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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

# **Getting Building Fund expansion to support economic growth in Bucks**

## [Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) is delighted to announce, following approval from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) and Bucks LEP Board, the reallocation of **£5.79m** of [Getting Building Funds](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/getting-building-fund-projects/) to further support economic growth in Buckinghamshire.

Following a review of its Getting Building Fund programme at the end of 2020, Bucks LEP invited expressions of interest for new exciting projects to ensure that its grant is fully committed to deliver projects by March 2022 and supports its [Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/) and [Buckinghamshire Economic Recovery Plan](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/buckinghamshire-economic-recovery-strategy-consultation/).

Following MHCLG approval this month, Bucks LEP is reallocating **£5.79m** of Getting Building Funds to the following projects\*:

* **Innovation Ecosystem at Westcott**(£2,609,530)
* **TESTA – Novel Test Facility at Westcott**(£250,000)
* **Bucks Operator Skills Hub**(£750,000)
* **Centre of Excellence for Rocket Engine and Flow Tests Facility**(£740,000)
* **East West Rail-Fibre Provision Upgrade**(£643,000)
* **LUNAZ Applied Technologies**(£250,000)
* **Bucks Rural Broadband Voucher Top Up**(£300,000)
* **Advanced Braking Facility**(£247,470)

This investment will create hundreds of new jobs and opportunities for training and provide facilities for education and space for new businesses to develop their ideas.

\*For full details of projects – see ‘notes to editors’

**more…**

# **Getting Building Fund expansion: 2**

“Sam Green, Operations Director at European Astrotech Limited, said: European Astrotech are proud to be recipients of Getting Building Funding, which will support the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Rocket Engine and Satellite Propulsion Flow Testing Facility at Westcott, which allow quick turnaround testing of Liquid Rocket Engine assemblies in their development stage and to provide satellite manufactures access to flow and priming testing of sub-systems with all know liquid rocket propellants.

“With no such facility available in Europe that can accommodate quick turnaround testing, the new facility will complement the National Rocket Engine Test Facility at Westcott. This investment by Bucks LEP will strengthen our competitive advantage and opens up the next stage in the evolution of the Westcott site to attract new business and investment to this world-class centre of excellence in space propulsion.”

This reallocation Getting Building Funds builds on the previous allocation of funding in August 2020 of £7.7m for keys projects including the Westcott Disruptive Innovative Space Centre (DISC) and the Rural Broadband Programme - Remote

Access Rapid Expansion.

Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said:

“We are delighted to announce that Bucks LEP has reallocated **£5.79m** as part of Government’s Getting Building Fund, which will fast-track investment in local projects to accelerate economic growth.

“I am delighted by the speed at which our call for ‘shovel-ready’ projects in Buckinghamshire brought forward a number of high-calibre schemes with the capacity to kick-start growth in the county. This is testament to Buckinghamshire’s resilience and agility.”

**more…**

# **Getting Building Fund expansion: 3**

Chris Hebert, Engineering Director at D2H Advanced Technologies, said: “We are absolutely delighted that the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership has chosen to support D2H Advanced Technologies’ innovative and pioneering work in brake testing and research through their Getting Building Fund programme. Such grant funding will be instrumental in helping us deliver a market leading service for the mobility sector.”

This funding will drive the economic recovery and support continued delivery of [Buckinghamshire’s Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/) and growth within our four key sectors, Upstream Space, Creative and Digital, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing and Medical Technology and Health.

Bucks LEP is a business led Local Enterprise Partnership which promotes economic growth and prosperity across Buckinghamshire. Bucks is a significant wealth generator for the UK economy, and the commitment of over £73m in Local Growth Funds is unleashing ambition and creativity in the county. This funding is enabling

the delivery of new road and rail infrastructure, better skills and business opportunities and enhancing digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in Bucks.

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

**Getting Building Funds projects:**

1. **Buckinghamshire Council - Bucks Rural Broadband Voucher Top Up**(£300,000)

Extra £300k grant funding to boost the Gigabit Voucher scheme in Buckinghamshire, delivering fibre to premise and 100mbps speed to over 2,000 premises, including over 430 businesses, through the national government delivery framework run by BDUK.

1. **European Astrotech Limited** - **Centre of Excellence for Rocket Engine and Flow Tests Facility**(£740,000)

EAL have identified a requirement to develop and qualify a Centre of Excellence Rocket Testing facility, (CEREFT) – a ‘Quick Look’ Liquid Rocket Engine Test Facility that will allow quick turnaround testing of Liquid Rocket Engine assemblies up to 450 Newton thrust level in their development stage.

There is currently no such facility available in Europe that can accommodate quick turnaround testing. The intention is that the facility will complement the National Rocket Engine Test Facility at Westcott. The Quick Look Facility will allow component level development testing at a cost that data indicates will be substantially less than that for the National Test Facility.

