

DRIVE35

Demonstrate

Design it, deliver it, demo it



Department for
Business & Trade



ADVANCED
PROPULSION
CENTRE UK



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.

Demonstrate

Supporting innovation

Build a product or process demonstrator in under 12 months

The Demonstrate programme enables companies to accelerate their R&D programme by building a product or process demonstrator in under 12 months.

This is an ideal programme for UK-based companies at an early stage in the product or process development that need a short, sharp sprint to get the technology to its ready stage.

By the end of the programme, the demonstrator built will enable businesses to capitalise on market opportunities, improve cost competitiveness, and attract further investment.

Successful applicants may have the opportunity to showcase their demonstrator at one of the biggest events in the UK automotive industry's calendar, Cenex Expo.

Key benefits

- £500k to £1.5 million of government grant funding
- Open to single applications or collaborative teams
- Opportunity to showcase a demonstrator at Cenex Expo



Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

- Deliver your demonstrator within a 9-12 month period
- Grant-funding available between £500,000 and £1.5 million, a minimum of 50% match-funded is required
- Achieve TRL5-6 or MRL4-5 on completion
- Open to single applicants or collaborative teams
- Be available to attend an in-person interview

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

1. Review the programme scope

Take time to review the programme scope to ensure that your business falls within the programme requirements.

2. Submit an application

Applications can be made on our dedicated entry portal. Visit our [website](#) to find out when applications are next open.

3. Interviews

Applications will be reviewed, and successful businesses will be selected and invited to an interview to further support their submission.

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. Every successful applicant is allocated a Project Delivery Lead who will be a dedicated point of contact.

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:



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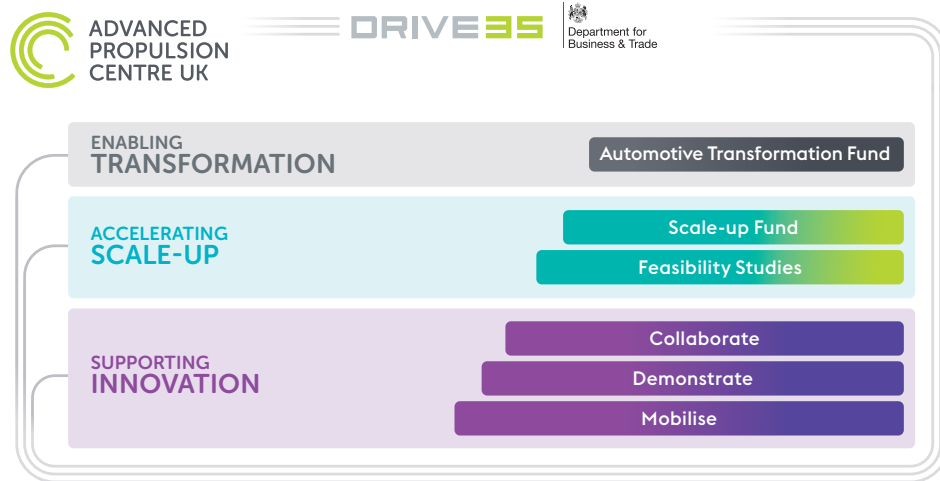


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DRIVE35 funding streams

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

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Funded by
UK Government