A guide to sources of business information, advice, guidance and funding.

Produced by:
Economic Development
Croydon Council

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Introduction

Croydon Council does not offer dedicated business support services and in response to enquiries from potential, new and established businesses, the economic development team has produced a guide to signpost Croydon businesses to appropriate sources of information, advice and funding.

Webpages and e-mail addresses have been provided for individuals to follow-up.

Croydon Council recommends that individuals view the business link pages and seek the advice of professional business support services in the first instance: http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/home

The source of the funding information contained in the guide is obtained from ‘Grant Finder’ the funding database.

Disclaimer: Please note that while every effort has been made to ensure the information in this document is accurate, the London Borough of Croydon does not take any responsibility for any inaccuracies in the information provided through the third party web sites.
1. Support for Business Start-ups

Support Programmes

Ready for Business Programme
Enterprise start-up programme for pre-start and start-up businesses in England, aiming to create 6,000 new businesses and up to 10,000 jobs. The programme will specifically target the transfer of public sector employment to the private sector. The support offered can be used to help businesses to raise a bank loan to help them set up. Ready for Business will commence with an introductory free Barclays Get Ready for Business seminar, followed by an in depth assessment process, one-to-one advice, guidance and ongoing mentoring. The programme also includes a business planning phase, access to finance support and early stage growth aspiration building. Start up and pre start-up businesses are eligible for the support provided through this programme.
E-mail: enquiries@nationalenterprisenetwork.org
Website: http://www.nationalenterprisenetwork.org

UK Business Incubation
UK Business Incubation provides SMEs and start-ups with the ideal location to develop and grow their businesses, offering everything from virtual support, rent-a-desk through to state-of-the-art laboratories and everything in between. They provide direct access to hands-on intensive business support, access to finance and experts and to other entrepreneurs and suppliers to help make businesses and entrepreneurs grow. Funding available for Organisations or individuals concerned with 'incubating' young businesses and start-ups
E-mail: info@ukbi.co.uk
Website: http://www.isbe.org.uk/UKBI

New Enterprise Allowance
Financial and advisory assistance to help unemployed people start a business in Great Britain. The New Enterprise Allowance is worth approximately £2,000. The New Enterprise Allowance is available to individuals who have been on Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) for six months.
Tel: 020 7712 21741
Website: http://www.dwp.gov.uk

Shopify build a business competition
A competition to reward UK-based entrepreneurs opening online stores selling products over the internet using Shopify. Winners will receive a financial investment and mentoring to help their new enterprise become a success. Winners will receive a $50,000 USD (approximately £32,000) investment for a 5% equity stake from a mentor. In addition to the investment, the four competition winners will also receive: a trip for two to New York City to meet with all the mentors; $20,000 (approximately £13,000) Google AdWords credit; and a feature article on Fast Company’s website. Additionally, participants will receive a free .CO domain for 12 months, $100 (approximately £65) in Google AdWords Credits and $100 in MailChimp Credits. Winners may opt to take a $50,000 USD cash prize instead of the investment. Entrepreneurs who are opening an online store selling products online using Shopify may apply. The deadline for applications for the 2012 competition is 31 December 2012.
E-mail: build-a-business@shopify.com
Website: http://www.shopify.com/build-a-business
Prime – SFEDI Level 2 Certificate in Preparing to Run Your Own Business
This is a course targeted at individuals over 50, who are either workless or under threat of redundancy. It guides you through the often challenging steps in planning your business and gives you the opportunity to achieve nationally recognised certification in business planning. It is spread over 7 weeks and involves 3 full days of training along with coursework.
E-mail: info@prime.org.uk
Website: http://www.prime.org.uk

ICAEW Business Advice Service
Starting and developing a business can be very rewarding. But it can be a challenge to keep on top of all the financial needs and regulations while you are focusing on moving your business forward. With so many businesses struggling to survive, it’s helpful to be able to draw on the expertise of leading financial experts. The ICAEW Business Advice Service is an easy way to access specialist guidance and reassurance on how to plan, start, manage or grow your business. You can start today with a straightforward, open discussion with an ICAEW Chartered Accountant. No catch, no obligation, no time wasting and there’s no charge for the first session – just practical thinking to help your business succeed. One meeting and we’re sure you’ll notice the difference.
To find your local ICAEW firm:
Email: bas@icaew.com
Website: http://www.businessadvice-service.com
Tel: (0)20 7920 3561

Grant Funding
Enterprise Nation Fund 101
Non-repayable micro-credit capital grants to help UK-based entrepreneurs turn an idea into a new business and to enable existing small businesses to purchase equipment to help take their enterprise to the next level. The grant can be used to fund miscellaneous costs associated with starting up a new business or for existing small businesses to purchase equipment, promotional flyers, hardware etc. Fund101 will provide non-repayable micro-credit, in individual sums ranging from £50 to £500, via an online application process
E-mail: info@enterprisenation.com
Website: http://www.enterprisenation.com/fund-101-open-again-soon/ (N.B. This site is now closed. Future funding might be issued)

Shell Live-Wire Grand Ideas Awards
The awards aim to support UK early trading and start-up businesses (within their first six months of trading) that have the most creative business ideas. Six monthly awards of £1,000 are available. Any Start-up business can apply. The deadline for receipt of applications falls on the last working day of each month
E-mail: enquiries@shell-livewire.org
Website: http://www.shell-livewire.org
Loans and Venture Funding

Start-up Loans

Start-up loans of varying amounts are available to individuals who fulfil the eligibility criteria and can present a valid and sustainable business plan. Business support will be available to individuals for an agreed period of time post loan agreement.

If you can answer yes to the following questions then you may be eligible to apply for this scheme.

- Are you aged between 18 and 30?
- Do you want to start a business in England?
- Do you live, and have a permanent address, in England?
- Is this the only loan you're currently applying for with a Start-Up Loan provider?

Website: [http://www.18-30startuploans.com/](http://www.18-30startuploans.com/)
contact: [rose.saunders@prospects.co.uk](mailto:rose.saunders@prospects.co.uk)

BT Local Business Kickstart Scheme

Corporate finance programme offering start-up businesses in the UK the opportunity to lease technology and telecommunications solutions. The scheme aims to help small businesses raise funds in and to avoid having to rely on bank loans, overdrafts or credit cards. Businesses will have the opportunity to purchase a range of technology and communications products and services including telephone systems, handsets, connection charges, software licences and IT equipment such as laptops. Participating businesses will be entitled to an average loan of £3,000. The cost of the loan will be less than £20 per week and can be added to as the business grows. The maximum total loan amount which can be given towards leasing technology and telecommunications solutions will be £15,000 per business. The scheme is open to small to medium-sized start-up businesses that have been trading for under three years. The business must be a new or existing BT customer. There are no restrictions on the industry within which the applicant business may be operating.

Website: [http://www.btlocalbusiness.co.uk](http://www.btlocalbusiness.co.uk)

Money Making Ideas Competition

Competition to reward one UK-based entrepreneur, helping them to achieve their aspirations of starting-up or growing a business. Business start-up and development costs can be funded. The successful applicant will win £10,000 of capital support to invest in their company. The winner will also receive mentoring from a panel of some of the UK’s most successful entrepreneurs and annual memberships to Business Circuit and the Adam Street Private Members club. Small business owners and sole traders aged 18 and over who currently running or looking to start-up their own business may apply. The 2012 deadline for receipt of applications was 18 June 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.

E-mail: loans@borro.com
Website: [http://www.borro.com](http://www.borro.com)

Prime Business Start-up Loan
Small loans for businesses in the UK, supporting people over the age of 50 into self-employment and enterprise. Personal, unsecured loans ranging from £500 to £10,000 are available. Those over the age of 50 wishing to commence a new business enterprise in the UK may apply to this programme. **Currently closed to applications. Details of any new funding opportunities will be reported when available.**

E-mail: info@prime.org.uk  
Website: http://www.prime.org.uk

**Fredericks Foundation: London Entrepreneurs Start-up Fund**  
A loan fund to assist disadvantaged Londoners who want to start their own business. Assistance up to £5,000 is available as well as the provision of a package of mentoring and support to give the best chance of success.  
E-mail: info@londoncf.org.uk  
Website: http://www.londoncf.org.uk/

**GLE One London Start-up Loans**  
Loan finance is available to entrepreneurs and fledgling businesses in London that have had requests for funding turned down by mainstream lenders. Assistance is available for the costs associated with starting up a business. Up to £10,000 is available over a three year term at 8.81% interest  
E-mail: info@gle.co.uk  
Website: http://www.gle.co.uk/

**The Thomas Arneway Trust for Small Businesses**  
Provides loans at low rates of interest to individuals in need of financial assistance in order to establish or expand a small business. Loans of up to £10,000 with interest being charged at 1% above the Bank of England base rate.  
E-mail: Tat@bdb-law.co.uk  
Website: http://www.arneways.co.uk/index.html

**Tax Relief**  
**HMRC: Small Business Rate Relief (England)**  
Rate relief for small businesses in England paid on non-domestic property with a rateable value of less than £18,000 (£25,000 in London). Between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2013, eligible ratepayers will receive small business rate relief at 100 per cent on properties up to £6,000 (rather than 50 per cent), and a tapering relief from 100 per cent to 0 per cent for properties up to £12,000 in rateable value for that period. The temporary Small Business Rate Relief increase will therefore apply throughout the whole of the 2012-13 billing year (until 31 March 2013).  
Website: http://www.businesslink.gov.uk

**Awards**  
**Start-up Awards**  
The Startups Awards reward and celebrate the best business start-ups and represent an opportunity for businesses to gain recognition for the outstanding achievements of the business, team or individual. There are several award categories open to entry including Young Start-up of the Year, Online Business of the Year and Product Business of the Year. Winners can gain
national and regional press coverage and raise the company's profile. The deadline for receipt of entries for the 2012 is 14 September 2012.

E-mail: events@crimsonbusiness.co.uk
Website: http://www.startups.co.uk/startups-awards
2. Support for SMEs & Growth SMEs

Support Programmes

Open To Export initiative
Open to Export is a community driven service for small and medium sized businesses, looking for help and support in exporting from the UK. The project website provides information and advice on exporting products & services from the UK in the form of articles, events and opportunities. The web site content is produced and contributed by the users, partner organisations and key contributors. Organisations or individuals with some expertise or advice to offer, no matter how big or small their contribution are encouraged to simply register through the web site.

http://opentoexport.com

National Apprenticeship Service: Apprenticeship Grant for Employers
A grant aimed at helping eligible employers to offer young people employment through the Apprenticeship programme, by providing wage grants to assist them in recruiting their first apprentice in England. Costs associated with recruiting an apprentice. The National Apprenticeship Service will provide up to 40,000 Apprenticeship grants with a value of £1,500

National Apprenticeship Service
Tel: 0800 0150600
Website: http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Small Business Europe
An independent agency to represent and promote the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises throughout the UK at European level in Brussels. Provides information on EU issues, represents the collective interest of UK SMEs, develops alliances and provides an interface between UK SMEs and EU decision-makers

E-mail: info@smallbusinesseurope.org
Website: http://www.smallbusinesseurope.org

HM Revenues and Customs: Business Payment Support Service
Enhanced support and free advice to businesses finding it difficult to make tax payments on time, including corporation tax, VAT, PAYE, income tax and national insurance contributions.

Enquiries
HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
Tel: 0845 302 1435
Website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/payinghmrc/problems/bpps.htm

Enterprise Europe
The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is designed to be a one stop shop for business and innovation support services. It can help to find business partners, arrange on-site visits and provide advice on a wide range of business issues. With over 500 contact points (32 in the UK), it is the largest network in Europe providing expertise and services for business.

Website: http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Growth and Innovation Fund
UK-wide fund designed to help businesses develop skills essential to drive the country's economy, delivering targeted help for employer groups to overcome barriers to growth within their sectors and industries. The funding could deliver new training to boost innovation and productivity, enable industries to set new professional standards, or support new or extended National Skills Academies. GIF is able to invest in a wide variety of ideas and is actively seeking proposals that: deliver demonstrably employer-led, innovative and future-proofed skills solutions; support the drive to greater ownership of skills by employers; use GIF investment alongside employer investment; and build sustainable skills capacity and infrastructure. The Fund has an overall budget of £60 million for 2012-13. There are no minimum or maximum funding levels cited for individual projects. Match funding must be secured by the applicant organisation to complement the contribution from GIF. The proportion is not specified. Grant open to Sector Skills Councils, Industry Training Boards, formally constituted Sector Bodies, National Skills Academies, Employer Associations, Trade Associations and Professional Bodies

E-mail: gif.applications@ukces.org.uk
Website: http://www.bis.gov.uk

Growth Accelerator
A mentoring and support programme designed to help up to 26,000 new and evolving businesses in England to achieve their ambition and potential, as well as creating approximately 55,000 high-value jobs. Through the initiative, businesses will be assisted with raising money, implementing a business development strategy or bringing a new product to market. Applicants may also qualify for a Leadership and Management grant of up to £2,000 per individual to support skills development. Start-up and evolving businesses that have the potential for rapid and sustainable growth may apply for support through this programme.

