

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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Staffordshire Chambers Business AWARDS 18

Staffordshire Chambers Business Awards: nominate your business today

Keele University is proud to continue its sponsorship of the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce Business Awards.

The awards recognise Staffordshire's best businesses, providing a platform for them to showcase their achievements and share their stories.

The awards are simple and free to enter, and submissions are being received until Friday 11 May 2018. The awards evening celebration and announcement of the 2018 winners will take place on Thursday 5 July at Staffordshire County Showground.

To find out more, and to enter, please visit www.staffordshirechambers.co.uk/awards.

University programme supports development of new product range for local business

Maintaining hygiene levels within healthcare settings is of paramount importance, with equipment such as endoscopes and their constituent parts currently requiring thorough cleaning and stringent checking before they can be used again. This process is accompanied by significant time and financial costs, which is why Fenton-based Partners for Endoscopy enlisted the help of [Keele University's Business Bridge*](#) programme to develop new products which reduce these costs whilst maintaining high levels of hygiene.



"To solve these issues, we had the idea of creating new disposable endoscope components, but needed additional support in order to develop it further," said Director Rob Hartley. "Through a Business Bridge Innovation Voucher, we were able to secure the services of an external prototyping company who have taken the idea forward and allowed us to fine tune the design.

"Considering there are around one million endoscopic procedures carried out in the UK every year, we believe that this product has the potential to have a significant positive impact on healthcare resources and, thanks to Keele University, we are now much closer to making this a reality."

For more information, [please see the full story on our website.](#)

Regional projects to support economic growth

Midlands Innovation, of which Keele University is a proud partner, has recently announced its involvement in two programmes to support economic growth, job creation and research commercialisation across the region.



The [Midlands Innovation Commercialisation of Research Accelerator \(MICRA\)](#) will create a single gateway to the region's eight research-intensive collaborative partners and enable streamlined access to their combined intellectual property and expertise in the creation and growth of businesses.

Additionally, Midlands Innovation has announced that it is joining the expanded [Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research \(ICURE\)](#) pilot programme, supported by Innovate UK. The programme offers UK-based university researchers with innovative ideas

Dr Mark Bacon, Director of Research, Innovation & Engagement at Keele University, said: "The Government's industrial strategy emphasises the importance of research, innovation and skills to developing a strong economy and setting a path to lead in the high-tech, highly-skilled industries of the future. ICURE's focus is on training early career researchers to find the right route to commercialisation and helping them develop the necessary business skills, connections and expertise to pursue their ideas. Keele University is proud to be part of this ground-breaking project."

Business leaders graduate from University leadership programme

Business leaders and entrepreneurs from across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire have recently celebrated their 'graduation' from a Keele University support programme.



The [Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership \(MCIL\)*](#), a prestigious programme which aims to address the distinctive organisational and leadership challenges facing innovation-led and knowledge-intensive businesses across the local area, marked the completion of its second cohort at a ceremony last month.

Over the past six months, participants on the fully-funded programme have taken part in a wide range of learning activities, led by Keele academics and external business experts and leaders. Each participant has also received one-to-one support from a dedicated Entrepreneur in Residence, providing coaching, advice and guidance in between each of the 12 learning sessions.

Testimonials from recent participants such as [Peak Activity Services](#) and [DRM Technic](#) are available on the [MCIL website](#). The programme's third cohort is set to commence later this month.

Queen's Awards for Enterprise

Keele University would like to extend its congratulations to two local businesses that have recently been honoured with a Queen's Award for Enterprise. The awards, granted in recognition of outstanding achievement and success, were announced on 21 April on the Queen's birthday.

Cobra Biologics, based on the University's Science and Innovation Park, and Addmaster (UK) Ltd, who has previously taken part on the Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership



Innovate UK's open innovation loans competition

Innovate UK and the Knowledge Transfer Network are hosting a briefing event for Innovate UK's new open innovation loans competition, which is currently accepting applications from businesses.



Innovate UK is working to broaden the range of innovation finance support available to businesses, providing access at all stages of innovation. Innovation loans are for UK SMEs that want to scale up and grow through innovation, developing new or improved products, processes or services.

The briefing event, providing more details on the opportunities available, is taking place on Wednesday 9 May 2018 from 9.30am-2pm at The Priory Rooms Meeting & Conference Centre in Bull Street, Birmingham. [Please visit the Knowledge Transfer Partnership website for more details on the event and competition.](#)

**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 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) (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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