

An introduction to Made Smarter West of England



Made Smarter West of England

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What is Made Smarter West of England?

The Made Smarter West of England programme helps small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the West of England adopt digital technologies. The programme is funded by the West of England Combined Authority and delivered in partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE) and the National Composites Centre (NCC). The programme is underpinned by an in-depth business and technical diagnostic process which is a collaboration between experts at NCC and the senior manager(s) in your business. These are known as the Digital 1:1 Acceleration Sessions. Their aim is to help identify where digital technologies could have the most beneficial impact on your business and manufacturing processes.

The programme offers three support packages:

- Match funded grants
- Fully funded internships of up to 444 hours
- A training programme focusing on leadership for driving technological change within your business

The support offered by the Made Smarter West of England programme helps you to:

- Increase profits
- Maximise efficiency
- Reduce lead times
- Cut costs
- Get to market quicker



Eligibility and registration

Who is eligible?

- Your manufacturing, making or production operations are located in the West of England (Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol or South Gloucestershire)
- You are a small or medium-sized (SME) organisation with less than 250 full-time equivalent employees'
 - This includes limited companies (Ltd), Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP), Community Interest Companies (CIC), Cooperatives, and sole traders
 - You operate in-house production making physical, tangible products to a sufficient scale'



The journey

Whatever problem you're facing or whatever goal you're working towards, Made Smarter West of England can help you. From the offset, we provide tailored support to help you make the most of what the programme has to offer. Our experts are on hand throughout the entire process to guide you on your journey of digital transformation.

1. Businesses complete an expression of interest form on the Made Smarter West of England website

2. An Enterprise Executive will work with our Digital Engineer to contact SMEs to confirm eligibility and carry out the full assessment

3. If a business is unsuccessful, they may be referred to other alternative or additional business support.

4. If successful, businesses will have their fully funded 1:1 Digital Acceleration Sessions

5. After the sessions, SMEs will be referred to the most suitable support measure(s)

5.1 Match funded grants

5.2 A fully funded student intern

5.3 Subsidised training on 'Leadership for driving technological change'

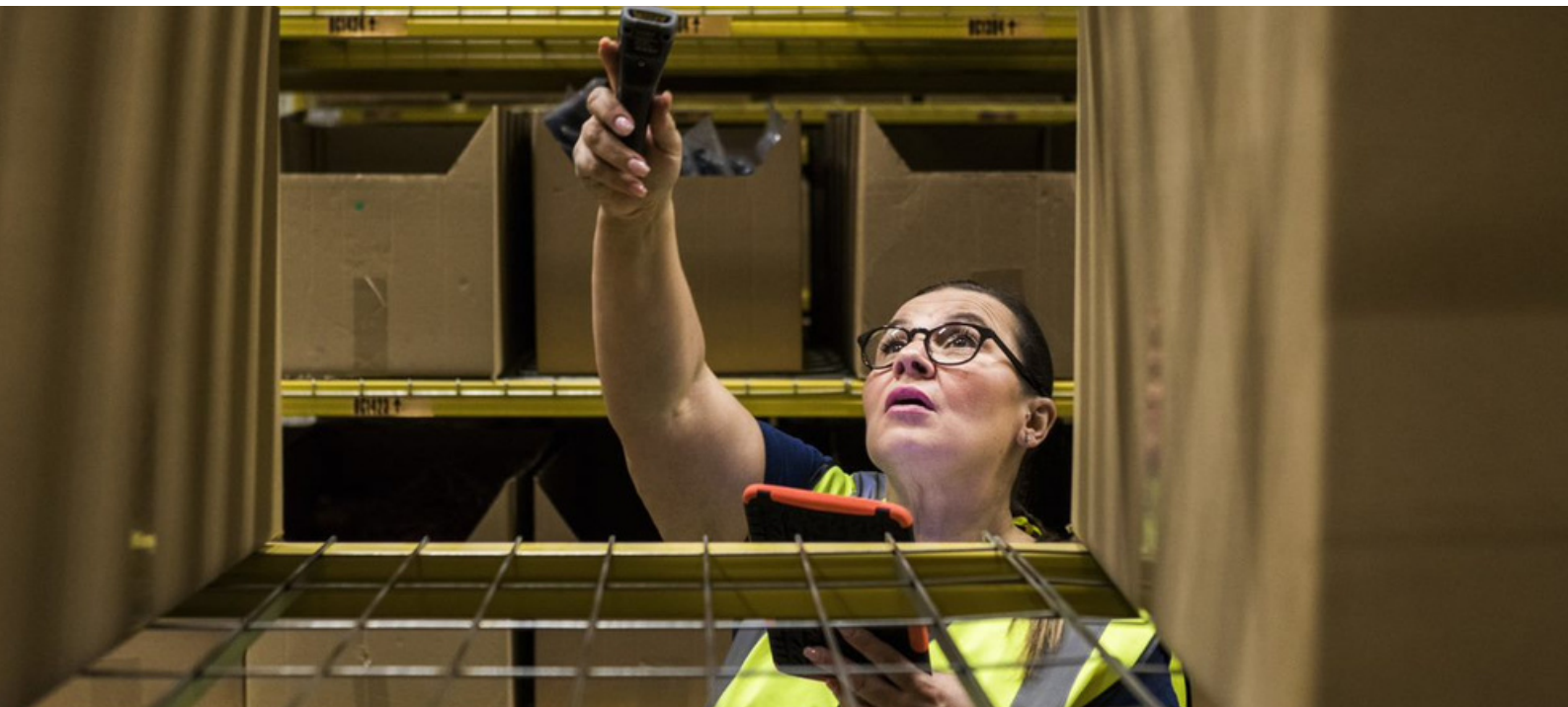
6. After completion of the support measures, the Made Smarter programme ends and businesses will be referred to other suitable West of England Combined Authority programmes

Support measures

Join Made Smarter West of England now and we'll help you to identify the right digital tools to make everyday changes to your business.

