

Smart manufacturing Cluster - UK organisations: eligibility and scope

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is the UK's funding agency for the EUREKA SMART cluster competition 2019. EUREKA SMART cluster projects are designed to be market-driven international R&D projects aiming to boost the competitiveness, growth and attractiveness of the European discrete manufacturing industries.

Innovate UK is investing up to £2 million to fund UK businesses and research organisations participating in collaborative industrial research projects with partners from the EUREKA SMART cluster participating countries.

Eligibility:

The eligibility conditions which UK organisations must satisfy to qualify for Innovate UK grant funding follow below:

- The consortium must include at least one UK-based SME and one partner from one of the EUREKA Network participating countries. Note: International partner (or partners) must be separate, non-linked legal entities to the UK partners.
- Research organisations cannot lead an application
- RTOs must be able to show how they will exploit the results of the project to grow the wider sector in the UK.

The funding is given in the form of a grant. Under the EUREKA Cluster calls, Innovate UK can fund a proportion of the industrial research project costs, this proportion depends on the size of your business:

- up to 70% if you are a micro or small business
- up to 60% if you are a medium-sized business
- up to 50% if you are a large business

Eligible project costs are defined in the general funding guidance.

This competition provides state aid funding under the General Block Exemption Regulation.

- Research organisations, including RTO's and universities, are welcome to participate as partners, according to each country's funding regulations. For the UK, the following conditions apply:
 - Research organisations (including RTO's and universities) in the consortium can share up to 30% of the total eligible UK project costs. If your consortium contains more than one research organisation, this maximum will be shared between them.

Any UK business claiming funding must be eligible to receive state aid at point of award. It is your responsibility to make sure that your organisation is eligible to receive state aid. For further information please see the general guidance document.

EUREKA SMART cluster will invoice an administration fee of 1.5% of funded amount to the organisation awarded the funding. This will be split equally for each year the project is active.

Subcontracting is allowed within EUREKA Cluster competitions up to a maximum 20% of the total eligible project costs of the UK partners.

Scope:

SMART is a EUREKA Cluster with a mission to boost the competitiveness, growth and attractiveness of the European discrete manufacturing industries. In particular aerospace, automotive, capital goods, railways, consumer durables and other discrete manufacturing areas.

Each partner must carry out the majority of their funded work within the country from which they receive funding (ie. the UK for Innovate UK funding).

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, is working with SMART to deliver a 2019 call, with the objective of

- Supporting projects along the Advanced Manufacturing value chain.
- Helping the formation of innovation “ecosystems” bringing together the best technologies in SME’s, large enterprises, RTO’s and Academia to form dynamic new teams that will extend the State of the Art with the potential of rapid subsequent commercial exploitation.

