

Global Business Innovation Programme

Sustainable Plastic

India



Global Business Innovation Programme

Innovate UK is inviting ambitious companies to participate in its Global Business Innovation Programme, which aims to help UK businesses to grow and scale on a global stage through building R&D and innovation collaborations and partnerships. This engaging programme consists of a Get ready preparation phase, 5-day innovation visit to India (with a tailored itinerary to connect with key stakeholders), an Exploit the opportunity workshop, and support from an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist - helping your business to identify growth opportunities and develop innovation led collaborations with partners in the country.

Innovate UK is committed to ensure that anyone, from any background, has an equal opportunity to be successful.

Focus Areas:

This initiative is focused on the sustainable plastic sector, and we invite applications from a wide range of innovative companies, that are focused on solutions in the following areas:

- Chemical and dissolution recycling technologies (particularly where films, flexibles and Multi Layered Plastic (MLP) are concerned)
- Transitioning from problematic plastic (particularly MLP) to more easily recycled plastic substances.
- Reuse and refill
- Data capture and management, to aid decision making and EPR regulation compliance.
- Mechanical sorting and recycling innovative technologies
- Creating additional value within the plastic recycling sector and considering end markets, such as recycled plastic back into food grade packaging.

UK-India Collaboration

India is an important market for Innovate UK, with regular ongoing bilateral R&D, incubator, and innovation activities, all part of building a long-term relationship enabling UK businesses to connect with partners and collaborators to help them grow and scale.

Why India?

India has a vibrant innovation ecosystem, an ambitious vision, and a need to meet the rapidly growing demands of the population. In 2019 India's plastic recycling rate stood at just 8%. The country generates nearly 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day. To tackle this growing problem India has ambitious targets to reach by 2030, which include: 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable; 50% of plastic packaging to be effectively recycled; 25% average recycled content across all plastic packaging.

To ensure that the target is reached the Government of India is spearheading policies on plastic waste management via the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Guidelines. Businesses are required to comply with EPR regulations which will open new opportunities for UK businesses to engage with the Indian market on technology transfer and R&D including software development. EPR guidelines are also supported by voluntary business agreements such as the India Plastics Pact (www.indiaplacticpact.org)

The GBIP programme with India provides businesses an opportunity to showcase many of the innovative technologies that the UK is leading, including through Innovate UK and its Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Challenge (SSPP) in the field of circular plastics.

Key Dates:

Applicant
Briefing:
11 Jun
2024

Application
Deadline:
7 Jul
2024

Get ready
Workshop:
23 Jul & 3 Sep
2024

Visit the
market:
23 - 27 Sep
2024

Exploitation
Workshop:
21 Jan
2025

What to expect:

The Global Business Innovation Programme is structured around three main stages and each business will have a designated Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist to support them for the duration of the offering, including developing a work plan to capitalise on the opportunities identified. The three main stages of the Global Business Innovation Programme are:-

Get ready: In person briefing workshop to build knowledge and understanding of the market and potential opportunities, including how to do business, cultural aspects, how to protect your IP and training on how to improve your pitch and articulate your value proposition.

Visit the market: Explore the innovation opportunities first-hand through meeting with key companies and research organisations and potential collaborators and partners through prearranged meetings and organised matchmaking.

Exploit the opportunity: An exploitation workshop and one-to-one support from an Innovate UK innovation and growth specialist to follow up and take advantage of the opportunities identified.

To accommodate the summer holiday period the Get Ready workshops will be held on 2 separate dates - Tuesday 23 July and Tuesday 3rd September.

Innovation visit - Outline:

Date	Activity
21 September	Outward travel to India
23 - 27 September	Activities for the week in India (cities to be confirmed) to include: pitching sessions, meetings with government, key industry players, NGOs and academia, site visits, networking and B2B matching opportunities.
28 September	Return Travel

*Travel will be subject to the entry and exit rules of India and the UK. Should travel not be permitted the programme will be delivered virtually or cancelled.

To apply for this initiative, you must:

Be a UK based innovation-led company with ambitions to grow and internationalise

Be a business with fewer than 250 employees

Be a CEO, founder, or senior decision maker and able to attend and complete all activities

What is the cost?

Innovate UK will fund and organise flights, accommodation, in-market travel, and conference fees for successful applicants. Innovate UK will also pay for any reasonable adjustments throughout the initiative. One senior representative from each company will be funded. On acceptance to the initiative a commitment fee of £1,000 will be obtained from each delegate, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities and agreed work plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all the commitment fee.

How to apply?

The application form can be found [here](#). The Global Business Innovation Programme has a competitive application process where only the best applications will be successful following an evaluation process. All applications must be made online through the Innovate UK Business Growth website and received no later than 7 July. All applicants will be notified from week commencing 15 July. Innovate UK is committed to improving the diversity of who we support. As such, we welcome applications from under-represented groups.

Additional information & assistance:

Please note: Successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to India as well as any local regulations. The safety of our delegation is our top priority. If unforeseen circumstance do not allow us to travel to the market, a virtual visit may be considered.

To fill in the online application form please visit the Innovate UK Business Growth website. For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact Trevor Marshall. E: trevor.marshall@innovateukedge.ukri.org and Divia Patel-Smith E: divia.smith@innovateukedge.ukri.org