1. **Satellite Applications catapult** **-** **Innovation Ecosystem at Westcott**(£2,609,530)

Expansion of the UK space sector offer at Westcott, to accelerate delivery of three additional capabilities to support longer term ambitions and EZ, including three distinct proposals including,

* Autonomy Testing Area (ATA) - £1,399,654
* Healthy Living labs - £726,010
* In Orbit Servicing & Manufacturing (IOSM) - £483,866
* Total GBF - £2,609,530

These projects will together form an innovation ecosystem. They complement the existing investment by Bucks LEP and its partners in key research infrastructure for growing these important sectors of the economy as well as building towards the Space Innovation Business Park articulated in the Westcott Strategic Vision (2020).

The Satellite Applications Catapult’s remit to support the development of the UK Space sector, and its relationship and collaboration with UK Government organisations such as the UK Space Agency allows us to contribute and shape the future of the UK’s space ambition. These investment initiatives are recognised by both UKSA and Central government as being enablers of that ambition.

1. **Flannery Plant Hire Limited** - **Bucks Operator Skills Hub**(£750,000)

Flannery successfully delivered the West Midland’s Operator Skills Hub in partnership with Balfour Beatty, the leading civil engineering contractor in the United Kingdom.

Project aim

To create a new Specialist Skills Hub to support local training needs and provide upskilling within the construction plant industry. The focus will be on ensuring local people can access the apprenticeship programme and take advantage of the training and employment opportunities this hub will provide, including future skill areas such as GPS training, virtual reality plant simulators and remote management systems on the most advanced construction equipment.

Outcomes

The Skills Hub project outcomes are all driven by an ambition to create local sustainable employment opportunities in support of regional infrastructure projects such as: HS2 and the East West Rail Network route.

1. **URA Thrusters Limited -** **TESTA – Novel Test Facility at Westcott**(£250,000)

URA Thrusters is a spin-off company from AVS UK with the only goal to commercialise the use of water for space transportation and propulsion. AVS is an international SME and EN9100 supplier of the majority of worldwide Space primes (Airbus, TAS, OHB, RAFAEL, Virgin Orbit, SSTL, CubeSat primes, etc.).

URA Thrusters is developing a commercial range of water propulsion systems (ICE) for Reaction and Attitude Control Systems (RACS) of a brand-new reconfigurable 3,000 kg GEO spacecraft from Airbus. This brad-new transnationally platform from Airbus has already won several commercial contracts from worldwide operators, including Inmarsat, Intelsat and Optus.

ICE thrusters are the most suitable option to replace standard hydrazine toxic RACS with “green” alternatives for large platforms, and at the same time provide 20-30% cost reduction and operational benefits to Space platform and mission providers.

1. **LUNAZ Group - LUNAZ Applied Technologies**(£250,000)

The Directors of Lunaz have identified market potential in the extension of its EV proprietary powertrains and re-engineering approach to much wider industrial applications.

Global governments, including the United Kingdom have announced bans on the sale of new internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles by 2030. This is what the world requires to de-carbonise and provide a clean-air future presenting a potent commercial opportunity to build a clean-tech firm and create jobs and positive economic activity in the Buckinghamshire area.

1. **England’s Economic Heartland -** **East West Rail-Fibre Provision Upgrade**(£643,000)

The project will expand the standard 24-fibre cable provision required for railway operations to a 432-fibre spine: the additional capacity will provide a step-change in digital connectivity that is able to:

* Deliver backhaul services to enable local providers to deliver gigabit and superfast broadband to rural communities along the Bicester to Bletchley section of East West Rail via fixed and wireless connectivity.
* Enable increased mast connectivity for mobile network operators to extend mobile services including 5G to the surrounding areas.
* Support the aspiration to provide gigabit-capable

connectivity to the region.

The project will deliver improved digital connectivity where commercial competition has failed to deliver infrastructure investment. It will provide 21,600 premises with gigabit-capable broadband.

The project is time-critical: the project will deliver the fibre upgrade as part of the construction of the Bicester to Bletchley section of East West Rail. Construction of this section is now underway. Delivery of the fibre upgrade in this way can be achieved at one-tenth of the cost of retrofitting the capability after the railway becomes operational.

1. **D2H Advanced Technologies** **- Advanced Braking Facility**(£247,470)

D2H Advanced Technologies (D2H) is part of the D2H Group, an engineering service provider founded in 2015. D2H delivers the highest levels of engineering and technology in a wide range of sectors (motorsport, automotive, Olympic sports, high-spec industrial machinery and high-fidelity test equipment), has the technical skills required for successful ABF project delivery.

The project will require further growth of D2H, providing additional employment for up to 10 x FTE in high technology, high value areas such as mechanical design, control systems, and electronics for project delivery, and with an estimated 5 new hires retained for ABF management and operation after project completion.

The [**Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF) is the Growth Hub for the county and is backed by Buckinghamshire-based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs, the Buckinghamshire LEP and Buckinghamshire Council. BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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