

[Making UK manufacturing smarter: apply for funding](#)

Industrial digital technologies driven by artificial intelligence, robotics and the Internet of Things have the potential to significantly increase the productivity of UK manufacturing.

The [Made Smarter Review 2017](#) commissioned by the UK government estimated that industrial digitalisation could increase productivity by more than 25%.

The UK government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund Manufacturing Made Smarter Challenge aims to raise productivity by 30% by 2030 by investing in projects that support industrial digitalisation.

The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) has up to £30 million to invest in projects that use industrial digital technologies to transform manufacturing productivity.

Projects must aim for short-term impact

The competition aims to support projects that can achieve short-term impact and rapid technology development through industrial digitalisation across a range of sectors from aerospace to food and drink and pharma.

Projects can be led by any sector but must show how they could be applied to at least 2 other sectors.

They should fit into one of 4 themes:

- smart, connected factory, including use of real-time data to optimise efficiency and capture, analysis and visualisation of manufacturing processes
- connected and versatile supply chain, including information integration, communication, traceability and trust
- design, make, test, including transforming product design through digital technologies and virtual product testing, verification and modelling, quality monitoring and inspection
- adaptable flexible manufacturing operations and skills, including culture change and skills development, and human-centric automation and autonomy

Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for applications is at midday on 21 August 2019
- businesses of any size may apply
- we expect projects to range in size between £250,000 and £10 million
- a briefing event will be held on 30 July 2019