Theme	**Innovation in the Cyber Security Sector**
Funding Available and source	Innovate UK, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are jointly investing up to £0.5m to help UK companies establish new Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) in the area of cyber security. This funding will be allocated on a rolling basis until the funding is committed. The funding is predominantly at supporting collaborations between HEIs and SMEs.
Background / Rationale	The UK cyber security sector is currently worth over £6billion and employers over 40,000 people. The projected growth of the global cyber security market is around 20% per year until 2017. There is an ambition to increase the UK cyber security export target to £4 billion by 2020 and a significant part of the growth required to achieve this is likely to come from the SME sector. Furthermore, significant investment through the National Cyber Security Programme has resulted in the UK developing a world class academic cyber security research base particularly through its Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research, Cyber Security Research Institutes and Centres for Doctoral Training. The 2011 Cyber Security Strategy recognised the value of this knowledge base and its ability to support innovation through an emphasis on the development and exploitation of cyber knowledge, skills and capability. The KTP programme facilitates innovative relationships and partnerships between businesses and academic institutions allowing the businesses, in particular SMEs to access the skills and expertise they need to take forward strategic projects and solve critical challenges that will allow them to innovate, grow and access new opportunities and markets both domestically and globally.
Objective	The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, in collaboration with Innovate UK aims to support innovation in the cyber security sector through new KTPs. This initiative will support KTP projects to enable SMEs in the cyber security sector to access research-driven knowledge and capability from academia to help them access strategic opportunities, tackle significant challenges they might be facing and support the development of new innovative processes and solutions. Specifically the KTPs will - Enable companies to be able to access more quickly the cyber security expertise they need to be able to solve critical challenges and grow. - Showcase the value and capability which the UK cyber security academic sector can bring in helping solve problems within businesses. - Allow companies to access new strategic developments that can support their economic growth - Help plug the skills gap particularly in specialist areas within the sector. - Boost the growth of the cyber security sector through the development of new strategic businesses and/or products
Scope and conditions	We are looking to support high-quality KTPs that will help cyber security businesses to innovate, grow and develop even more valuable propositions. We do not intend to tightly specify the type of projects or areas within cyber security that should be supported so as not to stifle unforeseen innovative opportunities. However, we expect that projects will meet certain high level criteria in order to ensure that the right projects are selected and maximum value derived from this investment. Ultimately projects should be in support of a significant challenge or opportunity being faced by the business and support the growth of the business. We anticipate that a cyber KTP will meet one or more of the below criteria:

	• Be transformative and focus on an area of cyber security that will help address an industry challenge and contribute towards an increase in the UK's overall capability. • Support the business to develop a new or advance an existing product, process or service that can create competitive advantage for them. • Support the business to access a new opportunity that can help increase its overall capability or portfolio • Support the growth of the business in a tangible and quantifiable way and allow it to realise and increase its domestic market and / or export potential if relevant. **Out of scope** will be projects in areas that are not related to the cyber security sector, have no demonstrable innovation links or can be classed as business as usual e.g. to fill normal skills needs which businesses might be facing.
Key Dates	The final deadline for proposals will be 11 May 2016 but it is strongly recommended to apply as soon as possible. Proposals may be submitted at any time and will be considered on a rolling basis up to the final deadline.
Further Info	https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/cyber-security https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cyber-security-research-capability-academic-centres-of-excellence http://ktp.innovateuk.org/advisers