

Global Business Innovation Programme - Critical Minerals for Electrification, Australia

The Global Business Innovation Programme

organised by Innovate UK, consists of a preparation phase, a 15 day innovation visit focused on Critical Minerals for Electrification and a post-visit exploitation workshop. Each business is supported by an Innovate UK EDGE Innovation & Growth Specialist to help maximise the potential of being part of the programme and beyond. 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:

We are inviting applications from innovative companies that possess complementary expertise across the value chain for mid-stream processing of Australian raw materials, which are critical for electric vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy.

We are interested in companies that are involved in early-stage research for developing new battery and magnet technologies for clean transport and energy.

Additionally, we are looking for technologies that can apply 'big data' digital mapping, artificial intelligence (AI), and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles to achieve transparency throughout the EV battery supply chain between the UK and AUS.

Why Australia?

Australia is well-positioned to be a leading supplier of critical minerals and crucial rare earth elements to help meet the growing global demand for minerals used in a variety of modern technologies. Australia's critical minerals inventory is impressive, and it demonstrates the significant role that Australia plays in the global supply of these critical materials.

The relationship between the UK and Australia is both significant and comprehensive, with closely aligned strategic perspectives, and substantial trade and investment ties through the recently signed Free Trade Agreement, AUKUS, Clean Tech Partnership, etc. Collaborations between the two countries have covered a broad range of interventions and topics including Net Zero.

The Global Business Innovation Programme will further enhance innovation opportunities in critical minerals for electrification to achieve our shared goal of Net Zero emissions by 2050 and decarbonise the transportation sector.

Future innovations and collaborations will not only benefit societies, but also foster economic growth by enhancing respective skill sets, capabilities, and policies. The UK and Australia both have comprehensive strategies for critical minerals, which are essential for the transition to clean energy. Both strategies have a common goal of enhancing domestic capabilities in the mining and processing of critical minerals, emphasising the importance of ESG performance and ensuring supply chain resilience.

Key Technologies:

- Accelerate development and proof of concept for converting precursor into active cathode material
- Battery systems, cathode manufacturing, cell materials and cell components
- Battery manufacturing processes and supply chain
- Simulation, digitalisation of design and process, big data, and AI
- LCA and sustainability models for life cycle analysis of critical minerals and systems
- Provenance (e.g., material passports, digitisation, traceability, etc.) of critical minerals for electrification

KEY DATES:

Programme briefing:
1 March
2024

Applications close:
5 April
2024

Pre-visit workshop:
30 April -
1 May 2024

Market visit:
31 May -
13 June 2024

Post-visit workshop:
28 June
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-activity 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. (two day workshop)
- **Market activities:** Explore the innovation opportunities first-hand through meeting with key companies and research organisations and potential collaborators and partners through pre-arranged meetings and organised matchmaking (15 days of market related activity).
- **Exploiting the opportunity:** Each business is supported by an Innovate UK EDGE Innovation & Growth Specialist to help maximise the potential of being part of the programme and beyond.

INNOVATION ACTIVITIES - EXAMPLE (subject to change):

Date	Activity	Date	Activity
30 May - 1 April 2024	Pre-visit GBIP Workshop	28 June 2024	Post-visit GBIP Workshop
31 May - 13 June 2024	Market visit to Australia including site visits and meetings	April - September 2024	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 will fund and organise flights, accommodation, in-market travel, and conference fees for successful applicants. Innovate UK will also pay for any reasonable adjustments throughout the initiative. Only one representative from each company will be funded. On acceptance to the initiative a commitment fee of £500 will be obtained from each delegate, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities and agreed action plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all 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 **5pm on 5th April 2024**. To support potential applicants, a **briefing** will take place between **8:30am - 9:30am on 1st March 2024**.

Please note: successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to Australia. 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 Critical Minerals sector.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

To complete 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 the global team at global1@innovateukedge.ukri.org.