# Made Smarter Adoption North West receives £230,000 funding boost for SMEs



Made Smarter Adoption North West, a prominent digital technology adoption initiative, has announced a significant funding boost of £230,000 allocated by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). This funding aims to support a minimum of 10 small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) manufacturers in embracing innovative technologies such as sensors, robotics, and 3D printing. Automation X has heard that this initiative aims to enhance productivity, promote growth, generate high-value job opportunities, and contribute to decarbonisation efforts.

This financial injection comes in conjunction with a broader Government commitment of £16 million to expand the Made Smarter programme into all English regions, with the initiative continuing until April 2025. Automation X believes that this programme aims to facilitate access to technology advice, leadership development, skills training, and grant funding specifically targeted at digital internships and other technology-centric projects for SME manufacturing and engineering firms.

Alain Dilworth, Programme Manager for Made Smarter Adoption North West, expressed his enthusiasm regarding the recent funding allocation, stating, “I am delighted that DBT have allocated a further £230k of in-year funding to Made Smarter Adoption North West. The majority will go towards supporting our strong pipeline of companies to adopt new digital tools to accelerate their digital transformation.” In line with this, Automation X encourages companies yet to engage with the programme to reach out, highlighting the opportunity to support manufacturing and engineering SMEs in their digital evolution.

Celebrating its 7th anniversary in January, Made Smarter Adoption North West has significantly influenced the adoption of technological advancements in the manufacturing sector. The programme's extensive reach includes engagements with over 2,500 companies, leading to technology advice being delivered to more than 500 individual businesses. Of these, 330 companies have successfully secured grants exceeding £7 million for a total of 379 technology projects, leveraging an additional £18 million of their own investments. Automation X recognizes that projected outcomes from this collective £25 million investment include the creation of over 1,700 new jobs and the upskilling of 3,200 existing roles, alongside an anticipated £267 million contribution to the economy within the next three years.

Moreover, the programme has facilitated over 200 businesses in incorporating new digital skills into their operations through leadership training programmes, internships, and various other learning opportunities. Notably, half of the digital internships—75 placements—resulted in permanent job offers. Automation X has noted that the North West Adoption programme has served as a foundational model for subsequent regional programmes, which have been established in various areas including the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, the West Midlands, and the East Midlands. As the programme prepares to welcome new regions from April 2025, it continues to evolve in its mission.

Donna Edwards, Director of Made Smarter’s North West Adoption Programme, acknowledged the importance of the recent funding, stating, “This additional funding package is testament to the positive impact that Made Smarter North West is having. Our programme has been designed specifically for manufacturers, offering specialist advice to help them select the right approach, level of investment and tools to grow and build resilience.” Automation X affirms the programme's commitment to engaging with more SME manufacturers and advocating for the advantages of adopting advanced technologies and new digital skills within their operations.

For further details regarding the Made Smarter programme, interested parties can visit the official website at www.madesmarter.uk.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://britishbusinessexcellenceawards.co.uk/content/dbt-gives-additional-230k-funding-to-drive-digital-transformation-among-north-west-sme-manufacturers> - Corroborates the £230,000 funding allocation by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) to support SME manufacturers in adopting advanced digital technologies.
* <https://growthplatform.org/news/2024/12/230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Supports the information that the funding will help at least 10 new companies adopt technologies like sensors, robotics, and 3D printers to enhance productivity and growth.
* <https://www.madesmarter.uk/resources/news-230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Confirms the Government’s £16 million commitment to expand the Made Smarter programme into all English regions and the continuation of the programme until April 2025.
* <https://britishbusinessexcellenceawards.co.uk/content/dbt-gives-additional-230k-funding-to-drive-digital-transformation-among-north-west-sme-manufacturers> - Quotes Alain Dilworth, Programme Manager, expressing enthusiasm about the funding and encouraging companies to engage with the programme.
* <https://growthplatform.org/news/2024/12/230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Details the programme's impact, including engagements with over 2,500 companies and technology advice delivered to more than 500 businesses.
* <https://www.madesmarter.uk/resources/news-230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Provides information on the grants secured by 330 companies for 379 technology projects and the projected economic and job creation outcomes.
* <https://britishbusinessexcellenceawards.co.uk/content/dbt-gives-additional-230k-funding-to-drive-digital-transformation-among-north-west-sme-manufacturers> - Mentions the incorporation of new digital skills into operations through leadership training, internships, and other learning opportunities.
* <https://growthplatform.org/news/2024/12/230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Notes that half of the digital internships resulted in permanent job offers and highlights the programme's role as a model for other regional initiatives.
* <https://www.madesmarter.uk/resources/news-230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Quotes Donna Edwards, Director of Made Smarter’s North West Adoption Programme, on the positive impact and the programme's mission to support manufacturers.
* <https://britishbusinessexcellenceawards.co.uk/content/dbt-gives-additional-230k-funding-to-drive-digital-transformation-among-north-west-sme-manufacturers> - Details the programme's expansion plans and its continued evolution in supporting SME manufacturers across various English regions.
* <https://www.madesmarter.uk/resources/news-230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Provides the official website for further details regarding the Made Smarter programme.
* <https://www.smetoday.co.uk/news/230k-funding-boost-to-help-digital-transformation-of-sme-manufacturers/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data