

FUNDING AND SUPPORT – EUROPEAN, NATIONAL & REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Updated: 09/06/2009



Note: This document is updated on a regular basis. SMMT shall not be held responsible for the accuracy of information given in this document – you are advised to check qualification criteria and availability of support by contacting the relevant support provider.

<u>National</u>				
Name of Facility	Scope	Key criteria	How to apply	Contact/Website
Trade credit insurance top-up scheme	Government has announced its trade credit insurance support is to be extended so that businesses that have had their credit limits reduced since 1 October 2008 will be able to access support. Companies are now eligible for six months prospective cover. Also, up to 28 days' retrospective cover can be purchased in accordance with eligibility rules.	<p>Top-up cover is available if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Companies hold a whole-turnover trade credit insurance policy. - Trades are within the UK with payment terms of no more than 120 days. - The level of cover being compared to was in place for at least 30 days. - Cover was reduced on, or after, 1 October 2008. - The reduction in cover was triggered by the credit insurance provider. <p>This scheme does not cover exports</p>	<p>Trade credit insurance providers who are currently operating the government top-up scheme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atradius Credit Insurance N.V - Coface S.A - Euler Hermes UK PLC <p>It is likely that other credit insurance providers will join the government top-up scheme in due course.</p>	<p>Full scheme details (PDF)</p> <p>Further details of the scheme can be found on the Business Link website.</p>

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<p>Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP)</p>	<p>The AAP will administer loan guarantees, and in exceptional cases loans, to automotive companies facing difficulties resulting from the economic downturn.</p> <p>£1 billion of loan guarantees or loans will be provided by UK government. UK government will further guarantee £1.3 billion worth of loans made by the European Investment Bank (EIB).</p>	<p>Eligible companies must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a turnover of at least £25m and a proposed investment of at least £5m; - be UK automotive manufacturers or indirect or direct suppliers to the industry; - submit projects that would not otherwise happen without government support; - submit projects that are tied to R&D or capital expenditure within the UK; - submit projects that meet UK government’s objectives on environmental targets; <p>Click here for full criteria details</p>	<p>Eligible companies should register an initial expression of interest.</p> <p>A short overview covering the criteria and how they are met, a synopsis of the project or initiative under planning, and the level and type of financial support being sought should be provided.</p> <p>Please provide the following details: Business name and address in full, email, telephone and full name of point of contact.</p>	<p>Automotive Assistance Programme website</p> <p>To register interest or apply, email: berr.auto@berr.gsi.gov.uk</p>

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<p>Additional support measures for the automotive industry</p> <p>– Train to Gain</p>	<p>Increased funding for training of employees under 'Train to Gain' from £60m to £100m.</p>	<p>Funding for apprenticeships, business improvement techniques (at either level 2 or level 3, with level 4 available in 2009), and Skills for Life (literacy, numeracy etc.)</p>	<p>Can be accessed by manufacturers and supply chain directly through "Train to Gain".</p>	<p>customerservices@semta.org.uk, www.semta.org.uk</p>
<p>Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG)</p>	<p>A guarantee facility worth £1.3 billion for small businesses intended primarily to improve the availability of working capital through term loans and the consolidation of overdrafts. It will also support lending for business growth and development in cases where a sound proposition may otherwise be declined due to a lack of security.</p>	<p>This scheme is for small businesses in the UK with an annual turnover of up to £25 million.</p> <p>Eligible businesses are able to borrow between £1,000 and £1,000,000 when this would not otherwise have been possible.</p>	<p>To check whether your business may be eligible for this scheme and to complete an assessment which you can take to your local bank please click here.</p>	<p>BERR Information Page</p> <p>This scheme is available through the following high street banks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barclays - Clydesdale/Yorkshire Bank - HBOS - HSBC - Lloyds TSB - RBS/Natwest - Northern Bank <p>It will become available from many other lenders shortly.</p> <p>Please contact your local bank for more information.</p>

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Working Capital Scheme (WCS)	Government guarantees of up to £10 billion which will support bank lending of up to £20 billion. The purpose of this facility is to release capital which banks can redeploy in order to increase all types of lending above their current plans to businesses with a turnover of less than £500m.	This scheme is for businesses in the UK with an annual turnover of up to £500 million. With the support of Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and RBS, government hopes the first £1 billion guarantee tranche of the scheme should be operational by 1st March.	Contact bank for products and services.	Please visit Business Link's " Real help with finance now " website:
Capital for Enterprise Fund	A £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund with £50 million of Government funding which will allow companies to fund business development by selling debt in exchange for an equity stake in their business.	The fund will provide equity and quasi-equity of between £250,000 and £2million for companies of up to £50 million turnover who have viable business models and growth potential in need of long term capital.	Prospective bidders should contact the Enterprise Capital Fund team.	To find out more about visit BERR's website . Enterprise Capital Fund team: enterprise@capitalforenterprise.gov.uk Capital for Enterprise Fund Registration Helpline: Tel: 0845 459 9780

