



dti

**SUCCEEDING  
THROUGH INNOVATION**

Overview

THE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME



The DTI drives our ambition of 'prosperity for all' by working to create the best environment for business success in the UK. We help people and companies become more productive by promoting enterprise, innovation and creativity.

We champion UK business at home and abroad. We invest heavily in world-class science and technology. We protect the rights of working people and consumers. And we stand up for fair and open markets in the UK, Europe and the world.

To help drive up UK productivity through better Innovation, the DTI provides a range of solutions that offer practical support and encouragement at the different stages of the innovation process.

Funded by Government Departments, Research Councils, Regional Development Agencies and Devolved Administrations.

- The government's ten-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework, published in July 2004, reaffirmed the commitment to support businesses investing in new and emerging technologies;
- A Technology Strategy Board, comprising mainly experienced business leaders, will identify the new and emerging technologies critical to the growth of the UK economy into which government funding and activities can be directed;
- Over the period 2005-2008, £320 million is available to businesses in the form of grants to support research and development in the technology areas identified by the Technology Strategy Board;
- The Programme is delivered through two DTI business support products: Collaborative Research & Development and Knowledge Transfer Networks.

## The changing business environment

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Businesses today are facing global competition like never before. Trade liberalisation and falling production costs in emerging economies are squeezing profit margins and raising the competitive stakes.

At the same time, technology, scientific understanding and global communications have advanced at a speed and on a scale never seen before, disrupting business models and increasing customer expectations.

## How business is responding

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The most forward thinking of UK businesses are already responding to these challenges by increasing levels of innovation. They are showing the way forward through their drive and commitment to producing value-added, profitable products and services combined with their sustainable development that balances growth with environmental protection and social considerations.

These companies have found that the higher value products and services on which their growth rests depend on both new and existing technologies and specialist knowledge.

They have also found that it is not practical to invest in the complete range of technologies and understanding required. Therefore, building on their own strengths, they collaborate and share appropriate knowledge with others. They have found this is essential to competitive success.

## How government is responding

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The UK has an excellent science, engineering and technology base and some companies have good higher education links. Government will continue to ensure that the UK research base remains world-class, and that the culture within higher education establishments is more responsive to business needs. However, to raise business innovation performance more generally, government needs to stimulate the demand for new and innovative technologies among business.

One of the ways in which the Government intends to support business is through the development of a Technology Strategy. The Strategy is underpinned by a long term funding commitment from DTI of £320 million over the period 2005-2008. Additional funding is being made available by Research Councils, Other Government Departments and Regional Development Agencies / Devolved Administrations.

The Technology Strategy can be defined as the identification/prioritisation, development and exploitation of technologies which meet business and societal needs and global challenges. It is delivered, in part, through the Technology Programme via Knowledge Transfer Networks and Collaborative Research & Development competitions. Other activities which will make a significant contribution include:

- Information and advice on technology developments overseas and opportunities for technology collaboration or export opportunities through Global Watch and UK Trade & Investment;
- The development of metrology and standards to promote confidence and uptake of the technology;
- Advice on patent developments and how to protect intellectual property; and
- Co-ordination of activities between Other Government Departments, Research Councils, and Regional Development Agencies / Devolved Administrations to maximise the opportunities for synergy through our different activities and funding arrangements.

## The Technology Strategy

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The Technology Strategy Board is developing the Technology Strategy. The majority of the Board members are senior business representatives and the Board will identify technology priorities critical to the growth of the UK economy, matching business needs with what science can achieve.

Businesses and other interested organisations are providing input to assist in the development of the Strategy through industrial associations, networks and groups such as the CBI, EEF, Information Age Partnership and DTI sponsored Innovation and Growth Teams.

Government and its agencies will use the Strategy to steer investment in UK and European research and development programmes. The effectiveness of funding will improve by having a greater focus. It will also inform the future development of innovative public procurement, technical regulation, measurement and product standards – all the policy levers available to stimulate innovation.

## **The Technology Programme**

The Technology Programme is the combination of business support products and information that the DTI and Government partners are offering business in response to the Technology Strategy.

