

Innovation Infrastructure Partnership

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Intellectual
Property
Office

NPL 
National Physical Laboratory



nel
flow measurement
services

Vision

The Innovation Infrastructure Partnership's vision is to support the creation, adoption and commercialisation of new technologies, helping UK companies to gain a global advantage in areas of strategic importance.



Our aim

To maximise the impact of investment in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund:

- helping to bring new products and services to market faster through championing guidance and best practice;
- delivering competitive advantage for UK-based innovators by
 - leading the creation and adoption of internationally recognised standards
 - helping companies navigate a complex intellectual property environment
- using the UK's world-leading intellectual property, measurement and standards infrastructure in a systematic fashion and through coordinated industrial engagement

We will achieve our vision by:

- identifying, through consultation, review and landscaping how standards, measurement and intellectual property advice can be used strategically in support of each challenge;
- disseminating knowledge from and contributing to the successful implementation of ISCF-funded competitions and demonstrators through the creation and use of new standards;
- bringing world-leading measurement expertise to the development of new measurement techniques and measurement standards;
- helping promote the rapid adoption of UK standards and measurement techniques internationally; and
- sharing IP expertise to address knowledge gaps and ensure innovators derive value from the proactive management of their intangible assets.

Benefits and impact

- Helping de-risk investment in and accelerating the adoption of new technologies through confidence in performance, in turn supporting the consolidation of emerging supply chains;
- enabling market barriers to be tackled that no single enterprise can achieve on its own, strengthening national capacity;
- providing a proven alternative to regulation of innovative sectors while still delivering safety, quality and efficacy;
- helping create a global market platform for UK-based innovators either directly or in partnership with other countries; and
- reinforcing the UK's global reputation for excellence in innovation.

Risks of doing nothing

- UK industry will have to play by the rules established by others
- UK industry will lose opportunities to develop first-mover advantage and global trading opportunities in industries of strategic value
- The development of fully operational/ integrated supply chains in emerging sectors will be delayed
- Governance frameworks underpinning consumer trust and investor confidence in new products and services will be incomplete
- Issues of interoperability will not be resolved in a timely fashion

Evidence of impact

Standards

- Research funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and published by BSI in 2015 concluded that 37.4% of UK productivity, 28.4% of UK GDP growth and £6.1 billion of UK exports can be attributed to standards.
- Setting international standards helps to deliver global leadership for the UK by accelerating innovation and commercialisation of technologies in areas where the UK has strong R&D capability.
- The importance of setting global standards has been acknowledged by the Government Office for Science: “acting as a standards setter is one of the government policy levers that can support emerging technologies by using “insights from living labs to develop UK standards – setting the global agenda by ‘showing, not telling’”.

Evidence of impact

Measurement

- Econometrics studies show that support from the National Measurement System can boost employment by 10%-15% within 2 to 4 years.
- Firms who actively engage with universities or Public Sector Research Establishments, including NPL, are up to 72% more likely to generate revenue from products that are new-to-market than those with the same characteristics and past history but who failed to make use of such institutions.
- Almost 40% of measurement case studies cited increased productivity as a result of positive measurement interventions.
- The cumulative effect of domestic measurement R&D on productivity growth has been shown to be somewhere between 0.8% and 2.0% of GDP.

Evidence of impact

Intellectual property

- In 2014 firms in the UK market sector invested an estimated £132.6 billion in knowledge assets, compared to £121.3 billion in tangible assets.
- In 2014, 53% (£70.4 billion) of knowledge investment in the UK market sector was protected by intellectual property rights (IPR).
- UK investment in intangible assets protected by IPRs has risen from £46.9 billion in 2000 to £70.4 billion in 2014; a 50% increase.
- IPR-intensive industries generated an estimated 26.8% (7.9 million) of UK employment and 43.7% (€867.9 billion) of UK GDP in 2011-2013 average.

Who we are

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*Setting standards
in analytical science*



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National
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System