E-mail: enquiries@growthaccelerator.com
Website: http://www.growthaccelerator.com

Innovating for Growth
Business advice, mentoring and support for London-based SMEs that have plans for growth into new markets, a desire to launch a new product or implement a new process. The support offered can help applicants to launch a new product, develop a new service, or exploit international markets, as well as developing a strategy. Advice is tailored to each business' specific requirements, and so will be relevant and bespoke. A package of business advice and support worth £10,000 is available for each business the initiative supports. Support is delivered in the form of expert advice and support on business strategy and sustainability, branding, intellectual property, product development and market exposure. The scheme is open to innovative small and medium-sized businesses that have clear plans for growth. Businesses must have been trading for a minimum of one year and have proven sales.

E-mail: Innovating@bl.uk
Website: http://www.bl.uk/bipc

10,000 Small Businesses London
A business development programme designed to unlock the economic and job creation potential of small businesses and social enterprises from across London. Funding available for Business development services including specialist workshops, one-to-one business advising, access to capital, and alumni services. Open to Owners, or the most senior decision makers of a small business or social enterprise. This programme is currently closed to applications. Details of the next application round will be reported when available.
ICAID Business Advice Service
(See Support for Business Start-ups)

HSBC Growth Grant Competition
Competition providing grants to support small businesses in the UK with innovative growth ideas and/or overseas aspirations. Up to four grants will be provided in total, of which up to two grants shall be awarded in relation to domestic growth (each a “Growing Business Grant”) and up to two grants shall be awarded in relation to overseas trade expansion (each an “Overseas Trade Grant”) each of £50,000. Funding will support Development costs associated with business expansion in the UK (domestic growth) or overseas trade expansion. Eligible to apply are Businesses operating across all sectors. The businesses must have been trading for at least one year, have an annual turnover of between £100,000 and £2 million, be able to provide financial information for the last year and forecasts for the next two years. The 2011 deadline for entries to be accepted was 31 December 2011. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available
E-mail: storme.martin@hsbc.com
Website: http://www.hsbc.co.uk/businessgrant

Shell Live-Wire Grand Ideas Awards
The awards aim to support UK early trading and start-up businesses (within their first six months of trading) that have the most creative business ideas. Six monthly awards of £1,000 are available. Any Start-up business can apply. The deadline for receipt of applications falls on the last working day of each month
E-mail: enquiries@shell-livewire.org
Website: http://www.shell-livewire.org

Loans
Aldermore Growth Fund
Loan Fund designed to encourage business expansion among UK companies with an annual turnover of between £2.5 million and £25 million, providing an alternative option to traditional bank funding for those businesses struggling to raise funds through corporate bonds or rights issues. Funds available for business growth / development activities.
E-mail: Si.Adcock@aldermore.co.uk
Website: http://www.aldermore.co.uk

HSBC International SME Fund
Bank lending scheme designed to support the growth of small and medium-sized UK businesses that trade internationally. A total of £4 billion of credit will be available through the scheme. Individual funding allocations to be awarded per applicant have yet to be stipulated. Small and medium-sized enterprises that are planning to trade, or expanding their operations, in emerging international markets such as India and China may apply. The Fund is available to businesses with a turnover of up to £25 million. Biotech start-up companies may apply to this programme.
European Investment Bank: Intermediate Loans for SMES

The European Investment Bank provides intermediated loans to support the on-lending of its money by ordinary banks for capital investment by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and for the infrastructure projects of local authorities. EIB loans for SMEs can support all types of investment or expenditure necessary to grow a small business. Up to 100% project costs not exceeding €12.5 million will be covered. The intermediary financial institutions will charge a negotiable arrangement fee of approximately 1.25% of the amount borrowed and operate the scheme using different criteria and may offer one-off cashbacks.

E-mail: info@eib.org
Website: http://www.eib.org/

BIS: Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Loans available until 2014-15. The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is a guarantee facility, available through high street banks, for small UK businesses, intended primarily to improve the availability of working capital through term loans and the consolidation of overdrafts. It will also support lending for business growth and development in cases where a sound proposition may otherwise be declined due to a lack of security. The Government will provide £1 billion of guarantees to support up to £1.3 billion of bank lending for loans of between £1,000 and £1 million for a period of up to 10 years. An additional £500 million was made available in December 2009 to provide support to eligible companies from April 2010 and March 2011, followed by another £200 million increase in June 2010. In November 2010, a further commitment was made by the Government to extend the scheme until the 2014-15 financial year, providing up to £600 million of additional lending in 2011-12 and, subject to demand, over £2 billion in total over the extra years.

Website: http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-finance-guarantee

RBS: Franchise Fund

Loan fund designed to help new franchises in the UK, making it easier for businesses to secure funding and receive the help and experience of franchising relationship managers. Funding of between £25,000 and £500,000 is available.

E-mail: franchise.retailbanking@natwest.com
Website: http://www.natwest.com

Fredericks Foundation: London Entrepreneurs Start-up Fund

A loan fund to assist disadvantaged Londoners who want to start their own business. Assistance up to £5,000 is available as well as the provision of a package of mentoring and support to give the best chance of success.

E-mail: info@londoncf.org.uk
Website: http://www.capitalcf.org.uk

Funding Circle Loans

Loans available to established UK small businesses of between £5000 and 100,000

E-mail: support@fundingcircle.com
Website: http://www.fundingcircle.com
GLE One London Business Growth Loans
Loan finance is available to entrepreneurs and small businesses in London that have had requests for funding turned down by mainstream lenders. Loans are provided to grow or aid an established business
E-mail: info@gle.co.uk
Website: http://www.gle.co.uk/

HBV Enterprise Loan Fund
Loan fund to help small businesses and social enterprises with their development and growth projects, supporting economic development in London. Between £3,000 and £25,000 over a negotiable repayment period of between one and five years. Interest is charged at 12% fixed for the duration of the loan. An administration fee of 2% of the loan approved (minimum £100) is deducted. Total borrowing should not be more than three times the amount of the applicant's own investment. Personal and business assets already owned may be included as part of the applicant's investment. An arrangement fee of 2% is payable. Open to Businesses anywhere in London although the priority focus is Hackney and its surrounding boroughs
E-mail: info@cdfa.org.uk

The Thomas Arneway Trust for Small Businesses
Provides loans at low rates of interest to individuals in need of financial assistance in order to establish or expand a small business. Loans of up to £10,000 with interest being charged at 1% above the Bank of England base rate.
E-mail: Tat@bdb-law.co.uk
Website: http://www.arneways.co.uk/index.html

BIS: National Loan Guarantee Scheme
The National Loan Guarantee Scheme (NLGS) helps businesses access cheaper finance by reducing the cost of bank loans under the scheme by 1%-point. Initially there will be £20 billion of guarantees available to businesses over the next two years. The scheme is anticipated to lead to a reduction in the % interest charged on Commercial and Small Business Loans by 1%-point. Borrowers remain liable for the repayment of their NLGS loans. Usual lending conditions apply, including any need for security, such as a personal guarantee. The scheme is open to UK based small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with an annual turnover of less than £50 million
Website: http://nationalloangoaruanteescheme.co.uk

HSBC - Business Thinking
HSBC recognises the global expectation that banks should be supporting local business growth through solid investment. HSBC believes that the strong growth of any business is dependent not only on funding, but also on the drive and imagination of management teams. Therefore, Business Thinking combines funding opportunities with a celebration of the fact that the UK has some of the world's best business thinkers. 18 companies (two from each region) will each receive up to £6 million in commercial loans plus a grant worth £120,000. One overall winner will receive an additional grant worth £120,000 (£240,000 in total). This competition is open to businesses (sole traders, partnerships and companies) based in the UK (including Northern
Ireland and the Channel Islands) ("businesses based in the UK" shall be deemed to be businesses that have their principal place of business or headquarters in the UK) or UK based subsidiaries. Entrants do not need to be HSBC customers. ("HSBC customers" are those who hold a business current account or product with HSBC). The 2012 competition has passed. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.
E-mail: ryansouthwart@hsbc.com
Website: http://www.businessthinking.hsbc.co.uk/

**Venture Funding**

**Siemens Venture Capital**
Siemens' goal is to identify and finance young companies worldwide during their start-up phase and to provide established companies with additional capital for their growth plans during the expansion phase. Through its portfolio companies, Siemens offers its customers new technological solutions and tap new markets. Its focus is on growth segments in the energy, industry and healthcare sectors. **Energy** - The Energy Sector offers products and solutions for the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy. **Industry** - The Industry Sector and its solutions address industry customers in the fields of production, transportation and building systems. **Healthcare** - The Healthcare Sector stands for innovative products and complete solutions as well as service and consulting in the healthcare industry. The fund offers both venture and growth capital. Young and innovative technology and growth companies. Applications may be made at any time.
Tel: 00 49 89 636 33585
Website: https://finance.siemens.com/financialservices/venturecapital

**Spark Ventures**
Financial assistance, in the form of venture capital, is available to growth companies located in the UK at all stages of their development. Spark looks to invest in companies which operate in information and communication technology (ICT) and healthcare and life sciences. First round equity is usually between £500,000 and £2 million. Spark's main interest is in early stage companies looking to raise their first or second round of venture capital.
E-mail: enquiries@sparkventures.com
Website: http://www.sparkventures.com

**Wellcome Trust - Sigma**
Venture Funding - A tailored funding scheme for new biotech firms across the UK with the aim of promoting promising technologies which couldn't otherwise secure the investment they need. The programme operates as an equity initiative. Investments will range from less than £1 million to more than £50 million, in return for equity stakes of between 20 and 100%. Biotech start-up companies may apply to this programme.
E-mail: m.henderson@wellcome.ac.uk
Website: http://www.wellcome.ac.uk

**Bridges Venture Fund**
Venture capital finance for the purchase of fixed assets and/or to provide working capital for both existing and new businesses located in the under-invested communities of the poorest parts of the UK.
Corporate Asset Solutions Business Financing and Leasing

Assistance to help UK-based businesses grow, be competitive and preserve capital in order that it can be used more profitably. This might be through leasing, factoring, sale & leaseback, refinancing or venture capital. Corporate Asset Solutions provides products and solutions to suit any business. Virtually any asset for a business may be funded, including equipment upgrades in order for businesses to keep pace with new technology and competitors. Funding from £750 upwards is available. 'Easy Start' provides affordable funding of up to £5,000 offered on a two or three year term for homeowners.

E-mail: info@corporateasset.co.uk
Website: http://www.corporateasset.co.uk

BIS: Enterprise Capital Fund - Seraphim Capital Fund

Equity funding for small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK to enable them to grow. The Fund is open to applicants seeking minimum of £500,000 to maximum of £2 million.

E-mail: info@seraphimcapital.co.uk
Website: http://www.seraphimcapital.co.uk

BIS: Enterprise Capital Fund

Enterprise Capital Funds (ECFs) are funds modelled on a variant of the successful American Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs). In Britain, ECFs operate as private companies that back privately raised capital with Government-guaranteed leverage. They then finance investments in qualifying small businesses, and the profits are shared with the Government. Up to £2 million available.

E-mail: info@capitalforenterprise.gov.uk
Website: http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/

Enterprise Ventures Growth Investment

Enterprise Ventures invests at all stages of business, particularly management buy-outs, management buy-ins, development capital, and high-growth early-stage technology opportunities. Investments of up to £2 million are available.

Website: http://www.evgroup.uk.com

Envestors - Finance for Early Stage Companies (South East)

Financial assistance is available to early stage South East of England businesses seeking to raise equity funding. Start-up and early stage businesses in South East of England eligible for venture funding.

