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BUSINESS NEWS

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

April 2019

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Business innovation programme announces second phase

A programme that has supported more than 150 Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire businesses to innovate and grow has announced a second phase.

The [Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme \(KRISP\)](#)* sees academics, professionals and students from Keele University working in collaboration with local businesses to develop new products, services and processes.

The second phase, which will be incorporated within the Smart Innovation Hub* project and is also part-funded through the European Regional Development Fund, was announced at an event on 10 April and will enable a further 200 local businesses to be supported between June 2019 and December 2021.

Through the KRISP programme, businesses are paired with a talented student or

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Development and Innovation Associate. Along with staff who have sector-relevant experience, all parties work together on a specific project that will benefit the growth and development of the company.



Rob McKay, KRISP Project Manager, said: "This second phase of the programme will enable us to build on the success that we've achieved with SMEs in the local area over the past couple of years.

"Through the support that the programme has made available and accessible, local businesses have been able to bring innovative products and services to market faster than would have otherwise been possible, providing a valuable contribution to the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire economy."

To find out more, [read the full story on the Keele University website](#).

Report highlights role of Keele research in driving a new low carbon economic future

The region is uniquely placed to lead the quest for clean growth, according to a new report published by the Government.

One of a series of Science and Innovation Audits (SIAs) commissioned by the Government, the 'Clean and Sustainable Growth' report shows a 'Coastal Arc' stretching from Cumbria to North Wales, and including Staffordshire, Cheshire

and Lancashire, that has both a strong track record for driving clean and sustainable growth on a global scale and significant potential to be world-leading.

From leading-edge crop science to new energy systems and pioneering waste management techniques, the report highlights the many strengths which give the North West Coastal Arc Partnership a competitive edge in a world which is facing the need to make more efficient use of resources and shift to a low-carbon economy.

The audit identifies dozens of internationally-significant research and innovation assets within the region, with Keele cited as providing regional leadership in a number of key areas, such as the [Smart Energy Network Demonstrator \(SEND\)*](#) and the [HyDeploy project](#).



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a range of science and research disciplines, and the SIAs show the whole nation contributes to that reputation. We are committed to building on these strengths and others in our modern Industrial Strategy through the largest increase in science funding in a generation.”

[Read the full article about the Science and Innovation Audit on the University's website.](#)

Fully-funded leadership development

Keele University's Innovation Leadership programme is designed to support the development of local business leaders and entrepreneurs and equip them with the skills and knowledge to successfully tackle future challenges.

Incorporated within the Smart Innovation Hub*, the programme is open to owners, directors and senior managers of SMEs in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

The fully-funded programme consists of six two-day facilitated group learning sessions, led by a mix of Keele University academics and expert business leaders. Participants will also have access to a dedicated Entrepreneur in Residence to provide coaching, advice and guidance on a one-to-one basis.

The next cohort will commence in May 2019, with only limited places now available. Sessions will initially take place at Keele Hall, before moving to the University's new Smart Innovation Hub when it opens later this year.

For more information, including dates, eligibility criteria and application forms, [please visit the programme's webpage.](#)

Accommodation opportunities for your business

[The Keele University Science and Innovation Park](#) is one of the largest sites of its kind in the UK.

The 70-acre site provides a prestigious address, flexible accommodation and high-quality facilities, and has accommodation suitable for a wide range of businesses – from start-ups and spinouts through to larger multinationals. [Details on the accommodation currently available can be viewed on the Keele University website.](#)

Smart Innovation Hub

Enquiries are now being welcomed for office space in the Science and Innovation Park's new multi-million pound facility - the Smart Innovation Hub*.

Due to open in late summer, the facility offers a range of office space as well as co-working environments and will be host to a variety of business-relevant events. Tenants will have unrivalled access to the business support programmes and

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resources that will be housed within the new facility.

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To find out more details, please visit the [Smart Innovation Hub website](#).



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**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: 32R18P02530);*
- *Keele University Science & Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub (Ref: 32R17P01691)*




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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