

Green light for £3.5 million EU-backed low carbon energy storage initiative

The Smart Energy Storage Solutions Hub (SESS) scheme, led by the University of South Wales (USW), will work with businesses to drive innovation and develop new products, technologies and processes for the commercial market.

The hub, based at the university's state-of-the-art Centre for Automotive and Power Systems Engineering (CAPSE), will benefit from £2.3 million of EU funding to collaborate with businesses in sectors such as low carbon, energy and environment, advanced manufacturing and ICT.

The remainder of the funding will come from the university and industrial partners involved in the project.

Professor Drakeford said:

"We are committed to driving forward cutting-edge research in the low-carbon economy and collaboration between business and universities will help us achieve this.

"Reducing our carbon footprint is a key priority of the Welsh Government, helping Wales to realise its energy-efficiency potential and to become a major exporter of energy efficiency technology and know-how."

Businesses will have access to the university's specialist research facilities and academic expertise to help develop new products and processes, including in the automotive and energy fields.

Professor Julie Lydon, USW vice-chancellor, said:

"USW has extensive experience of working in collaboration with a wide range of external bodies in all sectors of the economy.

"CAPSE has an excellent reputation for expertise in the field of battery/energy storage research, on which the SESS operation will be based.

"The extensive range of knowledge available at USW will help SMEs involved in SESS to capitalise on our existing academic and research strengths and the resulting innovation will maximise the contribution of Welsh businesses to future economic growth."