

DRIVE35

Scale-up

Accelerating the future of
zero-emission vehicle
manufacturing



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.

Scale-up

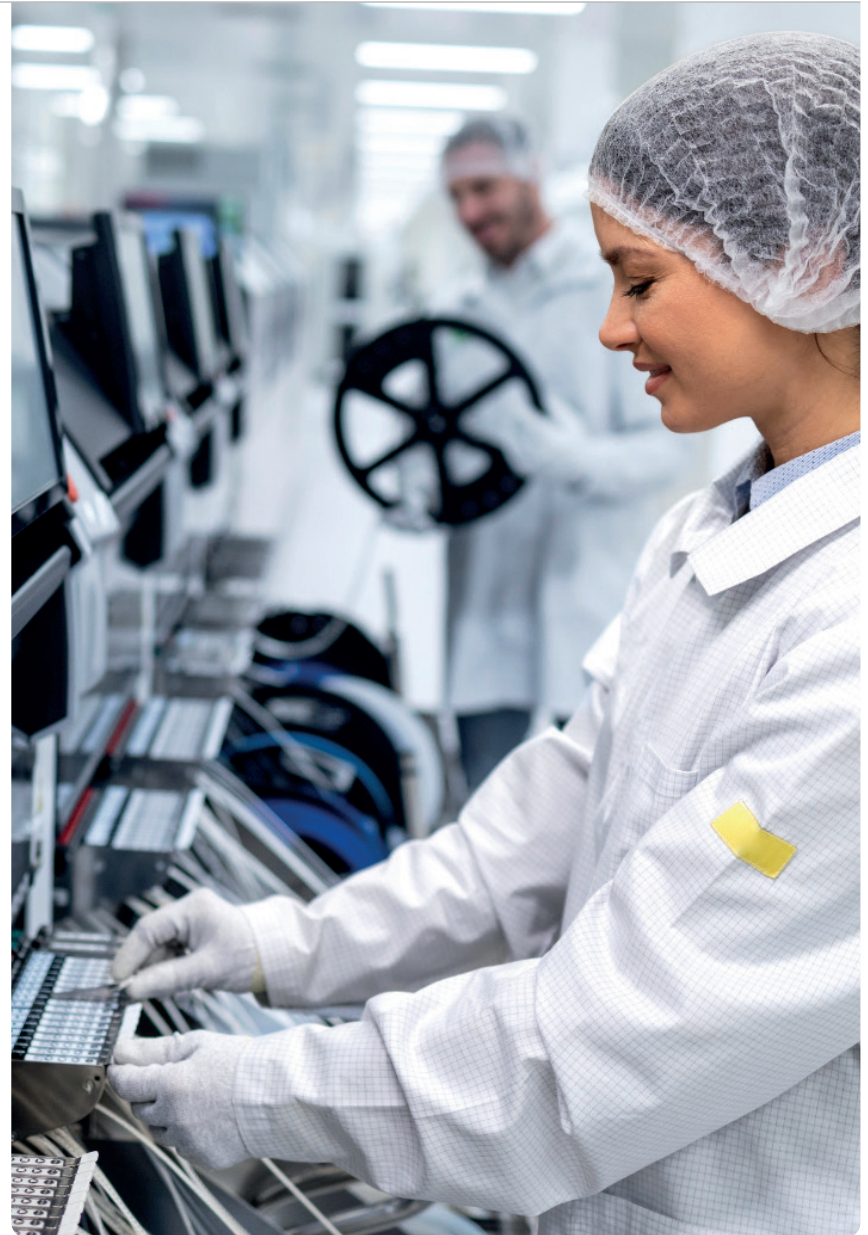
Turning innovation into manufacturing reality

The Scale-up pillar of DRIVE35 is designed to help businesses bridge the critical gap between innovation and full-scale manufacturing. By catalysing investment in advanced technologies and sustainable production processes, it enables businesses to scale faster, reduce risk, and unlock private sector funding.

There are two core grant funding opportunities

Scale-up
Feasibility Studies

Scale-up Fund



Scale-up Feasibility Studies

Advance readiness for manufacturing

About Feasibility Studies

Feasibility Studies funding helps businesses validate their business case and prepare for future UK-based manufacturing scale-up.

