



GLOBAL BUSINESS INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Kolkata & Chennai, India – Urban Systems

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Global Business Innovation Programme – Urban Systems is organised by Innovate UK.

This competitive programme consists of three phases. These include a Get ready workshop, **a one-week innovation visit to India**, and an Exploitation workshop to help maximise the benefits of the programme. Support from our Innovate UK innovation and growth specialists is provided throughout the programme.

The benefits of being involved with this programme include a better understanding of the innovation opportunities in India and a chance to meet potential collaborators and partners.

KEY DATES:

Applications
Close
17th May 2024

Get Ready
Workshop
18th - 19th June 2024

Innovation
Visit to India
22nd - 26th July 2024

Exploitation
Workshop
8th October 2024

FOCUS INDUSTRIES / SECTORS

This initiative is particularly relevant for businesses that focus on delivering Net Zero, including (but not limited to) solutions that address the following types of challenges:

- Heating and cooling
- Mobility
- Energy
- The circular economy
- Resource measurement and management (e.g. water, waste, air)
- Citizen engagement and sustainable behaviour change
- Resilience to natural shocks

WHY INDIA?

India is booming, with a vibrant innovation ecosystem, an ambitious vision, and a need to meet the rapidly growing demands of the population. There is an impressive wealth of home-grown talent who see the scale of the opportunity as a catalyst for disruptive new innovations. In addition, the ongoing need to develop core infrastructure - such as good water and electricity supplies, sanitation, and affordable housing – provides opportunities to tackle issues

differently, and to develop solutions that also have widespread social value at their heart, tapping into vast emerging markets.

There are 28 states in India, each distinct in language, culture, and local governance. To help understand the differences and opportunities better, this programme will include a market visit to cities in two different states – one in the east, and one in the south. **Kolkata** and **Chennai** are both metropolitan cities – which bring some similar sustainability and resilience challenges.

Both are also part of the Government of India's **'100 Smart Cities' mission**, which has been established to tackle the challenges and opportunities expected over the next 30 years as some 400 million people move into urban environments across India. The Smart Cities Mission funds cities like Chennai and Kolkata to support and implement innovative projects.

India is an important market for Innovate UK, with regular ongoing bilateral R&D, incubator, and innovation activities, all part of building a long-term relationship enabling UK businesses to connect with partners and collaborators to help them grow and scale.

BENEFITS:

- Explore Urban Systems opportunities in India.
- Gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities when conducting business in India.
- Identify potential innovation collaborators and partners to develop your network in the UK and globally.
- Improve your company's value proposition to international partners and investors.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP) is structured around three phases. Each participating business will be allocated an innovation and growth specialist who will support them for the duration of the project, including developing an action plan to capitalise on the opportunities identified. The three phases include:

- **Getting ready:** Workshop to build knowledge and a deeper understanding of the market in India, network with other participants, and identify challenges and opportunities - including how to do business effectively, develop cultural awareness and improve your pitch when meeting with various potential partners in-market.
- **Visiting the market:** Explore the innovation, R&D and business opportunities in India through meetings with key companies, potential strategic partners, and relevant stakeholders (during a five-day in-market visit).
- **Exploit the opportunity:** A workshop and one-to-one support from an innovation and growth specialist to help your business take advantage of the opportunities identified.

INNOVATION VISIT – EXAMPLE ITINERARY (subject to change):

Date	Activity
20th July 2024	Depart the UK and arrive in India
22nd - 26th July 2024	Visit Kolkata and Chennai, with opportunities for B2B meetings
27th July 2024	Depart India to return to the UK

TO APPLY FOR THIS INITIATIVE, YOU MUST:

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

Be a company with fewer than 250 employees.

Be able to attend and complete all activities.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Innovate UK will fund and organise flights, accommodation, and any 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, a commitment fee of £1000 (excluding VAT) 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 of the commitment fees.

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 Business Growth website and received no later than Friday 17th May 2024 at 5pm BST.

Innovate UK is committed to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I) and encourages people from all backgrounds to apply to participate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE:

To fill in the online application form, please click [here](#).

For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact Sunny Claire at Sunny.Claire@innovateukedge.ukri.org