

How NCC supports SMEs

We work in partnership with UK manufacturers to turn ideas into real products — from early design through to making, testing, and improvement. We provide expert advice, specialist kit, training, and hands-on support — helping businesses move faster, reduce risk, and build long-term capability to grow and compete.

Be in the right place

Engage



Signposting

We connect businesses to the wider Catapult network, national support schemes, and local partners



Supply chain connections

We help identify and link businesses to others with the right capability or need



SME Affiliate Scheme

Join our network for access to training, events, and a £1,000 voucher to kick-start your project with NCC

Have the right plan

Discover



Site visit

We walk the factory floor with established manufacturers to spot opportunities for improvement



Discovery workshops

An in-person or online session to shape early ideas with our specialist engineers



Technical support

Have a technical challenge? We offer quick, informal support calls with our engineers

Deliver the right solution

Transform



Innovation projects

Co-develop products, processes or materials — reducing risk and getting to market faster



Adoption projects

Support to embed lean, digital or sustainable practices — driving productivity and emissions reductions



Training

Upskilling teams through off-the-shelf or tailored training — at NCC or on-site

Funding your ambitions

Funding



Grant funding

We support grant bids to Innovate UK, Aerospace Technology Institute, National Aerospace Technology Exploitation Programme, and others — drawing on proven experience



Made Smarter – South West

Free support for digital adoption, available to SMEs in the South West until March 2026



Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

We mentor a graduate to deliver a strategic project in your business, fully funded



SME match funding

Up to £25,000 available under Minimum Financial Assistance rules to fund work with NCC



If you'd like to find out more about how NCC can support you, please email connect@nccuk.com