



AMUK

Annual Plan 2026







This 2026 Annual Action Plan from Additive Manufacturing UK (AMUK) provides a comprehensive analysis of the UK’s additive manufacturing (AM) sector. It reports on the progress of our member-led initiatives, addresses the key challenges facing the industry, and outlines a clear strategic path forward for the next 12 months.

The global AM market grew to \$21.9 billion in 2024. However, despite this global growth, the UK’s own market experienced contraction, with its global share falling to approximately 4% (valued between \$650 million and \$ 940 million), due to significant economic headwinds. Though 2025 results aren’t in, they are expected to show more of the same, with AMUK members reporting a tough environment to operate in during the year. However, with the start of 2026, the market is now showing signs of recovery, with the imperative being to build on this. AMUK aims to create a supportive environment for AM technology to achieve the UK’s potential of capturing a 7% market share, which could be valued at nearly \$6 billion by 2030.

This urgency to push for the industrialisation of AM is heightened by a sharp reduction in public R&D funding for AM, which fell from £81 million to just £17 million over the last year. Such a decline threatens the UK’s innovation pipeline, and its strong global ranking, 4th, in AM-related patent applications.

This report provides a top-level view of the current state of AM technology in the UK, as well as updating the progress on the member set challenges and subsequent actions that AMUK has been working on for the last 12 months and will continue to work on for the next 12 months, to drive forward the development, adoption, and use of AM technology in the UK.

The three primary challenges identified by our members, Supply Chain, Skills, and Standards, continue to remain the most pressing issues for AM technology which AMUK continues to act against. Progress against the actions set in the previous year are detailed, and an updated plan for December 2025 to November 2026 has been established to continue driving impact in these crucial areas.

Furthermore, for this year there is a greater focus on the industrialisation of AM. A strategy has been developed looking at how AMUK can aid the translation of the UK’s R&D strength into economic growth and sovereign capability. Critical gaps between the UK’s world-class AM research and its lagging commercialisation and industrial adoption have been identified, and a plan to address this has been developed, based on the following five strategic pillars:

1 Commercialisation & IP Readiness	2 Adoption & Scale-Up Support	3 Supply Chain Resilience	4 Export Competitiveness	5 Skills & Talent Pathway
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Under each pillar, is a list of targeted actions for AMUK as well as specific policy “asks” to the government, aimed at creating the conditions for AM industrialisation to succeed. By shifting from research excellence to industrial strength, the UK can build a resilient domestic supply chain, increase exports, and secure its position as a global leader in the development and application of Additive Manufacturing.

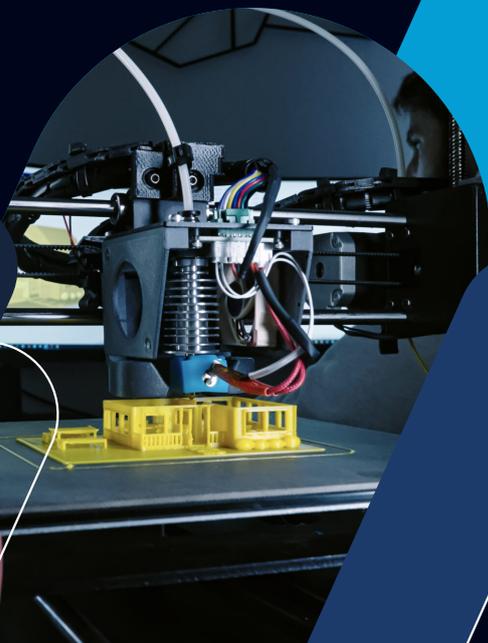


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AMUK aims to establish the UK as a world leader in the development, adoption and application of 3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing Technology.





AMUK: An Introduction

Background

AMUK is the UK’s trade association for organisations operating in the additive manufacturing (AM) and 3D printing ecosystem – from materials to post processing. Formed in 2014 as a government supported collaboration with the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), AMUK’s purpose was to position the UK as a world lead in the research, development, adoption and application of AM and 3D Printing technologies.

This led to the publication of 3 reports:

2015

The Case for Additive Manufacturing¹

A positioning paper developed from extensive consultations and workshops conducted across the UK. This report commenced an engagement between industry, academia and professional bodies, to understand the opportunities, challenges, strengths and barriers for the full commercialisation of AM in the UK.

2016

Leading Additive Manufacturing in the UK

Leading Additive Manufacturing in the UK: A platform for engagement to enable UK industry to realize the full potential of Additive Manufacturing & 3D Printing. This report created a structured framework for engagement with the UK’s AM community.

2017

Additive Manufacturing UK National Strategy 2018 – 25

Leading Additive Manufacturing in the UK². This report outlined seven strategic challenge areas to address, to enable the UK to unlock the potential of AM 3D Printing technologies in research, development adoption and application.

These challenge areas are outlined below:

Challenge Area	Challenge Summary
Design	Looked at supporting effective design, resolving CAD workflow issues, and providing optimised design tools for additive geometries.
Materials and Processes	Considered equipment options, materials properties, processing parameters, research on knowledge gaps, and innovation opportunities.
Inspection, Test and Standards	Considered the standards, inspection, certification, and regulations for additive within the context of industry, safety, compatibility, processes, and materials.
Commercial, IP and Data Management	Looked at the need for quick and easy wins to help generate momentum for additive within the commercial community.
Skills and Education	Considered the standards, delivery mechanisms, industry needs, and building awareness across the additive and education sector.
Supply Chain Development	Looked to raise visibility of the UK supply chain, identify gaps and address areas of strategic weakness where made.
Implementation	Looked at the implementation of the National Strategy from a top-level view and considered the actions required to make it succeed.

¹AM Strategy Positioning Paper

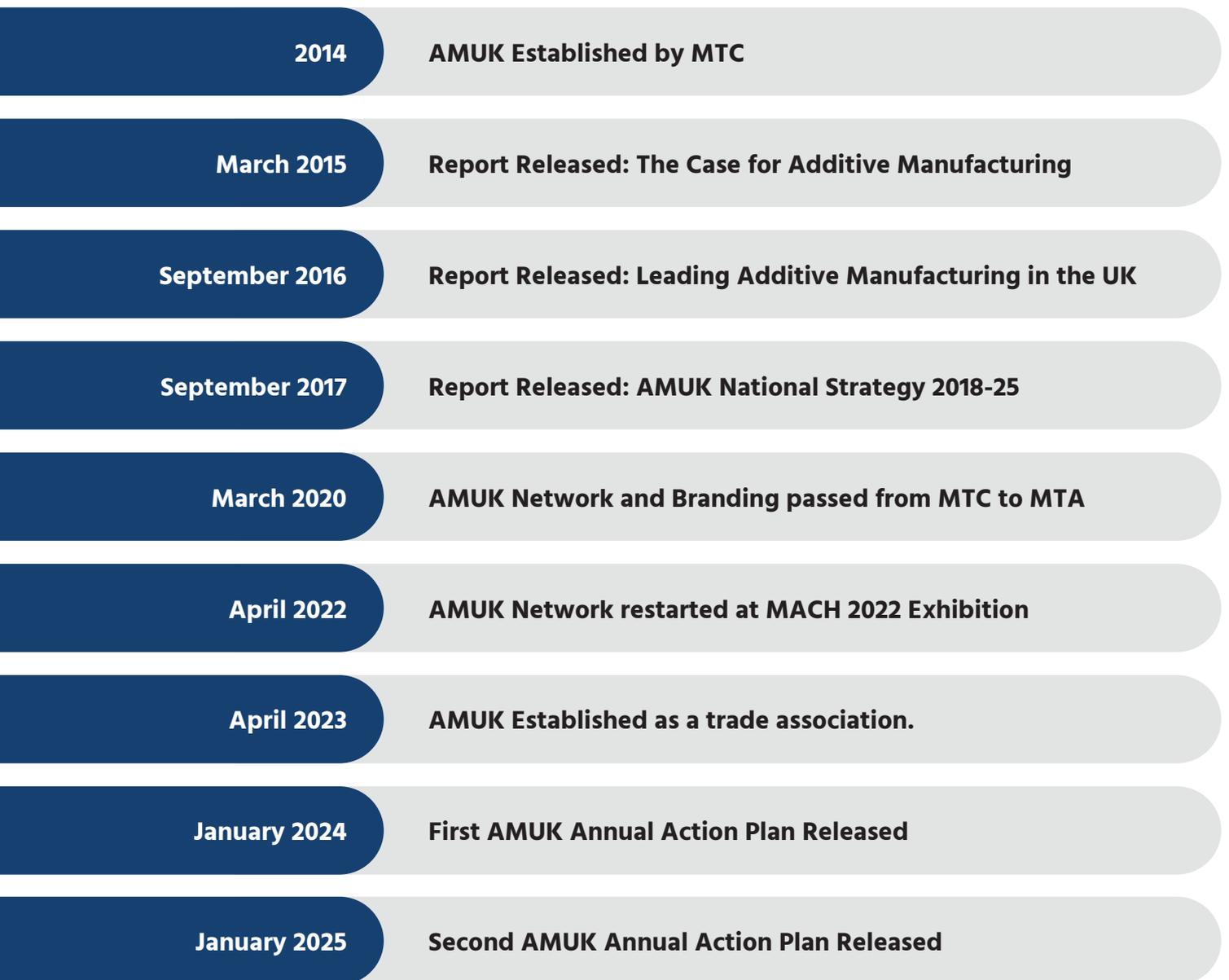
²AMUK Strategy Publication Amends November



