

Developing Innovative Businesses Programme



Providing practical support to early stage and established innovative businesses

Is your business in the first few years of trading ?

Are you an established business in need of help to further grow ?

Does your business involve the application and/or development of scientific know-how, new technology, new approaches to engineering or design ?

Would your business benefit from the support of a team of specialist mentors well practiced in developing new, innovative and hi-tech businesses ?

Could your business deliver high value services in an innovative way ?

If the answer is **yes** to the majority of these questions, then the right tailored support for you is available now.

What's available ?

The Essex Innovation Network is providing a free of charge range of specialist services that can enable you to fully exploit the potential of your business, help sustain your business in those often difficult initial stages, and leave it well placed for future growth.

Practical, meaningful advice from an assigned specialist mentor will include:

- Help to understand the market need and/or demand for your technology/product and assistance in establishing a strategic marketing plan
- Advice on securing finance to develop your business
- Strategies to protect your idea and future profits
- Advice on winning business in niche markets, both at home and abroad
- Guidance on how more effective use of design might strengthen your business offer to customers
- Options for the development of your business
- Approaches to developing new products and services
- How to better promote your company and win new business
- The brokerage of support for research and development activities
- Making the university sector work for you

How long is the support for and am I eligible ?

Eligibility is dependant on the nature of your business and a demonstration of genuine commitment to the programme. Subject to this, there are a number of options available for mentoring support over both an intensive and sustained period.

How do I find out more ?

For more information about the support available, whether you may be eligible and how to apply please contact:

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Essex Innovation Network

Providing practical solutions today, for tomorrow's innovative businesses



Building on a long and proud history of innovation in the county, the Essex Innovation Network is a partnership of agencies, business groups and universities whose collective aim is to make Essex one of the best places to develop new ideas and grow innovative companies.

The Network provides a full range of services, activities and facilities to enable new and existing businesses to exploit the full potential of their new ideas and creativity.

www.essexinnovation.co.uk

New Ideas Programme - a range of free high quality business support aimed at budding entrepreneurs.

Developing Innovative Businesses Programme - free support for existing early stage and established businesses.

Business incubation premises - a network of incubator premises in Essex including the Essex Technology & Innovation Centre, Ongar.

Assistance with accessing research & development funding - in partnership with the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

Seminars/workshops and events - the Network organises a range of seminars, workshops and events to help Essex companies access vital information.