

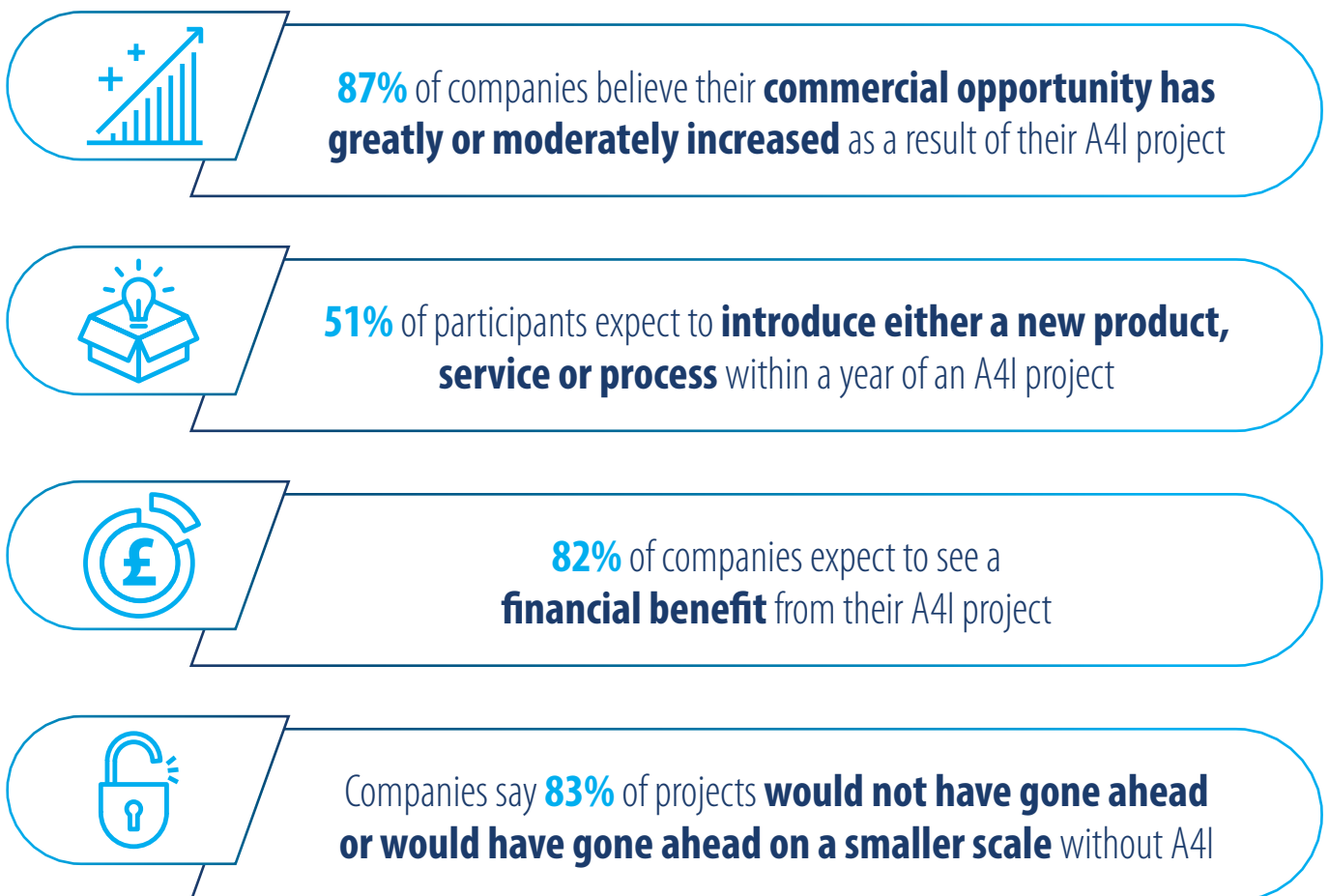
A4I: Improving productivity and competitiveness for UK businesses

Analysis for Innovators (A4I) is a unique funding programme that provides UK businesses with access to **world-leading R&D expertise and facilities** to improve their existing **products and services**.

