

R&D Grants Explained



Secure funding for your innovation projects

What are R&D Grants?

Government backed R&D Grants are designed to fill the funding gap where companies either lack the relevant resources to invest in innovation, or private funding sources might consider their market or types of projects being too risky to invest in.

There is a large selection of UK and EU grant funding currently available to help you take innovative new products or services to the next level. The main EU grants are Horizon 2020 SME Instrument and EU Collaborative Calls. The key ones in the UK are administered by Innovate UK and each year they release a series of open and themed funding competitions in which businesses can apply for funding.

Who can apply for R&D Grant Funding?

Whether you are a fledgling start-up, a growing company, or a mature business you can apply for an R&D grant. Grants are available to all types of businesses and to both SMEs and Large Companies.

Eligibility rules vary for each different funding competition so it's important to check them carefully before making an application. For example, some competitions need projects to be collaborative with a business partner as the lead applicant and some competitions will be open only to SMEs.

What projects are eligible for R&D Grant Funding?

In order to be eligible for grant funding R&D projects must be realistic commercial opportunities that are focused on either creating new markets or exploiting significant growth in an existing market. For any potential project to be considered it must be seeking to solve a scientific or technological uncertainty. In many cases projects that meet the qualifying criteria are often perceived as too early or too risky for the private sector to get involved.

Every year millions of pounds in grants are available to help UK companies invest in R&D and innovation activities



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What R&D Grant Funding is available?

Innovate UK - Open and Themed Calls

If you want to develop an innovative product, process or service, you may be able to apply for funding of between £25,000 and £10 million. Innovate UK runs funding competitions which can help you develop your idea and make it successful. Competitions are open for projects led by a UK-based company. Funding is awarded to the winners of these competitions.

Companies can apply for this funding if they want to test the feasibility of their idea, research and develop it, or demonstrate it in a prototype. There are different competitions to encourage specific technologies or challenges and sectors, and other calls that are open to any sector or challenge.

Horizon 2020 - SME Instrument and EU Collaborative Calls

This funding is available in two distinct phases:

Phase 1: Concept & Feasibility Assessment (business case to apply for phase 2) – grants available up to €50,000

Phase 2: R&D, market ready, product, process or service – grants available between €500,000 - €2.5m

How do you apply for R&D Grant Funding?

To get a grant you have to apply through a funding competition. Details about each competition and the technical scope are published on the gov.uk website. You can also attend a briefing event or webinar to find out more about each competition.

Applications can be made via the Government's online digital Innovation Funding Service or via a document-based application process. The aim is that all competitions will transfer to the Innovation Funding Service by April 2018.

Competition for grants is very high and applications must clearly meet the eligibility criteria and scope of the competition in order to be sent for assessment. Whilst businesses can prepare and submit their own applications, many now choose to work with specialist Grant Writers in order to maximise their chances of success in securing funding.

R&D Funding Group helps businesses across the UK access and maximise R&D Tax credits and Grant Funding. Call today for a FREE, no-obligation consultation.

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