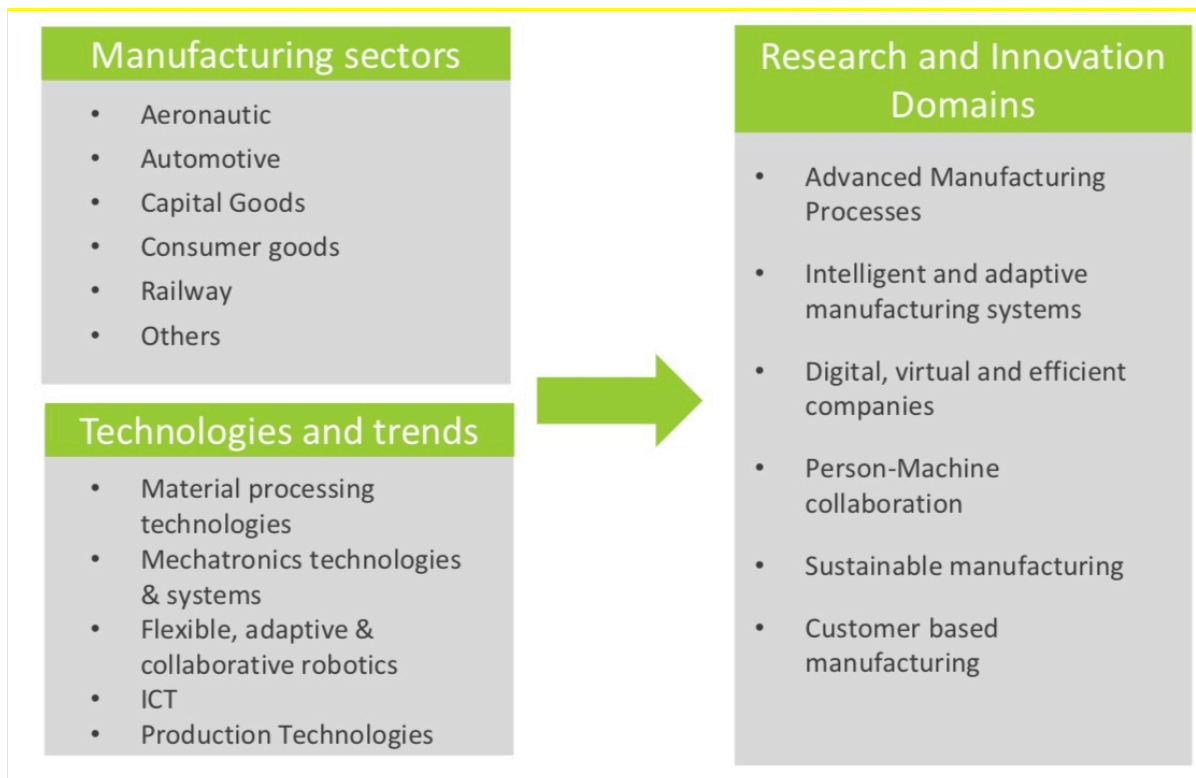
In all projects, partners from two or more EUREKA countries covering at least an essential section of the total value chain are required.

Broad SMART scope:

The SMART Technology Roadmap was guided by key players from European industry and Research organisations. The roadmap outlines the strategic challenges identified in several high impact industrial sectors: Aeronautic, Automotive, Consumer Goods, Capital Good and Railway in which the technologies and new solutions developed within cluster projects shall mainly be applied.

SMART Technology Roadmap illustrates the technology areas and developments that are needed to take a big step in the competitiveness of European manufacturing industry and includes six main Research and Innovation Domains:

SMART Technology Roadmap is developed based on three building blocks:



SMART seeks to support the creation of partnerships along the Advanced Manufacturing value chain, enabling the transition from research to commercial exploitation.

Innovate UK focus:

The UK Smart manufacturing call funding is open to companies across the UK Manufacturing stakeholder community within the boundaries of the Smart cluster roadmap. For this call we also have a particular interest on the use of industrial digital technologies (IDTs) to transform the productivity and agility of (UK) manufacturing in any of these themes:

- Smart connected factory
- Connected and versatile supply chain
- Design, make, test
- Adaptable, flexible manufacturing operations and skills

Innovate UK will not consider projects where the innovation resides primarily in software.

The Innovate UK Smart manufacturing call encourages projects that deliver an advantage from an aspect of international collaboration, with specific benefits gained by working with one or more partners external to UK. Applications will be accepted from applicants across the value system.

Each project consortia must include partners from at least two participating EUREKA countries, for the UK at least one SME must be involved to apply for funding, but RTOs and large businesses can also participate.

In the event of oversubscription, Innovate UK reserves the right to adopt a portfolio approach in ranking. This will be aimed at achieving a balance across a range of:

- scope areas
- categories of research and development
- project costs, including demonstrating value for money

Useful links:

General competition guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/innovate-uk-funding-general-guidance-for-applicants>

The definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) used by Innovate UK:

<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/>

Eligible project costs are defined in the general funding guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-completing-your-application-project-costs-guidance>

SMART Roadmap:

<https://www.smarteureka.com/en/about-us/technology-roadmap/>

Funding Agency contact:

Craig Sharp, Innovate UK: craig.sharp@innovateuk.ukri.org