

# National and European innovation funding schemes

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# Innovation funding schemes

There are a range of funding schemes available to support the development of eco-innovation / low carbon technologies.

These can be broken down into:

- Regional schemes
- National schemes
- European schemes

# Regional Schemes

## Grant for Research & Development

- Aims to help entrepreneurs and business owners introduce innovative products and processes including research trials and product testing
- SME specific
- Funding provided by SEEDA and accessed via Business Link SE 'Access to Finance & Investment Readiness Programme'
- [www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast)
- T: 0845 600 9 006 E: [innovation@businesslinksoutheast.co.uk](mailto:innovation@businesslinksoutheast.co.uk)

# SEEDA; Grant for R&D

## 1. Proof of Market grant

- Grants up to 60% of costs (max of £20k) for companies with <250 employees + turnover <€43m
- Test the commercial potential of an innovative idea for a new technology, to identify the scale of the market opportunity

## 2. Micro grant

- Grants up to 45% of R&D costs (max of £20k) for companies with <10 employees and turnover <€2m
- Small scale development projects lasting up to 12 months, to develop simple, low cost prototypes of an innovative product or process

## 3. Research grant

- Grants up to 60% of the R&D costs (max of £100k) for companies with <50 employees and turnover <€10m
- Projects lasting 6 to 18 months to assess the technological and commercial feasibility of turning highly innovative technology into new products or processes

## 4. Development project grant

- Grants up to 35% of R&D costs (max of £250k) for companies with <250 employees + turnover <€43m
- Lasting between 6 to 36 months To develop a pre-production prototype of a new product or process involving a significant technological advance

# National Schemes

There are a number of national funding schemes from a range of agencies, these include:

- Technology Strategy Board
- Defra
- WRAP
- Carbon Trust

# Technology Strategy Board; Collaborative Research & Development competitions

- Assists the industrial and research communities to work together on R&D projects in strategically important areas of science, engineering and technology
- Regular competitions for funding have been held since 2004, a portfolio of over 800 projects has been supported with a combined business and Government investment in excess of £1 billion
- Current and recent calls for 'eco' R&D include:
  - Wave & tidal stream energy generation (£9m), closes 29<sup>th</sup> April
  - Ultra low carbon vehicles (£19m), closed Feb 2010
  - User centred design, low impact buildings (£2m), closed Dec 2009
- [www.innovateuk.org/competitions.ashx](http://www.innovateuk.org/competitions.ashx)

# Technology Strategy Board; Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)

- Aims to use government procurement to drive innovation
- Competitions for new technologies and ideas are run in specific areas and aim to engage a broad range of companies in short-term development contracts
- Enables government departments and public sector organisations to procure new technologies faster, with managed risk
- Provides paid contracts for the critical stage of product development

## Energy efficient Whitehall

- Retrofit government buildings in London so that they're more energy efficient and have lower carbon dioxide emissions
- [www.innovateuk.org/competitions/energy-efficient-whitehall.ashx](http://www.innovateuk.org/competitions/energy-efficient-whitehall.ashx)



# Defra, WRAP and Carbon Trust

## Defra

- Funds a large number of research projects every year through competitions
- [www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/science/funding/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/science/funding/index.htm)

## WRAP

- Has a range of support available which, at times, includes the provision of funding. For further details about the funding and support that is currently available, go to:
- [www.wrap.org.uk/wrap\\_corporate/funding/index.html](http://www.wrap.org.uk/wrap_corporate/funding/index.html)

## Carbon Trust

- See later speaker



# European Funding

There are a number of schemes funded by EC to encourage R&D and exploitation of Low Carbon Technologies

- Most of them are collaborative projects and must involve several partners from more than one EU country
- Exact requirements vary between schemes and programmes
- Funding levels will vary between programmes and work undertaken
- Most are supported by a “National Contact Point” who can provide advice, information and potential partner details

# EC; Framework Programme Seven (FP7)

## Environment (including climate change)

- Climate change, pollution and risks
- Sustainable Management of Resources
- Environmental Technologies

## Energy

- Energy savings and energy efficiency
- Development of alternative motor fuels
- Development of fuel cells and their application
- Reduced use and clean burning of fossil fuels, especially coal

## EC; Eco-Innovation

- Nearly €200 million available to fund Eco-innovation projects between 2007 and 2013, to encourage the diffusion and uptake of Eco-Innovation on a broad scale
- Support for innovative products, services and technologies to make better use of natural resources and reduce Europe's ecological footprint, bridging the gap between research and the market
- Priority given to SMEs
- 2010 Call for Proposals now open, €35m available supporting 50% of eligible project costs. Submission deadline 9<sup>th</sup> September
- Priority areas are; Materials Recycling; Sustainable Building Products; Food and Drink Sector; Greening Business / Smart Purchasing
- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm)

# EC; Intelligent Energy Europe

- Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) programme seeks to bridge the gap between EU policies and how they impact on the ground
- Funds dissemination and implementation type projects, not R&D
- 2010 Call for Proposals now open, €56m available supporting 75% of eligible project costs. Submission deadline 24<sup>th</sup> June. Proposals require:
  - Clear objectives, high impact, European added value
  - At least 3 partner organisations from 3 different eligible countries
  - Maximum funding period 3 years
  - Budget usually between €0.5 - 2.5 million
- [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

## EC; Eurostars

- Funding and support for market-oriented, international collaborative research and development, specifically the main participant must be an R&D-performing SME (10%+ FTE / turnover on R&D)
- A Eurostars project can address any technological area, be aimed at the development of a new product, process or service and must involve at least two participants (legal entities) from two different Eurostars participating countries
- 2010 Call for Proposals now open, €56m available supporting 75% of eligible project costs. Submission deadline 30<sup>th</sup> September
- *[www.Eurostars-eureka.eu](http://www.Eurostars-eureka.eu)*

# EC; National Contact Points

## Environment

- Catherine Holt: [catherine.holt@betatechnology.co.uk](mailto:catherine.holt@betatechnology.co.uk)

## Energy

- Helen Fairclough: [energie@enviros.com](mailto:energie@enviros.com)
- Energie Helpline: 0161 874 3636

## Eurostars

- UK National Project Coordinator: [pete.munday@tsb.gov.uk](mailto:pete.munday@tsb.gov.uk)

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## EC; Life+

- The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects. Will not fund R&D
  - Life+ Nature & Biodiversity, including work related to the Natura 2000 network (up to 75% grant-aid)
  - Life+ Policy and Governance, including implementation (50% grant-aid)
  - Life+ Information and Communication including awareness raising (50% grant-aid)
- Single organisation or partnership can apply
- Next call announced 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010, submission deadline 1<sup>st</sup> September
- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>