

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and Partners Grant Funding Factsheet: August 2015

This grant funding factsheet has been developed by the **Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Access to Finance Group (Chaired by Paul Brown)** This document provides an overview of available **grant** funding streams and is updated monthly. There are many other non-grant products available. This factsheet complements the Better Business Finance tool, which is an online searchable tool for all business finance: <http://www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/>. Whilst contact information about individual products is given below, all initial enquiries can be directed to the Black Country Growth Hub on 01902 321 272 or email enquiries@bcgrowthhub.com

Press CTRL and click on the text in the boxes below to quickly find the relevant schemes.

**Grants for capital
expenditure**

**Grants for new
product or process
development**

**Grants for energy
efficiency**

**Grants for business
improvement**

**Grants for improving
broadband speeds**

**Other grants,
subsidies or tax relief
schemes**

Green Shoots and **Growing Priority Sectors in the Black Country** Grants towards capital expenditure for businesses in the Black Country in key sectors that will create jobs above the average salary. Minimum grant amount £10,000 and maximum £1,000,000. Currently accepting expressions of interest via <http://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/business/access-to-finance>

Close Brothers Asset Finance – Regional Growth Fund Grants available towards the deposit for asset finance towards the purchase of plant and machinery outside of the SE by SMEs. Minimum total spend £25,000 – grants up to 20% depending on job creation (1 job per £10,000) <http://www.closeassetfinance.co.uk/regional-growth-fund>

Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI) WMLCR– The aim of AMSCI is to increase the growth of the manufacturing sector. The fund will adopt a flexible approach to funding (loans and grants) focusing on the provision of funding towards the purchase of capital equipment and funding working capital requirements as well as funding the complementary requirement of R&D and skills development.

- Research & Development
- Capital Investment
- Skills & Training

Package of Support Range: minimum £100,000 funding request in the form of Grant OR Loan

Applications: Open

Contact: AMSCI Helpdesk: 0121 2334927 **web:** <https://www.financebirmingham.com/amsci/wmlcr/>

Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI) – Long-Term Advanced Supply Chain programme – The aim of AMSCI LTASC is to increase the growth of the existing supply chain of four automotive OEMs (JCB, Bentley, JLR, Toyota). AMSCI LTASC is currently open to manufacturers (not distributors etc) in England. Eligible spend for AMSCI includes:-

- Research & Development
- Capital Investment
- Skills & Training

Contact: Steve Collins 07809 522 454 **web:** <http://www.smm.co.uk/2014/03/uk-automotive-supply-chain-gains-13m-boost/>

Warwick Manufacturing Group is delivering a new WMG centre HVM Catapult initiative specifically for SMEs. A range of services on 3 levels: Workshops raising awareness, Collaborative projects and research grants for Collaborative R & D part funded. Must be manufacturing. <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/wmg/business/sme/> **Contact:** mark.swift@warwick.ac.uk

Innovate UK Range of grants for all size of business available via specific competition calls for feasibility studies and collaborative R&D; SMART grants (50%) available for SMEs for prototype, proof of concept and proof of market. For details, visit <https://interact.innovateuk.org/>

IPSS offers grant based financial assistance to SMEs. It can be used to support the costs of product development consultancy, protection of intellectual property rights and prototyping. It is targeted at supporting product development programme costs in the range of £4k to £12k, with grants of 30% - 50% against different categories of qualifying expenditure.

Applications: Open **Grant Range** - £4000 - £12,000 **Contact:** <http://www.bcgrowthhub.com/innovationsupport>

Shell Live Wire Monthly awards of up to £5000 and coaching for young entrepreneurs (16 – 30) to develop innovative business ideas in low carbon (>6mo to <1 yr trading) <http://www.shell-livewire.org/awards/awards-start>

Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive – guaranteed payments made by government over 20 years to businesses for each unit of heat generated through approved technologies (ground-source and air-source heat pumps, biomass boilers etc). <https://www.gov.uk/non-domestic-renewable-heat-incentive>

Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot - Organisations could receive financial support for implementing energy efficiency projects through the Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot if they deliver electricity savings at peak times. <https://www.gov.uk/electricity-demand-reduction-pilot>

Grow on Growth Grants to allow businesses currently in incubation facilities to move into commercial premises. Only available in 7 LEPs, including Black Country. www.growongrowth.co.uk

Fit for Nuclear Up to £10,000 to contribute 50% towards business improvement (for external consultancy etc) or R&D for civil nuclear suppliers <http://namrc.co.uk/services/f4n/funding/>

Business Growth Service Grants from £300 to £3000 to help manufacturers plan long-term strategies, improve manufacturing processes, bring new products to market and develop supply chains, support for exporting, accessing finance, building leadership and management skills and more <http://www.mas.businessgrowthservice.greatbusiness.gov.uk/how-we-can-help/>

Broadband Vouchers 100% grants up to £3000 as a contribution to infrastructure improvements to upgrade broadband speeds <https://www.connectionvouchers.co.uk/>

Cyber security: apply now for business funding. Innovate UK is offering businesses Cyber Security Innovation Vouchers worth up to £5,000. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cyber-security-apply-now-for-business-funding>

Lloyds Bank/School for Social Entrepreneurs Small grants (up to £4000) available for start-up social enterprises, or existing (trading >2yrs, >£25k t/o) social enterprises looking to scale (up to £15,000), but only as part of a business support programme featuring workshops and mentoring <http://www.the-sse.org/schools/26/lloyds-bank-and-bank-of-scotland-social-entrepreneurs-programme/275/about-the-programme> **Applications:** Opens 2nd February 2015. See also the Big Potential investment readiness grant for VCSO: <http://www.bigpotential.org.uk/apply>

Creative England and **Creative Europe** Various grants (& loans) available to finance growth in film businesses for feature film/documentary production, computer games, animation and FX in the WM. For details, visit: <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/business> and <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/games/funding> ; also see <http://www.mediadeskuk.eu/funding/> & https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding_en

Business Premises Renovation Allowance Tax relief rather than grant; expenses can be claimed in advance through a tax claim and then spent within three years to renovate or repair commercial property in an Assisted Area that has been empty for more than a year. Planning and architects' fees also eligible <https://www.gov.uk/business-premises-renovation-allowance-bpra>

Capital Allowances again not a grant, but count as State aid and therefore receipt of capital allowances will affect how much State aid a business can receive. Tax relief available against qualifying expenditure on integral features, insulation, heating systems and others: www.hmrc.gov.uk/capital-allowances

Smart Network, Smarter Choices A match funded grant of up to £5,000 (excluding VAT) to purchase items such as staff cycle parking, video conferencing facilities, electric car charging point etc. as well as finance to help employees purchase season tickets for public transport. www.mynetwork.org.uk/business for eligibility criteria.

Plug-in car and van grant Grant towards the cost of each new electric (plug-in) car or van purchased, if it meets certain conditions. Grants are available for 25% off the cost of a car, up to a maximum of £5,000 or 20% off the cost of a van, up to a maximum of £8,000 <https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants/overview>

State aid

State aid relates to the payment of public funding to private companies. If you are not familiar with State Aid rules look at the "handbook" produced by the European Commission for a summary of the Regulations. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that any bid submitted is compliant with State Aid Legislation.** <http://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

Contact Details

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