Our Aim: To develop a demand-driven Research, Development and Innovation environment in Wales

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| Description | SMART Partnership | SMART Expertise Level 1 | SMART Expertise Level 2 |
| Aim | To increase the capability and capacity of Welsh Businesses to undertake RD&I activity through knowledge transfer | To increase capability and capacity for successful collaboration between industry and Welsh Research Organisations to address industrial technical challenges.  |
| Purpose of support | To help businesses access research expertise to enable them to innovate and grow. An associate will work with the business to develop, implement or exploit new or improved products or processes while also developing their own skills. | To develop a demand-driven RD&I environment through effective collaboration between researchers, businesses and their value chain partners. All partners can tap into expertise in Welsh Research Organisations to address their key industrial technical challenges and opportunities through the translation of research. Supports the cost of an effective collaboration with a clear focus on commercialisations, exploitation and growth.  |
| Deliverable | Improved capacity to undertake RD&I activities that is relevant to both a business and a research organisation by addressing a specific technical challenge. | A test of feasibility for a proposed solution to an industrial challenge or opportunity, or to establish new relationships that lead to future collaborative RD&I.  | A new or improved product, process or service as a result of effective collaboration, and a legacy for further collaborative activity |
| Typical project duration  | 6 to 12 months | Circa 12 months | Project activity must be completed by end of December 2022 |
| Eligibility | SMEs – no limit on employee count. Contract research/ provision of research services are not eligible | No limit on company size or location. The Research Organisation must be based in Wales. Projects must demonstrate an effective collaboration to address an industry-led challenge.  |
| Partners | One Research Organisation and one industry partner. Associate can be based with either party. | At least one Research Organisation and two partners (at least one commercial partner). | At least one Research Organisation and at least two industry partners |
| Match funding | Funding will support up to 50% of the total eligible project costs to be awarded to the research organisation. The business partner(s) shall provide the remaining balance of the total eligible projects costs. This can be an in-kind or cash contribution. |
| Simplified Costs | n/a | 15% of staff salary costs |
| Location | Research Organisation, associate and business must be based in Wales | Research Organisation must be based in Wales. Partners can be based outside of Wales, however project must demonstrate direct benefits to Wales. |
| Payments | Paid against defrayed costs and evidence of match funding  |