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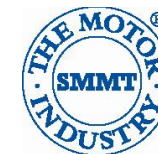


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Technology Strategy Board – Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP)	<p>Research & development funding on low carbon vehicles.</p> <p>The IDP is a new £200 million investment programme, jointly funded by Government and business.</p> <p>Further details to be announced in due course.</p>			<p>www.innovateuk.org, www.innovate.org/ourstrategy/innovationplatforms/lowcarbonvehicles.ashx</p>
Apprenticeship support	<p>The government has announced £140 million of additional investment for apprenticeship places. 35,000 new apprenticeships are expected to be created.</p>	<p>For further information contact the Learning and Skills Council.</p> <p>An apprentice who has been made redundant will now be funded to remain in full-time training provision for up to six months whilst they are supported to find a new employer and complete their framework. The Apprentice may also be eligible for Hardship Funding depending on their personal circumstances.</p> <p>If an Apprentice is made redundant who is close to completing and has evidence of extensive employment during their Apprenticeship, Semta (and other SSCs) and Awarding Bodies can now take this into consideration and adapt the assessment methodology as appropriate as long as it is without detriment to quality.</p> <p>Individuals who have achieved an A* or A grade in GCSE Maths and English are exempt from key skills where the employer agrees.</p>		<p>http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers.aspx</p> <p>Learning and Skills Council: http://www.lsc.gov.uk/</p> <p>Email: info@lsc.gov.uk Tel: 0870 900 6800</p>

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<p>Ultra-Efficient Systems for the Market Advancement of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles</p>	<p>Up to £10 million has been allocated to fund highly innovative collaborative research projects in the field of ultra-efficient electrical systems for electric and hybrid vehicles</p>	<p>Projects must show a clear route to a viable market and be able to demonstrate that these new systems are economically advantageous compared to current equivalents. Projects should be ready for rig or mule based demonstration within 2-3 years and production ready within 5-7 years.</p> <p>For more information, click here.</p>	<p>Expression of Interest (EOI) should be made between the 19th January and 18th February 2009. Submission of full proposal by noon on 30th April 2009.</p> <p>There are further application requirements. For details, click here.</p>	<p>Information pack www.innovateuk.org</p> <p>Helpline: 01355 272155</p> <p>Email: competitions@tsb.gov.uk</p> <p>The Technology Strategy Board B1 North Star House North Star Avenue Swindon, SN2 1JF</p>

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General business support from 'Solutions for Business – funded by government', BERR, http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file50699.pdf				
Name of Facility	Scope	Key criteria	How to apply	Contact/Website
Small Loans for Business (Available Jan 09)	Small loans of up to £50,000 for businesses with viable business plans refused bank finance, typically linked to ongoing mentoring and support.	Small and medium start-up and growth businesses unable to raise the funding they need from mainstream lenders are eligible.	Contact Business Link	Business Link 0845 600 9006 www.businesslink.gov.uk To find your local branch: http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/directory?r.lc=en&r.s=e
Support to Lenders (Available Jan 09)	Government supported loans from high street lenders for businesses denied a standard loan because of a lack of collateral.	Small and medium businesses with a viable plan but lacking collateral are eligible.	Contact Business Link	
Finance for Business (Available Jan 09)	Flexible finance solutions for businesses with viable business plans unable to get support from commercial banks and investors.	Small and medium businesses unable to raise all their finance needs in the commercial market despite having a viable business plan.	Contact Business Link	

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Innovation Vouchers (Available Mar 09)	A voucher to enable businesses to buy support from a knowledge base institution in order to explore potential opportunities for future collaboration in developing and exploiting new ideas.	Businesses from all sectors are eligible that have the willingness and potential to develop innovative products, processes or services. Knowledge base institutions who are willing to engage as delivery channels with the primary purpose of assisting businesses to exploit knowledge through new products, services and processes are also eligible.	Contact Business Link	Business Link 0845 600 9006 www.businesslink.gov.uk
Low Carbon Energy Demonstration Projects (Available Mar 09)	Finance to assist a business in a range of demonstration activity in order to commercially exploit R&D in low carbon energy-generating technology.	Businesses engaging in low carbon energy demonstration projects are eligible.	Contact Business Link	Find your local branch, click here .
Grant for Research and Development (Available Mar 09)	Finance to assist a business to develop and exploit new ideas.	Commercially driven projects by pre-start, start-ups and SMEs within all sectors, except defence. When supporting low carbon technologies eligibility for this product extends to large businesses.	Contact Business Link	

