



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee
House of Commons
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The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
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Dear Darren,

On 3 April, Government, launched a £20 million competition to support UK businesses to focus on emerging or increasing needs of society and industries during and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, received a record number of applications – over 8,600.

I have decided to double this £20 million grant programme to £40 million.

This will ensure Innovate UK will be able to allocate funding to more than double the number of innovative initiatives, with the competition now able to support 850 projects. Innovate UK is now in the process of contacting competition winners and has today announced the first wave of cutting-edge innovations receiving funding.

Research and development intensive businesses and technology companies will benefit from the funding to drive forward new technological advances including delivery services, food manufacturing, retail and transport, addressing new and unique challenges resulting from COVID-19.

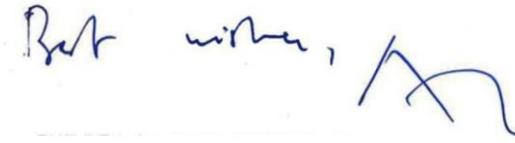
This additional £20m of funding comes from the Government's £1.25 billion coronavirus package to protect firms driving innovation in UK, announced by the Chancellor on 20 April. This includes £750 million of targeted support for small and medium sized businesses focusing on research and development.

I would like to draw your attention to publication of details on eligibility and application processes for components of this £750 million of funding. This is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/access-coronavirus-business-innovation-support-package

This £750 million will be made available through Innovate UK using grants and loans schemes.

This support will help to provide financial stability to research and development intensive and technology businesses impacted by COVID-19, and enable innovative solutions to be scaled up at speed, bolstering the UK's resilience to this outbreak and driving the economic recovery.

I will be placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alok Sharma', with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE RT HON ALOK SHARMA MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy