

FREIGHT INNOVATION FUND

Sponsored by the Department for Transport



Department
for Transport



Funded by
UK Government

FREIGHT INNOVATION FUND

Innovation can help address the government **Missions** by creating new digital, technological or organisational solutions.

Over the past three years, government has harnessed the power of innovation in freight via the **Freight Innovation Fund (FIF)**. FIF helps innovators with late-stage innovation trial and scale-up in collaboration with **industry partners** and investors.

Together the DfT, the CPC, innovative SMEs and key industry partners have established a fund which has:

- **Increased the awareness** among the sector of innovative solutions coming to market;
- **Improved the understanding** amongst industry and government of how technologies can meet real-world freight problems;
- **Raised awareness of the sector's needs** amongst innovators; and,
- **Supported and invested in 29 innovative solutions** via the Freight Innovation Fund Accelerator.



THE PROGRAMME

The Department for Transport's Freight Innovation Fund, is a **£7 million project** that aims to '*accelerate the development and adoption of commercially viable, multi-modal solutions within the freight sector*'.

- The **Accelerator Programme** has provided funding and support to 29 SMEs across three cohorts, enabling them to test their innovations in real-world environments across three cohorts, with the final cohort completing trials by March 2025.
- The **Freight Innovation Cluster (FIC)** is a community that brings together industry, academia and government across the UK from the freight industry.



FREIGHT INNOVATION FUND **ACCELERATOR**



Support and finance SMEs to test their solutions in real-world environments



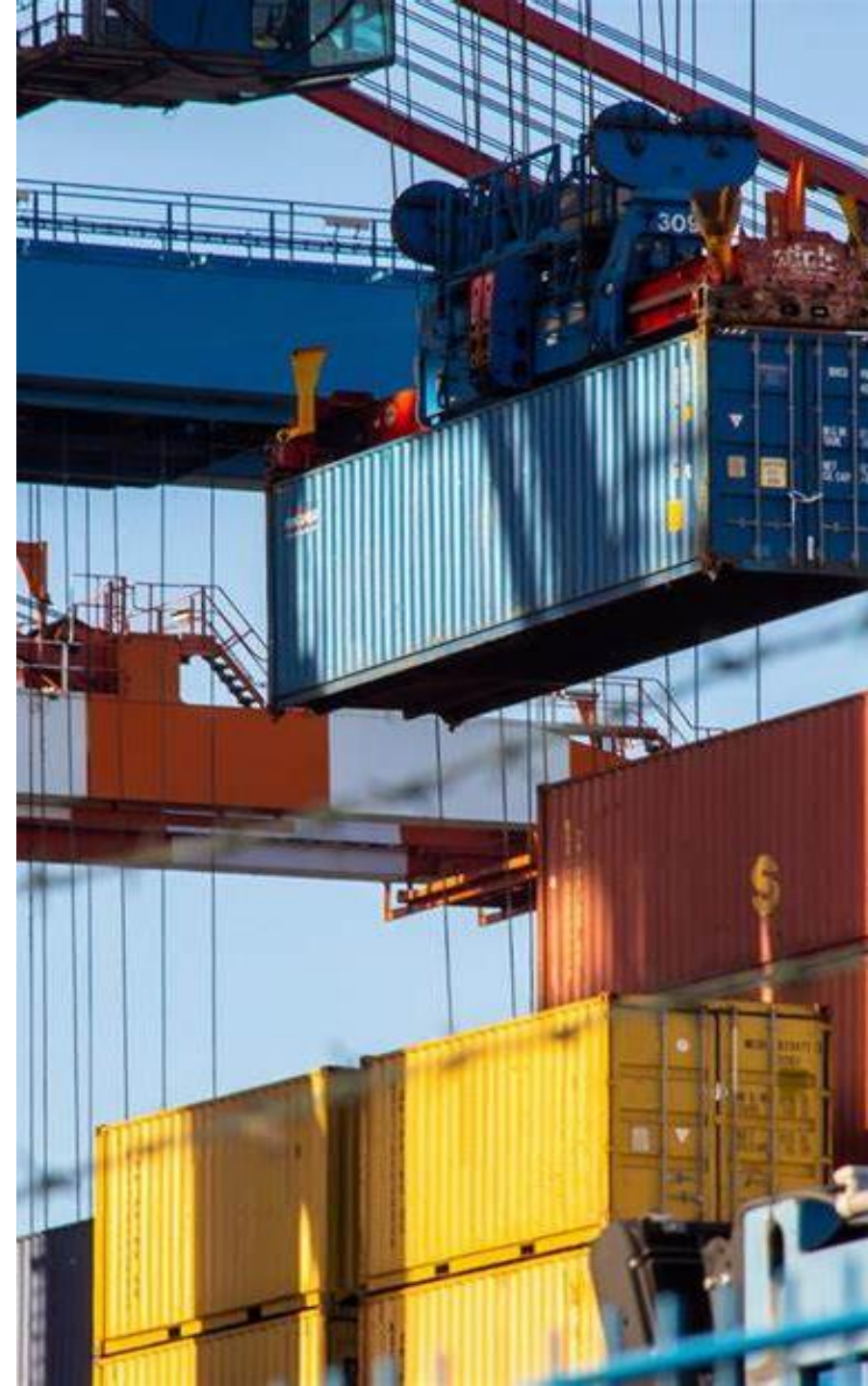
Each SME has access up to **£150,000 of funding**



