Innovate UK Overview

Dr. Peter Dirken
Partnership Manager for Australia and New Zealand
Programme Manager Global Innovation Missions
+44 7824 599 699
Peter.Dirken@iuk.ukri.org
Innovation
The lifeblood of business

- Business innovation is the commercially successful application of ideas
- Leads to the development of new or improved products, processes, services, and business models based on new ideas and technologies
- Business innovation transforms existing sectors and stimulates new industries
- It is key to UK growth and prosperity
UK ranks 4th in Global Innovation Index

- Innovation accounts for up to 50% of labour productivity growth
- Firms that persistently invest in R&D have higher productivity
- Innovating companies are more likely to export and generate growth
Innovate UK

- We are the UK’s innovation agency
- We support business-led innovation in all sectors, technologies and UK regions
- A key delivery body of the Government’s Innovation Strategy

Our Mission

To help UK businesses grow through the development and commercialisation of new products, processes, and services, supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive, and easy to navigate.
Benefiting everyone through knowledge, talent and ideas

UK Research and Innovation brings together the 7 Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

As part of UK Research and Innovation, Innovate UK drives productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas including those from the UK’s world-class research base.
Building the Future Economy
Plan for action for UK business innovation

We have launched a plan for action to explain how we will deliver the Government’s UK Innovation Strategy, with the vision for the UK to become a global hub for innovation by 2035.

Our actions will be guided and prioritised by the following:

**Strategic Themes**
- Future Economy
- Growth at Scale
- Global Opportunities
- Innovation Ecosystem
- Government Levers

**Strong Foundations**
- Science & Research Strengths
- Design Expertise
- Societal Impact & Responsible Innovation
- Innovation Talent & Skills
- Equality Diversity & Inclusion
- Place & Levelling Up
From funding and advisory services to facility and technology access, the Innovate UK group supports innovative businesses across every national and region in the UK.

The geographical distribution of our staff and facilities ensures we engage place-based stakeholders and meet regional needs.
Innovate UK EDGE

Tailored support that grows and scales ambitious innovation-focused businesses

350+ innovation and growth specialists embedded in all UK regional ecosystems. We intervene at early, growth and scaling stages, with our core advisory service and enhanced Scaleup Programme, supporting clients in a targeted way with:

- Innovation management, inc. IP & infrastructure access
- Finance & funding strategy, inc. investment readiness
- Expanding into international markets, inc. via EEN
Innovate UK Products & Services

Funding

- Challenge Fund: programme in a strategic area of importance
- Catalyst: thematic investment across the full range of technology or market maturities
- Smart: topic agnostic grant funding competition
- Launchpad: topic-centric investment to strengthen business capability in a particular location
- Women in Innovation Awards: supporting female founders, co-founders or senior decision-makers
- Young Innovators Awards: supporting young people with creative and ground-breaking ideas
- Feasibility studies: short projects to test an early-stage idea to establish its merit

Grants

- Loans
- Investor Partnerships
- Contracts

Non-cash Support

- Skills
- Growth & Scaling Support
- Experts & Tools

Going Global

- Potential Collaborators

• Collaborative research and development, including Eureka network membership: network supporting global research and development and innovation collaboration (incl grants & non-cash)
• Global Business Innovation Programmes: help high growth businesses explore global innovation opportunities
• Global Expert Missions: deep dives to scope future global innovation opportunities
• Global Incubator Programme: immersion programme to equip high growth businesses for international markets

• Innovation Loan: a business loan supporting late-stage research and development
• Investor Partnership: programme aligning public grant and private enterprise equity investment
• SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative): research and development procurement driven by government policy objectives
• ICURE: decision-making and company launch support for early-stage researchers

• Design Foundations: early-stage human-centred design project
• Future Leader Fellowship: strategic investment in an individual with high-potential innovation ideas
• Knowledge Transfer Partnership: transfers knowledge through the movement of people (usually from academia into business)

• Analysis for Innovators: metrology support to solve product quality or production problems
• Catapults: create a critical mass of expertise and equipment in a priority area
• Regulation Index: to identify regulatory levers, policies and practises, that enable and support innovation

• Collaborative research and development: longer projects with partners to develop an idea in a useful direction (can incl Grant)
• Innovation and knowledge centres: university-based innovation centres, acting as nucleating points for an emerging industry
• Innovation networks: communities of practice in a given area, convened by the Knowledge Transfer Network
• Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Network: builds innovation communities and networks

• Innovation and knowledge centres: university-based innovation centres, acting as nucleating points for an emerging industry
• Innovation networks: communities of practice in a given area, convened by the Knowledge Transfer Network

• Improved client access to innovation ecosystem players e.g., IPO, BSI, ICO, Design for Growth
Going Global

Supporting our future global competitiveness and tackling societal challenges

- Help innovative UK businesses understand new markets and gain insights that will allow them to explore and exploit new opportunities.

