

Latest business news from Keele University

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The Business Gateway is the one-stop shop to boost your business through Keele University's world-class research, facilities and knowledge, backed by substantial funding opportunities.

For a confidential discussion, and to find out how your business can benefit, please contact us on 01782 733001, business.gateway@keele.ac.uk or visit keele.ac.uk/business.

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Growth Through Innovation: ideas to help your business fly - an event for Staffordshire SMEs



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Keele
UNIVERSITY

Growth Through Innovation

Ideas to help your business fly

Wednesday 21 March 2018 | 8am-10.30am
Keele Hall, Keele University

**Keele Research & Innovation
Support Programme**

BUSINESS GATEWAY

Wednesday 21 March 2018 | 8am-10.30am | Keele Hall, Keele University

Innovation is key to ensuring the survival, development and growth of your business. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire SMEs are invited to attend this special breakfast briefing, putting a spotlight on the innovation opportunities available to local businesses.

The event will feature guest speakers and business leaders from companies like yours who have embraced innovation and whose businesses are thriving as a result. There will also be networking opportunities and a Q&A session to quiz our expert speakers about their business ideas and experiences.

The free event is open to representatives from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire SMEs who have yet to participate in the [Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme \(KRISP\)*](#) and places are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To find out more and to reserve your place, please visit krispgrowth.eventbrite.com.

Supporting quality improvements in the local NHS

Keele University is a long and proud partner of the NHS, working particularly closely with its local hospitals. Through its collaboration with University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) - the organisation which manages the Royal Stoke and County Hospitals - the University aims to advance the healthcare and medical technologies available to the local population.

University Hospitals 
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Through the [Business Bridge*](#) programme, a joint initiative between Keele and UHNM, companies in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire are able to receive fully-funded support that allows access to University researchers and NHS clinicians, as well as innovation vouchers that enable access to professional specialists within the healthcare market.

This latest development between the two parties is focusing on the need for better healthcare

products and how Staffordshire businesses can assist in the production of them. The University has linked up with UHNM's Quality Improvement programme - an initiative which will see up to 500 staff across all areas of the Trust tasked with spotting opportunities for improvement and identifying potential solutions.

To find out more, please see the [full story](#) on our website.

Pioneering gas project aims to reduce domestic carbon dioxide emissions

A pioneering green energy trial at Keele University, that could help cut carbon dioxide emissions caused by heating, has been launched this week at Westminster.



HyDeploy, a consortium of technical experts backed by OFGEM's Network Innovation Competition, Cadent and Northern Gas Networks, is leading the one-year live trial on part of Keele University's private gas network.

The programme, the first of its kind in the UK, aims to establish the potential for blending hydrogen, up to 20%, into the normal gas supply to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. It will determine the level of hydrogen which could be used by gas customers safely, and with no changes to their behaviour or existing domestic appliances.

Many experts see hydrogen as an adaptable alternative to fossil fuels because, when burned, it doesn't produce carbon dioxide – just water and heat.

To find out more, please visit www.hydeploy.co.uk.

Low carbon consultancy available to Staffordshire SMEs

Fully-funded consultancy is now available to businesses across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, following a partnership between Keele University and Stopford Energy & Environment.



The initiative is part of the University's [Smart Energy Network Demonstrator \(SEND\)](#)*, an ambitious programme aiming to create Europe's first 'at scale' living laboratory to research, develop and test new energy-efficient technologies in a real-world environment.

As part of the programme, Stopford Energy & Environment will be providing multidisciplinary innovation, design and business growth consultancy to enable businesses to capitalise on the rapidly-growing smart energy and low carbon sectors.

Depending on your business need, Stopford's pool of engineers and consultants specialising in

technology innovation, process design, scheme development and commercialisation of products across the energy and low carbon sectors can enable sustainable business growth by:

- - Improving and quantifying your energy and low carbon credentials
- - Conducting a resource and sustainability review (waste / energy / water)
- - Supporting the development of new efficient or eco-friendly products or services.

Please [visit our website to find out more](#) about how your business can gain a competitive advantage within these growing global markets.

Unique programme to hone your innovation and leadership skills

Are you a local business leader or entrepreneur looking to hone your skills and develop future-proofing techniques to ensure that you remain ahead of your competitors?

The [Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership](#)* is currently recruiting representatives from SMEs across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire to participate in the third cohort of its unique, fully-funded six-month development programme.

Taking place over six two-day workshops, participants will benefit from sessions led by leading academics and external business experts, create a network of like-minded individuals across a range of sectors, and be supported by 1:1 business coaching from Keele University's Entrepreneurs in Residence.

Interested parties can find out more about the programme, the next cohort of which is set to commence in May 2018, by visiting www.keele.ac.uk/mcil or by contacting the University's [Business Gateway](#).

**The following support programmes available within the Business Gateway are receiving funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020:*

- - Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme (Ref: 32R16P00711);
- - Smart Energy Network Demonstrator (Ref: 32R16P00706);
- - Business Bridge (Ref: 32R16P00713);
- - Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership (Ref: 32R15P00229).



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

The Department for Communities and Local Government (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund.

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.



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