E-mail: hayley@envestors.co.uk
Website: http://www.envestorslondon.co.uk/

Envestors - Finance for Established Companies

Financial assistance is available to established South East of England businesses seeking to raise equity funding. Fund will support costs associated with eligible business development activities.
AAC Capital UK - Investment Funding
Investments in the consumer, industrial and services sector and target opportunities for majority stakes in profitable, cash-generative companies headquartered in the Netherlands, Nordic region and the UK. Funding available for Business development and expansion projects.
AAC Capital UK aims to invest in two to three companies per annum as sole or lead investor. The focus is on buyouts with transaction sizes up to £150 million.
To be eligible for investment, companies should be mid-market, profitable, cash-generative companies; have a value between €50-500 million; have their head-quarters in the Netherlands, the Nordic region or the United Kingdom; and operate in the industrial, consumer and services sectors.
E-mail: info@aaccapitaluk.com
Website: http://www.aaccapitaluk.com

British Business Angels Association
The British Business Angels Association is the trade association representing networks of private investors (Business Angels). Through the BBAA website, businesses are provided with help in locating accredited business angel investors. The amount of investment required should normally be between £10,000 and £1 million.
E-mail: info@bbaa.org.uk
Website: http://www.bbaa.org.uk

Business Angel Co-investment Fund
Equity funding scheme that invests alongside business angel syndicates from across England designed to boost the quality and quantity of business angel investing in England, and to support long-term, high quality jobs in growing companies. Costs associated with eligible projects that are designed to boost business growth and employment opportunities. Initial equity investments of between £100,000 and £1 million will be made. Applications may only be made by business angel syndicates. Individual businesses seeking investment are not eligible to apply directly and should first look for an investment syndicate.
E-mail: info@angelcofund.co.uk
Website: http://www.angelcofund.co.uk

London Business Angels: London Seed Capital Fund
Venture Funding for early stage and new businesses in Greater London through an Early Growth Fund. It has public funds of £4.65 million to be matched equally from private sources and will bridge the risk capital gap providing equity investment funding up to £100,000 initially, for start-ups and growth SMEs (small to medium-sized enterprises). Certain sectors are excluded and these principally cover agriculture, property, hotels, transport, financial, legal and insurance services. Preference will be given to enterprises capable of capital growth. Private, existing or new companies, that may be university spin-outs, innovative or knowledge intensive businesses, smaller manufacturers needing fresh investments, or any early growth company. Open to Private, existing or new companies, that may be university spin-outs, innovative or knowledge intensive businesses, smaller manufacturers needing fresh investments, or any early growth company.
Westbridge SME Fund
Venture funding available to small and medium-sized enterprises throughout the UK. Investment finance can be used to provide capital for business development projects. Investments can range from £1 million to £8 million.

E-mail: info@westbridgecapital.co.uk
Website: http://www.wfml.co.uk/

JEREMIE - Enhancing SME Access to Finance
Provision of EU Structural Funds as non-grant assistance to enable SMEs in the regions of Europe to obtain access to finance and provide support for start-ups and micro-enterprises. Technical assistance and non-grant instruments such as venture capital and guarantees may be used. The JEREMIE Holding Fund can provide SME-focused financial instruments including guarantees, co-guarantees and counter-guarantees, equity guarantees, (micro) loans, securitisation, venture capital, Business Angel Matching Funds, and investments in Technology Transfer funds

E-mail: jeremie@eif.org
Website: http://www.eif.org/jeremie/

Tax Relief

HMRC: Enhanced Capital Allowances Water Saving Investments
Financial assistance is available to businesses in the UK in the form of tax relief on investment in designated water-saving plant and machinery. Allowances are available for expenditure on the Water Technology List, which includes, for example: leakage detection equipment; cleaning in place equipment; efficient membrane filtration system; flow controllers; meters and monitoring equipment; rainwater harvesting equipment and water management equipment for mechanical seals. Businesses can claim 100% first year allowances on investments in eligible water saving technologies against their taxable profits.

E-mail: wtl@envirowise.gov.uk
Website: http://envirowise.wrap.org.uk/

HMRC: Enterprise Investment Scheme
Tax Relief on Investment in new equity of unquoted trading companies whose activities are mainly carried out in the UK. Available to Investor who is a UK taxpayer. EIS is claimed through tax returns by individuals; companies can apply for approval regarding their share issues at any time.

Website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk

HM Revenue and Customs: Tax credits and allowances
Relief from UK corporation tax for revenue and capital expenditure on research and development together with additional tax credits that can be set against profits or received as a payment if a loss is incurred. 100% allowance and a 75% tax credit for SMEs and 30% tax credit for larger companies plus an additional 50% tax credit for vaccines research on
AIDS/HIV, Malaria and TB. Only companies or Scientific Research Associations (SRAs) are eligible. SRAs must have a trade which consists solely of scientific research. The definition used for SMEs for this tax relief scheme is twice as large as the EU definition. It includes companies with up to 500 employees. Expenditure does not qualify for allowance if it qualifies for certain other capital allowances. Any company or Scientific Research Association incurring expenditure on research and development is eligible.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
Website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk

**HMRC: Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme**

**Tax relief** - A specialist tool for investors and entrepreneurs in the UK, helping them support businesses that might otherwise struggle to gain funding. The scheme provides an exemption from capital gains tax on proceeds of sale of other capital assets during the tax year 2012/2013. The scheme offers investors tax breaks. Investors can receive an income tax deduction worth up to 50% of investments of up to £100,000 per annum, and if the full amount is not utilised, any surplus may be carried back to the previous year. The business receiving the investment must be a UK-resident, unquoted start-up company. The recipient must be a new business (or preparing to start a new business), which is two years old or less. The company should be trading in an approved sector – generally not in finance or investment

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
Website: http://www.seis.co.uk

**HMRC: Small Business Rate Relief (England)**

Rate relief for small businesses in England paid on non-domestic property with a rateable value of less than £18,000 (£25,000 in London). Between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2013, eligible ratepayers will receive small business rate relief at 100 per cent on properties up to £6,000 (rather than 50 per cent), and a tapering relief from 100 per cent to 0 per cent for properties up to £12,000 in rateable value for that period. The temporary Small Business Rate Relief increase will therefore apply throughout the whole of the 2012-13 billing year (until 31 March 2013).

Website: http://www.businesslink.gov.uk
3. Support for High Growth Businesses

**Acceleris Venture Capital Funding**
Financial assistance is available in the form of venture capital for early-stage businesses in the UK that show potential for rapid growth. Acceleris will typically invest between £250,000 and £2 million, although they are willing to work alongside other investors to raise more substantial amounts if necessary for management buy-outs and acquisitions.
Website: [http://www.acceleris.com](http://www.acceleris.com)

**Aspire**
The Aspire Fund is a £25 million investment fund for women-led businesses, which is jointly funded by the Government and private sector. The Fund can be accessed via Business Link and is managed by Capital for Enterprise Limited. The Fund seeks to maximise its impact amongst those businesses with viable propositions that incur the greatest disadvantage in accessing risk capital. The Fund is aimed at high-growth businesses seeking an investment of between £100,000 and £2 million to help finance growth. The Fund will provide up to 50% of funding for any one investment, alongside other private investors.
E-mail: aspire@capitalforenterprise.gov.uk
Website: [http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/](http://www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/)

**Business Growth Fund**
Government sponsored equity investment fund targeted at high-growth UK companies with a turnover between £5 million and £100 million. Investments will range between £2 million and £10 million. Established SMEs can apply - the main focus of the Fund will be areas of the economy that have significant long-term potential for growth. Eligible sectors will include high-tech manufacturing, software and electronics, leisure and tourism, renewable energy and cleantech, healthcare and life sciences, industrial and business services, outsourcing, and digital businesses.
E-mail: enquiries@businessgrowthfund.co.uk
Website: [http://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk/](http://www.businessgrowthfund.co.uk/)

**BIS: Notion Capital Fund**
Investment funding for high-growth potential SMEs in the UK, targeting emerging cloud computing and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) companies, helping them to grow and create jobs; thereby boosting the country’s economy. The funds are to be used to enable investee businesses to undertake capital projects in order for them to expand and grow their operations. The programme will invest a minimum of £40 million in UK companies. Investments range from £250,000 at the seed stage up to £5 million for later stage opportunities. The Fund will target emerging, high-growth internet-based cloud computing and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) companies, as well as other business models which utilise the internet in their service offering.
E-mail: info@notioncapital.com
Website: [http://www.notioncapital.com](http://www.notioncapital.com)

**Oxford Technology Enterprise Capital Fund (OTECF)**
Equity fund for early-stage UK-based SMEs in the technology sector that demonstrate high growth potential. Between £100,000 and £2 million is available. The fund is open to companies.
that meet the definition of an SME, operate in a technology-related sector, and demonstrate high growth potential. Interest may be expressed at any time

E-mail: lucius@oxfordtechnology.com
Website: http://www.oxfordtechnology.com

**Santander Breakthrough Programme**

Loan Fund to help the UK's fastest growing entrepreneurial small and medium-sized enterprises to accelerate their operations. Selected businesses will receive funding and financial advice, as well as the chance to visit successful companies and learn from leading entrepreneurs. The loans are to be used to fund capital projects that will aid growth and development of growth businesses. The programme will also help provide knowledge and experience from outside the chosen business as well as arrange visits, fact-finding missions, live events and an 'Internship' programme. The programme offers business support, funding, events and consultancy. Small and medium-sized high-growth businesses that have a turnover of up between £500,000 and £10 million may apply. The sponsor is looking for profitable businesses with a track record of profitable and cash generative growth (20% per annum would be a good rule of thumb) stretching back at least three years.

Santander Corporate Banking
Website: http://www.santanderbreakthrough.co.uk
4. Support for Research, Development and Innovation

**EUREKA**
Grant funding available for pan-European near-market, collaborative R&D projects which lead to the development of advanced products, processes or services. Assistance may include help with finding partners and the lowering of likely barriers to commercial success. UK participants in EUREKA projects are eligible to apply for financial support under existing UK schemes.

E-mail: pete.munday@tsb.gov.uk
Website: http://www.eureka.be

**EU Framework Programme 7 (FP7)**

**Co-operation: Research for the benefit of SMEs**
Research for the benefit of SMEs is a thematic area of research within the Capacities programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Financial assistance is available for strengthening the innovation capacity of European SMEs and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets. Up to 50% (can be up to 75%) of research project costs. Awards can provide help with competition, travel and subsistence costs. SMEs and SME groups and organisations eligible as well as universities, research institutes, companies and industries, associations and groupings, public and governmental administrations (local, regional or national), research infrastructures, international and civil society organisations, postgraduate students and experienced researchers.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm

**FP7: Co-operation: Environment including climate change**
Environment (including climate change) is a Thematic Area of the Cooperation Programme under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Financial assistance is available for sustainable management of the environment and its resources through the advancement of knowledge on the interaction between the climate, biosphere, ecosystems and human activities, and the development of new technologies, tools and services, in order to address global environmental issues in an integrated way. Up to 50% of costs (up to 75% for non-profit public bodies, universities, research organisations and SMEs). Up to 100% for demonstration activities, coordination and support actions, training and career development of researchers, management activities. Proposals should normally involve three or more participants (entities), each from a separate EU Member State or associated country. Open to the public or private sectors, eg industry, small business, universities, research institutes, etc, involved in relevant collaborative research and technical development.

E-mail: catherine@betatechnology.co.uk
Website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/environment/home_en.html

**FP7: Co-operation: Information and Communications Technology**
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is a Thematic Area of the Cooperation Programme under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Activities will strengthen Europe's scientific and technology base and ensure its global leadership in ICT, help drive and stimulate product, service and process innovation and creativity through ICT. Up to 50% of costs (up to 75% for non-profit public bodies, universities, research organisations and SMEs). Up to 100% for demonstration activities, coordination and support actions, training and career development of researchers and management activities. Calls opened on 10 July 2012.
European Intellectual Property Rights Helpdesk
Helpdesk covering all aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) plus patent searching and advice for participants in EU-funded research programmes.
E-mail: ipr-helpdesk@infeurope.lu
Website: http://www.iprhelpdesk.eu

Royal Society Industry Fellowships
Grant supporting opportunities for an academic scientist to work on a collaborative project with industry, or someone employed in industry to work on a collaborative project with a university department or not-for-profit research organisation. It is anticipated that fellows will establish personal and corporate links between the two sectors in the UK as a foundation for their long-term future development. Research expenses may be claimed up to a value of £2,000 per year. The employer retains responsibility for national insurance and pension contributions. Subjects covered can include the natural sciences: agriculture; mathematics; biotechnology; environmental research; medical; and engineering sciences. Any individual holding a PhD or being of equivalent standing in their profession may apply.
E-mail: innovationgrants@royalsociety.org
Website: http://royalsociety.org

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: Collaboration Fund
Grants available for researchers in UK universities and research organisations for projects that include a collaboration partner who will work with the applicants in taking forward commercial opportunities generated by previous Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) research funding. Funding activities might include developing a prototype, undertaking trials and testing, technical development, incorporation, market research, undertaking an assessment of potentially competing technologies and undertaking product demonstrations. Grants of up to £100,000 are available. Following a two-year pilot, the fund closed to new applications in March 2011. At the present time, there are no new calls anticipated however if organisations wish to be informed if a new investment round is opened, please contact Finance South East via collaborationfund@financesoutheast.com
E-mail: collaborationfund@financesoutheast.com
Website: http://www.financesoutheast.com/ourfunds/index.aspx?id=1312

Technology Strategy Board: Innovation for Growth in Agriculture, Food and Drink
Grant funding for feasibility studies into ways of helping to stimulate and promote innovation in the UK's agriculture, food and drink sectors through better and more cost effective systems and processes and delivery of better products and services. Funding for feasibility studies into ways of helping to stimulate and promote innovation in the UK's agriculture, food and drink sectors through better and more cost effective systems and processes and delivery of better products and services. Grants will be available to support the rapid development of an innovative idea and demonstrate its practical feasibility in the agricultural (including horticulture) and food and drink sectors. The programme has an overall budget of £500,000 available to be invested in up to 20 projects. Individual grants will be available for up to 100% of the cost and will not exceed £25,000. The competition is specifically targeted at micro, small and medium-sized companies in the agriculture, food and drink sectors. Projects must be business-led and may be undertaken by the business alone or with one other business
Technology Strategy Board: Knowledge Transfer Network

A Knowledge Transfer Network is a single national over-arching network in a specific field of technology or business application. It brings together a variety of UK organisations, such as businesses (suppliers and customers), universities, research and technology organisations, the finance community and other intermediaries who will provide a range of activities and initiatives to enable the exchange of knowledge and stimulation of innovation amongst this community. Funding is provided to facilitate further investment in science, engineering and technology. Open to businesses seeking to grow using technology.