In 2020, AMUK became part of the Manufacturing Technologies Association (MTA) cluster, alongside Engineering Supply Chain UK (ESCUK). Following the integration into the MTA, AMUK successfully restarted at the MACH exhibition in 2022 and was officially re-established as the representative of AM and 3D Printing ecosystem in April 2023.

AMUK now works to support organisations operating in the AM and 3D Printing Technology Valuechain. Offering a range of tailored services covering, business support, industry intelligence and marketing, and designed to accelerate the development, adoption and application of AM and 3D Printing within the UK. AMUK also continues to work in the key challenge areas of Supply, Skills and Standards, to ensure that the sector has the visibility, talent and quality it needs to thrive.

An overview of key milestones in AMUK’s journey, can be seen below:





Aim and Services

AMUK aims to position the UK as a world leader in the research, development, adoption, and application of AM and 3D Printing technologies and services. This objective underlines the commitment to fostering innovation, creating economic growth, and enhancing the UK's reputation as a key hub for AM and 3D Printing technology advancements and applications.

Through collaborative initiatives with industry partners, academic institutions, and governmental bodies, AMUK is seeking to leverage the transformative potential of AM technology, to create opportunities, bolster productivity, and effectively tackle diverse challenges across a variety of sectors. In doing so, AMUK will actively contribute to enhancing the overall technological landscape and competitiveness of the UK on the global stage.

AMUK's membership services are there to benefit our members, equipping them with the tools and support necessary to thrive both within the UK and on the international front.

The following table provides an overview of the services provided:

Service	Description
Business Support	These services aid with the administrative side of running a business, allowing companies to do more of the things which are core to their mission. The services cover areas such as, HR, HSE, Legal and Tax advice and providing access to training at significantly reduced rates.
Industry Intelligence	Members are provided information on Additive Market Trends, Technology Insights as well as information into wider additive industry around areas such as standards, IP, and funding as well as networking opportunities.
Marketing and Promotion	These services aim to promote the membership and aid in raising awareness of their brands, as well as the additive industry. There are discounts to exhibit or attend at certain events and opportunities to speak at conferences.
Academic/ Industry Engagement	These services are around helping the academic and industrial community engage to ensure that members have opportunities to take advantage of the world class R&D that happens in the UK.
Strategic Partnerships	This area looks at creating collaborations with organisations which are already providing world class services to the additive industry and helping our members access them.



Current Membership

The current membership of AMUK is 84 organisations, who are listed below:

 3D 360	 3D Metal Ltd	 3D Printing Industry	 3DPRINTUK	 3D Squared	 76 Additive
 Added Scientific	 Additive International	 AMGTA	 Additive Manufacturing Solutions	 Additive-X	 Advanced Forming Research Centre
 Airframe Designs	 All 3D Labs	 AM Futures	 AMufacture	 APEX Additive Technologies	 Arrk Europe Ltd
 Atomik AM	 Atomic Weapons Establishment	 Autentica	 Bowman 3D	 Broder Metals Group	 Cambridge Sensotec
 Conflux	 Cookson Industrial	 CREAT3D	 Create Education	 DiManEx	 Donalson GB
 Duet3D	 Dyndrite	 EOS	 FDM Digital Solutions	 Gateshead College	 GKN Aerospace
 Globus Metal Powders	 Hamel Reichenbacher	 HP 3D Printing	 Incremental Engineering	 IPFL	 JCB



