

What has the EU done for research and industry?

- Through Horizon 2020 the EU supports Scottish universities and research institutions as they work with their EU partners to increase our understanding of the world we live in and use that knowledge to innovate to the benefit of all.
- Horizon 2020 provides a programme of research and innovation worth nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) - this does not include private investment that Horizon 2020 projects attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. The UK submitted the highest number of applications to Horizon 2020 - as seen in the first set of results - with almost 12% of the total applications.
- Being in the EU allows the UK to collaborate with researchers across the continent to the benefit of all, not just EU citizens either. Thanks to the EU-funded STOPENTERICS project, the UK is working with 14 other nations to tackle neglected infectious diseases such as diarrhoeal diseases through vaccination, for example. And, the UK is involved in the INFECT project which seeks to improve our understanding and response to necrotising soft tissue infections (NSTIs) such as Necrotising Fasciitis.
- The EU is also funding a reintegration grant as part of a programme to enable European researchers working abroad to re-establish their careers in one of the EU Member States - this is helping the EU lead the way in understanding the Universe, biodiversity, climate change, disease control and much more.
- In relation to space, the Galileo programme is Europe's plan for a high-spec satellite navigation system that will provide a highly accurate global positioning service under civilian control. Galileo will be a key tool in search and rescue (SAR) missions. And, Copernicus is an EU-funded project that will help UK and other EU scientists better monitor and project the effects of climate and other environmental changes. The EU's space industry is mainly made up of SMEs and start-ups.
- When it comes to industry, the EU is the most important market for British industry as it accounts for 50% of UK exports. Although this figure is

reducing it is as a result of the EU providing a platform for businesses within British industry to export to rising economies outside the EU.

- The Late Payment Directive, passed in 2011, is of great benefit to SMEs. This Directive introduced strict measures to harmonise payment periods for payment by public authorities to businesses.
- The EU offers a one-stop-shop for SMEs called the Enterprise Europe Network. This helps SMEs access and harness the opportunities the EU presents.
- As only 25% of SMEs export to other countries, the Your Europe Business portal offers support to businesses that want to expand and make the most of the advantages of the single market.
- The European Small Business Portal gathers information for and about SMEs in the EU making it easier for SMEs to learn about access to finance, access to markets and improve their understanding of SME-related policy.
- SMEs are supported by the EU to reach international markets via the SME Internationalisation Portal.