As well as benefitting from fully funded advice from specialist technology experts, you'll also be able to access a number of support packages to increase your profits, improve efficiency and grow operations. The support packages include:

- Funding
 - Match funded grants up to £20,000
- Skills support
 - A fully funded student intern
 - Subsidised training course



Funding

Grants are available to help you access expert advice from a technology specialist and support you with purchasing new software and/or equipment. Grants will be 50% match funded of your total project costs. The funding you could receive will range from a **minimum of £1,000** to a **maximum of £20,000**, depending on your needs and business type. All grants will enhance the adoption of digital technology, enabling at least one of the following:

- Starting production of a product, process or service
- Creating new opportunities in existing manufacturing processes
- Overcoming operational challenges within manufacturing processes
- Improving the support processes that work behind the scenes
 - Order processing, stock control, purchasing, production control, quality control, material compliance, dispatch and logistics



The main digital technologies covered by the grant scheme include:

- Additive manufacturing (Including 3D printing)
- Artificial intelligence & cognitive learning
- Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) tools
- Cloud based technologies
- Data servers & management tools
- Industrial cyber security
- Industrial internet of things (sensors)
- Robotics & process control automation
- System integration technologies
- Virtual, augmented & mixed realities

If you want to start your digital transformation journey to help improve business performance and efficiency, then **register your interest** here.



Skills support

As part of the Made Smarter West of England programme, the University of West of England (UWE) offers a variety of support. This includes a fully funded student intern, who could help you embed new technology or processes and subsidised training that focuses on developing the skills of the senior management team.

Access a fully funded student

Get matched with a skilled UWE Bristol student or recent graduate to help implement your digital strategy and increase revenue. The total internship cost is covered, allowing you to pay your intern the Real Living Wage of £12 per hour. Internships can last up to 444 hours, starting during the academic year or summer up to the 1 August 2024.



Skills support

Upskill and support your management team

Our 'Leadership for driving technological change' training programme, delivered by UWE, will enable senior managers within your business to build on their leadership knowledge whilst developing the skills needed to motivate your team and drive change in your business. It's also a chance to build a peer network of like-minded business leaders.

Made Smarter West of England offers up to 40 businesses the opportunity to enrol up to two senior managers on the £2,500 course for the subsidised cost of £500 – a saving of 80%. The program runs 2 cohorts, one during the first 6 months of 2024 and another after summer 2024 until early 2025, with in-person training and online self-study per module, which includes networking opportunities.



Leadership for driving technological change

Introduction to Leadership for driving technological change

Cohort one – 16 January or Cohort two – 10 September 2024

Based in the Bristol Business School on UWE's Frenchay Campus, you'll be introduced to the objectives of the training programme through the lens of your business. You'll explore and discuss the outcomes that you're looking to achieve to drive technological change, with a focus on a project that you'll be working on.

Module 1 – Demystifying Digital

Cohort one – 17 January or Cohort two – 08 October 2024

The first module in this programme will focus on your business challenges and ambitions. It will provide an insight into SMEs who have increased productivity, become more sustainable and addressed issues including increased energy costs and skill gaps through, the adoption of new technologies.

Module 2 – Digital Leadership

Cohort one – 21 February or Cohort two – 09 October 2024

This module will introduce the internal and external barriers that can be faced by businesses looking to adopt technological change. You'll be introduced to relevant leadership theories and will be helped to identify the right strategies and approaches you can implement to overcome the organisational challenges to change.

Leadership for driving technological change

Module 3 – Future Industrial Technologies

Cohort one – 12 March or Cohort two – 12 November 2024

This third module will demonstrate the latest technologies including automation and robotics, additive manufacturing and virtual reality. Learn how to protect your business against cyber threats and data protection infringements.

Module 4 – Translating Concepts into Business Value

Cohort one – 16 April or Cohort two – 10 December 2024

In this module, we look beyond the buzzwords. This module demonstrates how new, innovative technologies can impact your bottom line, increase staff engagement, retention and recruitment, boost productivity and enhance your competitive edge.

We focus on harnessing data and employing effective analysis to help your business in a variety of ways including reducing waste, increasing efficiency and adapting in real time to your customer's needs.

Celebration Event

Cohort one – 14 June 2024 or Cohort two – 07 February 2025

This event will offer a valuable opportunity to reflect and focus on what your next steps will be to drive technological change in your business. A chance to reconnect, showcase and celebrate your successes with your peers, academics and other presenters from the course.

Made Smarter West of England

Contact us

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www.madesmarter-ca.gov.uk/made-smarter/