E-mail: Peter.Dirken@tsb.gov.uk
Website: http://www.innovateuk.org

Technology Strategy Board: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships aim to promote technology transfer by facilitating the establishment of project-based partnerships between the knowledge base (universities, colleges and research organisations) and companies using graduate skills. Grant will fund the cost of Employment costs; equipment and travel costs; administrative costs. Company Partners should provide the balance of funding. SMEs will typically pay a third of project costs. Larger organisations will typically pay half of project costs. Open to Higher education institutions/further education colleges/individuals/ public sector research institutes/applied industrial research trading organisations. Individuals should be recent graduates with a First degree, Higher degree, or have recently qualified with an HNC/HND, NVQ at Level 4 or a Foundation degree. Businesses can be from most sectors.

E-mail: martin.webb@tsb.gov.uk
Website: http://www.ktponline.org.uk/

National Endowment for Science Technology and Arts
Make it Local Grants

Funding support for local authorities and local digital media companies in the UK to work together to encourage innovative use of open public data, create innovative user-centred applications and digital services for their local communities and promote further collaboration and innovation within local authorities. NESTA intends to award up to three grants of up to £30,000 each to local authorities to help them develop new applications or digital services. Applicants must have identified and made arrangements with a local digital media company to carry out their project and the company must not be part of, or affiliated to, a higher education institution. Public local authorities in partnership with a digital media business

E-mail: creativeeconomy@nesta.org.uk
Website: http://www.nesta.org.uk/

Carbon Trust: Algae Biofuels Challenge

Financial assistance to conduct R&D into commercialising the use of algae-based biofuel as an alternative to oil in the UK. The total budget for R&D projects in Phase One will be between £3 and £6 million. Successful projects will receive approximately £500,000 over a three-year period, which can cover 100% of the total eligible costs. Phase One of ABC is open to proposals from the following types of organisations, based in the UK: small to medium-sized enterprises; large companies; academic institutions; trade bodies. Consortia bids are welcome, as are proposals covering a number of the five ABC R&D topics. The deadline for submitting
an Expression of Interest in Phase One has now passed. Phase 2 is due to launch one year into Phase 1 and last for five years
E-mail: directed.research@carbontrust.co.uk
Website: http://www.carbontrust.com

Orange Different Business Competition

Competition rewarding 'different' new business ideas in the UK, with a range of support worth up to £200,000 available to the winner which can be used to promote an innovative product or service. Winners will receive a year's support worth £200,000, including business planning advice and mentoring; mobile communications devices and plans; marketing consultancy; legal advice; and investment capital. The 2012 deadline for receipt of applications was originally midnight on 31 March 2012. This was extended to 30 April 2012. Details of any future rounds and deadline information will be reported
Website: http://www.winyourbusiness.com

BIS: Rainbow Seed Fund

The Fund has been designed to encourage the development of high quality research into world-class business opportunities, and will be used to enable the exploitation and development of new ideas from the broad science and technology base covered by the partners of the Fund. Individual investments of between £10,000 and £500,000 are made. The Fund is generally able to co-invest alongside most other early-stage funds, including the University Challenge Funds, so there is no requirement for any matched funding. Types of project supported include intellectual property development, market research, proof of consent, prototype development, business launch and modelling, building a management team and reducing investment risks. The Fund only invests in companies controlled by the partners. Members of staff of the laboratories and institutes of the partners and its associates and members, ie BBSRC, FERA,Dstl, NERC, VLA, HPA, SCRI, STFC, Macaulay, NPL and UKAEA may apply.
E-mail: enquiries@rainbowseedfund.com
Website: http://www.rainbowseedfund.com

Royal Society Enterprise Fund

The Royal Society Enterprise Fund is a new initiative from the Royal Society, created to make equity investments in innovative early-stage businesses emerging from the science-base in the UK and elsewhere. Investments of between £250,000 and £2 million are sought. Physical sciences and engineering sectors are favoured. Opportunities must provide evidence of a potential substantial competitive advantage.
E-mail: enterprisefund@royalsociety.org
Website: http://royalsociety.org

MVM International Life Sciences

Financial assistance, in the form of venture capital, is available to emerging biotechnology companies to transform fundamental biomedical research into products. MVM can invest in companies working in any of the life sciences. MVM invests in "early stage" companies anywhere in the world, which can include start-ups and companies that are more mature but not yet public.
E-mail: expasteur@mvmlifescience.com
Website: http://www.mvmlifescience.com
5. Support for hi-tech, digital and creative businesses

Support for Creative industries
Abertay Digital Prototype Grant Funding
Financial assistance available to games and digital media development companies in the UK to create a prototype. Grants can be used for a range of expenditure identified within the project budget, primarily costs for a selected number of the applicant's development team; part-time employment costs of a proportion of students or graduates selected as part of the student placement element; and additional costs, such as a contractor to fill a gap in the team.

There is a total fund of £2 million, including funding from the ERDF, University of Abertay and UK Government. The maximum grant will be £25,000

E-mail: prototypefund@abertay.ac.uk
Website: http://prototypefund.abertay.ac.uk/

NESTA: Creative Business Mentor Network
Business support service designed to nurture creative companies in the UK that have a desire to grow their operations. The scheme gives creative enterprises an opportunity to benefit from one-to-one mentoring with successful business people in the creative sector. Funding available for business mentoring and growth opportunities. As part of the Network, participants will receive: one-to-one business mentoring in the form of ten, two-hour sessions over a 6-12 month period; an induction workshop at the start of the programme to get the most out of your mentoring sessions; workshops and events designed to meet other members of the Network; and coaching support - in addition to mentoring support mentees will have access to an executive coach.

Registered companies that are working within one or more of the following creative industries may apply: advertising; digital media; film; games; television. Current funding round deadline is 13th September 2012.

E-mail: cbmn@nesta.org.uk
Website: http://www.nesta.org.uk

Arts Council: Creative Industry Finance
Provides small loans and practical business development advice and support for early-stage cultural and creative industry enterprises in London. Loans will be made available for working and/or fixed capital expenditure. Loans of between £5,000 and £25,000 are available, repayable over a period of up to 36 months (three years). Currently, the pilot programme is open to creative industry enterprises. Sole traders (individual artists) as well as limited companies, partnerships and not-for-profit/social enterprises may apply. Applications are welcome from entrepreneurs working across all artforms - from artists to writers, performers, designers, producers, promoters and publishers

E-mail: cifinance@artscouncil.org.uk
Website: http://www.creativeindustryfinance.org.uk
Support for Hi-Tech and Digital businesses

**British Innovation Gateway**
Multi-million pound scheme designed to drive economic growth and boost entrepreneurship through high-tech innovation, developing an environment of entrepreneurship. The scheme will encompass two innovation centres in London which will support local businesses and those around the UK and five annual competitions which will seek to discover excellence and innovation and access to mentoring for entrepreneurs to accelerate their success in the market.

The programme will fund economic growth and boost entrepreneurship through high-tech innovation, developing an environment of entrepreneurship. High-tech entrepreneurial and innovative businesses will be supported through the programme.

Website: [http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/UK/](http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/UK/)

**Early Stage Technology Fund**
Venture funding for the development of innovative, disruptive technology companies in the start-up, early and growth stages that are operating throughout the UK and also across Europe and Israel. The investment is used to accelerate the growth of companies and, in some cases, to provide shareholders with cash. Individual investments range from €250,000 to €50 million (approximately £200,000 to £40 million). Seed and early-stage start-up and growing companies may apply. The sponsor will invest in all sectors, although its primary focus is on investing in technology and life sciences. The sponsor is also interested in opportunities in green technology.

E-mail: robin@indexventures.com
Website: [http://www.indexventures.com](http://www.indexventures.com)

**Collaboration Across Digital Industries**
Financial assistance is available for collaborative research and development projects that address a number of challenges currently preventing the creation of a sustainable internet and digital communications network in the UK. Costs associated with eligible collaborative R&D projects. Up to £5.8 million of the programme’s budget is available in this round. Applicants must contribute at least 50% of the costs from their own resources. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.

E-mail: competitions@tsb.gov.uk
Website: [http://www.innovateuk.org/](http://www.innovateuk.org/)

**London Technology Fund**
Gap funding for technology SMEs based in Greater London at the earliest stage of their development. Equity investment over a period of up to five years available. LTF will only invest, alongside other investors, including high net worth individuals, corporate venture funds, early stage venture capital funds or proof of concept/seed funds. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) eligible to apply.

Tel: 020 7247 6300
Fax: 020 7247 6900
Website: [http://www.londontecnologyfund.com/](http://www.londontecnologyfund.com/)
Healthbox Accelerator
The Healthbox Accelerator programme offers financial assistance and mentor support to healthtech start-ups across Europe. The programme awards successful participants £75,000 of seed capital, together with training and mentoring, desk space in Healthbox's London offices and access to the firm’s wide network of industry contacts. Start-up business operating in the healthtech sector may apply. The deadline for applications is 2 September 2012
E-mail: HBXEurope@healthboxaccelerator.com
Website: http://www.healthboxaccelerator.com/

Technology Strategy Board: IC Tomorrow Digital Innovation contest
Competition designed to stimulate innovation in the UK’s TV and film industry, making these mediums more accessible and helping providers and broadcasters monetise their content. The scheme will fund innovative commercial prototype applications or services. The total prize fund is worth £300,000, and will be distributed among 10 successful companies, following competitive application and pitching stages. There will also be an additional two discretionary awards of £30,000 given out during the final pitching event. Digital start-up businesses The deadline for receipt of completed applications passed 10 May 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available that are capable of transforming the UK’s TV and film industry may apply.
E-mail: enquiries@tsb.gov.uk
Website: https://ktn.innovateuk.org

Technology Strategy Board: IC Tomorrow - Future games Contest
Competition designed to reward games developers who are producing the most innovative new games technology ideas and projects relating to gaming technology. The main purpose of the grant will be to cover employment costs for the people needed to make the business a success. This includes current staff, those acquired from Abertay University talent pool and any external contractors. The chosen ideas will be given up to £25,000 in grant funding. Budding games developers who have innovative ideas and projects relating to gaming technology (content owners and application developers) may apply
E-mail: support@ICtomorrow.co.uk
Website: https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/future-games-contest

NESTA: Make it Local Grants
Funding support for local authorities and local digital media companies in the UK to work together to encourage innovative use of open public data, create innovative user-centred applications and digital services for their local communities and promote further collaboration and innovation within local authorities. NESTA intends to award up to three grants of up to £30,000 each to local authorities to help them develop new applications or digital services. Applicants must have identified and made arrangements with a local digital media company to carry out their project and the company must not be part of, or affiliated to, a higher education institution. Public local authorities in partnership with a digital media business.
E-mail: creativeeconomy@nesta.org.uk
Website: http://www.nesta.org.uk/
NESTA: Venture Investment

Venture capital investment available to innovative, early-stage technology companies in the UK that are operating in the ICT, healthcare and cleantech sectors. Companies are expected to be seeking first-phase investment of between £500,000 and £1 million. NESTA can invest either as lead investor.

E-mail: investments@nesta.org.uk
Website: http://www.nesta.org.uk/r or as part of a syndicate with co-investors.

Oxygen Accelerator

A 13-week intensive mentor-led bootcamp for technology start-up companies in the UK. The initiative culminates with a series of investor days where businesses will be assisted to pitch to a large, carefully selected group of Angel investors, venture capitalists private equity groups for next stage funding. During the accelerator phase, successful applicants will receive up to €28,000 for the acceleration phase of the programme (€7,300 per founder capped at €22,000) plus up to €6,000 as a relocation allowance. During the incubator phase, teams that successfully meet criteria and complete the 13-week accelerator programme will be offered a further €12,000 for an additional 2% equity share in their company. The company will be required to agree to a 6% equity stake being provided to the programme administrator. Web technology companies from anywhere in the world may apply, providing the business's team can legally work in Birmingham in the UK for the duration of the programme. The 2012 deadline for receipt of applications was 1 July 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.

