



SHORT INTERVENTION SCHEME (UON) SME SUPPORT (FUNDED PROGRAMME)

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WHAT IS IT?

The Short Intervention Scheme is a programme created, hosted at and funded by the Midlands Centre for Data Driven Metrology, targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The purpose of the scheme is to support SMEs to overcome measurement challenges in dimensional metrology, manufacturing, robotics, precision engineering, machine learning and design, improving the efficiency and accuracy of their processes.

WHAT DO YOU OFFER?

We offer fully funded packages to SMEs that need assistance with overcoming specific measurement challenges. The support package consists of up to 20h of researcher/technician's time to review the needs and identify suitable solutions (any measurements required are included). At the end of the project, the company will receive a digital report outlining the results and next steps.

This scheme is designed to help SMEs improve their productivity, quality and innovation through better use of metrology and it is funded as part of our research dissemination activities. This is a great opportunity to work with one of the best manufacturing metrology research groups in the UK on solving everyday issues that could be preventing your company from growing.

WHAT SHOULD SMEs EXPECT AT THE END OF THE PROJECT?

You will receive a final report with the findings from your project. At delivery, there will be an opportunity to ask any questions and discuss further collaborations, although it will be up to the parties to decide if any further engagement is needed. Engaging with the Short Interventions scheme is a one-off activity, and no further compulsory financial commitment is expected at the completion of it.

WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS DO YOU COVER?

We cover project in both research and implementation areas, such as:

1. Desk studies and measurements for scale-up activities
2. New products and processes development
3. Pilot manufacturing and quality improvement initiatives
4. Feasibility studies (technical, operational and economical assessment) for technology adoption.
5. Technology assessment (instruments, software and techniques) for specific requirements.

Some examples of recent projects include:

- Evaluation of suitable commercially sensing technologies for a manufacturing company.
- Evaluation of suitable and affordable 3D body scanning technologies for a fashion company.

- Improvement of inspection processes and automation of in-process checks.
- Surface texture comparison for a dental company
- Assessment in-process and post-processing measurements and identification of appropriate technologies for inspection.
- Assessment of commercial and open-source software for high-resolution imaging of manufactured components.
- Identification of challenges and limitations of currently used technologies for a manufacturing company.
- Scoping of appropriate inspection strategy and solutions for process optimisation for a robotics company.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE FUNDED OPPORTUNITY?

We ask companies to fill in this [short form](#) providing some contact information, details of the project and expected outcomes. We review these forms on a weekly basis and those selected are contacted with potential dates for a project scope review meeting.

We communicate the outcomes of the EoIs to both accepted and declined projects.

DO I NEED TO BE A COMPANY BASED IN THE MIDLANDS' AREA?

No, we accept requests for both funded and paid projects from companies across the country. We can host a meeting in-person or online to discuss your requirements.

WHAT IF I'M NOT AN SME OR IF I HAVE A LARGER SCOPE?

For larger-sized companies or with a larger scope of project, the Centre provides paid services, including workforce training, consultancy and funded research to embed the benefits of metrology into the design & processes used in digital manufacturing.

Please contact us to discuss the details of your project.

KEY CONTACTS

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