

A Black Kite Advisory Note: Innovation Funding Opportunities in the UK

The innovation funding landscape is a complex one. From central funding from RCUK and Innovate UK, through to European funding, brokerage organisations and a myriad of departmental funding vehicles. And the landscape is constantly shifting. Since the image above was created as part of the Dowling review in 2015, Innovate UK has had a major change in the way it delivers its funding, and more changes will follow through the creation of UKRI in the next 12 months and, inevitably, as a result of Brexit.

Staying on top of this shifting landscape is an exhaustive task, and Black Kite Ltd can help you to understand with the funding on the table and crucially, we can help you access it. Thanks to our track record of working with the major funding bodies, we can provide you with a unique insight into the mindset of these organisations and their competitions.

Innovate UK

Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency and invests over £500M per annum in innovation projects and institutions such as the catapult network. They are organised around four major sectors; Health and Life Sciences, Infrastructure Systems, Manufacturing and Materials and Emerging and Enabling Technologies and they also fund innovation in any field in their open programme. Innovate UK administer many hundreds of millions of pounds of innovation funding through Catalysts, SBRI and GCRF programmes.

RCUK

Did you know that companies can get funds from the research councils? By acting as a subcontractor to a university where they provide a unique service, companies can gain access to some of the £3B per annum research budget. Black Kite have worked with Russell Group universities to help them produce a compelling bid for a major research and innovation centre.

H2020 and SME Instrument

H2020 is the EU's €80Bn Research and Innovation programme covering everything from fundamental research into the newest ideas and concepts, through to investments to help the best European SMEs accelerate their development. For companies, SME instrument can provide feasibility assessment funding up to €2.5M for innovation development and demonstration funding. While uncertainty around EU funding is high because of Brexit, SME instrument funding is available to more than just the EU27.

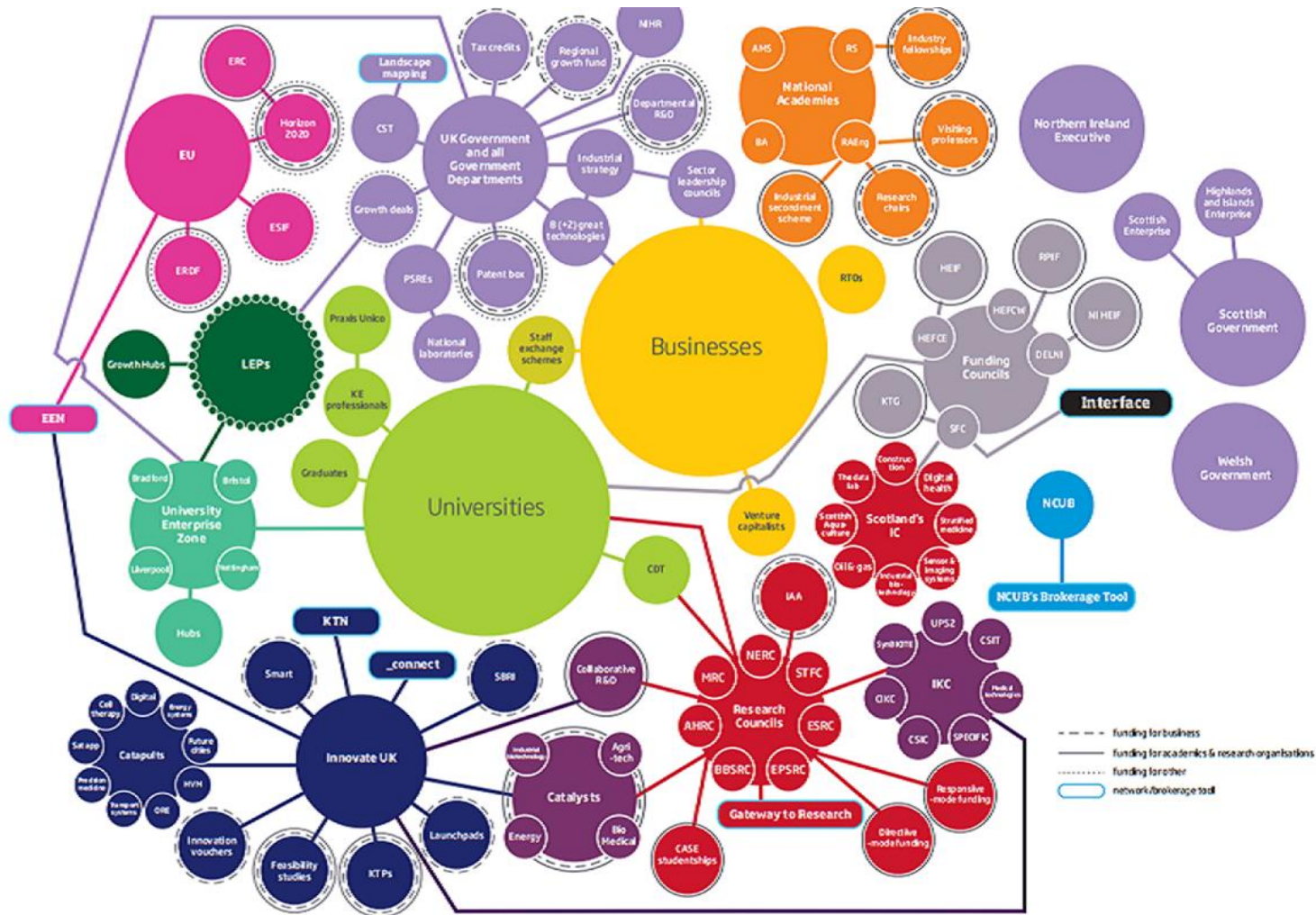
SBRI

Small Business Research Initiative is a government procurement activity aimed at bringing innovative, early stage ideas into government departments. Crucially, SBRI can provide up to 100% funding to companies bringing potential solutions to the table.

Defence and Security Accelerator

Recently launched to replace the Centre for Defence Enterprise, the Defence and Security Accelerator has been set up to accelerate the development of innovations which can provide advantage to defence and national security to protect the UK from its adversaries. The accelerator will fund proof-of-concept of interest and in the longer term will help take accelerator funded projects to market.

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The UK Innovation landscape taken from the 2015 Dowling Review