E-mail: hello@oxygenaccelerator.com
Website: http://oxygenaccelerator.com

Pentech Ventures

Venture capital for UK/Irish businesses with global potential in the area of software development. Co-financing is required from the investee to demonstrate belief in the business.

E-mail: info@pentechvc.com
Website: http://www.pentechvc.com/

Propeller Venture Accelerator Programme Seed Fund

Business incubation and start-up programme aimed at high-growth technology firms, incorporating seed funding, incubation facilities and expert mentoring to assist the growth and development of viable, early-stage enterprises. €30,000 seed funding per company. Early-stage, high technology companies; software, Web 2.0 applications, cleantech startups and informatics are eligible to apply. The scheme is currently closed. Last deadline for applications: 2 November 2011. Details of any future funding round will be reported when available.

E-mail: terence.bowden@ryanacademy.dcu.ie
Website: http://www4.dcu.ie/ryanacademy/propeller_news.shtml

Technology Strategy Board: Tech City Launchpad

Grant funding Financial assistance available to creative and digital businesses for the development of innovative digital products and processes. Assistance available up to a
maximum of £100,000 covering up to 50% of project costs. The Technology Strategy Board has increased the available fund for the Tech City Launchpad from £1m to £2m. The additional funding has been allocated in response to the large number of high quality applications and will enable the scheme to award co-investment funding of £100,000 to double the number of original applicants.

E-mail: competitions@tsb.gov.uk
Website: http://www.innovateuk.org
6. Support for Low Carbon Sector businesses

**EcoVate**
Free consultancy and business support available to help London-based small to medium-sized enterprises improve their environmental performance.
Free consultancy to improve environmental performance and cut waste
The project does not actually provide any direct grant funding. Participating businesses are entitled to access 2-5 days free environmental consultancy.
E-mail: cesmb@mdx.ac.uk
Website: http://www.wix.com/ecovate/ecovate#!

**Wrap Business Development Service**
Advice and information services for companies and businesses in the UK recycling sector. A wide range of support is available, from technical advice and consultancy to market information, help with business planning, advice about intellectual property, access to funding and opportunities for staff training.
Advice is generally offered free of charge. Grant and tender opportunities are also available
E-mail: helpline@wrap.org.uk
Website: http://www.wrap.org.uk

**Carbon Trust Investments: Venture Capital Funds**
The Carbon Trust provides support to the UK clean technology industry by investing its own funds and leveraging in private funding. It specialises in identifying and investing in early-stage technologies and credible management teams with the ability to create and deliver 'low carbon' businesses.
E-mail: invest@carbontrust.co.uk
Website: http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/investments/venturecapital/

**EDF Energy Green Fund**
Grants are available for non-profit organisations to support renewable energy projects in England, Scotland and Wales. Funding is available to help cover the cost of renewable energy technology. Grants of up to 50% of total project costs to a maximum of £30,000 (excluding VAT) are available. Green Fund application rounds close at the end of August and February every year. Second 2012 deadline: 31 August 2012.
E-mail: Greenfund@edfenergy.com
Website: http://www.edfenergy.com/

**EU: Eco Management and Audit Scheme**
The Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a voluntary environmental audit scheme. It provides a management tool for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. Accredited companies may use the EMAS Logo.
Participation in the EMAS scheme is voluntary and, as such, there is no financial support available. However, common benefits include reduced costs, reduced environmental risks and greater credibility through the use of the EMAS logo.
E-mail: emas@biois.com
Website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm
**Energy Crops Scheme**
Financial assistance is available for the establishment of approved energy crops in England. Funding available for ground preparation; fencing; purchase of planting stock; planting; weed control; and first-year cutback. Up to 50% of actual costs; and/or up to 50% of on-farm costs will be covered

E-mail: ecsqueries@naturalengland.org.uk
Website: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk

**Carbon Trust: Energy Efficiency Financing Scheme**
Funding for UK businesses to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency equipment and other low carbon technologies, such as new efficient lighting and biomass heating. A wide variety of costs may be funded. Projects that may qualify include building technologies, such as pipe insulation and air conditioning, or industrial process technologies, including compressed air, refrigeration or specialist production equipment. The financing may also be used to fund combined projects, such as replacing heating and lighting. Financing can be arranged from a minimum of £1,000, with no upper limits. The scheme is available to all kinds of businesses and organisations, from sole traders and partnerships through to large corporate enterprises, local authorities, charities and public sector organisations

E-mail: eef.sfs.gb@siemens.com
Website: http://www.energyefficiencyfinancing.co.uk

**EU Emissions Trading Scheme**
First phase: three years to 31 December 2007; Second phase: five years to 31 December 2012; Third Phase: 2013 to 2020. A European Union-wide scheme for trading allowances that enables participating installations in selected industries to emit greenhouse gases under a permitted emissions cap. Companies emitting less than their cap are able to trade the surplus amount and those exceeding their cap are able to buy allowances from other participants or traders. The cap is determined in line with national reduction targets as agreed with the European Commission. Trading may be international. Installations are covered by the EU ETS on the basis of the CO2 emitting activities they carry out. At least 95% of the allowances awarded to installations by Government are allocated free of charge. They have a monetary value determined by the market if they are not needed to meet emission targets. ‘Allowance’ means an allowance to emit 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent. Phase II of the scheme will end on 31 December 2012. Phase III of the EU ETS (2013-2020) will deliver two-thirds of the EU’s unilateral 20% emissions reduction target by 2020 on 1990 levels.

E-mail: eu.ets@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/emissions/eu_ets/eu_ets.aspx

**Energy Entrepreneurs Fund**
Grant funding to support the UK’s small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the green energy sector in order to propose low carbon ideas of the future. The Fund will provide financial assistance to help businesses develop and demonstrate new low carbon technologies, services, and business models. The Funds will primarily be used towards developing energy efficiency solutions for buildings, including advanced lighting, heat pumps and ventilation technologies. Cleantech ideas around power generation will also benefit. The Fund will have a total budget of up to £35 million over the three-year period 2012-2015. Companies may apply for funds of up to £1 million that can then be used to leverage private investment. Environmentally-focused start-up companies (SMEs) may apply to this Fund.

E-mail: correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.decc.gov.uk
**Guinness EIS Fund**

Venture Funding tax Relief: Equity investment fund providing investors with access to attract investment opportunities in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors in the UK that are eligible for EIS tax reliefs. Supports Renewable energy investment opportunities include hydroelectric and biomass projects, while energy efficiency projects focus on reducing energy costs in office and commercial buildings. The minimum individual equity investment stands at £10,000. This fund will invest in Sustainable Infrastructure companies through the tax-efficient EIS structure. **The first 2012 deadline for receipt of applications was 5 April 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available**

E-mail: shane.gallwey@guinnessfunds.com
Website: http://www.guinnessfunds.com/eis/

**DECC: Marine Energy Array Demonstrator (MEAD) Capital Grant Scheme**

This competition will award funding for innovation in technology acceleration in marine energy in the UK, supporting up to two pre-commercial projects to demonstrate the operation of wave and/or tidal devices in array formation for an extended period of time. Funding is provided as a late-stage R&D grant to support all capital expenditure components of a project. The total value of the MEAD scheme is £20 million. DECC expects to award around £10 million to each of two projects. Project developers installing the first wave and/or tidal arrays of full-scale devices in UK waters may apply. Applicants are expected to be the generation arm of an electricity utility company. **The 2012 closing date for applications was 12 noon on 1 June 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available**

E-mail: innovation@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.decc.gov.uk/mead

**Carbon Trust: Low Carbon Technology Development**

Support for the development and commercialisation of low carbon technologies in the UK, including Entrepreneurs Fast Track, technology accelerators and research challenges. Support includes: Entrepreneur Fast Track support of up to £500,000 plus business support valued at up to £70,000; venture capital investments of up to £500,000; and non-financial support/advice. Public and private organisations such as start-ups, spin-outs, universities, research institutes and local authorities

E-mail: customercentre@carbontrust.co.uk
Website: http://www.carbontrust.co.uk

**British Airways PURE Community Energy Fund**

Low-interest loans are available to non-commercial organisations to provide cost effective financing for community renewable energy projects in the UK. Loans are available for 50% of the eligible costs up to a maximum of £50,000 to support Equipment costs and the direct costs associated with its installation. Charities, community groups, not-for-profit organisations and any organisation operated for community benefit can apply.

E-mail: info@puretrust.org.uk
Website: http://www.puretrust.org.uk/index.jsp
British Airways PURE: One Destination Carbon Fund

Low interest loans are available to enable not-for-profit organisations in the UK to install a renewable energy technology. Installation of solar PV, wind turbines, hydro and solar hot water technologies. As an indication, it is anticipated that loans of up to £50,000 per project will be available at a competitively low interest rate. Legally incorporated organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis may apply.

E-mail: info@puretrust.org.uk
Website: http://www.puretrust.org.uk/index.jsp

Shell Springboard Awards

Shell Springboard aims to provide a financial boost to small to medium-sized enterprises across the UK that have an innovative business idea. Business ideas should be for a product or service which will lead to greenhouse gas reductions. The idea should also be innovative and commercially viable. Awards of between £20,000 and £40,000 are available. The awards is open to Sole trader; partnership; limited company; community interest company (including government or university spin-outs) with Less than 250 employees. The next round of awards will open on 18 September 2012. The deadline for receipt of applications will be 18 January 2013

E-mail: help@shellspringboard.org
Website: http://www.shellspringboard.org

Electronova Capital Fund

An investment fund for energy start-up companies in the UK that are specialising in innovative technologies that respect the environment. The support is geared toward helping companies with start-up and development activities. The programme has an overall funding endowment of €60 million. Individual investment levels per supported project are not stipulated. As part of the scheme, EDF will also offer successful candidates cleantech expertise, with its research & development (R&D) team already taking an active role in research into new technologies and innovative business models. The scheme is specifically targeting applications from start up and young companies operating in the energy sector. The applicant business should have strong growth potential in Europe

Tel: 0800 096 2255
Website: http://www.edf.com

Virgin Green Fund

Virgin Green Fund invests in a wide range of proposals from companies operating in the renewable energy and resource efficiency sectors in Europe seeking expansion and growth capital opportunities. Some funds are also available for earlier stage venture capital opportunities. Businesses in the renewable energy and resource efficiency sectors are eligible to apply

E-mail: info@virgingreenfund.com
Website: http://www.virgingreenfund.com/
7. Support for construction and manufacturing businesses

Manufacturing

TSB Advance Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative
Grants and loans for advanced manufacturing businesses in England’s existing supply chain, in order to stimulate growth, achieve world class standards and encourage major new suppliers to come to, and manufacture in, the UK.

The funding can support a combination of investment in capital equipment, associated R&D, and training and skills in recognition of the flexibility needed to overcome the barriers that suppliers and supply chains can face.

The scheme is open to all advanced manufacturing sectors, except where barriers to entry are low. The funding provider expects that financial support will be directed across the supply chain, particularly towards SMEs, where market failures are likely to be greatest. By supply chains, the funding provider is referring to the companies involved in creating a finished product and/or supplying associated services.

The competition has now opened to applications. There are two separate funding streams. Stream 1 has two rounds; the deadlines for which are 13 June 2012 (now passed) and 12 September 2012. The deadline for applications for Stream 2 was 13 June 2012 at 12 noon.

E-mail: competitions@innovateuk.org
Website: http://www.innovateuk.org

Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)
Direct access to straightforward advice and practical, hands-on support from manufacturing experts for small and medium-sized manufacturing firms in England - support that will help them achieve big improvements in their productivity and competitiveness. Services vary from a free helpline and manufacturing review to training and networking events and subsidised consultancy support. MAS provides up to 50% of the cost of an expert to help people improve their business, at two different levels: Up to £1,000 and 50% subsidy towards basic improvement projects; and Step-Change up to £3,000 and 50% subsidy towards more complex projects.

E-mail: advice@mymas.org
Website: http://www.mymas.org/

BIS: Make it in Great Britain Challenge
Competition which aims to change the image of modern manufacturing by rewarding the most innovative pre-market products, processes and concepts the UK has to offer. The winning entries from each category will showcase their creations on a weekly basis at the Make it in Great Britain exhibition at the Science Museum in London, which will coincide with the Olympic and Paralympic Games in summer 2012. Visitors to the six-week exhibition will be invited to vote on their favourite entry. The winners from each weekly vote will feature together in the final week of the exhibit. The Make it in Great Britain Challenge is open to inventors, manufacturers, engineers, designers, businesses of all sizes, young people and the general public. The deadline for the Make it in Great Britain ‘30 Under 30’ – the search for the UK’s rising stars in manufacturing – was extended to 20 April 2012. Any future rounds and deadlines will be reported when the information becomes available.

