

The Scottish Inward Investment Catalyst Fund

The Scottish Inward Investment Catalyst Fund (IICF) has been developed by Interface and the Scottish Government to attract and support businesses, not yet located in Scotland to collaborate with academic institutions on their research and development activity. In addition to funding the project, it provides an opportunity for the company to establish relationships and give insight into other aspects of the Scottish landscape, such as further investment opportunities, supply chains and the skills base to strengthen the case for investing in Scotland.

Awards of up to £10,000 are available to fund projects between Scottish academic institutions and businesses. The latest round is currently open and will close on: Monday 9th November 2026. More information can be found [here](#).

Benefits

Since 2021 the fund has supported 44 companies to develop projects with Scottish academic institutions across a range of disciplines and Scottish inward investment priorities. Ten of the collaborations have led to the physical presence of companies in Scotland and have supported conversations with enterprise agencies, local authorities and Green Free Ports for developing operations and investing here.

Positive outcomes are also being realised for the academic base with sustained relationships being developed and follow on funding being sought in many of the collaborations. Up to May 2025, two Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and 2 PhD studentships as well as Innovate UK funding have successfully been applied for and strengthened the business and academic relationships and ties to the Scottish ecosystem.

Interface Support

If you do not have an academic partner, please contact the Interface team who can support this process:
info@interface-online.org.uk

With connections into all Scottish academic institutions, Interface has established an efficient process that can support and speed up the process of finding and accessing the most appropriate academic expertise and facilities.



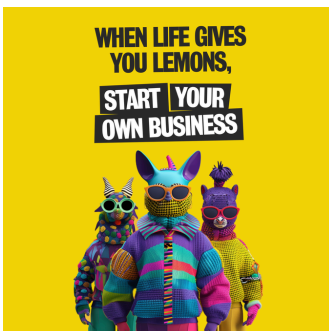


Vaste Technologies and Edinburgh College

Through the fund, Edinburgh College has worked with tech company Vaste Technologies to develop their online procurement platform to help bioenergy, biofuel, and biotechnology companies source reliable sustainable materials for their operations. The company has now based their headquarters in Edinburgh and Evans Chelal, Founder and Chief Executive of Vaste said "The Inward Investment Catalyst Fund has given Vaste far more than capital. We've benefitted from strategic open doors to key stakeholders, including customers, talent, and investors. Through this support, Vaste can scale faster, reach further, and deliver value than we could by ourselves." Vaste are looking to raise investment and recruit in Scotland over the coming year.

Evolve Metals Ltd & University of Strathclyde

Evolve Metals Ltd are committed to building the first green, emission-free copper refinery in Scotland. They worked with the University of Strathclyde to model their innovative low carbon copper recovery process to assess the impact and performance of the reactor. Evolve Metals Ltd are currently developing their pilot plant which will be the first copper refinery in the UK for over 30 years. They are in discussion with Scottish industry partners on potential collaborations and have undertaken further projects with the University of Edinburgh, National Manufacturing Institute of Scotland and University of St Andrews.



ZiYX & University of the West of Scotland

ZiYX Scotland Ltd, has developed a multifaceted platform that integrates essential services and tools tailored to support any startup, regardless of the founder's prior knowledge or resources. Their collaborative project with the University of the West of Scotland developed a tailored gamification framework for their app, enhancing user engagement and retention. Now set up as a company registered in Scotland ZiYX has launched with local support, they now employ 8.5FTEs and have attracted Venture Capital funding of £1.5m for expansion into UK, USA, and Europe markets.

Serene & University of St Andrews

Serene are a fintech company who aim to integrate advanced technology, scientific expertise, and a deep understanding of human vulnerabilities, to create a serene financial experience. They aim to revolutionise how banks identify and support their vulnerable customers through reshaping the industry and fostering long-term consumer financial wellbeing. In collaboration with the University of St Andrews they analysed synthetic and real consumer transaction data to explore the nuanced relationship between financial vulnerability and mental health, uncovering financial patterns indicative of both existing vulnerabilities and early-warning signs. The insights and methodologies gained from this project have led to the development of a proof-of-concept which has equipped Serene with a solid foundation to build models and introduce them to the market with greater confidence.



Other companies who have successfully applied for the fund are:

2M Foundation / AlgiSys UK Ltd / Alta Vision Ltd / Aquallite Data Ltd / Cormorant Seaplanes / Cumulus Energy / Ecomar Propulsion Ltd / Extend Robotics / Evolve Hydrogen / Fermtech / Geotourist / Graymatics / Greenflow Energy / Gruppo Sismica / Masterisk Ltd / Nature Based / Nutrigo (BiaGo) / Oraid Solutions / Okoform / Oxlabs / Reaforma / Salop Design / Satore Technology / Simul Software / Skenario Labs Ltd / Sungreen H2 / Take Ten / Tattva Limited / Therme / Titanvolt / Trem Ltd / Vertical Aerospace / viO Healthtech / Wayv / ZiYX