

Digital Innovation for Manufacturing (DI4M)

As the economy recovers from the pandemic, support for manufacturing remains pivotal to the UK economic success, and industry collaborations with universities remain a cornerstone of public support. Digital Innovation for Manufacturing (DI4M) helps **manufacturing SMEs based in Coventry and Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham and Solihull and the Black Country** benefit from the **latest manufacturing technologies and thinking**, including in digital manufacturing, business transformation, Net Zero and future mobility supply chains.

Through the programme, eligible SMEs are able to access a **package of support** to help their business **improve its competitiveness** by supporting product development processes and capabilities using digital technologies, as well as accessing key performance data for effective decision-making. Support is typically delivered through **collaborative projects**, assistance with **research and development** projects and specialist **events and workshops**.



Source: Warwick University. Available at: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/wmg/business/innovationexperience/success-stories>

Given the success of the programme, total project costs have been increased to **£11.1m** (jointly comprised of funding from the European Regional Development Fund and High Value Manufacturing) to keep the programme running until **March 2023** and **broaden its reach** to Worcestershire, Leicester and Leicestershire and the South East Midlands.

1 One beneficiary, **RamFoam** – a supplier of foam materials to the automotive and aerospace industries – was supported in pivoting its business, as their core markets were hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. With help from DI4M and Warwick Manufacturing Group, they began manufacturing face visors for the NHS. In just five weeks they became one of the biggest suppliers of PPE to the NHS – making over **three million recyclable face shields** per week. Over **55 million** have been made to date, and the company has created **500 jobs** as a result.

Key Stats

2,093

jobs supported by
DI4M

£143.3m

of GVA supported by
DI4M every year

£10m

additional
estimated sales

Beneficiary survey

75%

experienced an increase
in manufacturing
efficiency

76%

saw a reduction in time
required for product
design / development

96%

of business leaders have
positively changed how they
run their business