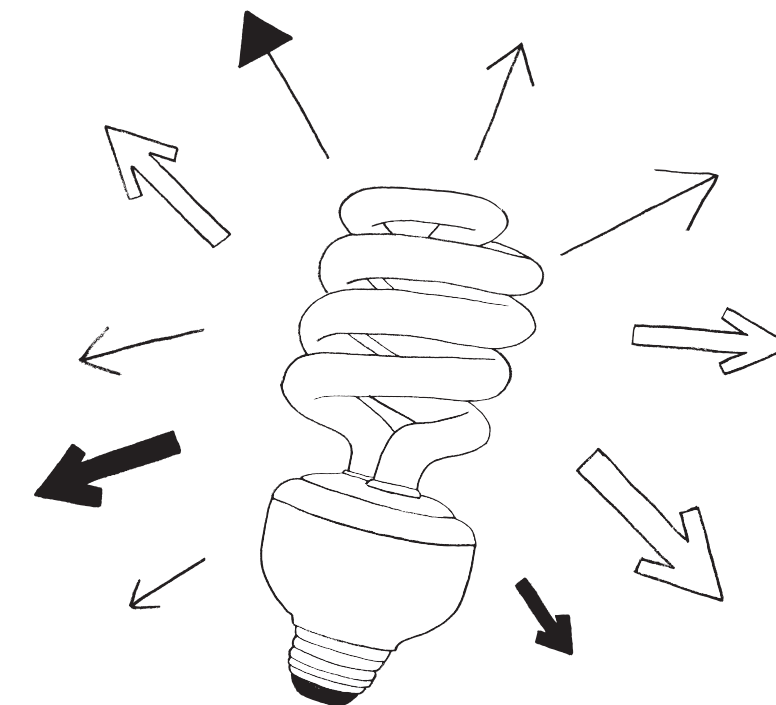


Solutions for Business

Funded by government

Solutions for Business: Innovation Vouchers

Financial support for innovation



For more information, visit www.businesslink.gov.uk/yorkshire/innovation or email innovation@businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk

For more information on Business Link services, please call **08456 048 048** or visit www.businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk

Solutions for Business is funded by Yorkshire Forward and delivered through Business Link Yorkshire.





Innovation – what does it mean?

Innovation can take on many different forms. It could mean selling an existing product or service into a new market, or finding easier cheaper ways of doing things or adding additional attributes or benefits to your existing product and service offerings.

An innovation project should add value to your business, helping to keep you ahead of the competition and improve your main concern-bottom line profitability.

How can the vouchers be used?

The voucher can be used to purchase an academic's expertise to help deliver a knowledge solution to an innovation project. This expertise will come from approved suppliers in the knowledge base institutions within the region, including universities, further education colleges and research and technology organisations.



Who is eligible?

Yorkshire and Humber based companies, with up to 250 employees, from any sector will be eligible to apply for an innovation voucher.

Each month, companies will be invited to enter into a voucher draw, in which the winners will receive a voucher for £3000 to contribute towards a new innovation project with the knowledge base.

How do I apply?

Simply complete a short online application form by visiting www.businesslink.gov.uk/yorkshire/innovation

Return the completed form via email to innovation@businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk

Funded by Yorkshire Forward, Innovation Vouchers provide small to medium sized businesses (SMEs) in the region, with financial support to engage with Yorkshire's universities and other academic institutions to help their business grow and develop. Vouchers up to the value of £3000 can be redeemed to fund the cost of this practical knowledge and expertise.

The types of projects that could be supported include:

- Research into a company's markets and identification of new materials and products, and also alternative uses for their production skills.
- Development of a methodology for the calculation of the carbon footprint.
- Testing the performance of the CAD model against that of the physical product.
- Research to find a solution to a problem e.g. sustainable, environmentally-friendly, easy to open yet protective packaging.
- Use of specialist facilities e.g. specialised analysis of products.
- Business process design e.g. new customer interface process.

What are the benefits to my business?

Your business could benefit in the following ways:

- Increased profitability
- Better informed business decisions
- Improved processes
- Business model development
- Improved service delivery
- Efficiency savings
- Increased market share