A4I helps companies to address and solve the problems that are holding back business improvements. The programme supports companies to innovate quickly by getting direct access to equipment and knowledge from world-leading facilities in the UK, to benefit their productivity, growth and/or competitiveness.

Over 190 businesses from across the UK have been supported by A4I projects to improve the reliability of their products & services, validate improved product performance, improve manufacturing rates, access new markets and reduce costs.

Analysis* of participants feedback shows:



*All impact is self-reported data from 130 companies who participated in Rounds 3-5 of the A4I programme.

Delivering Impact

A4I is designed to directly link companies with world-leading UK scientists and engineers to address technical problems preventing innovation through collaborative R&D projects. The programme enables companies to implement business improvements to benefit their productivity, growth and/or competitiveness.



Companies expect **sales, licensing, and cost reductions of up to £585m** per annum as a result of their A4I projects



Participants report **55 FTE jobs created and anticipate that 774 FTE jobs** will be created within 5 years of completing their project



Companies made **£5.8M** in-kind contribution leveraging the Government investment



For every **£1** of government funding companies spent **43p** of their own funds



Companies estimate project impacts to last **7 years** on average

“ Schemes like A4I give UK SMEs funding to access the world’s best characterisation equipment, but crucially it also gives access to some of the world’s best brains that allow amazing results from that equipment. Characterising our devices has saved us hundreds of thousands of pounds of wasted effort by giving us the data to inform our development choices. ”

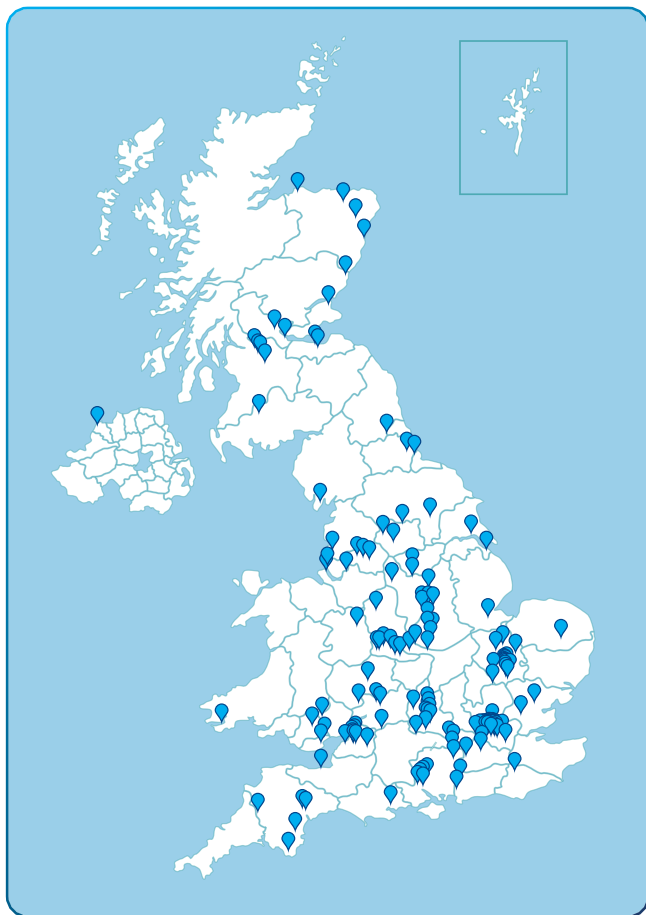
Adaptix Medical Imaging

Building collaborative R&D partnerships

This proven programme run in partnership with Innovate UK has funded over 270 collaborative R&D projects through six rounds of funding.