Trial partners provide access to testing facilities and support SMEs to conduct the trials



SMEs also benefit from **business support** tailored to their strategy, marketing and investment needs



ACCELERATOR SUCCESS STORIES

SKYPORTS – COHORT 1

Partner: Royal Mail

Trial

Skyports tested daily inter-island mail distribution operation in the Orkney Islands. This was the first UK drone delivery project to be conducted on a permanent basis under existing regulatory frameworks.

Outcomes

- Drones allow Royal Mail to deliver post and mail **24 hours earlier** than their traditional van and ferry transportation methods.
- **70% cheaper** in total cost.
- **80% greener** through carbo emissions.

Royal Mail has continued the drone delivery services in the Orkney Islands.

Press Release: [UK's first drone mail service begins in Orkney - BBC News](#)



HUBL – COHORT 2

Partners: Welch's Transport and Pilgrim Foodservice

Trial

Hubl tested the CoolRun Pod, an energy-efficient and temperature-controlled transport solution designed to reduce operational costs and emissions, while ensuring the quality of goods is preserved.

Outcomes

- **Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 10.5%** vs refrigerated HGV.
- **Reduced costs by £0.24 per kilometre** vs standard transport refrigeration.
- **12.1% reduction in total cost of ownership.**

Hubl has partnered with **Welch's Transport**, to integrate CoolRun into Welch's service offerings.

Pilgrim Foodservice has extended the trial beyond the programme.



ACCELERATOR IMPACT

CATAPULT
Connected Places


Department
for Transport



Cohorts 1 and 2



115
Applications
Received



19 SMEs
Selected



£2,5M Grant
funding provided



£1,2M SME
Match Funding



75 Investor
Introductions



+£100M
funding Raised
by SMEs



104 Business
Introductions



35 Job
Creation

Programme Partners:



Wincanton



THE FREIGHT INNOVATION CLUSTER (FIC)



The freight Innovation cluster (FIC) is a network of members operating in the freight Industry, which regularly engages and work collaboratively towards joint opportunities.

- With more than **380 organisations**, encompassing SMEs, large organisations, academic research bodies, public sector and other players, the freight Innovation cluster is far from being only a community.
- The FIC is a thriving, interconnected ecosystem of opportunities, where small, medium sized, large organisations come together and collaborate towards **innovative joint research or fit-for-market commercial products**.
- **Typically TRL 3-9**



BENEFITS OF JOINING THE FREIGHT INNOVATION CLUSTER



1

Ecosystem development

To bring together stakeholders from across the freight and logistics industry. The cluster is accessible, diverse and inclusive; it welcomes a breadth of organisations, spanning from academia, to start-ups, SMEs, and larger corporates.

2

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion in freight

To drive Equality, Diversity and Inclusion into the sector, breaking biases and stigma, and igniting a mind shift (Gender, Disability, Age, Ethnicity).