E-mail: makeitingreatbritain@kindredagency.com
Website: http://bis.gov.uk/makeitingreatbritain
National Skills Academy for Food and Drink Manufacturing: Joint investment Programme

Funding for food and drink companies to help towards the costs of completing training courses designed to raise the skill levels of people in the food and drink manufacturing sector in the UK. The programme offers funding that amounts to 50% of the costs of training courses designed to raise the skill levels of people in the food and drink manufacturing sector. The employer must contribute 50% of the costs of the training from their own resources

E-mail: info@foodanddrink.nsacademy.co.uk
Website: http://foodanddrink.nsacademy.co.uk

Construction

Construction Industry Training Board: CITB Construction Skills Grants

Grant aid is available to registered employers in Great Britain for the training of employees in construction and craft industries. The 2011/12 deadline for CITB ConstructionSkills Grant is 31 October 2012

E-mail: levy.grant@cskills.org
Website: http://www.cskills.org

Horticulture

DEFRA: Horticulture Link Programme

Financial assistance to support projects that improve the competitiveness and responsiveness of the horticulture industry in the United Kingdom. The level of funding available to each participant will depend on the costs directly attributable to the project, in terms of the salaries of personnel working on the project, materials consumed, capital equipment purchased and other factors, such as licensing. Feasibility projects - funding can cover up to 75% for proof-of-principle studies prior to a core LINK application. Development projects - funding can cover up to 25% of the early stage industrial development of results from core LINK projects. Companies and research organisations can participate in LINK projects. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and firms new to LINK are particularly encouraged to get involved. Multinational companies can participate in a LINK project, provided they have a significant manufacturing and research operation in the UK, and the benefits to research are exploited in the UK or the European Economic Area

E-mail: david.cole@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://defrafarmingandfoodscience.csl.gov.uk
8. Support for exporting businesses and foreign direct investment

UK Trade and Industry: British Overseas Industrial Placements (BOND)
BOND is a UK Trade & Investment initiative, managed by the British Council, which provides UK companies with low-cost introductions to potential business partners in key developing international markets. High quality professionals, selected through the worldwide network of British Council offices overseas, are assigned to UK companies for up to twelve months. The flexibility of the Scheme ensures that it can be tailored to suit most business needs.
BOND gives you the opportunity to develop your current overseas markets and explore new ones through project focussed work attachments for overseas professionals. This offers you the chance to gain an insight into overseas business methods in your sector and an understanding of cultural issues.
The host organisation pays an agreed monthly stipend for the professional, together with a modest monthly management fee to cover British Council costs. Scheme targets specific non-OECD countries. However, BOND can provide assistance with placements to most countries around the world. Any company or organisation operating in a wide cross-section of industrial sectors but concentrating on the core areas of: IT; oil, gas and petrochemicals; power generation; telecommunications; automotive products; water development; agro-industry; construction; environment; food and drink; healthcare; finance; tourism can apply.
E-mail: fiona.fisher@britishcouncil.org
Website: http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/

Export Credit Guarantee Department: Bond Insurance Policy
A Bond insurance policy protects the UK exporter against loss, where a UK bank issues a bond on their behalf to an overseas buyer, or counter-guarantee to a bank in the buyer’s country, as a condition of an export contract. The exporter is protected against the risks of unfair calls and fair calls. ECGD will consider cover for all types of bonds for export contracts, except tender or bid bonds. The exporter is given 100% cover. Exporters of high value capital goods and/or services, or involved in export project work or investment overseas.
Website: http://www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk

EU Gateway Programme
The focus of this programme is the organisation of sector-specific business missions to Japan and Korea. This allows EU companies to develop a productive and collaborative platform with their Japanese and Korean counterparts as well as gain an excellent first-hand understanding of doing business in Japan and Korea. Grant funding available for Business strategy support, coaching, customised assistance (e.g. interpretation, legal advice, design and printing). The programme offers tailored preparation, individual coaching and advice, plus up to €1,000 to cover the cost of one room per company at the programme hotel, and up to 80% co-financing for the cost of customised services provided, up to a maximum of €1,600 per company.
Applicants must find at least 20% of the cost of customised services themselves, plus any additional costs. Companies should have existed for at least five years; be located and have their main activities in the European Union; have a proven track record of international business cooperation; and have a solid business strategy for entering the Japanese and/or Korean markets.
E-mail: londonoffice@eu-gateway.eu
Website: http://www.eu-gateway.eu/
Export Communications Review
Provision of a consultancy service for UK companies with less than 250 employees, to assist them with evaluating and subsequently enhancing their communication skills in overseas markets. A subsidy of £350 is provided towards the cost of the review. Funding available for Small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which have been trading for a minimum of two years and currently export or have plans to export goods or services that are mainly of UK origin.
E-mail: ecr@britishchambers.org.uk
Website: http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/

Export Credit Guarantees and Insurance Services
Provider of insurance in export markets of major capital goods, major projects or investments abroad by UK exporters or industrial investors. The credit terms are usually longer than those available on the commercial market and can be tailored to individual circumstances.
E-mail: customerservice@ecgd.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.ecgd.gov.uk

BIS: Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme (ExEFG)
Provision of commercial export finance facilities to viable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UK that lack the security necessary to obtain such facilities. The scheme is self-financing, through which the lender is provided with a guarantee for which the borrower pays a premium. Examples of eligible expenditure include working capital, depositing bonds and exporting and importing. ExEFG can enable accredited lenders to provide export finance facilities of between £25,001 and £1 million for terms of up to two years. The scheme provides accredited lenders with partial guarantees (60%) to facilitate this lending, subject to a cap on total claims arising from each lender's ExEFG portfolio.
Website: http://www.bis.gov.uk/

Export Credit Guarantee Department: Export Insurance Policy
The insurance of UK exporters against the principal political and commercial risks of not being paid in connection with individual capital goods or service contracts.
E-mail: customerservice@ecgd.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.ecgd.gov.uk

UKTI: Export Marketing Research Scheme
Grant funding available for Support for UK-based SMEs to undertake export marketing research prior to developing a strategy for market entry or further investment into a new overseas market. Research is supported either as in-house/desk research or through a consultant. Eligible costs include Travel, interpreter fees, researcher allowance, administration, market research consultants' fees and market research reports. Advice is provided free of charge. The maximum amount available is £30,000 but no more than £20,000 can be used for projects conducted in the USA, Canada or the European Union. As funding is offered as a percentage of the total project costs (up to a maximum of 50%), applicants are expected to seek other sources of finance or contribute their own resources.
E-mail: emr@britishchambers.org.uk
Website: http://www.britishchambers.org.uk
Export Credit Guarantee Department: Lines of Credit
Export Credit Guarantee Department guarantees bank loans to allow capital goods or services exporters breaking into emerging markets to pass the payment risk on contracts to banks. Lines of credit can be set up to enable: a variety of overseas buyers to purchase unrelated capital goods or services; or an individual overseas buyer to purchase a wide range of capital goods or services for a particular project. The export contract value must be at least £25,000, or the equivalent in another currency. The maximum amount that can be made available for each contract financed by the line of credit is 85% of the contract value. The period for repayment of the loan must be at least two years.
Tel: 020 7512 7887
E-mail: help@ecgd.gsi.gov.uk

UKTI: Overseas Market Introduction Service
Advisory services available to all UK businesses to put them directly in touch with staff in UKTI overseas offices and provide them with focused business advice and visit support.
E-mail: enquiries@ukti-invest.com
Website: http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

UKTI: Passport to Export Programme
A package of support measures, to provide small firms in the UK with little or no export experience with the practical skills needed to find and build new markets overseas. Provides Advice and guidance, export action plan, market research, market visit, training, financial support of up to £1,000 and mentoring programme. Small and medium-sized enterprises with little or no export experience eligible to apply.
E-mail: enquiries@uktradeinvest.gov.uk
Website: http://www.ukti.gov.uk/home.html

Export Credit Guarantee Department: Supplier Credit Financing
Financing exports of capital goods whereby a UK exporter can offer credit of two years or more at fixed government-supported rates or variable commercial rates, whilst receiving cash payments and protection against default. ECGD provide a guarantee to a bank for: supplier credit loan facility for a loan to an overseas buyer worth at least £25,000; and supplier credit bills and notes facility to cover payments due under bills of exchange or promissory notes worth at least £25,000. The maximum amount that can be made available under the facility is 85% of the contract value. Exporters of high value capital goods and/or services.
E-mail: customerservice@ecgd.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.ecgd.gov.uk/

UKTI Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP)
Support is provided for UK-based businesses to take part in overseas exhibitions that deal with trade representatives. The objective of exhibition support is to help new exporters, businesses in high technology fields and those new to export markets to learn how to use them as a key tool in their trade development plans. Exhibition and stand costs funded. A maximum of up to £1,800 is available dependent upon the type of business. TAP has an annual budget of £8 million. SMEs eligible to apply and New or existing exporters wishing to export to new markets.
E-mail: enquiries@ukti.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk
9. Support for Social Enterprises

Community Builders
Community builders makes sustainable investments in community enterprises in England to build their long term financial viability and increase their ability to deliver significant social impact in their communities. Investments of between £250,000 and £750,000. A minimum of 80% of the investment will be a loan. Funding is available for between 20% and 50% of any individual project. Open to Independent, community led organisations which have existed for more than 12 months and are not controlled by the private or public sector. The organisation must be properly constituted. The 2012 deadline has now passed. Details of future funding rounds will be reported when the information becomes available.
E-mail: info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk/index.php?id=107

Social Investment Business
The Social Investment Business provides finance, knowledge and expertise to help third sector organisations in the UK improve their infrastructure, increase their capacity and help them bid for, and win, public service contracts.
E-mail: enquiries@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/

Lloyds TSB Banking Group: Social Entrepreneurs Programme
Funding and support scheme providing comprehensive assistance to those social entrepreneurs in the UK who wish to establish a new project or boost an existing project that will have a social impact. Both the 'Start Up' and 'Scale Up' courses use the key components of the SSE's learning methodology: Action Learning; Witness Sessions; Expert Sessions; and Project Visits. Grants of £4,000 and £15,000 and an annual £25,000 award are available. Open to Individuals who are leading or planning to set up a project or social enterprise organisation which will create social change. The 2012 deadline for receipt of applications was 28 May 2012 (10am). Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.
E-mail: office@sse.org.uk
Website: http://www.the-sse.org/lloydsbankinggroup

Cooperative Enterprise Hub
The Co-operative Enterprise Hub aims to expand the co-operative economy in the UK by creating strong, ethically-led businesses with a deep sense of social responsibility. It offers a package of advice, training and finance to help new and existing co-operatives become more sustainable businesses. Provides Up to four days' support, including business planning, financial, staffing, legal and governance advice tailored to the applicant's business needs. Grants of up to £5,000 and loan finance are also available.
E-mail: enterprise@co-operative.coop
Website: http://www.co-operative.coop/enterprisehub

Big Issue Invest: Social Enterprise Loan Fund
Financial assistance is available in the form of loans to social enterprises and registered charities based in the UK. Funding available for commercial property, renovation or purchase (non-residential); equipment purchase; growth or acquisition; and working capital. Typical loans are from £50,000 to £250,000, although loans may be sought above this.
Big Society Capital
Investments are available to Social Investment Finance Intermediaries (SIFIs) based and working within the UK for projects tackling major social issues within the UK. Investments are made in SIFIs which provide finance and other support to social sector organisations that primarily benefit people and communities in the UK. Eligible organisations; social Investment Finance Intermediaries. Funding available for Loan investment of between £500,000 and £15 million.

E-mail: investmentenquiries@bigsocietycapital.com
Website: http://www.bigsocietycapital.com/faq/our-investments/

City Bridge Trust: Strengthening the Third Sector
Financial assistance is available to second-tier organisations in London for work that helps strengthen the third sector.

Grants are available for either running costs or capital costs. Eligible projects include those that work to increase and improve volunteering and work that improves the quality of evaluation.

E-mail: citybridgetrust@cityoflondon.gov.uk
Website: http://www.bridgehousegrants.org.uk/CityBridgeTrust/

Industrial Common Ownership Finance Ltd: Cooperative and Community Finance Ltd
Financial aid is available for the support of the development of cooperatives or employee-owned businesses and social enterprises in the UK for general business needs, including loans on property, business purchase, capital equipment and working capital. Funding available for Start-up costs, recovery and expansion costs. Loans from £10,000 to £75,000 are available, however, from other funds under the sponsor's management they are able to lend up to £150,000. Interest rates are variable and based upon the individual circumstances of the application. Applications are welcome from those starting a social enterprise, cooperative or employee-owned business. No personal security is asked for, but a legal charge on the business's available assets is made.

