



Grant for R&D

Support for Research and Development made clear



Grow your business, export to new markets and improve your market share

Companies that innovate, grow twice as quickly as those that don't. Invest NI can help your business become more innovative and competitive. We offer advice and financial support to help you develop new products, services and processes, which can lead to increased sales, improved profits, greater operational efficiency and increased productivity.

What support is available?

Project Definition

Invest NI's Project Definition support offers up to £30K towards the cost of planning and defining your R&D project. It helps you to reduce your project's risks and identify its costs and potential benefits. You can also use Project Definition to help scope out a collaborative R&D project and apply for either an Invest NI Grant for R&D or external funding, such as **Innovate UK**.

Further sources of support available include:

- Business innovation guidance
- A guide to writing an Innovate UK R&D Funding application

Grant for R&D

R&D support can help develop your idea into a successful product, process or service ready for commercialisation. Preparation is key. You should identify all costs, anticipate financial and technical challenges, and demonstrate a clear commercial benefit for your business. A Grant for R&D offers both advice and financial support to help you implement that planning.

Who is eligible?

New Invest NI customers must be in manufacturing or an export services sector. You must be willing to work with Invest NI and demonstrate that over the next three years your business will have:

- turnover above £250K a year
- sales outside of Northern Ireland worth more than 25% of turnover, or greater than £250K a year
- growth potential

Collaborate to Innovate

Invest NI's Grant for R&D provides additional assistance for companies who wish to collaborate with industry, academia and research bodies. Their expertise can fill gaps in your team, round out your knowledge and build your capability. Collaborating partners share the project's risk and its rewards.

What are we looking for?

We support projects that show the most potential to benefit Northern Ireland's economy. They must be viable, have a genuine need for Invest NI support, and generate a positive return for the economy. We will assess your project on:

- level of innovation resulting in new products, services and processes
- level of technical risks and challenges
- potential to be commercialised, fill a gap in the market and fill demand in export markets
- project team's competence and skills
- economic and social benefits to Northern Ireland
- potential to create intellectual property rights
- your willingness to work with Invest NI

HMRC R&D tax relief

- HMRC R&D tax relief is a corporation tax relief that may reduce your tax bill. You may still be eligible for this relief if you meet the criteria for Invest NI funding. Your organisation can only claim R&D relief if you are liable for corporation tax. Grant for R&D is notified state aid, which means any project costs it supports will not be eligible for HMRC SME tax credits. However, you may still be able to benefit under the HMRC large company RDEC scheme.
- For more information, contact your accountant or visit the government's **NI Corporate Tax office guidance**.

Take the next step

Speak to your Client Executive, Innovation Advisor, or contact Invest NI's Business Support Team.

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