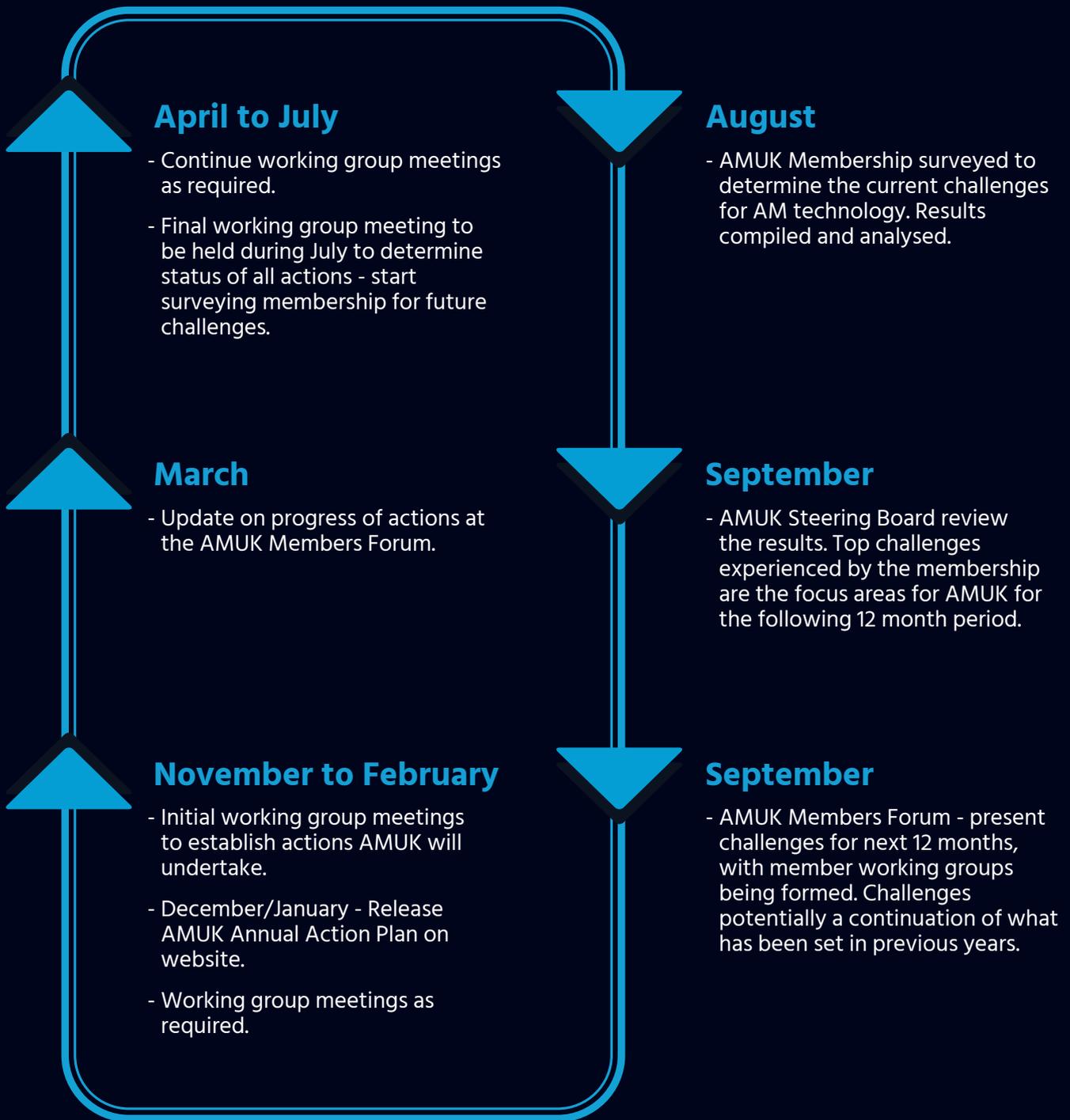
Current Membership

 Kaisen PLM	 Laser Lines	 Laser Trader	 Loop 3D	 M A M Solutions	 Marks & Clerk LLP
 Matsuura Machinery	 Measurement Solutions	 Midlands 3D	 MGA	 NCHG	 NCMT
 Oerlikon	 Ogle Models & Prototypes	 Pelagus 3D	 Piab	 Primetals Technologies	 PrintCity MMU
 PrintPool	 Reliance Precision	 REM Surface Engineering	 Reinshaw UK	 Ricoh 3D	 Russell Finex
 Sandvik Osprey	 Siemens	 SPEE3D	 Stratasys	 The MTC	 Theta Technologies
 The TCT Group	 Truform	 TRUMPF	 UK Design for AM Network	 University of Exeter	 University of Warwick
 University of Wolverhampton	 VBC Group	 Voestalpine Bohler Edelstahl	 WAAM3D	 William Rowland	 Zentech International



AMUK Annual Action Plan Process

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on the work achieved by AMUK during the previous 12 months, along with updating the actions for the next 12 months. The process by which this annual action plan will be updated is as follows:





Additive Technology in the UK

Current State of Play – Market Size

The report “Additive Manufacturing UK National Strategy 2018 – 25: Leading Additive Manufacturing in the UK” stated that the UK AM market in 2015 was valued at approximately \$359 million (£235 million), which was roughly 6.9% of the \$5.2 billion³ global market value at that time. AMUK started tracking this data again in 2022. For the 2025 edition of this report, the figures for 2023 have been revised to enable there be greater accuracy of the 2024 figures. This should allow for more comparable reporting in future reports.

Year	Global Value	UK Value	Global Market Share %
2015	\$5.2 Billion	\$359 Million (£235 Million)	6.9%
2022	\$17 Billion ⁴	\$690 Million (£560 Million)	4%
2023	\$20.04 Billion ⁵	\$0.83 ⁶ – 1.55 ⁷ Billion (£670 – £1245 Million)	4 – 7.7%
2024	\$21.9 Billion ⁸	\$0.65 ⁹ - 0.94 ¹⁰ Billion (£515 - £740 Million)	3 – 4.3%

There is generally a lack of consistent data around the AM and 3D Printing market size both globally and in the UK. For this version we have updated the 2023 global figure so that it is sourced from the same source as 2024 – the Wholers report. The UK value for 2023 has also been updated to reflect a range of values as stated by several sources to show the variability of the figures. This has also been done for 2024. Unfortunately, data for 2022 can no longer be found publicly and therefore these figures have been kept the same.

From 2015 to 2022 the UK global market share dropped. This is assessed to be for several reasons. For example, the COVID pandemic provided stimulus for increased use of AM and 3D Printing technology due to its ability to respond quickly to sudden demands. Countries that were initially trailing the UK, invested in their AM capability, and therefore caught and surpassed the UK position. Furthermore, BREXIT introduced further issues for UK companies, such as exporting and supply chain resilience, which potentially diverted focus towards operational adjustments rather than look to develop and adopt novel technology, such as AM.

2023 potentially saw some growth in the UK global market share. The feedback from AMUK members during this period was positive and therefore some growth seems likely. It is assessed that this was due to several initiatives operating in tandem to boost the UK AM eco-system, such as Made Smarter Funding, AMUK activities, the maturing of technology and organisations increasing their internal AM knowledge.

³ Figure from Hubs report “3D Printing Trends Q1 2019”. Average USD/GBP exchange rate in 2015: 0.6545.

⁴ Figure from Hubs report “3D Printing Trends Report 2023”. Average USD/GBP exchange rate in 2022: 0.8115.

⁵ Wholersassociates.com - [Wholers report 2024 shows metal AM growth in new report](#)

⁶ Nextmsc.com - [UK Additive Manufacturing Market](#)

⁷ Grandviewresearch.com - [Additive Manufacturing Market UK growth in new report](#)

⁸ Wholersassociates.com - [Wholers report shows 9-1 AM industry growth](#)

⁹ Mordorintelligence.com - [UK 3D Printing Market](#)

¹⁰ imarcgroup.com - [UK 3D printing Market](#)



2024 started well for companies operating the AM ecosystem, however despite the sector growing by 9.3% globally, the operating economic climate became tougher for UK companies as the year progressed. Sector strikes, high inflation, high interest, changing government, high energy costs and the raising of employer national insurance ensured that any growth found in 2023 was quickly eroded away during 2024. AMUK members corroborated this position with negative feedback during this period, particularly organisation selling machinery. It is assessed that the UK market lost market share during 2024 and likely returned to 2022 levels of 4%.



2025 has currently been far more positive, with members providing a more positive outlook, especially those operating the defence sector. It is expected that the UK will return to a better position this year and capture a larger portion of the global AM and 3D Printing market.

There are various perspectives around the future size of the AM market. In the 2025 version of this report the estimate by 2030 was £88.3billion¹¹. Looking at various sources 12 months later provides a slightly more pessimistic outlook with a range of \$76¹² to \$88billion¹³. The view from marketresearch.com is that it will be valued at \$83.5¹⁴ billion. Using that estimate, if the UK continues the 2022 and 2024 position within the global AM market it will capture just \$3.3 billion of this market (4%). However, if 2025 provides a more positive position, the UK will be well placed to work back towards the 2015 position of 7%, which would see the UK AM and 3D Printing market valued at just under \$6 billion.

¹¹ Figure from Hubs report “3D Printing Trends Report 2024”.

