DiGiTAL Construction Skills

The Funding and Business Support Available to Construction Companies in Scotland

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citb ceca Construction Scotland Innovation Centre Digital Development Loan FIS Finishes & Interiors Sector hub South West Scotland Federation of Master Builders SELECT Skills Development Scotland

Funding and Support for Scottish Construction Companies

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There is a wide range of funding, support and finance available to Construction businesses in Scotland to support them with business improvement, business growth and improving their digital capability. This support, summarised in the attached table, comes from various sources including the Scottish Government, the UK Government, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre and CITB. This document outlines the full range of support available to all construction related businesses in Scotland.

Digital Construction Skills (DCS) can help connect you quickly with the right funding and support.

DCS can provide you with the level of support that suits you, whether that is a one-off call to help you identify the different types of funding you may be eligible for, or up to 10 hours of mentoring for SME business owners, Directors or senior managers for companies who are CITB registered, or who are in the supply chain of CITB Registered companies. There are no forms to fill in, simply book a 15, 30 or 60-minute call with a digital construction specialist to get started. This support is available until July 2022.

All DCS specialists have recent, real-world experience on the front line of the construction industry and are specialists in the technical and commercial aspects of digital construction, including digitalising information flow and physical elements such as 3D models and reality capture.

Your mentor can help you wherever you are on your digital journey, for example if you:

- Haven't yet explored how digital tools can help you, but know there is room for improvement in your business
- Have identified where you could improve your processes or activities using digital solutions and are ready to get started
- Have already started selecting or implementing digital tools, but have hit challenges or simply stalled
- Would like to increase your profitability, grow your business or tender for bigger jobs
- You would like to access other funding and support available which can help you with digital adoption

Testimonials

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Here's what others have said about the support they have received:

> Digital Construction Skills helped us access funding to help us train our staff in a new digital platform we are rolling out across our business.
>
> ***Andy Dalrymple, Managing Director, Mackenzie Construction***

> Within our first session with Digital Construction Skills, we identified the types of digital tools which could help us save time and money and ruled out the ones that weren't relevant to us.
>
> ***Keith Burrell, CEO, Procladd (Scotland) Ltd***

> The support helped us get all the right people together in one room, and get to the point where we were able to make a clear decision on the priority areas for digital tools.
>
> ***David Minns, Operations Director, GAC Environmental***

> Thanks to free support from Digital Construction Skills, I am adding several new revenue streams to my business including carrying out drone surveys and setting out construction works.
>
> ***Ed Clement, Owner, Patterson Bailey Engineers***

Useful Information

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Name	Description	Who is eligible	Cost	Funded by	Delivered by	Link
Digital Leadership Mentoring	10 hours of mentoring from a construction specialist to help with using digital tools for business improvement including digitalising information flow and physical elements such as 3D models and reality capture. Mentoring includes advice on how to access other funding, support, mentoring and finance.	CITB registered companies of any size or non-CITB registered companies in the supply chain.	Free	CITB	Digital Construction Skills	Thinking of digitalising your construction business? Digital Construction Skills are here to help.
Digital Development Loan	Improve the digital capacity, digital capability or digital skills of your workforce with equipment, software and training. Borrow between £5k – £100k interest free, up to 5 years repayment terms.	Scottish SMEs (less than 250 and less than €50M turnover)	Interest Free	Scottish Government	Digital Development Loan	Digital Development Loan – Interest free digital loans for Scottish SMEs
Digital Boost Programme	Expert advisers can provide your business with up to 21hrs of 1:1 support. A DigitalBoost adviser will offer you their knowledge and expertise either online or face to face. They can help you tackle your digital strategy, improve your SEO, improve your connectivity and cybersecurity and more.	Businesses in Scotland	Free	Scottish Government	Business Gateway	DigitalBoost | Business Gateway (bgateway.com)
Help to Grow Management Course	Supports senior managers of small and medium sized businesses to boost their business's performance, resilience, and long-term growth. 12-week programme, 2 x half day per week, includes 10 hours of mentoring support. Strathclyde University can match construction companies with a specialist construction mentor.	UK businesses with 5-250 employees	A contribution of £750 of the £7500 total cost	UK Government	Business Schools accredited by the Small Business Charter including Strathclyde University	Help to Grow – Management – Small Business Charter
Help to Grow Software Funding	50% towards approved software (accounting, CRM or eCommerce). Up to £5000 funding.	UK businesses with 5-250 employees	50% of the cost of the software	UK Government	Help to Grow	Help to Grow – Take your business to the next level (campaign.gov.uk)

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Name	Description	Who is eligible	Cost	Funded by	Delivered by	Link
Flexible Workforce Development Fund	100% funding for any training that improves productivity including digital skills, digital leadership skills, management and leadership training, product training for software and equipment. £15k for businesses paying the Scottish Apprenticeship levy and £5k for any other business.	Scottish Businesses	Free	Scottish Government	FE colleges. Some will sub-contract to private training providers.	Flexible Workforce Development Fund (sfc.ac.uk)
CITB Skills and Training Fund	Up to £25k for businesses with up to 250 employees. 100% of the costs of Grant Eligible Training or leadership training. See guidelines. Examples of grant eligible training for digital upskilling includes drones, laser scanners, GNSS, robotic total station, 3D mapping and modelling software, machine control, BIM.	CITB registered businesses with less than 250 employees	Free	CITB	CITB	Skills and Training fund - CITB
CITB Training Groups	Training Groups support levy registered employers to identify and access high-quality cost-effective training. They provide advice and guidance on mandatory and skill specific training, offer support to plan training needs, and help employers access high quality and cost-effective Approved Training Organisations. There are 12 registered groups in Scotland.	CITB registered businesses	Peppercorn membership fees	CITB	Various CITB Assured Training Groups	Scottish Civils Training Group Building Contractors Training Group Full list of Training Groups in Scotland
CITB Engagement Advisors	CITB Advisers can support you in diagnosing skills gaps, advising on apprenticeships, legislation and training, as well as signposting you to other sources of help and advice.	CITB registered businesses	Free	CITB	CITB	CITB Advisors
Funded Innovation Masters	£6530 to cover tuition fees for a Masters which supports projects that will make an impact on industry through new or developed processes, products or ideas that help solve industry challenges.	Individuals who would like to complete a Masters	Free	Scottish Government	CSIC and Participating Universities	Construction Scotland | Industry Leadership Group | What is it? (cs-ic.org)

Useful Information

Name	Description	Who is eligible	Cost	Funded by	Delivered by	Link
Build Ayshire Programme (This is an example of support available from Hub SW. Please enquire to find out about similar programmes in other regions.)	Build Ayrshire programme run in partnership with our Tier 1 contractors aimed at companies in construction and related sectors in Ayrshire. The online programme runs weekly from 3rd February to 24th March. Learn from business experts, develop with peers, and engage directly with Tier 1 Contractors. The structure helps you progress through action planning and business support to build capability, build relationships with hub's Tier 1 Contractors, and ultimately build your business.	Companies in construction and related sectors	Free	Scottish Government	Hub SW	Build Ayrshire Programme – Further information and sign-up
Trade Federations and industry bodies	There are a range of trade federations which provide additional business support services to employers within the construction industry in Scotland.	Dependent on business activities	Membership fees vary	N/A	Various	CECA Scotland Federation of Master Builders SNIPEF SELECT Finishes and Interiors Sector