

DRIVE35

Collaborate

Collaborate, co-create,
commercialise

Driving the next generation of zero-emission vehicle innovation

The Advanced Propulsion Centre UK (APC) collaborates with the UK government, the automotive industry, and academia to facilitate driving research and investment in zero-emission vehicle manufacturing. Established in 2013 and jointly funded by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and the automotive industry, the APC accelerates the development and industrialisation of technologies that enable the transition to zero-emission vehicle manufacturing and a net-zero automotive supply chain in the UK.

Launched in July 2025 and delivered by DBT in partnership with the APC and Innovate UK, the DRIVE35 (Driving Research & Investment in Vehicle Electrification) programme forms a core part of the UK Government's Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan. It underpins the UK's commitment to a zero-emission future, backed by £4 billion in grant funding to 2035 for automotive R&D, scale-up, and transformation.

DRIVE35 spans three funding pillars – **Innovation**, **Scale-up**, and **Transformation** – helping to build a globally competitive zero-emission vehicle supply chain and deliver safer, smarter, more sustainable, and affordable mobility.

When your project is successfully funded, you gain far more than financial support:

- **Strengthen and accelerate UK manufacturing** and R&D, allowing your team to push boundaries
- **Build a competitive edge** and position your business ahead of the market
- **Raise your profile** and expand your network, opening doors across the automotive supply chain
- **Foster a culture of creativity and innovation**, fuelling long term continuous improvements
- **Create momentum** for future projects and grow beyond a single competition
- **Expert advice** to navigate bid development and maximise your chances of success
- **Access expert guidance** and ongoing support from the APC team throughout your project delivery.

Collaborate

Supporting collaborative research and development

Accelerate your journey to commercialisation with a late-stage, R&D project

Collaborate is a consortium-based programme which supports collaborative R&D projects that design, develop, and enable the manufacture of technologies targeted at post-project commercialisation, accelerating the transition to zero-emission vehicles, and enhancing sustainability.

The funding is available for UK-registered businesses of any size with a late-stage zero-emission R&D project ready for commercialisation. The consortium, made up of OEMs, SMEs, and academia, will nominate a lead partner from the start.

Key benefits

- £2.5 million and £25 million in government grant funding, with a minimum of 50% match-funded
- Accelerate a collaborative project's path to commercialisation
- Lead or join a consortium to deliver impactful vehicle technology solutions



Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

- Have an eligible grant-funding request of between £2.5 million and £25 million, with a minimum of 50% match-funded
- Prove your intent to exploit this technology in the UK
- Achieve TRL7-8 or MRL6-7 by completion
- Be collaborative
- Deliver the project within a timescale of between 18-36 months

To collaborate with the lead partner, you must be a UK-registered business representing:

- A business of any size, SME, OEM or Tier N
- An academic institution
- A charity or not-for-profit
- A public sector organisation
- A research and technology organisation (RTO)

Technologies we support

Your project must fall within one or more of the following themes:

Zero-emission vehicles

Focus on product and process innovations that contribute toward achieving zero-emissions for on-board vehicle applications throughout the vehicle lifecycle.

Manufacturing competitiveness

Use R&D innovation to improve the efficiency, productivity, and cost-competitiveness of manufacturing plants and their related supply chain, enabling the competitive transition to manufacturing of zero-emission vehicles in the UK and/or lowering embedded carbon emissions in the manufacturing process.

Software defined vehicles (SDV) and Electronic and electrical architectures (EEA):

Focus on innovations in automotive software and EEA to enhance zero-emission vehicle functionality and reduce time to market. These projects will leverage the UK's established reputation for innovation and build global product competitiveness.

How to apply

If your project meets the eligibility criteria, applications can be submitted via the Innovation Funding Service. DRIVE35 Collaborate applications open twice a year.

We're here to help

Our Business Development team is here to provide support and guidance every step of the way, from validating eligibility to navigating the application process.

Find out more

For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact our Business Development team at info@apcuk.co.uk.



Your support team

For general programme queries, please contact info@apcuk.co.uk

For any additional support, the following team members are available to help:



Alex Wood

Head of Product
alex.wood@apcuk.co.uk



Dan Bunting

Head of Business Development
dan.bunting@apcuk.co.uk



Charlotte Thiery-Weetman

Senior Programme Manager
charlotte.thiery-weetman@apcuk.co.uk

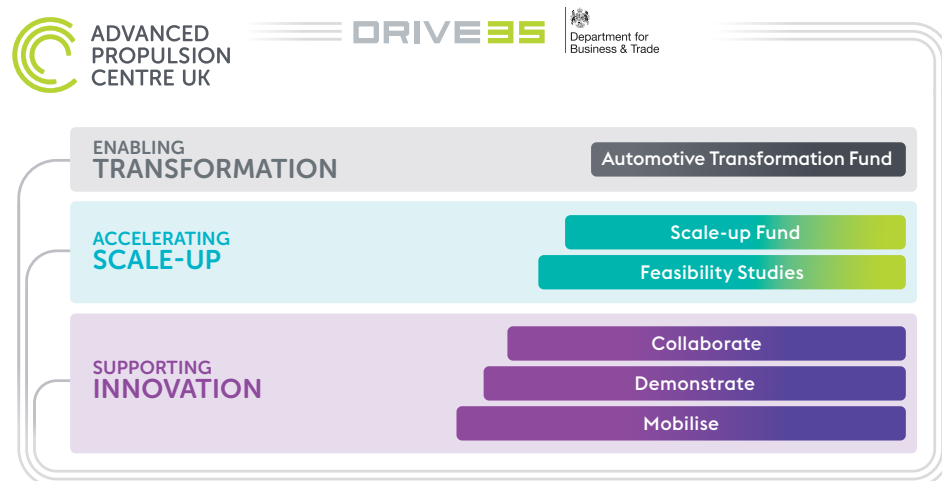


Alina Bojescu

Marketing and Communications Lead
alina.bojescu@apcuk.co.uk

DRIVE35 funding streams

Discover the range of funding available through DRIVE35



How we can help	DRIVE35 Funding Stream
Early-stage SME innovation	Mobilise Early concept validation for SMEs and startups, TRL 2-4
Build / test a demonstrator quickly	Demonstrate R&D projects, prototype or proof-of-concept, TRL 5-6
Large collaborative late-stage R&D	Collaborate Multi-partner projects, advanced prototypes or pilot lines
Manufacturing feasibility studies	Scale-Up Feasibility Studies Manufacturing readiness, process planning, business case validation
Ready to build pilot / demo manufacturing capability	Scale-Up Fund Pilot/demo production lines, process/facility development, investment readiness
Building / expanding major industrial facilities	Transformation / ATF Industrial-scale production, gigafactories, plant upgrades

University Road
Coventry CV4 7AL
+44 (0) 2476 528 700

apcuk.co.uk

 Advanced Propulsion Centre UK