¹² Finance.yahoo.com - [Additive Manufacturing Market surpass 76-140000439](#)

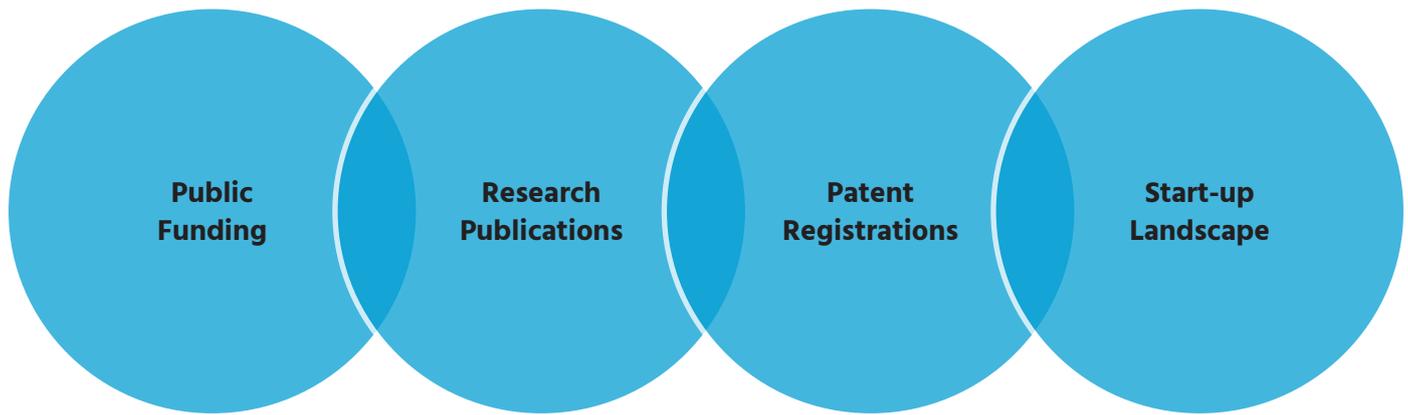
¹³ Grandviewresearch.com - [Additive Manufacturing Market Size](#)

¹⁴ Blog.marketresearch.com - [Additive Manufacturing Market Size to reach 83.5 billion by 20230](#)



UK Research and Development Landscape

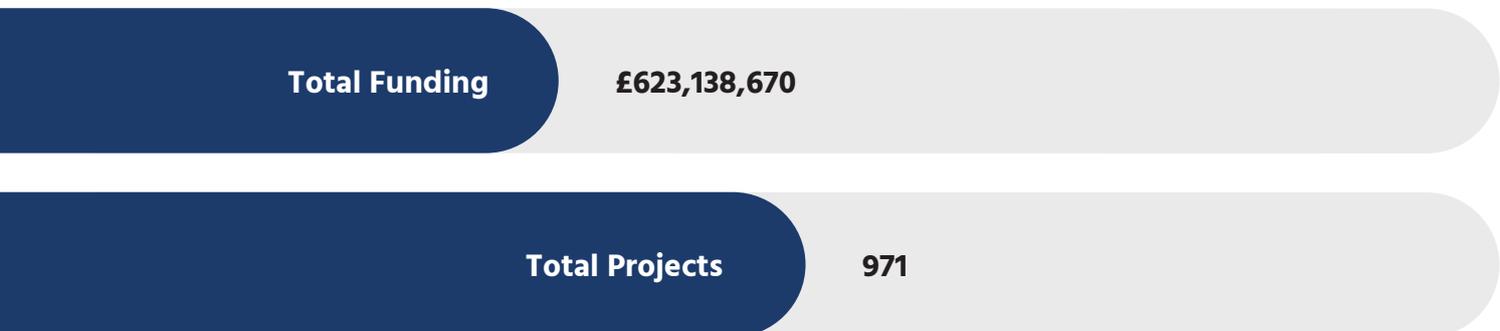
A comprehensive overview of the state of AM in the UK was covered in the August 2022 report: ‘The UK Additive Manufacturing Landscape: A Data-Centric Review of AM Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2010-2020 based on Public Spending’¹⁵. This report detailed the status of the recommendations that had been set in the September 2017 report, ‘Additive Manufacturing UK National Strategy 2018 – 25: Leading Additive Manufacturing in the UK’ as well as providing a detailed analysis of the UK in the following areas:



This report looks to build on the work undertaken in the August 2022 report by continuing to track the level of public funding in the UK going towards AM related projects, and by tracking the number of AM patents registered by UK applicants. Though not as comprehensive as the August 2022 report, it is assessed that these metrics provide a top-level indication on the state of AM in the UK on an annual basis.

Funding Landscape

Following the process established in the August 2022 report, ‘The UK Additive Manufacturing Landscape: A Data-Centric Review of AM Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2010-2020 based on Public Spending’, using the search terms “Additive Manufacturing” and/or “3D Printing”¹⁶ in “Project Abstract” or “Project Title” in the publicly available UKRI data (<https://gtr.ukri.org/>) between 1/1/2013 and 20/08/2025 resulted in the following data:



¹⁵ Hague, R., Tuck, C. and Sutcliffe, C. (2022). The UK Additive Manufacturing Landscape: A Data-Centric Review of AM Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2010-2020 based on Public Spending. Website: [mapp.ac.uk - Additive Manufacturing Landscape](https://mapp.ac.uk/additive-manufacturing-landscape)

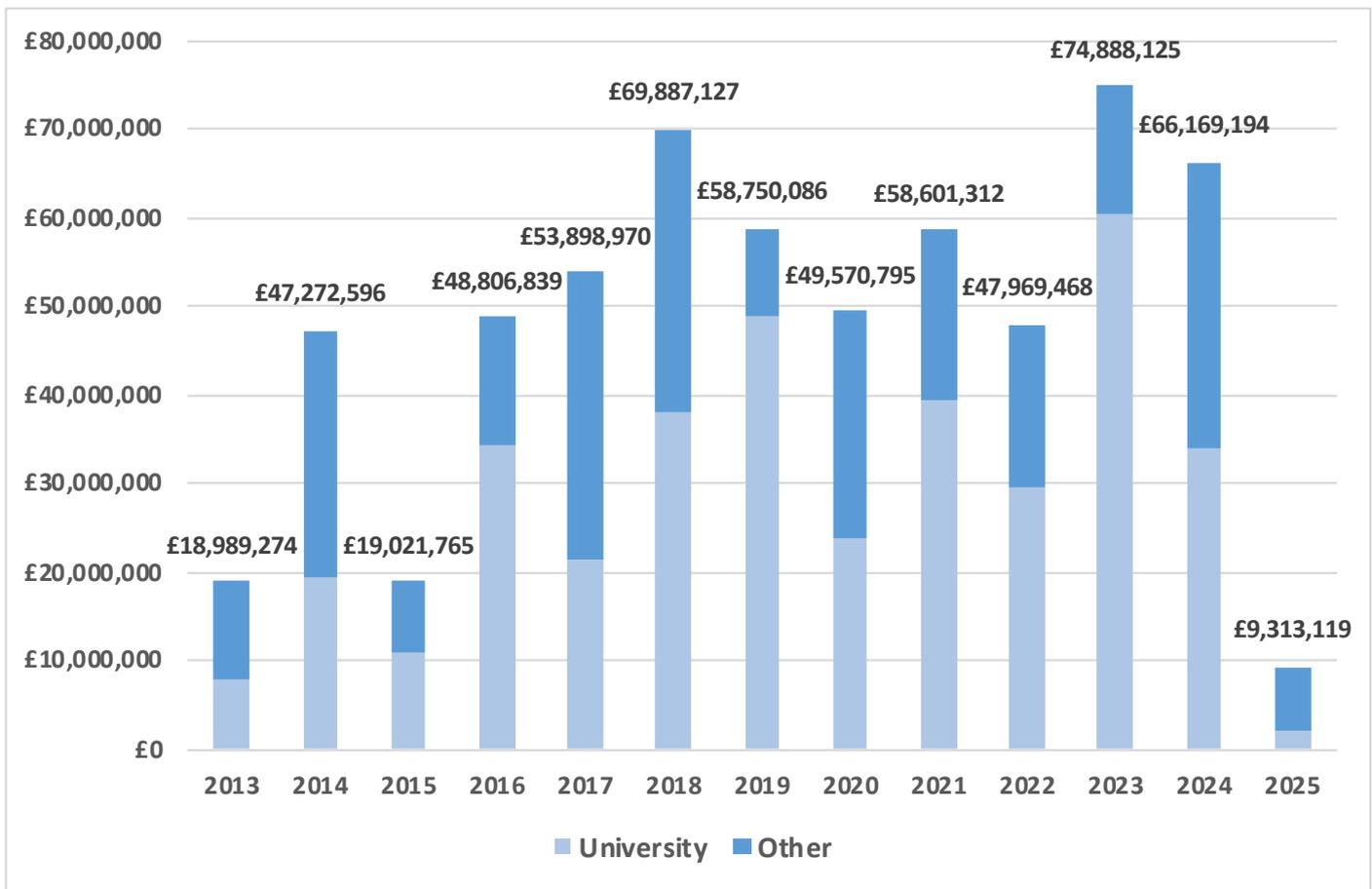
¹⁶ Search term to be written as follows: “additive manufacturing” “3D Printing”. Note that studentships will need to be removed from the data to identify the number of projects undertaken.