E-mail: info@coopfinance.coop
Website: http://www.coopfinance.coop

Co-operative Community Fund
Financial assistance is available to voluntary, self-help, co-operative and not-for-profit organisations throughout the UK for projects that fulfil a community need. Grants range from £100 to £2,000 to purchase Equipment, event costs, rent or fixtures, sport or computer equipment are all eligible costs.

E-mail: community.fund@co-operative.coop
Website: http://www.co-operative.coop/membership/

Co-operative Loan Fund
Financial assistance, in the form of a loan, is available to assist the start-up and development of co-operative enterprises in the UK. Assistance in the expansion or setting up of an organisation or to assist employee buyouts or company successions. Capital equipment or property purchase are also eligible. Loans of between £5,000 and £75,000 available.
Community Business Loan Fund
Financial assistance to help potential and existing social entrepreneurs in the UK who are unable to access finance through the normal mainstream channels. The Fund offers financial support for the purpose of starting or expanding a community-based business. Eligible businesses can apply for loans of between £30,000 and £500,000. Community Development Finance Institutions, which hand out funds to other firms, can apply for loans of between £200,000 and £1 million.

E-mail: commloan@rbs.co.uk
Website: http://www.rbs.co.uk/business/banking/g3/community-business-loan-fund.ashx

DCLG: Community Ownership and Management of Assets Feasibility Grant
Grants are available to community groups in England to help them prepare to buy and manage land and buildings in community use. Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 available to cover the cost of Revenue and capital expenditure associated with a project.

E-mail: info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/

DCLG: Community Ownership and Management of Assets Pre Feasibility Grant
Pre-Feasibility Grants are available to help not for profit organisations in England build their capacity to bid for and to manage assets such as community buildings. Between £5,000 and £10,000 available.

E-mail: info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/

DCLG Community Right to Challenge Grant Programme
Grants are available to organisations in England seeking to build capacity and capability to deliver public service contracts under the Community Right to Challenge Programme. Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 are available for capital and revenue costs. Between 70% and 50% match funding is required.

E-mail: info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/

DCLG Community Right to Challenge: Pre Feasibility Grants
Grants are available to organisations in England seeking to build capacity and capability to deliver public service contracts under the Community Right to Challenge Programme. Grant will support Revenue expenditure associated with internal capacity building and management capability. Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 are available.

E-mail: info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation: Merger Fund
Grant funding to support charities and not for profits organisations in the UK that are in the early phases of thinking about a merger. The total value of the Fund is £100,000. The Foundation anticipates making between 10 and 15 grants from this amount.
Impetus Trust Venture Philanthropy Fund
Impetus provides a venture philanthropy package to ambitious, innovative charities and social enterprises to help transform their performance over a defined period of time so they can help many more economically disadvantaged people in England. Strategic funding of up to £500,000, management support and specialist expertise delivered as an investment of between four and six years. Registered charities and social enterprises with a turnover of more than £250,000 eligible.
E-mail: info@impetus.org.uk
Website: http://www.impetus.org.uk

London Community Foundation
A variety of grant schemes to non-profit groups for community benefit in areas of London. Areas of support include neighbourhood renewal, healthy communities, children and young people, education, community relations, housing, environment and community safety. Open to charitable organisations.
E-mail: info@londoncf.org.uk
Website: http://www.londoncf.org.uk/

Phone Co-op Social Enterprise Start-up and Expansion Fund
Financial assistance is available in the form of credits on Phone Co-op services to support the development of early-stage social enterprises across the UK. Supports costs associated with services provided by The Phone Co-op including the following fixed line and mobile telephone bills; broadband; web hosting; and telephone systems. £10,000 has been initially allocated to the fund. Successful applicants will be allocated £250 credit which can be used to purchase services provided by the Phone Co-op.
Tel: 0845 458 9070
Fax: 0845 458 9001
Website: http://www.thephone.coop/about-us/start-up-fund

CDFA: Radical Routes: Loans Finance and Support for Co-op Enterprises
Finance and support for co-operative enterprises throughout the UK. Eligible costs include capital equipment and property refurbishment. Loans are generally 'top up' loans, providing 20% - 30% of the costs. Eligible enterprise must be co-operatives involved in social economy.
E-mail: info@rootstock.org.uk
Website: http://www.rootstock.org.uk/radical-routes-loans.html

Santander Social Enterprise Development Awards
The Santander Social Enterprise Development Awards support social enterprises and Community Interest Companies looking to grow their business and improve their local communities in the UK. Eligible costs include; Working with rurally isolated areas to make services and goods more readily available; combating loneliness amongst the elderly population; and helping to integrate marginalised groups into the community. The maximum award available is £50,000. Established Social enterprises are eligible to apply.
The 2012 Awards deadline passed on 2 July 2012. Details of further deadlines will be reported in due course
E-mail: general@communityfoundation.org.uk
Website: http://www.santanderseda.co.uk/

Santander Social Enterprise Exchange Award
Award recognising the efforts of social enterprises in the UK that are looking to partner, replicate or share knowledge with other social enterprises in order to grow their social and environmental impact. The Exchange Award is for up to £5,000. The award winner and two short-listed entries will receive free access to the Responsible Business Check Up developed by Business in the Community, in partnership with Santander, to evaluate and benchmark corporate responsibility efforts in smaller businesses. The 2012 deadline for receipt of entries was 7 March 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.
E-mail: events@socialenterprise.org.uk
Website: http://www.socialenterpriseexchange.com

School for Social Enterprise
The School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) exists to provide training and opportunities to enable people to use their creative and entrepreneurial abilities more fully for social benefit. SSE supports individuals to set up new charities, social enterprises and social businesses across the UK. Applicants must be seeking to set up new charities, social enterprises or social businesses in the UK. Fees apply and vary depending on location. In general, places on the programme are funded by grants or bursaries, or students are helped to generate sufficient income to meet their expenses and contribute to the cost of the programme. The first 2012 deadline was 15 January 2012. Any future deadlines will be reported when available.
E-mail: office@sse.org.uk
Website: http://www.sse.org.uk/index.php

Cabinet Office: Social Action Fund
Financial assistance is available to voluntary, public and private sector organisations to develop opportunities for social action in England. Grants will be awarded primarily to fund revenue costs. The fund can be used towards equipment costs, but cannot be used to acquire fixed assets with a total purchase cost (including VAT) in excess of £5,000. The minimum grant available is £100,000, with no maximum limit. Round Two has now closed to applications. Details of Round Three will be added when the information becomes available.
E-mail: info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/

Social Business Trust
Grants are available to social enterprises across all sectors in the UK to help them grow and to achieve greater social impact. Support is available for business models which are sustainable and capable of driving growth.
Approximately £10 million in cash and in-kind support has been committed to the scheme over a three to five year period.
**Social Enterprise Investment Fund**
Tailored financial packages comprising loans and grants are available to support social enterprises deliver innovative health and social care services and products as well as to enable social enterprises to become sustainable in the longer term. Loans can cover either capital asset costs or development capital; Capital Grants are to help meet all or part of the cost of tangible resources such as buildings, vehicles or equipment; and Revenue Grants are available for the purpose of providing support for commercial capability building and/or bidding. The minimum size of investment available is £30,000 and the maximum size of any individual investment is unlikely to be more than £1 million. Loans, capital grants and revenue grants are available. Priority will be given to applications for loans or with co-funding, where the value of the loan or co-funding is minimum of £20,000 or 30% of investment whichever is the higher. Existing or emerging social enterprises (including small and micro enterprises) that are one of the following: unincorporated association, trust or company set up and registered as a charity; unincorporated association set up as a voluntary or community group; community interest company; not for profit company limited by guarantee; community benefit society can apply. 2012 deadline: 24 August 2012 (noon).

E-mail: info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org  
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/  

**Bridges Ventures Social Enterprise Fund**
Investment in scalable social enterprises delivering high social impacts and operating sustainable business models in the UK. The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund is designed to address the funding gap often faced by fast growing social enterprises looking to scale. The Fund will invest up to £1.5 million in each social enterprise.

E-mail: info@bridgesventures.com  
Website: http://www.bridgesventures.com  

**Social Impact Co-investment Fund**
Expansion funding for early-stage SMEs and legally-structured charities operating within the UK’s social impact sector that require additional support to fulfil their potential. Debt funding of between £25,000 and £100,000 is available. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social enterprises and charities that have established initial trading and require finance to achieve critical mass/fulfil potential may apply. Applications may be submitted any time.

E-mail: socialco@thefsegroup.com  
Website: http://thefsegroup.com  

**Lottery Programme Social Incubator Fund**
Grant funding for established social incubators in England to help them to provide investment and support to early stage social ventures. The maximum total amount that can be applied for is £1.5 million. Applicants must be able to secure 50% match funding for operating costs of above £200,000 over three years and investment book funding. 2012 deadline: 21 September 2012 (12 noon).
Social Investment Business
The Social Investment Business provides finance, knowledge and expertise to help third sector organisations in the UK improve their infrastructure, increase their capacity and help them bid for, and win, public service contracts. Applications for business support can be made at any time. Deadlines for applications to the Funds vary.
E-mail: enquiries@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org
Website: http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/

Unity Trust Bank
Unity Trust Bank is a socially responsible financial services group which is committed to breaking the barriers of finance and social exclusion by working with its partners in the social economy. It offers streamlined and flexible services including deposit and current accounts and funding initiatives. The Bank offers a number of services including deposit and current accounts, funding initiatives and social mortgages, which are aimed specifically at organisations in the social economy such as credit unions, membership organisations, charities and voluntary groups.
E-mail: utb@unity.co.uk
Website: http://www.unity.co.uk/

UnLtd Advantage
Investment readiness programme that can also act as a broker to help social enterprises in the United Kingdom to secure funding. The programme will help social entrepreneurs access investment finance to grow their social venture. The scheme can provide social enterprises with advice and business support, as well as acting as a broker to help organisations secure investment funding. Open to Charities, community interest companies, and companies limited by share.
E-mail: ventures@unltd.org.uk
Website: http://www.unltdadvantage.org.uk

UnLtd Millenium Awards
Financial assistance is available to social entrepreneurs in the UK for the start up and development of projects that have social benefits. Awards are made in respect of the following project costs: materials, equipment, renting rooms for meetings, other start-up costs and wages and living expenses (for Level Two Award winners who wish to devote more time to the project). Level 1: Awards of between £500 and £5,000. Level 2: Awards of up to £15,000. Successful applicants will receive practical support tailored to meet their needs, which can include networking opportunities and access to training. Applicants must be over 16 years of age and resident in the UK for the duration of the award.
E-mail: info@unltd.org.uk
Website: http://www.unltd.org.uk

Community Empowerment Ltd
Free advice for people wishing to start their own social enterprise.
Website: http://empower.coop/enquiry
10. Support for Youth Enterprise

**Young Enterprise**
Education programmes that provide young people across the UK with the opportunity of gaining experience of business, helping them to understand the role it plays in providing employment and creating prosperity. Education is delivered through a range of programmes including: Primary; Enterprise in Action; Learn to Earn; Personal Economics; Project Business; Company; Team; Entrepreneurship Masterclasses and Graduate Start-up programme. The enterprise education programmes are delivered by business volunteers.

E-mail: info@young-enterprise.org.uk
Website: http://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/

**Bright Ideas Trust**
Intended specifically to help London-based young entrepreneurs aged 16-30, the Trust will address the issue of first-time businesses failing soon after setting up, due to a lack of experience. The Trust hopes to offer funding and advice to around 365 new businesses per year. Provides Grant funding for business start-up costs starting from £5,000, up to £20,000, together with expert advice.

Website: http://www.brightideastrust.com/contact/

**Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs**
Support for projects across the EU enabling new entrepreneurs to acquire the skills needed to manage a small to medium-sized enterprise by spending time at the company of an experienced entrepreneur in another European Union country. The programme encompasses funding for business support organisations including public authorities to set up the scheme and support for new entrepreneurs once the scheme is established. Eligible costs: Lot 1: intermediary organisations enhancing and facilitating the mobility of nascent entrepreneurs; and Lot 2: support to, coordination and networking of the intermediary organisations carrying out the activities mentioned in Lot 1. At least 10% of match funding is required for intermediary organisations responding to the Call for Proposals. Open to Any public or private entity active in the field of business support may apply to become an Intermediary Organisation. New entrepreneurs, planning to start a business, or having started a business within the last three years, may apply to take part in the scheme.

