

Global Business Innovation Programme - Smart Manufacturing, Taiwan

Innovate UK's Global Business Innovation Programme

is a comprehensive initiative to help ambitious businesses collaborate and explore new markets, accelerating business growth. The programme encompasses three phases - a Get ready preparation phase, a 10-day in-market visit focused on relevant innovation, an Exploit the opportunity workshop, and support throughout from an Innovate UK Business Growth innovation and growth specialist. Expect a combination of physical and virtual activities to ensure maximum engagement.

At Innovate UK, we are dedicated to providing equal opportunities for success to individuals from all backgrounds.

Focus Areas:

We are inviting applications from scale-up and high-growth companies enabling innovation in Advanced Manufacturing and Integrated Supply Chains to increase the efficiency, adaptability, and circularity of manufacturing operations. We are keen to support organisations in the following areas as outlined in the [Innovate UK materials and manufacturing vision 2050](#):

- Materials for the future economy – the discovery, scaling, and accelerated adoption of advanced and sustainable materials, and the associated processing.
- Smart design – through-life and multidisciplinary design engineering

with the support of digital tools to de-risk and prototype new ideas.

- Resilient supply chains - complete supply chain visibility, smart supply chains, and end-to-end supply chain integration.
- World-class production - flexible, automated, and adaptive manufacturing, productivity enhancement, and predictive maintenance.
- Longer in use & reuse, circular economy - sustainable consumption of resources and reuse, repair, recycling, remanufacture, and ultimate disposal of products and materials.

Why Taiwan?

A major International Benchmarking study covering Advanced Manufacturing and Materials confirmed Taiwan on a shortlist of key partner territories for the UK. Taiwan is a leading manufacturer by share of world manufacturing exports, a front-runner in R&D expenditure, and a leader in patent applications in selected advanced manufacturing technologies.

The UK's leading researchers and innovators want to collaborate with the best talent in the world, in the best facilities in the world, regardless of borders. These international collaborations lead to new advances

and discoveries, pushing the frontiers of knowledge faster and further (UK Research and Development Roadmap).

In 2022 Innovate UK signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Industrial Technology, Ministry of Economic Affairs of Taiwan. The main objective of this MoU is to support and promote bilateral and multilateral scientific R&D activities and in particular joint projects between the United Kingdom and Taiwan, and to facilitate collaboration opportunities. Smart manufacturing technology is one of the technology sectors specified in this MoU.

This MoU has provided a framework for future innovation collaboration between the UK and Taiwan. Alongside programmes such as GBIPs, this also includes annual bilateral collaborative R&D funding calls. Two have been launched to date between the UK and Taiwan with more planned for the future. Smart manufacturing technology remains a key scope area for these funding opportunities.

Benefits:

- Explore joint opportunities to do business with Taiwan
- Find potential innovation collaborators and partners
- Improve your company's value proposition to global partners and investors

KEY DATES:

Programme briefing:
15 October 2024

Applications close:
3 November 2024

Pre-visit workshop:
22 - 23 January 2025

Market visit:
1 - 10 March 2025

Post-visit workshop:
14 April 2025

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The Global Business Innovation Programme is structured around three main phases and each business will have a designated Innovate UK Business Growth innovation & growth specialist to support them for the duration of the offering, including developing an action plan to capitalise on the opportunities identified. The three main phases 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 support on how to improve and better articulate your value proposition. (2-day workshop)
- **Visit the market:** Explore the innovation opportunities first-hand through meeting with key companies, research organisations, and potential collaborators and partners through pre-arranged meetings and organised matchmaking. (10 days of market-related activity)
- **Exploit the opportunity:** A one-day 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. (1-day workshop and as a guide, around 5 days working with an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist)

INNOVATION ACTIVITIES - EXAMPLE (subject to change):

Date	Activity
22-23 January 2024	Pre-visit GBIP Workshop
1-10 March 2025	Market visit to Taiwan including site visits and meetings

Date	Activity
14 April 2025	Post-visit GBIP Workshop
January - April 2025	Work with an Innovate UK Business Growth innovation & growth specialist

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 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. Only one representative from each company will be funded. Upon acceptance to the initiative, a commitment fee of £1000 will be obtained from each delegate, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities and agreed action plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all 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 **11:59 pm on 3rd November 2024**. To support potential applicants, a briefing will take place on **15th October 2024**.

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

Innovate UK recognises that the innovation sector is not as diverse as the UK demographic and is committed to improving the diversity of those we support. As such, we welcome applications from those under-represented across the sector.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

To complete the online application form or to register for the [briefing event](#), please visit the [Innovate UK Business Growth website](#). For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact the global team at global1@innovateukedge.ukri.org.