

Global Business Innovation Programme Biomanufacturing of Biologics and Advanced Therapies - Canada

The Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP), organised by Innovate UK and delivered by Innovate UK EDGE, consists of a preparation phase, a 5-day innovation visit, a post-visit exploitation workshop and support from an Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist, helping your business maximise the opportunities identified, including developing innovation projects with partners in the territory. This initiative will be delivered physically and could include virtual activities.

Innovate UK is committed to ensure that anyone, from any background, has an equal opportunity to be successful.

Focus Areas:

Following the signature of a joint Memorandum of Cooperation on biomanufacturing between Canada and the UK, this GBIP will support bilateral development and collaborations between both nations. This programme is particularly relevant for biomanufacturing businesses developing innovative technologies that enable the development and manufacturing of novel biological therapeutic products and

delivery systems, including, but not limited to:

- **vaccines** (prophylactic, therapeutic, various platforms)
- **therapeutic proteins**
- **advanced therapy medicinal products**, including messenger RNA, small interfering RNA, gene therapies, cell therapies, engineered tissues
- **other biological based therapies**, such as bacteriophage or engineered probiotics
- **viral and non-viral**, for example Lipid Nano Particles (LNP) platforms, including their components and payloads, as delivery systems for proteins and nucleic acids

Why Canada?

Canada has a rich ecosystem for biomanufacturing R&D and investment. It has specific strengths in RNA production, cell and gene therapy, regenerative medicine and related delivery systems. With world-class academics, many R&D intensive SMEs, and clinical trial and manufacturing infrastructure, it is an ideal collaboration partner for the UK.

Montreal and Toronto have thriving, innovative life sciences sectors, and are home to strong business clusters and key research and commercialisation centres of excellence, including Toronto's MaRS Discovery District, the National Biologics Manufacturing Centre, Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM), Cancer Immunotherapy (C3i), and McGill's Centre for RNA Sciences. Ottawa is a hub for policy-makers as well as the National Research Council of Canada, the Stem Cell Network and other key stakeholders.

Innovate UK is looking to build on the biomanufacturing collaboration with Canada, including through joint competitions, to support and promote bilateral partnerships focused on technological and sustainable innovation in the development of next generation biologics and advanced therapies.

Benefits:

- Explore and gain further insight into the advanced therapies commercialisation landscape in Canada.
- Develop a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of doing business in Canada.
- Find potential innovation collaborators and partners and develop your network in the UK and globally.
- Improve your company value proposition to international partners and investors.

KEY DATES:

Programme
Briefing:
16 August 2023

Applications
Close:
13 September
2023

Pre-Visit
Workshop:
12 - 13 October
2023

Market Visit:
12 - 18 November
2023

Post-Visit
Workshop:
16 January 2024

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The Global Business Innovation Programme is structured around three main phases and each business will have a designated Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist to support them for the duration of the offering, including developing an action plan to capitalise on the opportunities identified. The three main phases of the Global Business Innovation Programme are:-

- **Getting ready for the market:** Pre-visit briefing workshop to build knowledge and understanding of the market and potential opportunities, including how to do business, cultural aspects, how to protect your IP and training on how to improve your pitch and articulate your value proposition. (2 day workshop)
- **Visiting the market:** Explore the innovation opportunities first-hand through meetings with key companies and research organisations, and potential collaborators and partners, through pre-arranged meetings and organised matchmaking.
- **Exploiting the opportunity:** A follow-up workshop and bespoke support from an Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist to exploit contacts and knowledge gained during the visit and develop cross border innovation projects.

INNOVATION ACTIVITIES - EXAMPLE (subject to change):

| Date | Activity | Date | Activity |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| 12 - 13 October 2023 | GBIP Workshop (physical) | 16 January 2024 | Post-Visit GBIP Workshop |
| 12 - 18 November 2023 | Market visit to Canada (Montreal, Ottawa & Toronto) including site visits, meetings & networking events | During and beyond the GBIP | Work with an Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist |

TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME, YOU MUST:

Be a UK based innovation-led company with ambitions to grow and internationalise

Be a company with fewer than 500 employees

Be able to attend and complete all activities

WHAT IS THE COST?

Innovate UK & Innovate UK EDGE will fund & organise flights, accommodation, in-market travel, & conference fees for successful applicants. Innovate UK will also pay for any reasonable adjustments throughout the programme. Only one representative from each company will be funded. On acceptance to the programme a commitment fee of £500 will be obtained from each delegate, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities & agreed action plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all of the commitment fee.

HOW TO APPLY:

The Global Business Innovation Programme has a competitive application process where only the best applications will be successful following an evaluation process. All applications must be made online through the Innovate UK EDGE website and received no later than **1700 on 13 September 2023**. To support potential applicants, a briefing will take place between 1500 & 1600 on **16 August 2023**.

Please note: successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to Canada. The safety of our delegation is a priority.

Innovate UK recognises that the innovation sector is not as diverse as the UK demographic and is committed to improving the diversity of who we support. As such, we welcome applications from those under-represented across the biomanufacturing sector.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

To fill in the online application form or to register for the briefing event, please visit the [Innovate UK EDGE website](#). For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact Molly Foulger at molly.foulger@innovateukedge.ukri.org or call +44 (0)20 3108 8957.