E-mail: entrep-entrepreneurship@ec.europa.eu
Website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/index_en.htm

**Lloyds TSB Enterprise Awards**
Awards programme searching for the best small firms in England and Wales that have been set up by university leavers. The scheme will provide financial support for entrepreneurs starting up in business. National winners will receive either a £10,000 or £50,000 cash investment, together with business mentoring to take their business through to the next phase of growth. Students aged 18 and above and those who have graduated in the last five years may apply. The applicant must have founded or co-founded a business which has been trading for more than a year. The **2012 deadline for receipt of applications was 30 January 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.**

E-mail: enterpriseawards@lloydstsb.co.uk
Website: http://www.lloydstsbenterpriseawards.com
**Teenbiz Scheme**
Funding and business support for teenage entrepreneurs aged 13-19 in the UK, designed to ignite an entrepreneurial interest among students who want to take their ideas to the next step and require assistance to make this happen. The grant can be used towards a range of start-up costs, primarily the equipment needed in the early stages of setting up a new business. One student per month will receive up to £500 funding, a mentor and a start-up kit. Open to any individual student aged 13-18 years old. Applications are accepted at any time.

E-mail: info@teenbiz.org.uk
Website: http://www.teenbiz.org.uk/

**The Princes Trust**
The Trust offers development programmes, training, business start-up assistance, advice, counselling and workshops to young people aged 14 to 30 in the UK. The maximum grant assistance available is £3,000 although this varies by programme. Applications can be made at anytime.

E-mail: webinfops@princes-trust.org.uk
Website: http://www.princes-trust.org.uk

**Channel 4: The Stake**
Competition providing young people in the UK the opportunity to exploit their business and enterprising skills to win funding that can be used towards community or business ideas that will make a difference. The Stake aims to show young people that business and social enterprise can be creative, fun, challenging and that good ideas and passion can be rewarded. The money can be used to fund a variety of projects; for example a start-up business, a new school skate ramp or a one-off event. A maximum of six winners will be given up to £20,000 (minimum of £1,000), along with support from Barclays' mentors and youth engagement agency, Livity, to make their ideas a reality between January and March 2012. Anyone aged between 16 and 21 years of age can submit ideas about how they would spend a share of the money. The 2011 deadline for receipt of nominations was 23 December 2011. Any future deadlines will be reported when available.

Website: http://www.thestake.co.uk

**Peter Jones Foundation Tycoon in Schools**
An enterprise competition designed to encourage entrepreneurial young people from across the UK to start their own business and make a profit whilst they are still in school. Business start-up costs can be funded. At the close of the competition, students will repay their original loans to the Tycoon Bank, and remaining profits can be used by the school or donated to local charitable causes. Participating schools will be given a loan of £1,000 to be used by pupils who are challenged to start a business, make a profit and realise their entrepreneurial aspirations. Entries for the 2012 round of the initiative must be submitted by 1 September 2012. The competition will be held between 1 and 30 November 2012.

Website: http://tycooninschools.com

**Unltd - Live Unltd**

Financial assistance is available to young people between the ages of 11 and 21 who live in the UK to start up their own social venture that will have a positive social impact on the applicant's community. Grant covers project costs, including insurance, equipment, venue hire, advertising and publicity, printing, equipment hire, volunteer expenses, travel (within the UK), materials, IT equipment, business start-up fees and registration fees. Grants of up to £5,000 (average £1,500), and non-financial support, including budgeting advice, networking opportunities, governance issues and working with volunteers available. Applications can be made anytime.

E-mail: info@liveunltd.com
Website: http://www.liveunltd.com/
11. National Events and Awards

Global Entrepreneurship Week UK
Annual UK-wide week of activities celebrating enterprise, and inspiring and encouraging people
to showcase and develop their enterprise talent, and to turn their ideas into something real.
E-mail: steve.metcalfe@youthbusiness.org
Website: http://http://www.gew.org.uk

Business in the community
The Awards seek to recognise private sector businesses in the UK that have shown innovation,
creativity and sustained commitment to corporate responsibility. Awards are made within the
following categories: Company of the Year; Small Company of the Year; Workplace Impact;
Environment Impact; Community Impact; Marketplace Impact; Dairy Crest Rural Action Award;
International Award; Re-accreditation and Leadership Awards.
E-mail: awards@bitc.org.uk
Website: http://www.bitc.org.uk

Striding out: Future 100 Awards
The Future 100 Awards recognise the success of young entrepreneurs aged 18-35 who
demonstrate entrepreneurial flair and innovation in progressing a responsible business venture
in the United Kingdom. Open to Entrepreneurs aged 18-35 who demonstrate entrepreneurial
flair and innovation in progressing a responsible business venture with a strong commercial
foundation and social and/or environmental impact.
E-mail: heather@stridingout.co.uk
Website: http://www.future100.co.uk

Growing Business Awards
An annual scheme designed to recognise all types of entrepreneurial companies. The awards
are designed to celebrate the achievements of the UK's leading enterprises. Winners receive a
certificate and television, radio and press coverage. There are 11 award categories, for
example: Entrepreneur of the Year; Company of the Year; Young Entrepreneur of the Year,
Innovator of the Year. More than one category may be entered.
E-mail: gba@caspianmedia.com
Website: http://gba.realbusiness.co.uk

AmEx International Trade Awards
Recognition of the success and achievements of UK companies involved in international trade,
to promote them as role models, and to encourage other UK businesses to strive for success in
world markets. Winners will receive an online promotional campaign worth over £1,500, and
coverage on both freshbusinessthinking.com and InternationalTrade.co.uk, amongst others.
Twelve regional awards are presented culminating in a national competition at the end of the
year.
E-mail: awards@internationaltrade.co.uk
Website: http://www.internationaltrade.co.uk/awards
HP Smart Business Awards
Annual awards programme celebrating the best achievements of the UK's small and medium-sized businesses operating across all sectors. Small and medium-sized enterprises operating within any business sector may enter this programme. **The 2012 deadline for receipt of entries was 29 June 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.**
Tel: 0845 270 4567
Website: [http://www.hpsmartbusinessawards.com](http://www.hpsmartbusinessawards.com)

BIMA: Interactive Media Awards
Annual competition designed to recognise creative excellence and craftsmanship within the digital media industry. 2012's award categories break down into three groups: Sector, Discipline and Premium Awards. Example sub-categories are: advertising, online, social media, mobile and games. **The original deadline for entries to the 2012 BIMA Interactive Media Awards was 11 June 2012. This was extended to 6 July 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.**
E-mail: awards@bima.co.uk
Website: [http://www.bimaawards.com](http://www.bimaawards.com)

National Business Awards
This awards programme acknowledges the skills, achievements and innovations in today's UK business community. There are 11 categories of award which are designed to recognise the diverse range of skills and disciplines that make businesses highly successful. Entries can be submitted for multiple categories and there is no limit to the number of entries per category. Applicants must complete a registration form and send the registration fee to enable the entry form to be forwarded. Any company within the UK, whether public or private, can enter The National Business Awards, regardless of size or industry sector. **Annual award scheme. The extended deadline for entering the 2012 awards was 27 June 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.**
E-mail: anthony.akoto@ubm.com
Website: [http://www.nationalbusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.nationalbusinessawards.co.uk)

Natwest Everywoman Awards
Awards that aim to recognise UK women business owners of all ages for their significant success and achievement in business. The awards also aim to reward women who have overcome adversities such as financial constraints, social disadvantages or skills gaps. There are four award categories based on age, two awards for the overall winners and two other awards. Limited company, sole trader or in partnership with others eligible to apply.
E-mail: events@everywoman.com
Website: [http://www.everywoman.co.uk](http://www.everywoman.co.uk)

Nectar Business Small Business Awards
The Nectar Business Small Business Awards recognise the success, best practice, innovative ideas and outstanding achievements of small and medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises throughout the UK. Four winning businesses will receive £2,000 cash; 50,000 nectar points; and national media publicity. The Awards are open to all UK small to medium-
sized enterprises (SMEs) and social enterprises. The 2012 deadline for receipt of applications was 31 May 2012. Details and deadline information for any future rounds will be reported when available.

E-mail: smallbusinessawards@clarioncomms.co.uk
Website: http://www.nectar-business.com/sba2012

Private Business Awards
Awards celebrating the most successful companies and individuals operating in the private sector in the UK. The nominees will receive exposure in regional and national PR campaigns, while the winners will profiled on the Private Business Awards website, as well as on the key sponsors’ websites - PricewaterhouseCoopers and HSBC Private Bank. 2012 Award categories include: Private Business of the Year; Family Business of the Year; Technology Innovation of the Year; Social Enterprise of the Year; High Growth Business of the Year; and Employer of the Year. Small private sector businesses across all sectors may enter these awards. The 2012 deadline for entries was 13 April 2012. Any future deadlines will be reported when available.

E-mail: pba-awards@ford-sinclair.co.uk
Website: http://www.privatebusinessawards.com

Queens Award for Enterprise and International Trade
Award to UK companies for outstanding achievements in overseas earnings by demonstrating substantial improvement in business performance and success. Award winners are entitled to fly an award flag and display the emblem on letterheadings and advertising. It is a prestigious award that attracts a considerable amount of publicity and is a useful resource when competing for business overseas. Award winners are entitled to fly an award flag and display the emblem on letterheadings and advertising etc for five years. It is a prestigious award which attracts a considerable amount of publicity and is a useful resource when competing for business overseas. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Assessors look for a substantial and sustained growth in export earnings to a level which is outstanding for the products or services concerned and for the size of an applicant's business. Applicants may apply to the other categories. The 2012 deadline for the 2013 Awards is 28 September 2012.

E-mail: info@queensawards.org.uk
Website: http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/queensawards

Queens Award for Enterprise: Innovation
Award to UK companies for outstanding innovative achievements by demonstrating commercial success through innovative products or services. Achievements may be assessed for: the invention; design; production (of goods); performance (of services); marketing; distribution; after sales support. Award winners are entitled to fly an award flag and display the emblem on letterheadings and advertising. It is a prestigious award that attracts a considerable amount of publicity and is a useful resource when competing for business overseas. Award winners are entitled to fly an award flag and display the emblem on letter headings and advertising. The 2012 deadline for the 2013 Awards is 28 September 2012.

E-mail: info@queensawards.org.uk
Website: http://www.queensawards.org.uk
Smarta 100
Awards programme celebrating the most resourceful, original, innovative and interesting small businesses in the UK, comprising cash prizes and other business support packages to reward entrepreneurs involved with face-to-face businesses, social enterprises and e-commerce ventures. Winners will benefit from publicity and PR as a result of being successful candidates. In addition to the kudos and notoriety, winners will also receive a number of other benefits, including a financial reward and additional business support from industry experts. Entries are accepted from entrepreneurs running small social enterprises and businesses.
E-mail: feedback@smarta.com
Website: http://www.smarta.com

Social Enterprise Awards
UK-wide competition to recognise and reward the performance and achievement of social enterprises. Winners will receive a package including mentoring, consultancy and PR support and an award. The deadline for applications is midnight on 26 August 2012.
E-mail: info@socialenterprise.org.uk
Website: http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/

Third Sector Excellence Awards
The key objectives of the Third Sector Excellence Awards are to celebrate the success and achievement of registered charities, non-profit social enterprises and campaigning groups within the UK. Registered charities, voluntary organisations, non-profit social enterprises, campaigning groups and the agencies, consultancies and commercial organisations which help them are eligible to apply. The 2012 deadline has now passed. Details for 2013 will be added when the information becomes available.
E-mail: chantal.kerr-sheppard@haymarket.com
Website: http://www.thirdsectorexcellenceawards.com/

Start-up Awards
The Startups Awards reward and celebrate the best business start-ups and represent an opportunity for businesses to gain recognition for the outstanding achievements of the business, team or individual. There are several award categories open to entry including Young Start-up of the Year, Online Business of the Year and Product Business of the Year. Winners can gain national and regional press coverage and raise the company's profile. The deadline for receipt of entries for the 2012 is 14 September 2012.
E-mail: events@crimsonbusiness.co.uk
Website: http://www.startups.co.uk/startups-awards

Prime - The Sage One Senior Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2012
An awards ceremony, which will recognise and celebrate the success of the over 50 entrepreneur. This new awards ceremony will celebrate not just the commercial achievements of entrepreneurs, but will also recognise the range and diversity of businesses that entrepreneurs over the age of 50 successfully create each year.

Generously supported by Sage One, the online accounting and payroll service designed for UK start-ups and SMEs, the awards, which are open to all beneficiaries registered with The Prince’s
Initiative prior to 1st September 2012, will recognise and reward the achievements of the over-50 entrepreneur whilst promoting enterprise to a wider audience.

The award ceremony will be held during Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) on 14th November 2012 at the Senior Enterprise and Mentoring Conference, held at the BT Centre in London. GEW is the world’s largest campaign to promote entrepreneurship, grow enterprise ambition and ensure those who want to start up in business get the right tools and guidance.

The Sage One Senior Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2012 will look for success by the over 50s in three categories; Best New Digital Business, Best New Product and Best New Service, with the overall Senior Entrepreneur of the Year 2012 being chosen from the three. The deadline for entries for 2012 is 17.00 on Friday 28th September 2012.

E-mail: awards@prime.org.uk
Website: http://www.prime.org.uk