - Have you got partners in the supply chain?
- Articulate the wider impact – Social, environment



It is considered as an investment



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4. Have a credible plan for R&D

- Outcome focussed research
- Provide sufficient detail to be able to judge the quality & feasibility of the technical plan and the value for money
- Work packages; partners involved; timeline; description of activity; milestones
- Demonstrate the necessary skills & resources are available
- Provide a clear/simple management structure and plan
- How are you going to disseminate the results?



You will be held to the plan

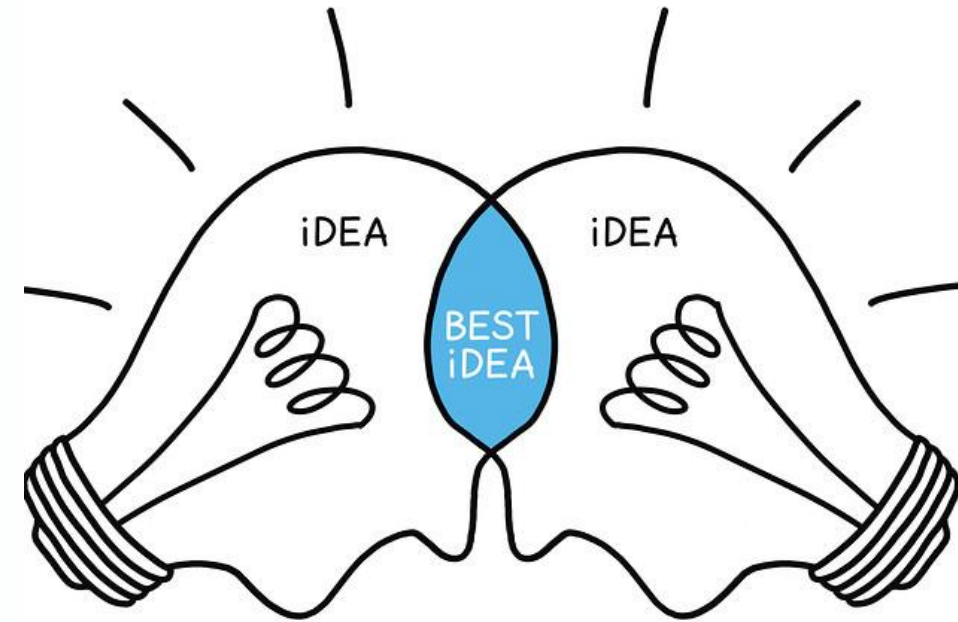


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5. The right consortium

- Matched funding – partners show intent
- Horizontal or vertical consortia (or both) possible
- Why these partners? – what makes this a particularly strong consortium?
- Show how all the partners have an active role to play and how each benefits in some way (no “passengers”)
- Is the supply chain complete? If not, how will you fill
- If there are global markets in mind, explain how these will be accessed



<https://seapointcenter.com/what-is-collaboration/>

The sum greater than it's parts



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6. A clear need for support

- What would the consequences of not getting the funding be?
- Explain why the project would not go ahead (or would be delayed or reduced in scope) without funding support:
 - Explain and justify why you are not funding the project yourselves
 - Explain how the project would be undertaken differently with funding support
- A realistic prospect of success, but sufficient uncertainty that there is still need for R&D



Why should taxpayer money support this?



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7. Identify risks and mitigation strategies

- Explain the risks and how these will be mitigated
 - Technical (incl. regulatory)
 - Commercial
 - Managerial
 - Environmental
- Use risk management tools e.g. risk register
- *“funders recognise that projects of this type are inherently risky, but seek assurance that projects have adequate arrangements for managing this risk”*



It should be risky so you need to mitigate



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Application questions for this competition

Detailed question guidance available on IFS

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 2	Animal testing (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 3	Permits and licences (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	International Collaboration (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 5	Export licence (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 7	Need or challenge	400 words	No
Question 8	Approach and innovation	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 9	Team and resources	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 10	Market awareness	400 words	No
Question 11	Outcomes and route to market	400 words	No
Question 12	Wider impacts	400 words	No
Question 13	Project management	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 14	Risks	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 15	Added value	400 words	No
Question 16	Costs and value for money	400 words	No

General tips

- Answer the question fully
- Build a narrative
- Use evidence and quantify where possible

Need or challenge

6. What is the business need, technological challenge or market opportunity behind your innovation?

▼ [What should I include in this section?](#)

Explain:

- the main motivation for the project
- the business need, technological challenge or market opportunity
- whether you have identified any similar innovation and its current limitations, including those close to market or in development
- any work you have already done to respond to this need, for example if the project focuses on developing an existing capability or building a new one
- the wider economic, social, environmental, cultural or political challenges which are influential in creating the opportunity, such as incoming regulations

Your answer can be up to 400 words long.

Words remaining: 400



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Assessment

<https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/>

1. Applications are assessed for eligibility. They will check: business registered, collaboration requirements, finances, duration, if previously submitted
2. Applications are assessed against the scope by Innovation Lead. Their decision is final.
3. Sent to independent assessors – experts from across business and academia. They are allocated based on their skills and expertise relevant to your project.
4. Assessors complete their assessment independently and are bound by a non-disclosure agreement as part of their contract.
5. Each assessor submits a score for each scored question. They will also provide comments which form your application feedback.
6. A ranked order of all applications based on the average assessor score of each application. The highest-ranking applications (subject to meeting a minimum quality threshold and any **portfolio approach**) are recommended to Innovate UK for funding.

Feedback can be helpful for future



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Support in application process

“We found the support of Innovate UK Business Connect in giving feedback on our first application extremely helpful. They not only asked the right questions to make sure that we fully addressed the questions on the application form, but also shared their experience in creating a realistic research plan.”

Jafar Daji, Technical Manager,
Parkinson Spencer
Refractories Ltd



<https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/investment/good-application-guide/>

Point of contact: Yuchen Gu, yuchen.gu@iukbc.org.uk

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Breakout rooms

Session 2

Name	Facilitator	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
Measurement, Sensing and Instrumentation 1	Chris Pilgrim	Grouse Fibre	
Additive manufacturing 1	Mili Thakaran	MicroGen Renewables	
Digital manufacturing and industrial AI 1	Becky Bolton	Symbiotic Dynamics	Exeter Digital Enterprise System (ExDES) lab
Robotics and intelligent automation 1	Chris Hawkins		
Power electronics 1	Venn Chesterton	Semtronics	School of Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton
Measurement, Sensing and Instrumentation 2	Fiona Coomer	Department of Materials Loughborough University	
Additive manufacturing 2	Richard Cooper	The MTC	
Digital manufacturing and industrial AI 2	Lily Melody	Holovast	
Robotics and intelligent automation 2	Nick Cliffe		
Digital manufacturing and industrial AI 3	Robert Quarshie	Vaste Technologies	
Clinic	Kasia Maltby Abbie Wood		



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Summary

1. Use B2Match
2. Contact us for guidance well in advance
3. Competition closes 10th June at 11am – don't leave it to the last minute!

Thank you



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