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Cymru | Wales

S M A R T I N N O V A T I O N



UNDEB EWROPEAIDD
EUROPEAN UNION



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Cronfa Datblygu
Rhanbarthol Ewrop
European Regional
Development Fund**

If you want to make something new, better or faster, it's our mission to help you make it prosper.

If you have an idea for a new product, process or service that will help your business thrive, SMART Innovation offers expert advice and consultancy for businesses in Wales through its team of Innovation Specialists.

The EU-funded SMART Innovation programme has helped hundreds of businesses in Wales, across a range of sectors, to prosper in ever-evolving and globally competitive marketplaces.

Help for your business. Experienced, personal and local.

At the heart of the innovation programme is a team of Innovation Specialists, made up of engineers, scientists, IP experts and commercialisation managers, who have decades of industry expertise. Whether you want advice on getting your product to market faster, or explore ways to streamline productivity, the team is ready to help you make it happen.

Right from the outset, your Innovation Specialist will pair you with the support best suited to your industry and specific needs.

For businesses that meet our eligibility criteria, an Innovation Specialist will spend a morning or afternoon with you to gain insight into your company, processes and products. Following their visit they will write and agree a tailored Innovation Action Plan, bespoke to your business, capability and ambition.



The SMART Innovation team

The Innovation Specialists combine many years of experience across engineering, science and manufacturing. A collaborative approach means that whether you want to improve the quality of your supply chain for a new product, or have an automation expert critically review the competitiveness and productivity of your business, SMART Innovation has the skills to make it happen.

Qualified and professional help is available.



Expertise

Our delivery is local, however, we can source expertise beyond our border. SMART Innovation has links with research organisations across the UK to help bring your idea to life through research and development, or identify ways to improve the efficiency of your processes. SMART Innovation provides practical assistance and can also help your business access financial support towards the total project costs.



Funding

We can help you to access funding from a range of sources, in the region of up to £300,000, to help you bring in external support or purchase equipment to help you research your idea, investigate the viability of it and bring your new product or process to life.



Productivity support

SMART Innovation also offers manufacturing, productivity and design consultancy from an approved framework of private sector advisors who can help to transform your business and production processes and technologies. SMART Innovation is a long-term investment in your company. Investing time in your business now to start an innovation project can yield real dividends for years to come.

Success story: CellPath

Newtown-based CellPath used innovation to respond to competition from low cost manufacturing regions. CellPath turned to SMART Innovation to help it secure funding to purchase histology equipment so that it could trial new products in a laboratory setting. The SMART Innovation team also recommended CellPath automate its manufacturing output, which led to them applying for further funding to purchase a robotic arm and an injection moulding machine.

Following help from SMART Innovation, CellPath:

- Secured funding to purchase fully-automated machinery, improving productivity
- Recorded 15% growth last year and employed 19 new staff since early 2018
- Achieved a 40% increase in orders from export regions in 2018



Success story: Swallow Yachts

Swallow Yachts manufactures a range of bespoke dayboats, from its base in Cardigan, which are sold to the leisure market in the UK and across the globe. Swallow Yachts contacted the SMART Innovation team for help with accessing funding to deliver its ambitions to design a boat that maintains speed under power, without sacrificing manoeuvrability and performance under sail.

SMART Innovation helped Swallow Yachts to:

- Develop an award-nominated sailboat, taking it from the drawing board to reality in 15 months
- Position itself as a leading yacht builder in Wales and to grow its exports by 20% in the coming two years



Is my business eligible?

01

Support from the SMART Innovation programme is available to eligible businesses in Wales who work in a range of sectors, including general manufacturing, engineering, energy, ICT, digital, electronics, medical/healthcare, construction and financial services.

02

Most sectors are eligible for support from SMART Innovation but there are some limitations, for example tourism and retail sectors are not supported. Contact us to have an initial discussion about eligibility.

03

SMEs with 10 employees or more. If you have less than 10 employees, but can demonstrate potential for growth, you might still be eligible for support.

04

For a more detailed discussion around eligibility and other terms and conditions, please contact us.

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businesswales.gov.wales/SMARTinnovation

*All information correct at the time of publication - November 2019.