



Ein cyf/Our ref OQ59053

Adam Price MS
Welsh Parliament
Adam.Price@senedd.wales

7 February 2023

Dear Adam,

Thank you for your question regarding small and medium sized enterprises in the Senedd on the 31 January. Please find below additional information as promised on support available to help small businesses grow and innovate.

The Absorbent Hygiene Products challenge is a Small Business Research Initiative, led by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on behalf of [Dyfodol Gwyrdd Glân](#), / 'Clean Green Future'. The Dyfodol Gwyrdd Glân project team has been established on behalf of Welsh Local Authorities in collaboration with the Welsh Government, to identify affordable and sustainable treatments and recycling solutions for absorbent hygiene product waste in Wales.

Four companies were successful in being awarded R&D contracts to undertake Phase 1 feasibility projects, including NappiCycle. Phase 1, funded by Welsh Government, has been completed and the Dyfodol Project Board are reviewing all End of Project Reports and the outcomes of the feasibility studies. The Project Board will make a recommendation as to whether or not a Phase 2 should proceed, based on the Phase 1 results, and recommendations will be submitted to Ministers in due course.

In addition to the SBRI funding, NappiCycle has completed an Experimental Development SMART Cymru project last year with £180,000 support from the Welsh Government.

We will continue to partner Innovate UK with an on-going programme of SBRI's which encourage businesses to innovate and grow, such as the current [Welsh Ambulance Service challenge](#) which is generating significant interest.

As a result of our Co-operation Agreement work in developing an Innovation Strategy, you will be aware of plans to roll out a new, post ERDF, SMART Flexible Innovation Support programme, helping Welsh businesses to embark on an innovation journey, accessing increasingly more competitive sources of R&D and innovation funding.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Additionally, you may wish to be aware of the Business Wales Accelerated Growth programme (AGP) launched in April 2015 providing specialist tailored support for businesses with the potential to realise significant growth potential.

High growth support is delivered by highly skilled coaches and mentors and is supported with a suite of dynamic online high growth tools.

AGP aims to support and develop start-ups and SMEs in Wales that have high growth aspirations and potential. The main objectives are to increase the number of sustainable high growth businesses in Wales; increase the turnover, employment and profits of businesses supported; increase the export sales of businesses; increase the number of jobs that generate high levels of GVA in Wales; and to recognise and nurture high growth potential through regionally tailored support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy