



# R&D Grant funding opportunities with a **Net Zero** focus in **2026** for SMEs and Research Teams.

(and all the important information you need to decide which grants are the best fit for you)

[www.venturenomix.com](http://www.venturenomix.com)

[www.innovationzero.com](http://www.innovationzero.com)





# Introduction

Grant Funding can be a complex topic.

In this report, we have simplified it.

There are several grant funding opportunities that are

- Focused on Net Zero in their eligibility scope, and
- predictable in their deadlines & decision dates.

In partnership with the team at Innovation Zero, we present those funding opportunities in this report.

We are sponsoring the [Innovation Zero World Congress](#) event at London Olympia in April 2026.

If you would like to discuss potential projects and grants, we will be available across the 2 days of the event.



## **Audience**

**This report is for SMEs and Research Teams seeking an impactful amount of grant funding for research and development projects in 2026.**

**EU and UK grants are covered.**

**Focus on Net Zero research, innovation & development projects.**

## **Bespoke Report**

**There are many more (thematic) grant funding opportunities available. If you would like a bespoke report, please contact us.**



# Why Trust Us?

**Our team has been actively working in the R&D Grant Funding Sector since 2008.**

**We have raised over €/£ 100 million in grant funding for research, innovation, development and capital projects.**

**We have worked with >30 different funding bodies across Europe, UK, and globally.**

**Our Senior Consultants all have >15 years experience.**

**Our experienced team have worked diligently working to put this report together.**

**If you want to read more about our team, or watch interviews with some of our clients, [visit our website.](#)**

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## ➤ EU Grants:

Including European Innovation Council, EUREKA and Horizon Europe.

## ➤ Next Steps:

Want to explore grant funding this year? We can help. Contact details and company information.

## ➤ UK Grants:

Innovate UK, government departments and thematic funding bodies.

# EU Grants

The EU Commission has published the 2026/27 Work Programmes that commits €1.4bn in funding for deep-tech SMEs and research teams in 2026.

## ➤ European Innovation Council

EIC Pathfinder | EIC Accelerator | EIC Step | EIC Pre-Accelerator | EIC Advanced Innovation

## ➤ Horizon Europe

Innovation Fund | Horizon Europe Cluster 5 | Horizon Europe Cluster 6 | Clean Industrial Deal Call | EU Missions (100 Cities)

## ➤ Eureka

Eurostars | Globalstars | Innowide | Network Projects

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## EIC Pathfinder

Provides funding to support visionary research aimed at developing breakthrough technologies in deep tech and create new markets. It targets early-stage research and often to demonstrate proof-of-principle.

Split into Open Eligibility and Thematic Challenge-specific call

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Early-stage high risk research</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Open: 12th May; Challenges: 28th October</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3-5 months from submission</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Open calls: €3 million Challenges: €4 million</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Consortia (3+ partners from 3+ countries); Some challenges allow single applicants</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>1-4</b>



## EIC Accelerator

Supports start-ups and SMEs developing high-impact, market-creating innovations. It offers grant and equity funding, targeting projects that address significant market gaps with commercial potential in Europe and globally.

Split into Open Eligibility and Thematic Challenge-specific calls.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Close to market deep tech</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Step 1: rolling; Step 2: January 7, March 4, May 6, July 8, September 2, and November 4</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>8-12 weeks</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>€2.5 million grant + up to €10 million equity</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Single applicant</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>5-9</b>

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## STEP Scale Up

Equity-only funding line managed by the EIC fund to bridge the gap for innovations that cannot be fully financed by private investors.