A total of £623,138,670 has been spent funding 971 AM and 3D Printing technology related projects between the 1st January 2013 and 20th August 2025. Since this search was last completed in October 2024¹⁷ there has been a significant change in the data on the government website. This means that data from earlier years has been altered causing some results identified in a search undertaken in October 2024 to not appear in August 2025. This means a year-on-year comparison isn't as straightforward as looking at last year's report but rather by looking at the updated data from the August 2025 search.

In the last 12 months (Sept 24 to Aug 25) a total of £17 million has been spent on 46 AM and 3D Printing projects. This is a significant reduction from the previous 12 months (Sept 23 to Aug 24) which saw a total £81 million being used to fund 95 AM and 3D Printing projects.

This a dramatic reduction suggests that the government is no longer prioritising AM and 3D Printing technology and has shifted its focus towards other areas¹⁸. The reduced investment may reflect a belief that AM and 3D Printing are now mature technologies, with greater emphasis being placed on the private sector to drive the technology forward through commercialisation rather than continued public funding. While the cumulative investment is substantial, the sharp reduction in both project numbers and funding raises concerns about the government's long-term commitment to developing a strong UK AM and 3D Printing capability and the ability of the sector to remain competitive internationally.



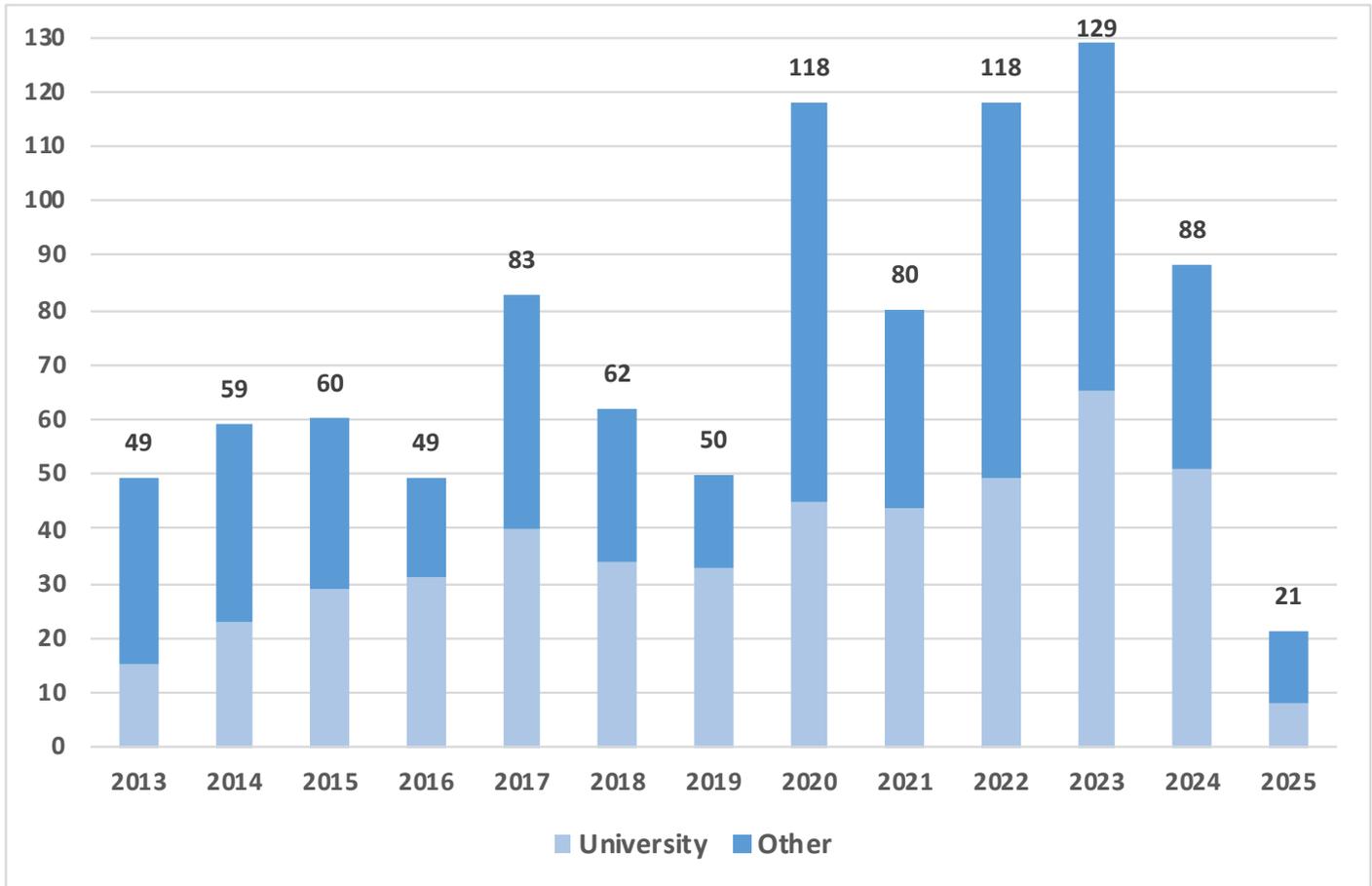
The year-by-year analysis of government funding for AM and 3D Printing technology, shown in the graph above, ramped up between 2013 and 2015, before remaining consistently within the range of £48 to £75 million from 2016 to 2024. Though it is not a full year of results, 2025 shows a stark reduction in funding levels.

¹⁷ Data in the October 2024 search showed that 972 AM projects had been completed costing over £650million

¹⁸ The top 3 funding areas for the 24-25 period were 1. AI & Machine Learning 2. Health & Life Sciences 3. Mobility and Transport. AM and 3D Printing funding would have been part of the Advanced Manufacturing and Materials area which was 8th in public funding for that period, receiving just over £50 million.



Funding in 2023 had a more early-stage research focus, looking at areas such as AM in healthcare, embedded electronics and materials development. 2024 slightly changed that focus with funding going towards project that looked to further develop early-stage research in areas such as sustainability (process optimisation, material recycling and reuse, reducing supply chains) and digitalisation (AM digital twins, AI driven optimisation, smart factories). The narrative that funding has been reduced for AM as the technology is believed to have matured, ties in well with how it has been allocated in 2025 – with a strong focus on AM applications in the aerospace, energy and healthcare sectors rather than any early-stage research and development.



The above graph shows the number of university or Industry/RTO lead projects over the period 2013 to 2025. From 2013 to 2023 government funding grew, with universities leading in the early years with numbers of project while industry became more engaged from 2020 onwards. Though not true for every year on the graph, it can be clearly seen that the reduction in funding in 2025 has had a hugely adverse impact on the number of projects undertaken.