The Programme is delivered through two DTI business support products: Collaborative Research & Development and Knowledge Transfer Networks.

## **Collaborative Research & Development**

Funding to support Collaborative Research & Development assists the industry and research communities to work together on Research & Development projects in strategically important technology areas, from which successful new products, processes and services can emerge.

Applications for funding are invited through competitions addressing specific technology priorities. Details of competitions for funding and how to apply are available on the Technology Programme website at [www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme](http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme)

## **Knowledge Transfer Networks**

A Knowledge Transfer Network is a single national over-arching Network in a specific field of technology or business application that brings together a variety of organisations to enable the exchange of knowledge and stimulation of innovation in that area. The Networks are required to develop strong links with each other to maximise the benefits to the UK from effective knowledge transfer across technology and business application boundaries. They are required to contribute actively to the process of developing a national Technology Strategy.

Information on existing Knowledge Transfer Networks and current plans to establish new Networks are available on the Technology Programme website at [www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme](http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme)

## **Assessing applications**

Project applications are assessed against specific criteria. These include, for example: the relevance to the open competition; the potential economic benefits, risks of the project including the social and environmental impacts; the quality of the project organisation and strength of the management team.

## **For more information**

Regular updates on the Technology Programme are available on the Technology Programme website at [www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme](http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme) This includes information on competitions for funding, guidance for applicants and a range of other information and news.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for information please register online at [www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme](http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme)

In addition, your local Business Link or, where appropriate, your DTI sector team will be able to advise on how you can become more involved in the Technology Strategy and Programme.

Information on other DTI business support solutions, including three products that enable innovation, can be found at [www.dti.gov.uk/innovate](http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovate), or for small and medium-sized businesses at [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

# HOW DO I GET MY IDEA TO MARKET?

## IDEA



Exploring your concept, developing your business plan, starting your business and accessing finance:

- Business Link
- Design Council
- Patent Office

## DEVELOPMENT



Protecting your intellectual property and creating a finished product that meets user needs, legal requirements and technical standards:

- BSI
- Business Link
- Design Council
- Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)
- National Measurement System (NMS)
- Patent Office

## LAUNCH



Getting your product or service to market and building your business:

- BSI
- Business Link
- Design Council



### Business Link

- Provides information, advice and support to help businesses start up and grow.
- Website helps businesses comply with regulation and improve, using online tools and information from across Government.

[www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)  
0845 600 9 006



### British Standards Institution

- Helps your business operate to recognised safety and quality standards.
- Website offers information on the different standards and how they can improve your business.

[www.bsi-global.com](http://www.bsi-global.com)  
020 8996 9000



### Patent Office

- Commercial services to help you explore and assess your ideas.
- Website has searchable databases and information on how patents, designs, trade marks and copyright can protect you.

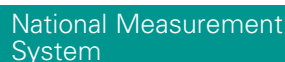
[www.patent.gov.uk](http://www.patent.gov.uk)  
0845 9 500 505



### Design Council

- Helps UK businesses use design to innovate, develop better products and open up new markets.
- Website provides evidence and guidance about how design generates competitive advantage at all stages of the business lifecycle.

[www.designcouncil.org.uk](http://www.designcouncil.org.uk)  
020 7420 5200



### National Measurement System (NMS)

- Through laboratories develops new measurement techniques.
- Helps businesses by providing Good Practice Guides, measurement advice and networking opportunities.

[www.dti.gov.uk/nms](http://www.dti.gov.uk/nms) (general)  
[www.npl.co.uk](http://www.npl.co.uk) (physical measurements)  
[www.lgc.co.uk](http://www.lgc.co.uk) (chemical & biological)  
[www.tuvnel.com](http://www.tuvnel.com) (flow measurements)  
[www.nwml.gov.uk](http://www.nwml.gov.uk) (legal measurements)



### Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)

- Offers a free diagnostic or advisory visit to all manufacturers in England and Wales.
- Website includes factsheets on different aspects of manufacturing and contact details for their regional offices.

[www.mas.dti.gov.uk](http://www.mas.dti.gov.uk)  
0845 658 9600



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[www.dti.gov.uk](http://www.dti.gov.uk)

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