



# INNOVATION PROGRAMME

## ievo and Innovation

North East biometric manufacturer ievo Ltd continue to deliver unrivalled technology with a helping hand from the North East SME Innovation Programme.

Founded in 2009, the company designs and manufactures biometric fingerprint scanners for the security and access control market. Noticing a clear gap in the security industry, the team created the ievo ultimate fingerprint reader, which scans fingerprints, even with certain substances present such as water, oil, dirt, grease and cream.

With the ievo ultimate reader gaining extensive industry acclaim the team began to develop its next product, the ievo micro which suits internal applications whilst retaining some of the original ievo ultimate features. These two products challenged the industry standard of fingerprint security and have quickly become the benchmark of biometric innovation in terms of technology, reliability and integration.

Shaun Oakes, managing director of ievo, said "Both products are now well established within the security industry and have generated quite a loyal following from security installers in the UK and overseas. We're always listening to our customers and we felt like the next step was offering them the opportunity to customise our products to suit their project or specification."

Shaun approached the Innovation Programme, which utilises £724,000 of ERDF investment and part financed by the European Union's ERDF Competitiveness Programme 2007-2013, to promote a step change in the region by encouraging North East businesses to explore their innovative potential. Shaun adds:

**"We were able to fund this particular research for product updates through the Innovation Programme where they gave us the support to finance the prototypes for our new technology requirements to allow for testing and development. The simplicity of working within the programme really helped us move our plans forward and having secured the funds in February 2013 we are working towards launching several new additions to help accelerate our business and enter new markets that previously would have been inaccessible to us."**

Elizabeth Shaw, innovation manager, said: "It has been fantastic working with Shaun and the team. Although ievo's scanners already operated to a military security standard, with the support of the programme they now offer a highly reliable product with increased functionality to a broad spectrum of public and private sector organisations with a high volume of users."



# The North East SME INNOVATION PROGRAMME

## What you need to know...

The North East BIC's Innovation Programme is funded through ERDF supporting a wide range of sectors including Manufacturing, Digital, Renewable Energy and Healthcare.

The aim of the programme is to support North East SME's who are committed to developing and implementing innovative ideas and processes. Ideas may include (but not limited to) those which:

- Broaden product base
- Introduce a new service
- Introduce to new markets
- Change operating methods
- Make better use of technology
- Ultimately reduce long term risk and increase sustainability

## The benefits of the Innovation Programme include;

- The potential of 40% funding for innovative projects
- Project value between £5,000 and £40,000
- A comprehensive package of support, including a dedicated Innovation Specialist
- Available to North East based B2B SME's who have traded for 12 months or more



Elizabeth Shaw  
Innovation Manager • North East BIC

## Get in touch

For further details about the Innovation Programme, visit

**[www.ne-bic.co.uk](http://www.ne-bic.co.uk)**

or contact the Innovation team on

**0191 516 6039**