3

Access to investment and commercialisation

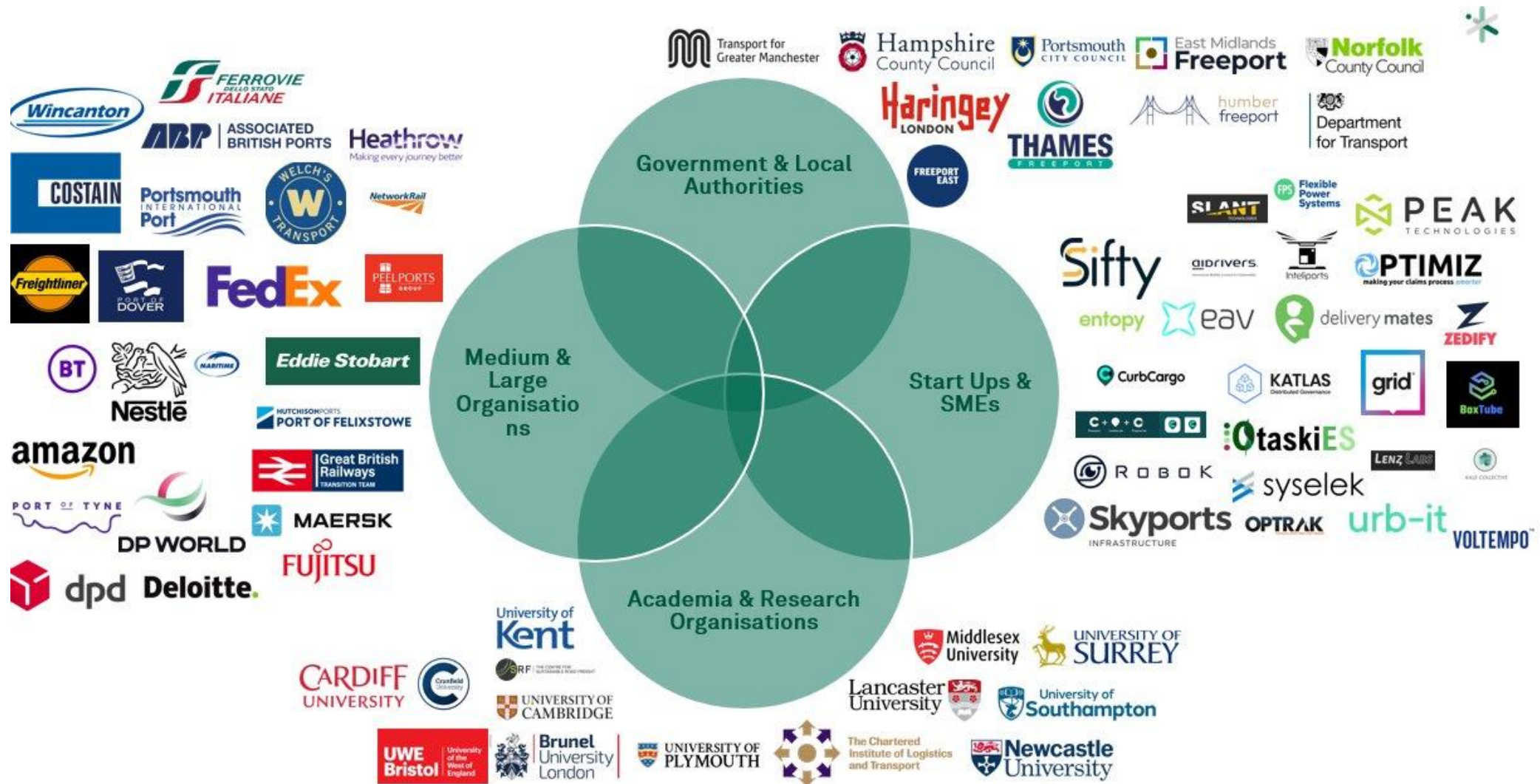
To help organisations within the industry take advantage of the breadth of funding available and understand public and private investment, supported by investment preparedness training.

4

Upskilling and knowledge sharing

To offer organisations an opportunity to provide feedback and insights, contributing to the shaping and development of the challenges driving future accelerators within the programme.

FREIGHT INNOVATION CLUSTER MEMBERS



**JOIN THE FREIGHT
INNOVATION
CLUSTER
AND INTERACT ON
ITS NEWEST
COMMUNITY
PLATFORM**



THANK YOU

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