

## SME Boost Programme – Company & Project Eligibility Criteria

### Participant Criteria:

- Must be an SME (< 250 employees and < €50m turnover OR < €43m balance sheet)
- May use Boost matched funding up to a value of £25k in any rolling 12-month period i.e. multiple projects can be carried out by the same customer using Boost funding so long as they do not exceed the £25k threshold
- Must have received < €200,000 of De Minimis state aid funding in the last rolling three year period at time of SME Boost Programme offer

### The participating company must agree to the following terms:

- The Project shall be subject to NCC standard terms and conditions, reference “Terms of Business - NCC Operations Ltd - PV & MD Work - April 2020”, amended as noted below.
- Background IP: Ownership of Background IP is unaffected by this Agreement. Each party grants the other party a free, non-exclusive, licence to use the Background IP for the purpose of delivering the project, but not otherwise.
- Foreground IP: Foreground IP shall belong to the Customer; The Customer grants the NCC a free, irrevocable, perpetual licence to use the Foreground IP for applications in non-competing fields.
- Dissemination: NCC may publish the results of the Project or make public statements in relation to the Project, subject to the Customer’s permission, such permission not to be unreasonably withheld.
- Eligibility: If the Customer’s eligibility requirements (SME criteria, De Minimis approval) changes during the project, they will become liable to pay the full price
- Precedence: The parties acknowledge that, in the event of any conflict between these additional terms and the NCC standard terms, then these additional terms shall take precedence.

### Project Criteria:

- There is no limit on total project eligible costs, however the NCC will only match fund up to £25k e.g. if a project value comes to £75k, the NCC will pay for £25k on eligible costs and the company will pay the remaining £50k
- Funding is used on NCC labour, equipment and material costs – The funding does not go to the SME to be used
- Funding cannot be used on subcontracting services required to deliver the project – these will be incorporated in the project at 100% cost to the SME
- Funds must come from the business’ own private investment – it cannot be used to match other sources of grant or matched funding

**Examples of suitable project themes include, but are not limited to:**

- Upscaling – New/existing composite product challenged by future rate requirements
- Feasibility study – New or existing product which could be enhanced using composite materials
- Prototyping – Design, build and test of new or existing composite products
- Sustainability assessments – Reviewing the environmental impact of new or existing composite products

**Examples of unsuitable project themes include, but are not limited to:**

- Equipment only jobs
- Commercial ‘business as usual’ jobs (not R&D)
- Loaning out tooling/equipment for business as usual jobs
- Bid writing/support
- Meeting room bookings