

Access empowers growth:

How Scottish IKE is democratising, systemising and professionalising innovation



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Innovation delivers the greatest impact when it is accessible to all. The Scottish Institute of Innovation & Knowledge Exchange (Scottish IKE) is increasing access to innovation support that accelerates regional growth, strengthens industry capability and widens participation in STEM-led transformation.

Democratising innovation

Scottish IKE is designed to ensure innovation is for everyone. Since launching in 2017, it has developed into Scotland's national innovation centre of excellence, focused on removing barriers and extending innovation capability across education, industry and public services.

Hosted within City of Glasgow College, a polytechnic of our time, Scottish IKE helps individuals and organisations, regardless of size, sector or starting point, build confidence in using the tools and structured methods to innovate effectively.

Programmes span start-ups, SMEs, large employers, public bodies, and social enterprises, giving every part of the economy access to accredited, expert innovation support and globally recognised frameworks such as Investor in Innovations®, aligned to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 56002 innovation management standard and Digital Maturity Assured (DMA).

Systemising innovation

Over the past eight years, the institute's focus has been to move partners beyond sporadic idea generation towards repeatable, evidence-based innovation processes. Through diagnostic tools, maturity assessments, certified professional programmes and applied research, organisations are supported to:

- Embed innovation within governance and culture
- Align activity with measurable outcomes
- Build long-term resilience through capability, not chance
- Connect innovation to productivity, sustainability and growth

This structured approach has underpinned nationally significant initiatives across construction, engineering, health and social care, creative media, maritime, digital transformation, space, net zero, and the development of industry-led innovation ecosystems.

Professionalising innovation

City of Glasgow College is the first organisation in the UK to hold both the DMA accreditation and the Investor in Innovations® standard, positioning Scottish IKE as a recognised exemplar for innovation excellence.

The institute's professionally certified training helps organisations, across Scotland's economy, build a measurable innovation capability. This professionalisation supports a quality assured approach to scale innovation locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Innovation in action

Impact is demonstrated not only through frameworks and accreditations, but through applied research and delivery. Through Innovation Vouchers, applied research and development (R&D), and collaborative projects, Scottish IKE has supported innovation across multiple industries.

From supporting photovoltaic (PV) and piezoelectric technology development and data-driven solutions in construction to Altitude Thinking's Aquabot 2.0 product development and the award-winning research on oxygen depletion risks, recognised by a Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2023, the institute

shows how 'evidence and experimentation' can address safety, sustainability, digital transformation and productivity; and how accessible, systematic innovation capability delivers measurable improvements in both technology and public value.

Empowering Scotland's innovation ecosystem

Not only does Scottish IKE play a key role in the local and regional innovation ecosystems, but it is also connecting Scotland to global innovation assets.

Hosting the IPHatch® UK Open Innovation competition, start-ups can gain access to global patent portfolios from various multi-national corporations, accelerating the creation of scalable, technology led solutions in areas including Digital Health, FinTech, Sustainable Energy and AI/VR. Initiatives like IPHatch® support Scotland's ambitions to build a world class entrepreneurial nation.

Access empowers growth

Equitable access to evidence, expertise and structured support enables national progress. Scottish IKE embodies this by democratising who can innovate, systemising how innovation is done, and professionalising the standards by which innovation is recognised and measured.

By turning innovation from an abstract aspiration into an accessible, measurable and supported capability, Scottish IKE contributes to Scotland's economic transformation, whilst offering a model that aligns with the UK's science-policy community.