

Manufacturing and Engineering Sector Programmes and Organisations

Although not always recognised as a manufacturing and engineering centre, Oxfordshire has a significant and thriving sector. Many organisations originated from the science and technology knowledge base and others have grown up around specialist clusters such as in automotive, scientific equipment, bioengineering and space. A selection of the help that exists for manufacturing and engineering SMEs wishing to innovate is presented here. Many of the listings represent national schemes and organisations and some services may not be available locally but this does change periodically. Readers should also refer to our other Innovation Guides (such as Low Carbon and Environmental Programmes and Organisations in Oxfordshire) for additional sources of subject specific support available to manufacturers.

The information presented is accurate at the time of writing. The list of schemes, programmes and organisations is not intended to be exhaustive but affords an illustration of the resources that may be available to SMEs. Please check directly with the organisations listed for up-to-date information and let us know of any inaccuracies or missing programmes that you think are relevant. The list is not presented in any order of priority and descriptions reflect the providers' own promotion.

Begbroke Science Park. The University of Oxford's Begbroke Science Park provides several services to innovators including rapid prototyping equipment and advice, the Oxford Materials Characterisation Service, and the facilities available at the Agile Lab (a shared wet laboratory and adjoining co-working office, complete with shared equipment, dedicated lab technician and access to all of Begbroke's other facilities and opportunities). Help is available with technical analysis, solutions to problems, materials choices, measurement challenges or general scientific or engineering advice.

<http://www.begbroke.ox.ac.uk/>

Culham Science Centre. Home of the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE), the campus is now a focus of high technology innovation and enterprise across a variety of sectors and includes new resources such as the Materials Research Facility and RACE (Remote Applications in Challenging Environments) which builds on UKAEA's expertise in remote handling from operating JET. RACE offers access to industry and academia to state-of-the-art testing facilities, remote handling equipment and expertise to design, implement and operate complete robotic and autonomous solutions. Culham is also home to many of Oxfordshire's leading innovators in the field of intelligent mobility and autonomous vehicles.

<http://www.culham.org.uk/>

Harwell Campus. Home to over 200 organisations and established as one of the leading science and innovation campuses in Europe, Harwell also features several organisations providing business support, networking and access to funding.

Clusters focus on space, health tech and energy tech.

[Business Support | Harwell Campus Oxford](#)

Research Complex at Harwell (RCaH). A world-leading cluster of state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities where the multidisciplinary nature of the work encourages collaboration - including with industry. Advanced Manufacturing is a focus and teams on site are involved in a huge range of projects from the production of electric cars to

3D printing to robotics. Spokes of two of the UK's Future Manufacturing Hubs are based at RCaH (MAPP and CMAC), and there are strong links to the automotive sector through the Faraday Institute.

<https://www.rc-harwell.ac.uk/research/advanced-manufacturing/>

KTN. UK wide network providing expertise, resources, connections, events and access to funding. Teams help manufacturers to innovate, and innovators to manufacture. The KTN works with a broad spectrum of organisations, sectors and technology areas, advising on innovation and connecting SMEs to partners, experts, facilities and funding.

<https://ktn-uk.org/manufacturing/>

(Note that the KTN has several sector, technology or application specific groups in addition to this manufacturing entry point).

Made Smarter. Created following an industry-led review of how UK manufacturing industries can prosper through digital tools and innovation. Provides a range of support through advice, funding and upskilling. Note: not all services may be available in Oxfordshire currently.

[UK Digital Manufacturing advice & innovation – Made Smarter](#)

Manufacturing Growth Programme. Provides access to resources through a dedicated Manufacturing Growth Manager with funding potentially available to support the implementation of improvement projects. Note: eligibility for the programme depends on exact location and may not be available currently to all manufacturers in Oxfordshire.

<https://www.manufacturinggrowthprogramme.co.uk/>

Analysis for Innovators. Helps boost productivity and competitiveness through solving existing measurement and analysis problems. A4I is a programme that gives UK businesses of any size access to cutting-edge R&D expertise and facilities to help solve problems that they have been unable to tackle using standard technologies and techniques (for example around product reliability or costs).

<https://www.a4i.info/>

NPL. Alongside its National Measurement Laboratory partners, NPL provides access to world-class specialist measurement science and engineering support, advice and facilities for UK companies. Through the Measurement for Recovery (M4R) programme, it has helped organisations address a range of issues including design, manufacturing, production and processing, regulatory compliance and product development.

<https://www.npl.co.uk/measurement-for-recovery>

Design Council. Programmes cover the built environment, public sector design and social innovation, and business innovation as well as product design and engineering.

[Design Council |](#)

High Value Manufacturing Catapult. Working through seven world-class centres of industrial innovation, the Catapult helps accelerate new concepts to commercial reality. Services include advice, collaboration support, partnership development and access to facilities, resources and funding.

<https://hvm.catapult.org.uk/>

Manufacturing Technology Centre. Provides integrated manufacturing system solutions for customers large and small, across sectors as diverse as automotive, aerospace, rail, informatics, food & drink, construction/civil engineering, electronics, oil & gas and defence. Resources, facilities, expertise and access to funding.

<http://www.the-mtc.org/>

End of Listing.