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Grant for Business Investment	Grant to support the acquisition of key assets, such as buildings, plant and machinery and to support the creation of new jobs or to safeguard existing ones.	Most businesses operating in Assisted Areas (as defined by the European Union) can apply for Grant for Business Investment. Small and medium-sized business (SME) in many other disadvantaged areas (as defined by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs)) are also eligible to apply.	Contact Business Link	
Maximising Foreign Direct Investment	Information, advice and tailored help for potential and existing inward investors, to help them with the decision to invest in the UK and, once invested, to develop their UK based business.	Overseas companies primarily identified by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) are eligible. Selection for aftercare of inward investors (i.e. once a UK base has been established) is facilitated by UKTI and the RDAs.	Contact Business Link	Business Link 0845 600 9006 www.businesslink.gov.uk Find your local branch, click here .
Business Collaboration Networks	Funding will be provided to procure intermediaries to establish and operate business collaboration networks. The intermediaries will facilitate access to a range of collaborative support activities.	Participating firms must be in a priority sector, market, technology or other area identified as critical to the successful delivery of the relevant regional or local economic strategy - or be looking to diversify into such a sector.	Contact Business Link	

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Business Premises	Allows provision of cost-effective, managed workspaces and business in priority localities to help new and existing businesses grow.	Target customers include new businesses looking to start-up within the local area; small and medium sized firms; and large companies able to act as anchor tenants. Business premises which operate as mixed use sites will only attract funding for those elements occupied by new and/or small and medium sized firms.	Contact Business Link	
Business Growth: Specialist Facilities and Environments	This product provides cost-effective, supportive shared premises – with specialist facilities such as specialist knowledge, equipment and technologies – to help new and existing businesses grow.	These premises will be targeted at businesses from within priority sectors as set out in regional and local economic strategies. To be eligible for support businesses must display entrepreneurial and growth potential and match the purpose and entry criteria of the facility.	Contact Business Link	<p>Business Link 0845 600 9006 www.businesslink.gov.uk</p> <p>Find your local branch, click here.</p>
Manufacturing Advisory Service	A Business support programme for manufacturing companies, delivering hands-on advice and assistance from experts in a wide range of manufacturing disciplines.	UK manufacturing firms, focusing on those employing 250 or fewer people are eligible. Any dealings with non-SMEs will only be provided at full market rate.	Contact Business Link	

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Designing Demand	A support programme developed to help businesses use design to improve performance	Eligible for businesses with ambition to grow, appetite for change and the resources and management time to invest in running strategic design projects. Eligible businesses range from micro through to 249 employees	Contact Business Link	
Coaching for High Growth	A structured coaching programme, assisting firms to build their inherent capabilities and achieve accelerated growth.	The product is targeted at businesses with the potential to achieve high growth but which would not achieve such growth without intervention. Any dealings with non-SMEs will only be provided at full market rate.	Contact Business Link	Business Link 0845 600 9006 www.businesslink.gov.uk
Understanding Finance for Business (Available Jan 09)	Advice and support to ensure that entrepreneurs and businesses understand their options for getting the money they need to start and grow a business, with facilitated introduction to potential sources of finance.	Small and medium start-up and growth businesses lacking an understanding of finance options, the skills to develop their propositions and/or access to potential investors.	Contact Business Link	Find your local branch, click here .
Improving Resource Efficiency (Available Mar 09)	Initial and specialist support which enables businesses to contribute to a low carbon resource efficient economy whilst achieving cost savings.	Most of the services, especially at initial level, are available to all businesses. Specialist support will be targeted at businesses with significant potential to reduce their environmental impacts or those that have made a public commitment to do so.	Contact Business Link	

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<p>Collaborative R&D (Available Mar 09)</p>	<p>A grant to businesses working together and with the knowledge base to develop and exploit new ideas.</p>	<p>Eligible organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Businesses from all sectors that have the willingness and potential to collaborate on developing innovative products, processes or services. - Knowledge base institutions who are willing to engage in an innovation collaboration activities with the primary purpose of assisting businesses to exploit knowledge through new products, services and processes. - Businesses based seeking to join pan-European R&D projects. 	<p>Contact Business Link</p>	<p>Business Link 0845 600 9006 www.businesslink.gov.uk</p> <p>Find your local branch, click here.</p>
<p>Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (Available Mar 09)</p>	<p>A grant to enable the placement of a recently qualified person (i.e. NVQ level 4 in an appropriate subject, HND, foundation degree, degree and higher degrees, including post-doctorate) in a business, or the exchange of staff between businesses and knowledge base institutions.</p>	<p>Businesses from all sectors are eligible that have the willingness and potential to develop innovative products, processes or services. Knowledge base institutions who are willing to engage as delivery channels with the primary purpose of assisting businesses to exploit knowledge through new products, services and processes are also eligible.</p>	<p>Contact Business Link</p>	