



SKILLS
WEST MIDLANDS
+ WARWICKSHIRE



**Innovate
UK**

Growing Business Through Innovation and Training

Colleges across the West Midlands have successfully been awarded part of a £7.3 million investment to support working in partnership with local SME's to drive regional business innovation.

As experienced regional training and education providers, we have been centre stage in supporting skills development across the region for decades, providing academic, technical, and vocational education.

As regional Colleges we have strong links to local businesses and play a big part in supporting local skills needs, current and future. In an "average" year we engage with over 12,000 organisations, educate 47,000 young people (aged 16-18) in full-time education; train, upskill and reskill over 57,000 adults either looking for work or in work looking for professional development and, in partnership with businesses, train over 15,000 apprentices.

Through the Innovation UK funding we are extending how we can support SMEs grow through providing a bespoke service across our Innovation Hubs, to support businesses adopt new industry technology for growth.

The Innovation hubs that will focus on providing digital technology adoption and training support to SMEs. Our vision is that the centres will provide a complementary role to the training support already offered by Colleges to regional business, through providing bespoke, individualised technology led adoption to enable innovation specifically to SMEs.

The Birmingham Innovation Centre Partnership, led by Birmingham Metropolitan College, and including six colleges in the Birmingham area, targets digital technology adoption within SMEs in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, construction, dental, digital and engineering. The partner colleges include: Fircroft College, Heart of Worcestershire College, South and City College Birmingham, Solihull College and University Centre and University College Birmingham

The Black Country FE Innovation Service, led by Walsall College and including five colleges in the Black Country will allow businesses access to their state-of-the-art facilities and expert guidance around technologies in key growth sectors. The partner colleges include: Walsall College, Dudley College, Wolverhampton College, Halesowen College, South Staffordshire College

Driving SME Innovation in the West Midlands, led by Coventry College and including three colleges in the area will drive business innovation in digital and green technologies. The partner colleges include: Warwickshire College Group, North Warwickshire and South Leicester College and Stratford-upon-Avon College

How we will be able to help business growth ?

Our experienced teams will work with you to capture your business vision, growth plans and opportunities and through that will understand the barriers that you face to growth.

We will work with you to develop a clear technology adoption plan, with the objective of building capabilities into your business through:

- identifying the technology-led business growth barriers.
- mapping out the skills and training requirements which will both provide additional capabilities into your business.
- Support you to access and connect into Local Authorities and Business Growth West Midlands when additional need is identified – e.g. capital or financial support for technology hardware.

What is the cost?

There is no direct cost to business for accessing this service. For this first year we want to work in partnership with our regional SME community to support you adopt new technologies to support your business.

How do I find out more?

To find out more about each Innovation Centre please contact:

The Birmingham Innovation Centre Partnership:

Suzie.Branch@bmet.ac.uk

The Black Country FE Innovation Service:

sdlay@walsallcollege.ac.uk

Coventry and Warwickshire SME Innovation:

innovate@coventrycollege.ac.uk