Goal is to scale-up Europe's strategic technology sectors.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Digital and Deep Tech/ Clean Tech/ Biotech</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Varies</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 months+</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>€10 - €30 million</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>Pure Equity</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole Applicants</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>9+</b>



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## Pre-Accelerator

Fast-track support for early-stage deep-tech SMEs in “Widening” countries to advance technologies and business readiness before applying to the EIC accelerator or private investors.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Deep tech innovations</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>18 November 2027</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Up to €500,000</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>4-6</b>



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## Advanced Innovation Challenges

ARPA-style, challenge-drive pilot programme that funds breakthrough deep-tech solutions through stage grants, with strong demand-side engagement.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Defined Challenges</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Stage 1: Q1 2026 Stage 2: TBC</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Stage 1: €300,000 Stage 2: €2.5 million</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>4-6</b>





## Innovation Fund

EU-wide grant programme that supports large-scale, highly innovative clear-tech projects that significantly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Net-zero technology in energy, industry, transport or carbon-capture</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>April 2026 &amp; 2027</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>6 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>€50m - €100m+ varies</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>6-9</b>





## Horizon Europe - Cluster 5

This cluster aims to **fight climate change** by better understanding its causes, evolution, risks, impacts and opportunities.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Broad range of topics - unified by the 'fighting climate change' topic</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Various 2026/27</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>4-6 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>€1m - €15m+ varies</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0% to 30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>2 - 9</b>



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## Horizon Europe - Cluster 6

This cluster aims at reducing environmental degradation, halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity on land, inland waters and sea and better managing natural resources through transformative changes of the economy and society in both urban and rural areas.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Broad range of topics - environment, biodiversity, natural resource management.</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Various 2026/27</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>4-6 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>€1m - €15m+ varies</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0% to 30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>2 - 9</b>





## Clean Industrial Deal

The Clean Industrial Deal launched on 26 February 2025 outlines concrete actions to turn decarbonisation into a driver of growth for European industries.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Renewable Energy, Circularity &amp; Decarbonisation</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Various 2026/27</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>4-6 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Varies</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0% to 30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Solo and Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>7 - 9</b>





## EU Mission - 100 cities

Delivering 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensuring they act as experimentation and innovation hubs so that all European cities follow suit by 2050.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Climate neutral and smart cities</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Various 2026/27</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>4-6 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Varies</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0% to 30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Solo and Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>5 - 9</b>





## Eurostars

International SME-driven R&D programme supporting market-oriented innovation projects developed within Eureka's Pan-European network.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>R&amp;D or Innovations with clear market potential</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>March 19th 2026 Q3 2026</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>€360k per applicant</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>10-40% Varies by country</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>Start at 4 and reach 6-9 by end of project</b>



[Click here for more details](#)



## Globalstars

International R&D programme that funds collaborative projects between organisations from Eurostars-participating countries and selection non-european partners including Canada, Taiwan, Finland, Japan and others.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>R&amp;D with clear market potential</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Varies by national rules</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30% - 50% varies by country</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>Start at 4-5 and move towards 6-7</b>



[Click here for more details](#)



## Innowwide

Programme for European SMEs to finance market-feasibility studies in other markets, supported by a local partner.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Internationalisation of products/services</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3-4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>€60,000 per project</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Single EU SME plus one local partner</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>6-9</b>



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## Network Projects

Framework enabling national and regional R&D programmes to jointly fund collaborative innovation projects across multiple countries, using a common application and evaluation process.

[Click here for more details](#)



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Broad R&amp;D aligned with participating countries priorities</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Call-specific, issued periodically</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>Varies by national rules</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>50% varies by country</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Consortia</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>3-7</b>



# UK Grants

The UK has confirmed the £86bn R&D funding budget from 2026 to 2030. Innovate UK undertook an exercise to understand stakeholder views about the (now suspended) Smart Grant. We are awaiting an outcome.

## ➤ Innovate UK / UK Government

Energy Catalyst | Growth Catalyst | Innovation Loan | Contacts for Innovation | ADOPT | APC | Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund | Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Innovation | Farming Innovation Programme | Decarbonising Health | Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

## ➤ UK Research & Innovation

Standard Research Grants | Knowledge Transfer Partnership



## Innovate UK

### Energy Catalyst

Innovate UK Energy Catalyst accelerates the innovation needed to realise a just and inclusive clean energy transition across Africa, Asia and Indo-Pacific communities.



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Clean Energy</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Q1</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 month</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£100k - £2m</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole or Consortium</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>3 - 8</b>



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## Innovate UK

### Growth Catalyst

Grant funding for late-stage R&D projects of up to £2m in size, subject to aligned private investment through Innovate UK's proven Investor Partnerships funding model.



