

Supply Chain Market Assessment support (PACE)



European Union

European Regional
Development Fund

Overview

This support is fully funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and available to SMEs in the Leicestershire area. It is an element of the Productivity and Capability Enhancement project.

The Supply Chain Market Assessment support provides 2-3 days of expertise in one of The iNet's 6 priority sectors:

- Advanced manufacturing and engineering
- Food and drink manufacturing
- Textile manufacturing
- Low carbon technologies
- Logistics and distribution
- Creative industries

The overall aim of this support is to help SMEs to explore growth opportunities, by identifying tactics and action plans to inform and support their growth strategy implementation, using soundly based knowledge of the supply chain, market analysis and other information offered by a sector specialist.

Following an initial face to face meeting and review of the SME with an Advisor from The iNet, supply chain market assessment support may be identified as a means of helping the business to identify scope and access new markets and sector supply chains. This support can be accessed in addition to or prior to a grant funded project.

A Supply Chain Specification outlining the nature of the support required by the SME will be completed and agreed between the SME and The iNet Advisor. Where possible The iNet will then appoint a suitable specialist with the relevant skills to match the needs of the specification to deliver the support.

Based on the Specification, the specialist will draw up a programme of support for the appropriate duration, and The iNet will review and approve this.

The supply chain specialist may provide knowledge and guidance on (but not limited to):

- Technology road-mapping,
- Sector-specific regulatory, environment and accreditation process services
- Procurement and supply processes and requirements
- Competitive landscape and appropriate routes to market

The specialist will work with the business to identify future growth opportunities within relevant supply chains. This may include identifying potential contacts for SMEs and brokering initial meetings with those contacts where appropriate. Whilst the SMEs must be LLEP based, OEMs and their supply chain could be nationally or internationally based.

On completion of the programme of support, the specialist will provide a written report detailing the activity provided to the SME; this may be covered off at an exit meeting with the SME and should include any agreed actions and outcomes.

The iNet will obtain regular feedback from the SME relating to the support being provided by the specialist. This will be sought soon after the activity has commenced, at a midway point to be determined and at the end of the assignment.