In conclusion, while the UK has invested over £600 million in AM and 3D Printing projects since 2013, the most recent funding patterns highlight a significant shift in government priorities. Universities have historically secured most of the funding, particularly for early-stage research, with industry engagement accelerating from 2020 as the technology matured and found applications. However, the sharp reduction in funding and project numbers in 2025 suggests a move away from supporting fundamental AM and 3D Printing research, with rather a small focus being given to application opportunities for AM and 3D Printing in sectors such as aerospace and healthcare. This change may reflect a broader belief that AM has reached technological maturity, with future development expected to be driven by private sector investment. While this approach may encourage commercialisation, it raises questions about whether the UK can maintain its global position without continued public investment in AM especially when other countries are providing support.



Patent Landscape

Adapting the process used in the report, 'The UK Additive Manufacturing Landscape: A Data-Centric Review of AM Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2010-2020 based on Public Spending', using the search terms "Additive Manufacturing" and/or "3D Printing" in either the "Title", "Abstract", "Description" or "Claims" in the Espacenet database (<https://worldwide.espacenet.com/>) between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2024¹⁹ returned the following number of applicant patent family publications for Additive Manufacturing and 3D Printing technology:

Number of Applicant Patent Families

222,566

This is not a total number of patents for AM and 3D printing technology – rather it is the number of patent family²⁰ applications made. This method of analysis does have limitations, as follows:

- There is no differentiation made between awarded and pending patent applications.
- Occasionally there are multiple applicant countries on an application, potentially duplicating a result (i.e. 2005 shows 143 patent family applications, however there are over 200 applicant countries).
- It is likely that patents, which aren't applicable, have been included, or applicable patents have been missed if a different term has been used (i.e. SLS, SLA, FFF etc).
- There are potentially duplicate patent entries as a company may put in the same patent application in multiple jurisdictions.

However, it is assessed that the information obtained via this method provides a good indication of the strength of the UK AM eco-system, as you can compare countries and assess the level of innovate R&D being patented and potentially commercialised.

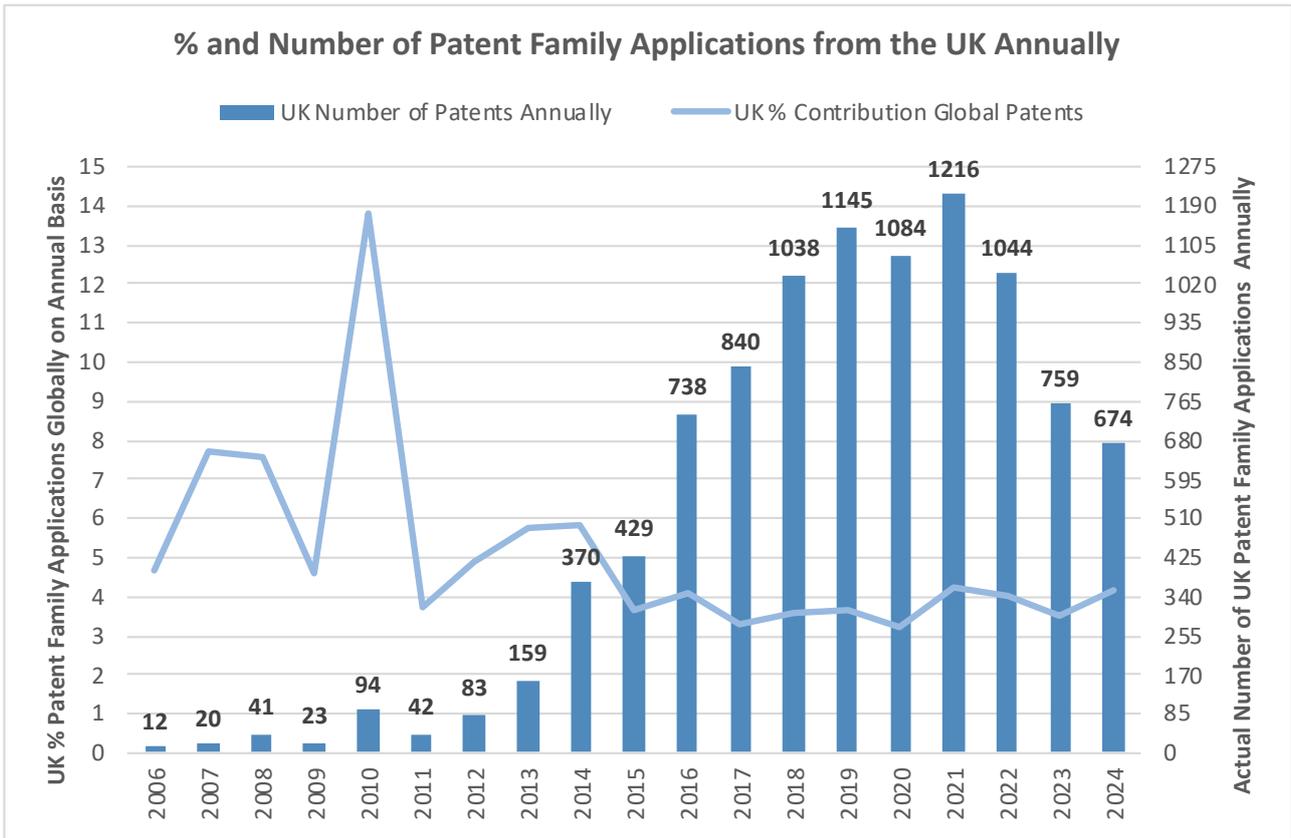
Funding Landscape

The following graph shows the number of patent family applications filed annually, from 2006 to 2024, by UK-based applicants, alongside the percentage this represents of the total global applications. From 2006 to 2017 there was growth, with 2018 to 2022 marking the peak period of over 1,000 applications annually. The drop in 2023 was previously attributed to the 18-month delay between patent filing and publication. However, as we are now post-June 2025 it is clear 2023 marks the start of a downward trend. This decline potentially reflects a maturing of AM and 3D Printing technology, as organisations see fewer opportunities for fundamental innovation and focus instead on developing a growing number of applications."

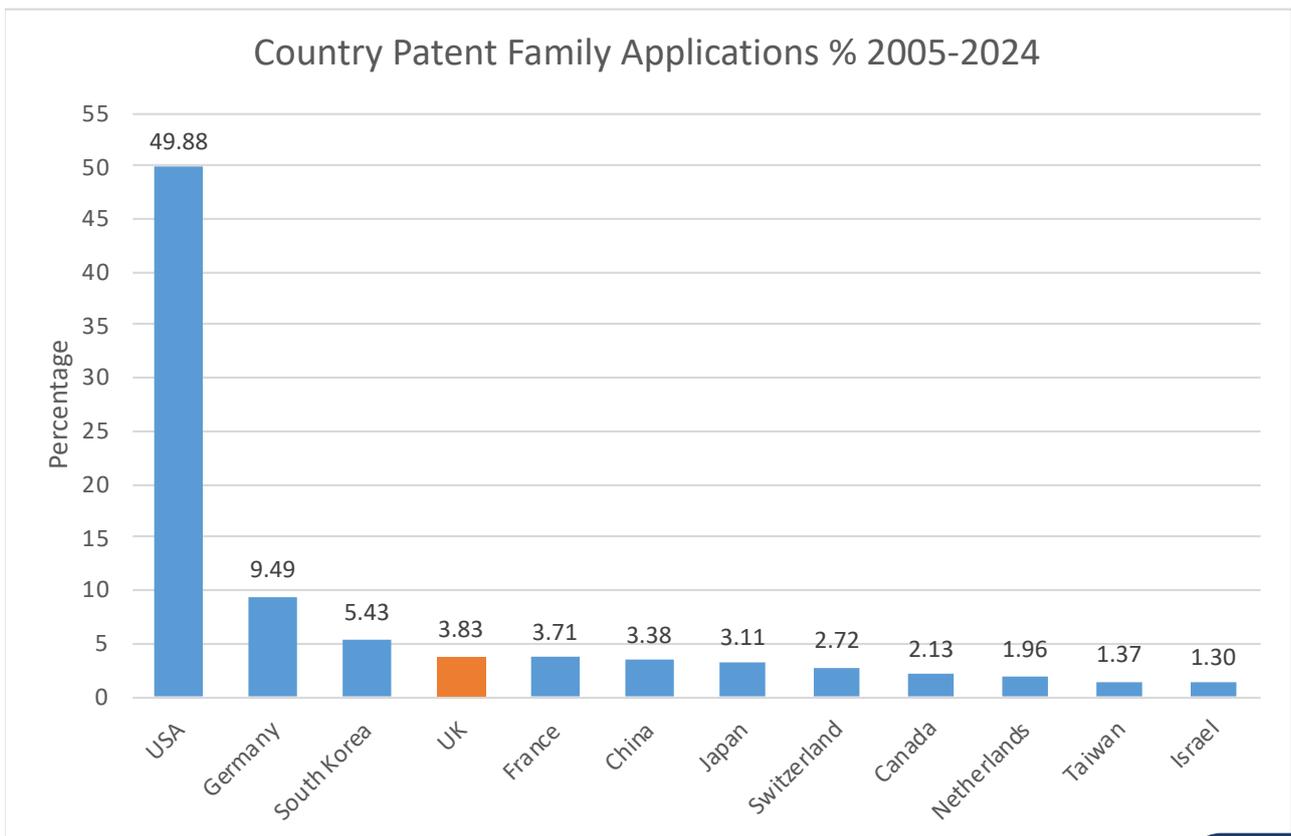
The UK's downward trend isn't isolated, but rather part of a larger global trend of declining patent applications. This can be seen in that the UK's annual application number has remained at around 4% since 2015 despite filing a reduced number of applications in 2023 and 2024.