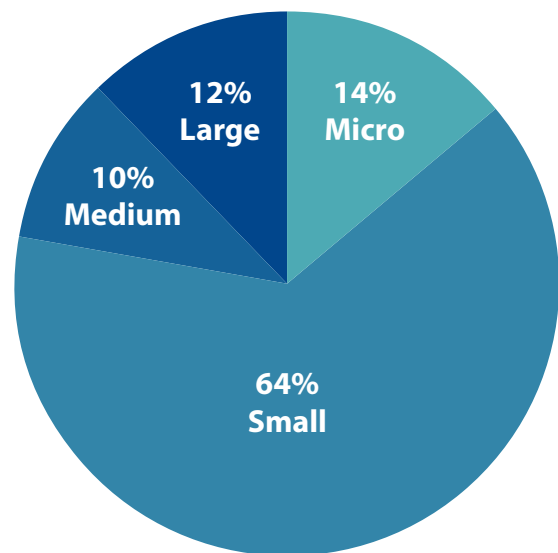


Supporting all regions of the UK



The programme is building successful relationships between national laboratories and UK businesses. It is attracting and engaging companies, particularly SMEs, that have not undertaken R&D before, or have not previously had the ability to access measurement and analysis expertise and facilities.

88% of participants have been from SME businesses



“ The results have been extremely valuable, opening up entirely new applications for our devices, and enabling us to enter new markets, where we are already having exciting conversations with customers about how our devices can be used. ”

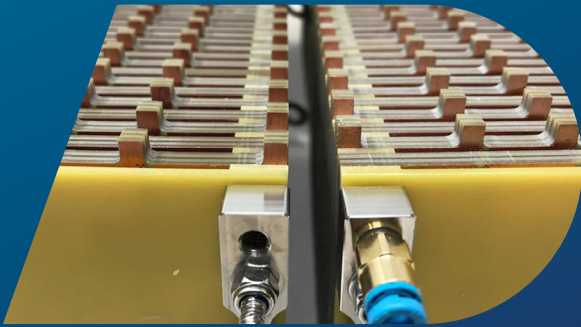
Ivor Guiney, Technical Director - Paragraf

Making a tangible difference to companies

Bramble Energy has created the world's first fuel cell which can be manufactured in established low-cost production facilities, eliminating the need for expensive, purpose-built factories. But to open lucrative new markets they must demonstrate durability of tens of thousands of hours in use.

This project identified and resolved an issue which was leading the product to degrade too quickly. This has improved durability, extending the product lifetime and therefore making the cell more competitive whilst also reducing time to market.

“ The A4I project has been invaluable in unlocking world-leading facilities and expertise which would have otherwise been inaccessible to us. The knowledge gained helped us overcome a problem in our manufacturing process, improving the durability of our fuel cell and making it a much more competitive technology. ”



Johnstons of Elgin is a 220-year-old Scottish company, whose customers include high end, international couture businesses. They partnered with NPL on an A4I project to create new standards for the quality finish on cashmere.

As a result of their A4I project, Johnstons of Elgin have reported cost of quality savings in the region of £900K per annum, and have set unprecedented quality standards in the industry.

“ The experience of working with NPL has been seamless and encouraging. It has changed our outlook on what is available to assist us but also how we think and tackle our issues. Our managers are better for the experience and it opens up our ideas on R&D possibilities.

The benefits of the project have improved our OTIF much closer to world class and our quality and repeatability of finish is much admired by our competitors and more importantly differentiates us for our customers. ”



npl.co.uk/analysis-for-innovators

This programme is delivered by Innovate UK in partnership with experts from world-leading national facilities, including the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), National Measurement Laboratory at LGC, National Engineering Laboratory, Science and Technology Facilities Council, Advanced Sustainable Manufacturing Technologies and Newton Gateway to Mathematics. The Programme is funded by the department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).



National Engineering
Laboratory



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Newton Gateway
to Mathematics