It supports early-stage planning and evaluation, ensuring projects are investment-ready and grounded in robust technical, commercial, and financial evidence.

This is the ideal entry point before progressing to the Scale-up Fund or Automotive Transformation Fund.

Projects can explore scale-up pathways at pilot, demonstration, or full-industrial scale for zero-emission technologies.

Key benefits

- £150,000 to £750,000 in government grant funding
- A unique opportunity to produce a decision-ready business case
- Validate technical and commercial viability
- Prepare for pilot, demonstration, or full-industrial scale production

Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a UK-registered business
- Meet funding ratios: Up to 60% for SMEs / Up to 50% for large organisations
- Have a product proposed for scale-up at a minimum of TRL5 or MRL4
- Complete the project within 9 months
- Apply as a single applicant (subcontracting allowed)
- Deliver and exploit outcomes within the UK

Scale-up Fund

Enabling rapid growth through co-investment

About Scale-up Fund

The Scale-up Fund is designed to support businesses through the most challenging phase of development – often referred to as the 'Valley of Death.' This is where proven business plans require significant investment to reach commercial production. This fund helps turn validated concepts into industrial reality by supporting the development of new pilot-scale and demonstration-scale 'first-of-a-kind' production processes and facilities.

Key benefits

- £2.5 million to £20 million government grant funding available per project, with a wider total investment ratio of 2:1 or better (private investment: scale-up grant)
- Supports both capital investment and R&D costs
- Open to UK-registered companies (single applicants or consortia)
- Project duration includes 9 months to raise investment for matched funding (if required)

Funding levels

- Up to 50% funding for micro or SMEs
- Up to 30% funding for large organisations

How it works

- Receive an offer in principle upon approval
- Use this to unlock additional private investment
- Develop pilot or demonstration-scale production capability
- Build confidence with customers and investors
- Progress toward full industrialisation

Technologies we support

Both the Scale-up Fund and Feasibility Studies share the same technology scope including:

- Electrical energy storage: Development of batteries, supercapacitors, their components, management, and integrated systems
- Electric machines and associated driveline
- Power electronics including vehicle-to-everything (V2X)
- Internal combustion engine (ICE) for off-road applications, we will fund project proposals that support a transition to zero emissions, utilising non-fossil fuels
- Lightweight vehicle and powertrain structures
- Fuel-cell systems and associated balance of plant
- Hydrogen storage and management systems
- Zero-emission vehicle assembly



How to apply

If your project meets the eligibility criteria, applications can be submitted via the Innovation Funding Service.

We're here to help

Whether you're validating a concept or scaling production, DRIVE35's Scale-up funding opportunities can help you accelerate innovation, reduce risk, gain private investment, and bring zero-emission technologies to market.

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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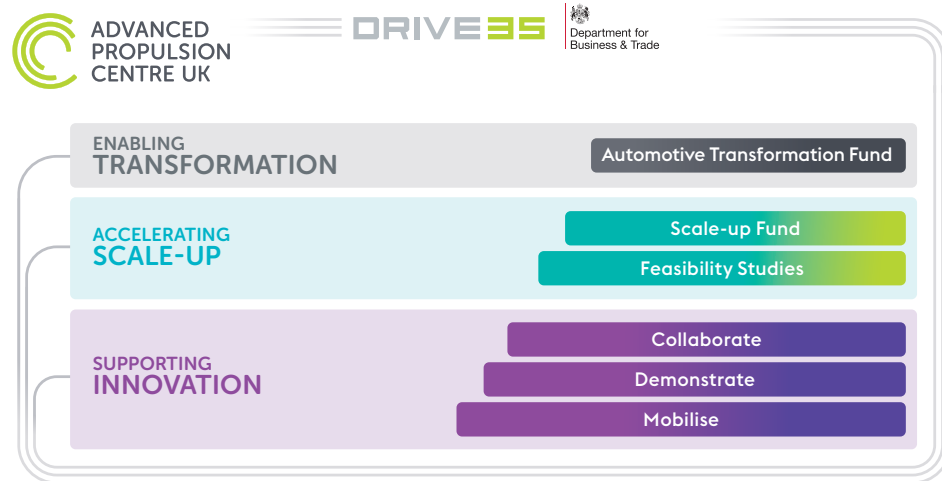


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DRIVE35 funding streams

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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