

# The Innovation for Machinery programme

The Innovation for Machinery (I4M) programme will accelerate the development of next generation machinery and will support the aims of the AMPI innovation initiative in creating new jobs and growth in this sector. I4M aims to provide businesses in Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire with access to scientists and their facilities with expertise in a broad range of topics relevant to machine builders, control system engineers, robotics, measurement and related subjects.

I4M is government funding provided through UK Research and Innovation's flagship Strength in Places Fund and is an industry led initiative driving innovation for the UK's advanced machinery designers, manufacturers and users.

## **Are you eligible?**

Access to I4M will be free of charge to organisations which meet the criteria of:

1. Being within the defined geographical area
2. Working within relevant industries
3. Proposing a project that is relevant to AMPI objectives
4. Can be supported by the programme's knowledge providers
5. Is not a standard service which can be obtained commercially
6. Can be completed in a maximum of 50 days

See below for full details.

To be eligible to apply, you must be:

- A UK company registered at Companies House
- Within your Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocation (less than £325,000 of government funding over a three-year period).

Please note that applicants will be responsible for determining their own current Special Drawing Rights (previously De Minimis) status.

Successful applicants will be given an estimate of the value of any SDR benefits in kind for their project along with a final value following project completion.

I4M will run for a period of four years with a nominal investment of £1M accessible at approximately £250k per annum to successful applicants.

The programme will be administered by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) with expertise provided by NPL and our Partners at the University of Huddersfield, the University of Leeds, the University of Manchester and the University of Salford (also referred to as Delivery Partners).

## **The application process**

Application and most elements of reporting will be a simple on-line process. Applications will be submitted via a web portal and triaged by a committee made up from the five organisations providing the expertise.

The triage process will assess each application against the five criteria above. Successful applicants will be allocated one or more experts from the knowledge providers. Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback regarding their submission to help with future applications.

## **Successful applicants**

Successful applicants will co-ordinate with the selected expert(s) to generate an agreed project plan with milestones and objectives.

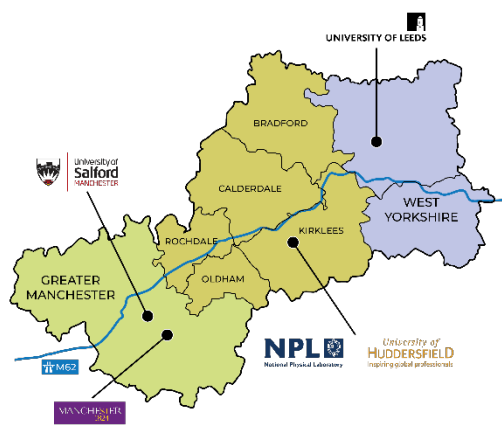
Progress against the plan will be monitored by the applicant, the knowledge provider(s) and the programme administrator with any deviation from the scope being agreed by all parties in advance.

Outputs from the projects will include a final report and a short case study which can be used to demonstrate how this programme can be of benefit to industry.

### **Full eligibility details**

The defined geographical area includes the following postcodes:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Postcodes</b>
Bradford	BD1 – 22, BD97 - 99
Huddersfield	HD1 - 9
Halifax	HX1 - 7
Leeds	LS1 – 29, LS88, LS98, LS99
Sheffield	S71, S72, S75
Wakefield	WF1 – 17, WF90
Bolton	BL0 – 9
Manchester	M1 – 38, M40 – 46, M50, M52, M60, M61, M90, M99
Oldham	OL1 – 16, OL95
Stockport	SK1 – 16, SK22
Warrington	WA3, WA12 - 15
Wigan	WN1 – 7



Relevant industries include:

- Machine tool manufacturers
- Robotics manufacturers and integrators
- Other machine manufacturers
- Machine control system manufacturers
- Providers of digitalisation systems for manufacturing including sensing and control
- Manufacturer of machinery subsystems
- Manufacture and provision of automation systems
- Supporting products and services for the above

Project that are relevant to AMPI objectives include:

- To re-position the UK as a leader in the global market for machinery and robotics invention, innovation, and technology adoption
- To realise a portfolio of innovative R&D projects that deliver advances to meet multiple industrial sector needs. Including the development of disruptive technologies to maintain competitiveness
- To enable existing and emerging sectors to create transformational machinery and subsystems that address critical challenges including net zero, resilience (agritech and medicines manufacturing), and sustainability.

Projects must fulfil the following criteria.

- They must be based on the capabilities of knowledge providers
- They must achieve a desired outcome within the duration of the project
- They must be standalone projects (with an outcome) and not just a small part of a bigger project
- They can achieve an agreed outcome which could subsequently be used within a larger project
- Timescales will be agreed between the Delivery Partner(s) and the Applicant during the project proposal generation process

- They must be innovative and not replicating previous work
- Must not be a standard service which can be obtained commercially
- They can be at all technology readiness levels (TRL) but greater priority will be given to those which have reached mid-TRL levels.



**UK Research  
and Innovation**

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Please complete the application form on the web page in full. Once completed it will automatically be sent to the I4M team for processing. As part of this process you must agree to our Terms & Conditions which can be found [here](#).

If you have any queries please [contact us](mailto:i4m@npl.co.uk) on [i4m@npl.co.uk](mailto:i4m@npl.co.uk)