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Q1</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£100k - £5m</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>6 - 8</b>



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## Innovate UK

### Innovation Loan Scheme

The Innovate UK Innovation Loans Programme offers loan funding to UK registered micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for innovative late-stage research and development (R&D).



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Throughout the year</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£100k - £2m</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>6 - 8</b>



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## Innovate UK

### Contracts for Innovation

Innovate UK Contracts for Innovation, formerly known as The Small Business Research Initiative or SBRI, offer innovative organisations the chance to work directly with the public sector to solve complex challenges.



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Throughout the year</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£100k - £1m</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole or consortium</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>7 - 9</b>



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## Innovate UK

### ADOPT

ADOPT will support collaborative farmer-led, on-farm trials or experiments to generate, test and demonstrate innovative solutions to farming challenges.



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Throughout the year</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£100k - £2m</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole or consortium</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>4 - 9</b>



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The Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) provides funding, support and insight for the development of low carbon and net zero automotive technologies.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Energy &amp; net-zero</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Throughout the year</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£100k - £2m</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole or consortium</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>4 - 9</b>



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UK Research  
and Innovation

## Standard Research

Standard research grants are available for researchers at eligible research organisations. There is no limit on the value of the grant or length of the project.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Throughout the year</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£500k+</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole or collaborative researchers</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>



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UK Research  
and Innovation

## KTP

We bring together forward-thinking businesses and expert academics to tackle strategic innovation challenges to deliver economic, societal or environmental outcomes.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Throughout the year</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£100k - £300k</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>50% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Sole (with a university)</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>2 - 8</b>



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## Innovate UK

### Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund

Supports energy network companies and innovators to develop and trial new technologies, services and business models that help regulated gas and electricity networks reach net zero.



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Net-zero</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Q1</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£150k - £500k+</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>10% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Collaborative</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>Varies</b>



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## Innovate UK

### Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Innovation

Funds feasibility projects that explore new technologies, processes and collaborations to improve UK advanced manufacturing supply chains.



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Manufacturing supply chains</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Q1</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>2 - 3 month</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£5 million</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Flexible</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>3-5</b>



[Click here for more details](#)



## Innovate UK

### Farming Innovation Programme

Provides grants for farmer- and industry-led R&D projects that improve agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience.



#### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Agri-tech</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Multiple</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>3 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£200k - £3 million</b>



#### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>55% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Industry-led</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>Varies</b>



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## Decarbonising Health

Funds research to design, test and evaluate practical ways to reduce carbon emissions across health and social care while maintaining or improving quality of care and outcomes.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Health and social care</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>11th March 2026</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>6 months (two-stage process)</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£200k+</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Collaborative</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>2 - 6</b>



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## Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

Supports large, themed industry-academic collaborations to tackle major industrial and societal challenges and crowd-in private investment in key future UK sectors.



### Key Information

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>23 challenge areas covering clean growth, mobility and more.</b>
<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Decision Time:</b>	<b>2 - 4 months</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£150k</b>



### More Information

<b>Match:</b>	<b>30-50% (SME)</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	<b>Collaborative</b>
<b>TRL:</b>	<b>3 - 8</b>



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# About Venturenomix

With over **£100M** secured in non-dilutive finance, we bring the insight and expertise needed to successfully fund your innovation projects. By outsourcing R&D grant funding management to our experienced team, you benefit from more than 20 years of supporting businesses, universities,

public bodies, and non-profits in turning ambitious ideas into reality. We have secured funding from 30+ funders, including grants from Innovate UK, UKRI, Horizon Europe, Eureka and more. You can find some of the amazing clients we have worked with and success stories on our website.



# About Innovation Zero

Innovation Zero is the UK's leading congress dedicated to accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy. Through flagship events such as World Congress in London Olympia on the 28 - 29th April, they unite innovators, policymakers, investors and business leaders from across technology, industry and finance.

Its mission is to turn ambition into action by enabling the partnerships, investment and innovation needed to deliver measurable progress and positive discussion towards net zero. Read more on their website [here](#)





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