



Innovate
UK

GLOBAL BUSINESS INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Future Telecoms – Japan

About the Programme

Innovate UK's Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP) aims to help ambitious innovative UK businesses to grow and scale on a global stage through building R&D, innovation collaborations and partnerships.

The 9-12 month programme consists of a **get ready** preparation stage, a five-day tailored **innovation visit** to connect with key stakeholders and potential partners, and an **exploit the opportunity** stage to help you maximise the benefits of the programme and to grow and scale your business.

Throughout the whole programme, you will:

- Have the support of an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist.
- Explore opportunities and better understand the market.
- Find potential innovation partners and develop your network.
- Improve your company value proposition.

Innovate UK is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion and encourages people from all backgrounds to apply.

Future Telecoms

Future Telecoms is a key sector for the UK economy and offers exciting and significant growth opportunities for ambitious UK businesses.

Japan is an international market where opportunities have been identified for UK businesses in the Future Telecoms sector.

Why Japan?

Japan is the third largest economy in the world (by GDP) and has one of the highest R&D investment levels (R&D expenditure as a % of GDP), producing some of the largest numbers of scientific publications and patents globally.

The country is home to a large share of multinational corporations competing globally, with more than 200 companies on the Forbes Global 2000 list and has the third largest corporate R&D spending worldwide behind the United States and China.

The UK and Japan have forged close links on telecoms and have signed a working agreement in 2022. Various Japanese companies have telecoms labs and a presence in the UK including NEC and Rakuten who recently opened an Open RAN centre.

Japan have common interests in the development of global telecommunication standards and strategy. Their Beyond 5G Promotion Strategy focuses on enabling the country to maintain and develop its competitiveness as the world progresses towards 6G and beyond.

UK businesses will also attend the **EdgeTech+ 2024 conference** in Japan, a comprehensive exhibition to connect with the latest technologies to promote business transformation.

Focus Area

We invite applications from a wide range of innovative companies, that are focused on solutions in the following areas:

- Standardisation
- Advanced wireless / optical communications
- Open RAN with a view to UK supply chain diversification
- 6G preparedness and accelerated research on 6G
- AI and Cybersecurity

Application form can be found [here](#).

Applications
Close

Friday 6th September
2024 at 5pm

Application
Outcome

Friday 13th
September 2024

Get Ready
Workshop (In-person)

Wed 16th & Thurs 17th
October 2024

Visit the
Market (In-person)

Sat 16th – Sat 23rd
November 2024

Exploit the Opportunity
Workshop (In-person)

Wed 12th
February 2025

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP) is structured around three stages. Each participating business will be allocated an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist who will support them, including developing a work plan to capitalise on the opportunities identified. **The three stages include:**

- **Get ready:** Two-day workshop in the UK to build knowledge and a deeper understanding of the market and potential opportunities, including how to do business effectively, develop cultural awareness, protect your intellectual property, and support to better articulate your value proposition, important when meeting with potential partners in-market.
- **Visit the market:** Explore the innovation, R&D and business opportunities first-hand through meetings with key companies, research organisations and potential collaborators through pre-arranged meetings and organised matchmaking.
- **Exploit the opportunity:** An exploitation workshop and one-to-one bespoke support from an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist to help you follow up and maximise the opportunities identified through the programme.

INNOVATION VISIT – EXAMPLE ITINERARY (subject to change):

Date	Activity
Saturday 16 th Nov 2024	Depart the UK
Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd Nov 2024	Opportunities for B2B meetings, site visits, networking, pitching and panel sessions. Including attending the EdgeTech+ 2024 conference.
Saturday 23 rd Nov 2024	Arrive in the UK

TO APPLY FOR THIS INITIATIVE, YOU MUST:

Be a business focused on developing innovation solutions in future telecoms.

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 a senior decision maker in the business able to attend and complete all activities.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Innovate UK will fund and organise flights, accommodation, and any conference fees 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, a **commitment fee of £1000** will be obtained from each delegate, which will be **refunded on completion** of the full activities and agreed work plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all the commitment fees.

HOW TO APPLY?

To apply, please use the online application form [here](#). The Global Business Innovation Programme is a competitive programme and applications must be made by **Friday 6th September 2024 at 5pm**.

Innovate UK is committed to improving the diversity of those we support. As such, we welcome applications from underrepresented groups.

To find out more, watch the briefing session recording focusing on Japan > [click here](#).

Contact us

For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact the Innovate UK Business Growth team at event.enquiries1@innovateukedge.ukri.org.