

Global Business Innovation Programme

Semiconductors

Japan



Global Business Innovation Programme

Innovate UK is inviting ambitious companies to participate in its Global Business Innovation Programme, which aims to help UK businesses to grow and scale on a global stage through building R&D and innovation collaborations and partnerships. This engaging programme consists of a Get ready preparation phase, 5-day innovation visit to Japan (with a tailored itinerary to connect with key stakeholders), an Exploit the opportunity workshop, and support from an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist - helping your business to identify growth opportunities and develop innovation led collaborations with partners in the country.

Programme Focus:

Applications will be considered from a wide range of innovative semiconductor companies working in the following areas:

Applications

- Power Systems
- Automotive
- Telecoms
- Sensors
- Datacentres
- High Performance Computing (HPC)

Technologies focused on, but not limited to:

- Compound/WBG Semiconductors
- Heterogeneous/Hybrid Integration
- Advanced Packaging
- Photonics (including Silicon Photonics)
- Design/IP
- Advanced Materials
- Manufacture/Processing

Why Japan?

Japan, the world's third-largest economy by GDP, leads in R&D investment as a percentage of GDP, generating numerous scientific publications and patents. Home to over 200 Forbes Global 2000 companies, Japan ranks third in global corporate R&D spending, trailing only the United States and China. This economic and technological prowess makes Japan a critical partner for the UK, especially in the semiconductor industry, where Japan's manufacturing capabilities complement the UK's strengths in design, intellectual property, and advanced materials.

The UK and Japan have built robust collaborations, particularly in semiconductors, marked by a joint statement between Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry and the UK's Department of Science, Innovation & Technology. This partnership focuses on joint R&D in chip design, fabrication, advanced packaging, and materials. The collaboration includes leveraging R&D budgets, sharing expertise, organizing skill exchanges, and accessing research and prototyping facilities. The establishment of a UK-Japan semiconductor industry dialogue aims to enhance cooperation in trade and investment and bolster the resilience of semiconductor supply chains.

In May 2023, the UK and Japan renewed their science, technology, and innovation agreement, underscoring their mutual desire to strengthen ties. This renewal includes a 2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Innovate UK (IUK) and Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) to boost co-innovation in key technological areas such as semiconductors. Japan's significant investment in the semiconductor sector, surpassing \$36 billion, along with plans by seven major semiconductor manufacturers to expand in the country, further highlights Japan's strength and growing commitment to this field, especially in automotive, power semiconductors, sensors, and datacentres.

UK-Japan Collaboration

An annual Eureka GlobalStars R&D competition to support projects between Japanese and UK businesses and other organisations, led by NEDO and IUK, highlights the dynamic and growing UK-Japan collaboration. The GlobalStars competition provides an important opportunity to foster more business partnerships and technological advancements between the two nations, including to support UK-Japan semiconductor projects. Further information available [here](#).

Key Dates:

Applicant Briefing:
10 Sep
2024

Application Deadline:
29 Sep
2024

Get ready Workshop:
28 - 29
Oct 2024

Innovation visit:
9 - 13 Dec
2024

Exploit the opportunity Workshop:
6 Mar
2025

What to expect:

The Global Business Innovation Programme is structured around three main stages, and each business will have a designated Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist to support them for 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:** In person briefing 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 support to better articulate your value proposition.
- **Visit the market:** Explore the innovation opportunities first-hand through meeting with key companies and research organisations and potential collaborators and partners through prearranged meetings and organised matchmaking.
- **Exploit the opportunity:** An exploitation workshop and one-to-one support from an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist to follow up and take advantage of the opportunities identified.

Innovation visit - Itinerary:

Date	Activity
7 December 2024	Outward Travel to Japan
9 - 13 December 2024	Activities for the week in Tokyo to include visit to Semicon Japan 2024 , pitching sessions, meetings with government, key industry players, NGOs and academia, site visits, networking and B2B opportunities.
14 December 2024	Return Travel

*Travel will be subject to the entry and exit rules of Japan and the UK. Should travel not be permitted the programme will be delivered virtually or cancelled.

To apply for this initiative, you must:

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

Be a business with fewer than 250 employees

Be a CEO, founder, or senior decision maker and able to attend and complete all activities

What is the cost?

Innovate UK will fund and organise flights, accommodation, in-market travel, and conference fees for successful applicants. Innovate UK will also pay for any reasonable adjustments throughout the initiative. One senior 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 and agreed work plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all the commitment fee.

How to apply?

The application form can be found [here](#). 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 29 September. All applicants will be notified from week commencing 7 October. Innovate UK is committed to improving the diversity of who we support. As such, we welcome applications from under-represented groups.

Additional information & assistance:

Please note: Successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to Japan as well as any local regulations. The safety of our delegation is our top priority. If unforeseen circumstance do not allow us to travel to the market, a virtual visit may be considered.

To fill in the online application form please visit the Innovate UK Business Growth [website](#). For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact Trevor.Marshall@innovateukedge.ukri.org.