¹⁹ Specific search term used as follows: ta = "Additive Manufacturing" OR ta = "3D Printing" OR desc = "Additive Manufacturing" OR desc = "3D Printing" OR claims = "Additive Manufacturing" OR claims = "3D Printing"

²⁰ Patent family: a collection of patent applications filed in multiple countries/regions to protect the same invention.



The UK continues to sit in 4th place overall with just under 4% of global patent family applications. Though the percentage has decreased since 2022²¹, the UK still sits above China, France and Japan, suggesting that the UK has provided a strong landscape for AM research and development. It will be interesting to see how the reduction in funding impacts this position over the next few years.



²¹ 4.06%



Economy and Industries

This section of the report looks at some of the key application areas for Additive Manufacturing, covering where the opportunities lie, the size of those industries in the UK and the outlook for the next couple of years.

Aerospace

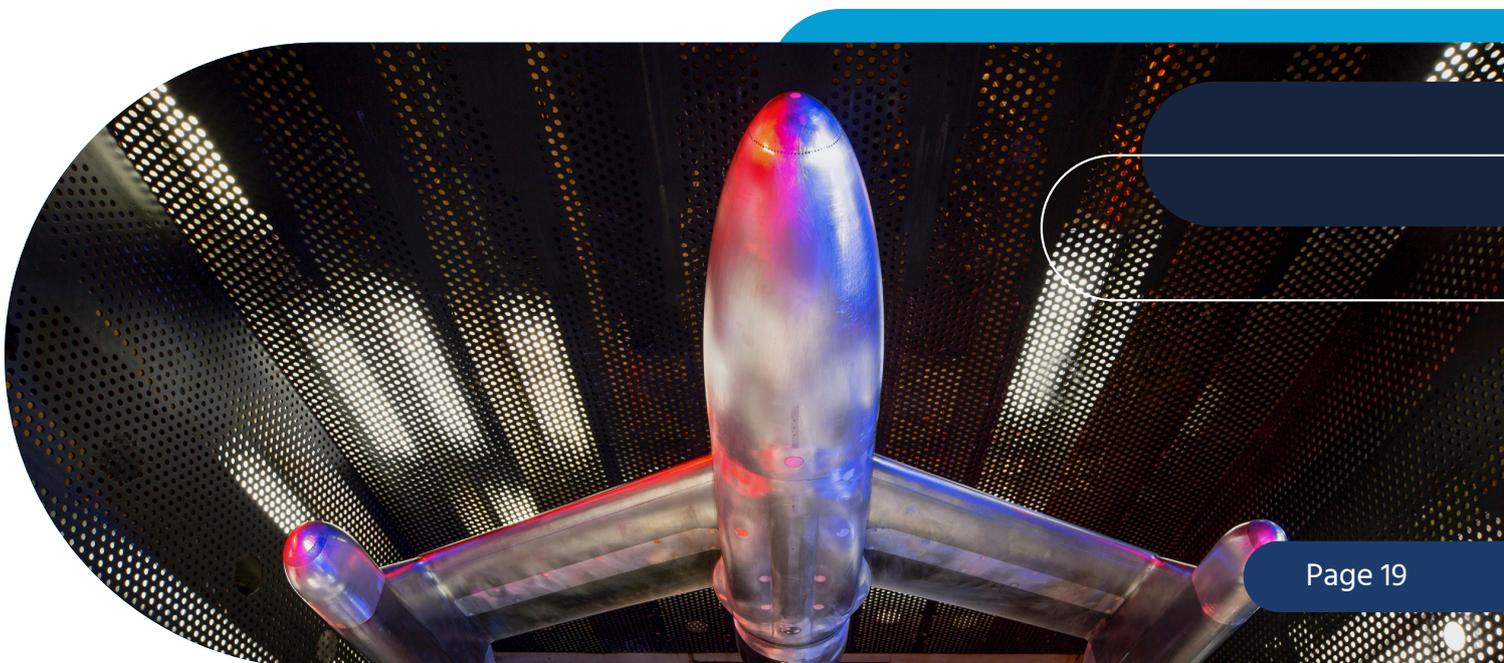
This is an important sector for the UK which has a significant presence in the supply chains for Airbus, Boeing and Embraer, as well as a relatively large defence aerospace sector (although nothing like as large as that in the US). Globally, this industry, at least on the civil side, continues to face a number of challenges as it tries to ramp up output to fulfil the large and growing order books, including engine reliability and new product authorization (the latter mainly being an issue for Boeing).

The AM sector is important in the aerospace market because of the focus placed on whole-life costs (manufacturing, operating and maintenance) in this sector and, in particular, the drive to reduce weight to save on fuel costs over the life of the aircraft. This creates opportunities for the use of AM technologies in the manufacturing process where the volume requirements are relatively low but weight-reduction while maintaining strength is highly valued. However, the main issue is the need for certification of any changes to the manufacturing processes, right down to the component level, so the prospects for adoption of AM techniques is greatest in new models where that certification process would be required anyway and would not be an additional cost.

According to data collated by Oxford Economics, the UK has the largest sector in terms of value-added output in Europe, ahead of both Germany and France, and is the 3rd largest in the world behind the USA and China. However, another way of looking at this is the importance of the industry within the manufacturing sector of the country and, on this measure, the UK is ahead of the USA and China.

Output of the UK Aerospace industry grew by +3% in 2025, although this was mainly a recovery from a relatively weak situation in 2024. Because of the issues facing the sector, we don't expect much growth in overall output, with just +1% forecast for 2026 and +2% in 2027. However, the results of our most recent survey of the UK AM Sector (part of a wider European Survey) shows a continuing strong positive balance for aerospace as a market for AM machines, materials and services.

Despite this, as noted earlier, the underlying fundamentals for this sector remain strong and increasing global geo-political tensions will drive increases in defence spending, some of which will be reflected in this industry.





