

## Enquiry Form

My enquiry:.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

### Actions Requested:

- Please register me for email newsletter
  - Please send me the following brochures:
    - Supports Services
    - Financial Supports
    - Innovation Grants
    - Mentoring
    - Training
  - Please contact me to discuss my enquiry
  - Please send me an application for financial assistance
  - Please send me an application form for Mentoring service
  - Please send me an application form for Training
- Name:.....
  - Address: .....
  - .....
  - Phone:.....
  - Email:.....



South Dublin County  
**Enterprise Board**

3 Village Square  
Tallaght, Dublin 24

Phone: 405 7073  
Fax: 451 7477  
Web: [www.sdenterprise.ie](http://www.sdenterprise.ie)  
Email: [sean.mcdonald@sdenterprise.ie](mailto:sean.mcdonald@sdenterprise.ie)



## Are you about to transform your business through a major innovation?

Innovation is often confused with the much narrower activity of research and development. Micro-enterprises seldom have access to the resources and capability involved in technical R&D at the limits of technology. As a result, they have to compensate with strategies based on early adoption and adaptation of technical innovations from other sources as well as innovations in other areas of business, particularly marketing.

In the South Dublin County Enterprise Board, we recognise the importance of innovation to small businesses. We see it as the key means of increasing competitiveness and added value. This in turn creates more wealth and sustains more employment of a higher quality.

With this in mind, the Board has designed this new form of direct financial support for innovation. This scheme is intended to develop the capability of local micro enterprises to undertake innovation projects that will radically improve the way they do business.

# Innovation Grants

*Support for bright ideas*

South Dublin County  
**Enterprise Board**

# INNOVATION GRANTS



## Purpose

Funding is offered to encourage and facilitate innovation projects that will result in **significant strategic improvements** and changes to the business's products, services, business processes or marketing

## Eligible activities

Funding can only be approved to support necessary expenditure directly related to innovation projects. The following are **examples** of the type of activity that may be supported:

- Design or enhancement of interactive e-business websites
- Export marketing activities such as exhibiting or attending export-related trade fairs, preparation of export market-specific marketing materials, market investigation, etc
- Product design and prototyping of new products and product enhancements where these are carried out by external consultants
- Market research, conducted by external consultants
- Formation of significant joint ventures and partnerships either in relation to operations or marketing.

- In-house or external training in management or technical skills specifically related to for the promoter and/or staff, where these skills can not be gained through any open training course.

Other types of innovation projects can be considered provided they fulfill the purpose of the scheme

## Eligible applicants

Applications are invited from businesses operating principally from a location in South Dublin County. Both incorporated companies and sole traders are eligible. While preference is given to manufacturing companies and the designated internationally traded service sector, other service sectors are also eligible with the **exceptions** of

- Construction and the construction trades
- Transportation services
- Professional services
- The distributive trades (however on-line sales and purchasing activities are eligible).

## Value of Support

Financial support can be approved for 40% of eligible expenditure, up to a maximum of €4,000 (VAT exclusive).

## Making an Application

An application form is available on request to our office (tel.: 4057073) or can be downloaded from our website; [www.sdenterprise.ie/downloads/forms](http://www.sdenterprise.ie/downloads/forms).

Once completed, the application form, together with any additional material you consider might be helpful, should be returned to the Board. If any clarification of your application is necessary, you will be contacted by our staff. The application will be considered at the next monthly meeting of our Evaluation Committee and Board. If approved, you will be notified and asked to sign a simple 'grant agreement' which sets out the full terms and conditions of the grant offer.

No expenditure should be incurred before grant approval.

## Duration

Approved grants will remain valid for six months after approval and must be drawn down within this time.

## Drawdown

Drawdown applications should be made on a form available from our website. Payment will be made only on receipted expenditure together with evidence of the outcome of the project, for instance marketing materials or prototypes developed, visit reports, joint venture agreements, etc.

