Introduction to Innovate UK

David Golding
Deputy Director – Global
UK Research and Innovation

We work with the government to invest over £7 billion a year in research and innovation by partnering with academia and industry to make the impossible, possible. Through the UK’s nine leading academic and industrial funding councils, we create knowledge with impact.
Innovation

The lifeblood of business

- Business innovation is the commercially successful application of ideas
- Leads to the development of new or improved products, processes, services, and business models based on new ideas and technologies
- Business innovation transforms existing sectors and stimulates new industries
- **Innovation Strategy**: the key to UK growth and prosperity
Commitment to Increase UK investment in R&D to 2.4% of GDP by 2027

Increase public funding for R&D to £22 billion per year by 2026/27

Raise domestic and international business investment into UK R&D
World class knowledge and research

• World leading universities, research organisations, networks
• four of the world’s top 20 universities are in the UK
• punches above its weight on article downloads, citations and world’s most highly-cited articles

Leading innovative and high growth sectors

• strengths in a diverse set of industries, including pharmaceuticals, aerospace, creatives, financial services, and professional and business services; and in emerging industries such as AI, quantum and fintech.
• home to some of the best businesses in the world
• leading the way on the path to net zero – committed to net zero by 2050
Innovate UK

- We are the UK’s Innovation Agency
- We support business-led innovation in all sectors, technologies and UK regions
- A key delivery body of the Government’s Innovation Strategy

Our Mission

To help UK businesses grow through the development and commercialisation of new products, processes, and services, supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive, and easy to navigate.
We have launched a plan for action to explain how we will deliver the Government’s UK Innovation Strategy, with the vision for the UK to become a global hub for innovation by 2035.

Our actions will be guided and prioritised by the following:

- **Strategic Themes**:
  - Future Economy
  - Growth at Scale
  - Global Opportunities
  - Innovation Ecosystem
  - Government Levers

- **Strong Foundations**:
  - Science & Research Strengths
  - Design Expertise
  - Societal Impact & Responsible Innovation
  - Innovation Talent & Skills
  - Equality Diversity & Inclusion
  - Place & Levelling Up
Guide our actions

Strategic Themes

- Areas where our work can have a significant impact on the returns for the UK economy
- The themes allow us to draw upon the UK’s established sector and technology expertise

Future economy
Deliver purpose-driven programmes across net zero, health & wellbeing, priority technologies, and horizon scanning

Growth at scale
Support businesses to develop their leadership, skills and commercial capabilities to scale up and attract investment

Global opportunities
Enable businesses to build the global supply chains of the future, access markets and attract inward investment

Innovation ecosystem
Increase responsiveness, agility, and co-ordination to support innovating businesses from idea to commercialisation

Government levers
Help stimulate innovation, through regulation, standards, intellectual property regimes, and public procurement
We Build Upon

Strong Foundations

- The strong foundations are all fundamental to successful business innovation
- They represent principles, activities or programmes that will underpin our future work

Science & Research Strengths
Helping companies benefit from the world class research base

Design Expertise
Creating more value through better use of design in innovation

Societal Impact & Responsible Innovation
Businesses demonstrate sustainable growth and wider societal benefits

Innovation Talent & Skills
Enhancing business growth skills and foresighting future skills gaps

Equality Diversity & Inclusion
Encouraging the participation of all people of all backgrounds

Place & Levelling Up
Enhancing existing local innovation strengths to support UK capabilities
Innovation support

- **Innovate UK EDGE**
  - Growing your innovative business

- **Innovate UK KTN**
  - Connecting to new partners and opportunities

- **Innovate UK Catapult Network**
  - Specialist facilities & experts in technologies

- **Innovate UK**
  - Funding for innovation projects and support
Innovate UK EDGE
Bespoke support at the business end of innovation

Helping ambitious small & medium innovative companies to grow and scale their businesses, with bespoke support from our specialists in every region

We intervene at early, growth and scaling stages, with our core advisory service and enhanced Scaleup Programme

A specialist works with a company’s leadership to hone the commercial strategy around their innovation and/or taking targeted action to:

- Manage innovation effectively
- Build investment readiness
- Enter global markets

Contact a specialist via: innovateukedge.ukri.org

330+ Innovation and Growth specialists across the UK

All embedded in regional ecosystems

Providing local to national to international growth and scaling support
Innovate UK KTN exists to connect innovators with new partners and new opportunities beyond their existing thinking – accelerating ambitious ideas into real-world solutions.
Catapault Network

- A Catapult is where the application of research is accelerated, where new technologies are further developed, scaled up and realised.

- Catapults provide businesses with access to their expertise and facilities, enabling them to test, demonstrate and improve their ideas.

- Catapults work with small, medium and large businesses, research organisations, academia and government.
Innovate UK funding for research and innovation

Programmes and competitions aiming to ensure that businesses can access funding at all stages of innovation

✓ Grants for single business
✓ Grants for collaboration between businesses and between businesses and research organisations (domestic and international)
✓ Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
✓ Procurement contracts for R&D – SBRI
✓ Innovation Loans
✓ Investor Partnerships
Going Global

Supporting our future global competitiveness and tackling societal challenges

▪ Help innovative UK businesses understand new markets and gain insights that will allow them to explore and exploit new opportunities
▪ Build an understanding of the culture, laws and legislation to de-risk innovation and protect UK businesses when working overseas
▪ Support businesses to undertake leading edge R&D through bilateral and multilateral programmes, including those through the Eureka framework
▪ Promote the UK’s reputation and attractiveness as an international innovation partner of choice and one of the most attractive places in the world to do innovation.
Thank You