- Build an understanding of the culture, laws and legislation of your target market, to de-risk innovation and protect UK businesses when working overseas.

- Support businesses to undertake leading edge R&D through bilateral and multilateral programmes, including those through ODA funding and the Eureka framework.

- Maximise engagement in the EU’s Horizon Europe programme.

- Promote the UK’s reputation and attractiveness as an international innovation partner of choice and one of the most attractive places in the world to do innovation.
What we deliver – our products and services

Drive UK businesses to realise their global potential and strengthen the UK’s innovation leadership

**Aim/Objective**
- Exploratory
  - New geographies and sectors

**Product/Service Set**
- Global Scoping Workshops
- Global Expert Missions
- Global Business Innovation Programme
- Global Incubator Programme
- Global Explorers
- IUK EDGE support for Global Growth

**Support business growth**
- Support innovative business to grow and scale

**Facilitate R&D and innovation**
- Access to innovation knowledge through partnerships
  - Collaborative R&D Programmes
    - Access to Horizon Europe
    - Core Collaborative R&D
    - Eureka
Our product and service set (Oct 2023)

Global Scoping Workshops (GSW)
These workshops bring together UK businesses, research organisations and other stakeholders in specific technology and sector areas to help identify countries offering the best prospects for partnership and collaboration with the UK. The outputs of the workshop(s) will help to narrow down where Global Expert Missions could be used to scope opportunities in more detail.

Global Expert Missions (GEM)
A group of 6-8 UK experts scopes the innovation opportunities for UK businesses in a specific tech area sector/challenge in a specific country, with the information gathered by the experts then disseminated to UK businesses.

Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP)
Cohort of c.15 innovative high growth businesses exploring opportunities and building collaborations and partnerships in specific countries and technology and sector areas.
Programme over 9-12 months with 3 phases –
• Scoping visit
• Dissemination report
• Dissemination workshop

Global Incubator Programme (GIP)
Cohort of c.6-8 innovative high growth businesses building long-term relationships and foundations for future market growth.
In Canada, USA, Singapore and India in specific technology and sector areas.
Programme over 12-18 months with 4 phases
• Prepare
• Participate
• Pursue – 3-6 months in an incubator in country
• Exploit

Global Explorers
Funding to individual SMEs to help accelerate their growth and scaling through increasing global collaboration and future market access.

Aim is to support SMEs to:
- Explore and further international R&D and innovation collaboration and partnerships
- Engage effectively in collaborative research and innovation across borders
- Explore global market opportunities

Funding is available for up to 70% of eligible project activities, up to a maximum of £21,000.

Collaborative R&D grant funding to support projects involving UK businesses + researchers and overseas counterparts, often up to 36 months in specific technology and sector areas.
Enables partners to take forward the development of innovative products and services of relevance to the UK or partner countries involved.
Funding programmes can be bilateral or multilateral, such as through Eureka network.

Supporting access to Horizon Europe.
### Global Business Innovation Programmes

#### Stage 1: Getting ready for the market
- Recruitment & selection
- Meeting with UK Specialist
- Preparation workshop

#### Stage 2: Visiting the market
- Cohort market visit
- Review and finalise action plan with Specialist

#### Stage 3: Exploit the opportunity
- Work with UK Specialist on opportunities
- Post-visit GBIP Workshop & follow-up meetings
- Exploitation

#### GBIPs are not
- Just a week-long visit
- Export focused
- Trade missions

GBIPs are not Trade missions; they are focused on opportunities and workshops.
Australia

- Australia is one of Innovate UK’s priority partner countries.
- This means we are aiming to build a deep and long-term programme to support UK businesses connect into the Australian Science and Innovation eco-system.
- The innovation partnership with Australia is flourishing with a growing range and scale of activities.
- We have an active programme across the following sectors:
  - AgriTech
  - Hydrogen
  - Critical Materials
  - Cyber
  - Quantum
  - and Space (led by UK Space Agency).
- Exploring AI as a possible additional priority sector with my innovation specialists
- UKRI (Innovate UK’s parent organisation) are in discussions with CSIRO to explore developing deeper ties.
Success story – Australia opens up for DeepPlanet

- Innovate UK KTN delivered Global Expert Mission (GEM) to Australia focussed on AgriTech in 2019

- The GEM was followed by a Global Business Innovation Programme in 2020; DeepPlanet was one of 13 businesses that took part.

- The Oxford-based company was introduced to global winemakers, including eight of the top Australian producers, on the GBIP market visit to Australia in February 2020.

- During the visit, it attended the agri-food evokeAg conference and met with regional industry bodies and research organisations. This enabled it to develop VineSignal from the R&D stage to a commercial product that is now being used in key wine regions across the world.

- Since being on the GBIP, Deep Planet has doubled its workforce from five to ten people, and is recruiting for four more roles. It plans to expand into other crops, starting with potatoes and cereal. It also plans to develop tools around automated disease, nutrition and carbon baselining.