



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

STFC

Business Support

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Science and Technology Facilities Council

Mission:

- Discovering the secrets of the Universe
- Developing advanced technologies
- Solving real world challenges

Three main areas

- **Frontier research** - particle physics, astronomy, nuclear physics, space science
- **International research infrastructures** - boundary between science and diplomacy
- **Major UK national multi-disciplinary facilities and R&I campuses**



Discovering the secrets of the Universe
Developing advanced technologies
Innovating to solve real world challenges

UK Locations

Over 3,000 STFC staff

>80% scientists, engineers and technicians

STFC National Laboratories

STFC operates the UK's large-scale facilities and provides scientific and engineering support for **>10,000 industrial and academic researchers** from across all domains

UK Astronomy Technology Centre
Edinburgh, Scotland



Boulby Underground Laboratory
North Yorkshire



Daresbury Laboratory
Sci-tech Daresbury Campus, Liverpool City Region



Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell Didcot, Oxfordshire



Chilbolton Observatory
Stockbridge, Hampshire



Polaris House
Swindon, Wiltshire



Funding

Fund	Overview	Last Call	Frequency
Industry Impact Fund I2F	Supports UK industry through access to STFC facilities and scientific expertise. Maximum award £100,000	March 2024	~ Annual
Analysis for Innovators A4i	UK businesses ask top scientists and research facilities to work on a measurement or analysis problem. Maximum award £100,000	October 2024	~ 6 months
Cross Cluster Proof of Concept	Business engagement and collaboration with organisations in the Clusters at Harwell and Daresbury. Maximum award £45,000	October 2024	~ Annual
5G Ecosystem Proof of Concept	Business led projects that leverage or integrate 5G technology to accelerate testing and deployment. Maximum award £45,000	November 2024	FOAK

Successful projects

Collaboration across the satellite industry

LMO, Protolaunch, and Nammo were awarded funding to collaborate on a solution to the growing issue of space traffic and space junk.

Complimentary technologies:

- Space situational awareness technology
- Chemical propulsion
- Manufacture of high-performance systems

The project design and manufacture a prototype thruster pointing mechanism for a 22 N monopropellant thruster that operates with hydrazine.



Smart building system demonstration

IoT Horizon Ltd collaborated with STFC's Campus Technology Hub (CTH) to develop their smart building system.

Demonstrate how the technologies can be integrated with existing Building Management Systems (BMS) to make buildings smarter, greener, safer, and more cost-efficient.

Incubation

STFC Innovations - Technology Access Centre (I-TAC)



- Flexible lab space equipped to meet the needs of early-stage companies
- Co-located with extensive technical expertise, business support and networks
- >140 tenant companies across three UK sites



ESA Business Incubation Centres (BICs)



- Successful applicants receive office space, £50,000, up to 40 hours of expert support, and 40 hours/year of access to lab facilities
- Companies with demonstrable space connection
- Approx. 10 companies per year



BUSINESS
INCUBATION
CENTRE

United
Kingdom

<https://esa-bic.org.uk/>

Company journey



2024 Raised >\$5M to date
+25 employees

2018 Raised investment,
moved to Harwell
Campus

2015 ESA BIC UK Alum
moved to STFC
tenant labs

2013 ESA BIC UK
Incubatee at
Harwell Campus



2024 Raised >\$60M
+55 employees
5 international offices

2022 Opened facilities in
Barcelona

2019 ESA BIC UK Alum
moved to Harwell
Campus

2015 ESA BIC UK
Incubatee at
Harwell Campus

Open Calls and Events

www.ukri.org/opportunity



In Orbit Service, Assembly & Manufacturing

Grant call compliments designed to build the evidence base for the opportunity for the IASM economy.

Maximum award: £10k

Contact: philip.carvil@stfc.ac.uk

Hartree National Centre for Digital Innovation (HNCDI)

Enabling UK businesses to explore and adopt new digital technologies including AI and quantum computing for productivity and economic growth.

Applicants: UK business

Contact: hartree@stfc.ac.uk



Access to Finance 2025

STFC bring together experts and investors who specialise in helping innovators flourish. Join the event to hear about all things finance, what funders are looking for, and connect with investors.

Thursday 13 March 2025 at the ESA Conference Centre, Harwell Campus

ACCESS TO FINANCE



HARWELL



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Thank you

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