Automotive

This is another important industry for the UK that accounts for 6.6% of our manufacturing output. While the UK has the 2nd largest automotive sector in Europe (behind Germany), it is only 8th globally behind (in order) China, the USA, Japan, Germany, Mexico, South Korea and India. In all cases, these figures relate to the location of manufacturing rather than the ownership of the companies – hence French and Italian automotive companies have a lot of activity (components and assembly) outside their home countries.

On the face of it, the size of the sector should present many opportunities to the AM community, but the large volumes that are typical of the sector usually make the use of AM techniques uneconomic. However, there are areas of opportunity that, as with aerospace, come where there is an advantage in being able to reduce weight; the most obvious example is in the area of motor sport where relatively low volumes and the ability to make parts quickly has a key role to play – it helps that the UK is a global leader in this niche part of the sector. There will also be opportunities in Electric Vehicles where reducing weight brings an advantage, although this will be balanced against the ever-increasing volumes in this part of the market.

The size of this industry in the UK has been affected by a number of closures over the past few years, with the shuttering of the Stellantis commercial vehicles plant in Luton last year being the most recent. We are also likely to see a steady decline for the sector as a whole over the next few years because the UK produces twice as many internal combustion engines than it does vehicles themselves. Recent data has also been affected by the cyber-attack which stopped production at JLR for the best part of two months, so a negative trend is inevitable for 2025 – we currently expect -7%; however, this also means that some growth is likely in 2026, simply because of a full year of activity, but the forecast of +4% actually implies a contraction in output if taken across the two years together which remains the case if the growth of +1% in 2027 is also added in to the calculation.

The results from our Autumn 2025 outlook survey suggest some recovery among the UK respondents, but the balance in the wider European results remains significantly negative.





Medical & Metal Products

The area of medical applications for AM technologies is another where there is a contrast between the UK community's view and the wider European results from the outlook survey last Autumn; while there is still a strong positive balance in the UK, the continent-wide trend, while still positive was at its lowest in any of the 11 iterations of the survey.

In assessing the relative importance of this sector, we run into problems around how this activity is classified. What might, for want of a better term, might be termed "body parts" (dental applications, replacement joints, etc.) is part of the metal products industry but we don't have enough detail to be able to identify this separately. As a result, any attempt to place the UK sector in a global context would be relatively meaningless because it would require assumptions about the mix within the wider metal products industry.

The diverse nature of this industry means that opportunities for the use of additive manufacturing techniques varies widely. Clearly the opportunities are greatest in producing medical parts sector - where ageing populations will only increase the need to "new parts" - but this also has a carry-over into other types of specialised machining, especially where low batch numbers enhance the advantages of AM.

Taking the overall metal products industry, UK output slipped by -5% in 2025, although this roughly balances the growth from the year before; the prospects for the next couple of years are broadly flat, with output predicted to fall by a further -1% in 2026 before growing by +2% in 2027.





Machinery

The Machinery industry (or Mechanical Engineering as it is sometimes called) is a wide range of activities brought together under this heading to create a category that, in the UK, is about the same size as the automotive industry. It places us as the 4th largest in Europe behind Germany, Italy and the Netherlands (the latter is dominated by the activities of ASML, the global leader in machinery for manufacturing semi-conductors) but globally, we are in 9th place, with China, USA, Japan, South Korea and India also having a higher level of value-added output.

As with metal products, the diverse nature of this industry makes generalised statements about the medium-term prospects and opportunities for adoption of Additive Manufacturing difficult. Some areas, such as pumps & valves, especially in smaller sizes, look to offer promising levels of demand, as do some types of mobile machinery that are looking to move to electric propulsion, but in larger, static machinery such as machine tools and machinery for specific products the scope for the use of AM is likely to be lower.

Last year, 2025, was a good one for the machinery industry in the UK with output estimated to have grown by +3%, although this followed a sharp decline in 2024; our October 2025 based forecasts point to a fall of -2½% in 2026 and growth of +2½% in 2027. This is a volatile sector because of its diversity and its exposure to global events. Sales of machinery tend to be more contract based than the automotive and aerospace industries where long-term supply chain relationships are more common; as a result, it is affected by issues such as interest rates, exchange rates and global uncertainty.

In our Autumn 2025 survey, there was a modest but improved (compared to the Spring edition) positive balance for the UK respondents but the outlook in the aggregated European results moved in the opposite direction and, while still positive, it was one of the lowest readings recorded for this industry.





AMUK: December 2024 to November 2025





AMUK: December 2024 to November 2025

Since relaunch, AMUK has embarked on a journey, with the aim of establishing its position as the primary industry voice for companies comprising the AM technology value chain in the UK. This covers companies operating the areas of materials, design, manufacture, post-processing, and testing & inspection. In the last 12 months, AMUK has achieved for the following milestones:

1

Two AMUK members forums held at Siemens and the University of Wolverhampton.

2

Launching an updated Action Plan in January 2025.

3

Introducing the new MyCluster membership platform.

4

Running the UK pavilion for a second year at Formnext and UK being named partner country for 2026.

5

Launching the student and apprentice AM competition.

6

Starting a 3D Printers in schools initiative in collaboration with 3D 360.





AMUK: December 2025 to November 2026

In February 2023, AMUK held a series of regional meetings with members, starting the process to explore the future for AMUK and establish its longer-term objectives. These meetings brought together the AMUK membership to engage in open discussions regarding the challenges slowing the progress of the adoption and use AM technology in the UK, as well as the hurdles preventing companies from expanding their operations.

Members were encouraged to articulate these challenges, offering insights into their specific issues, as well as provide recommendations aimed at addressing them. A detailed compilation of these challenges and the ensuing recommendations can be found in Annex 1.

Following the regional meetings, an in-depth analysis of the members challenges was conducted. This highlighted that certain challenges were reoccurring, which allowed for the creation of thematic challenge groups. The table below lists these groups, along with the total number of members who identified each challenge as a pertinent issue within their company:

Challenge Group:	Number of Responses:
Supply Chain – Education, Adoption, Visibility & Qualification	9
Skills – Education, Training & Recruitment	9
Standards – Roadmap, Testing, Certification, Inspection & Materials	8
Government Engagement (incl Funding)	6
Technology – Sustainability & Recycling	2
IP Protection	1
Bid Writing Support	1
Technology – Software to Generic	1

These results were presented to the AMUK Steering Board. Following discussion with the Steering Board, the decision was made that it would be most practical for AMUK to allocate its resources toward tackling the top three challenges, or Supply Chain, Skills and Standards as determined by the membership.

A further set of meetings was held with working groups and the steering board in July and August 2025 where it was assessed that these challenges were still seen as the most pressing. The following sections provide an update on the actions set by the working groups that were presented in the previous version of this report.



Challenge 1: Supply Chain – Education, Adoption, Visibility and Qualification

The challenge with the UK manufacturing supply chain, with regards to Additive Manufacturing technology is multi-faceted. At one end of the spectrum there are still companies who need educating on what the technology can do for them, and at the other end you have companies looking for pathways into sector supply chains with the capability they can offer. This challenge looks at what AMUK can do to support the supply chain in the following areas:

- 1 Two AMUK members forums held at Siemens and the University of Wolverhampton.
- 2 Aiding companies in their adoption journey of Additive technologies into their design to manufacturing processes.
- 3 Making the capabilities and capacity of the UK Manufacturing supply chain with respect to Additive technologies visible.
- 4 Determining how to qualify the UK Manufacturing supply chain with regards to Additive capabilities.

The following people are part of the AMUK Working Group looking at the supply chain challenge:

Name	Company
Martin McMahon	M A M Solutions
Ben Chadwick	Bowman Additive
Olivier Diegerick	Siemens
Simon Chandler	CREAT3D
Rhodri Evans	Primetals Technologies
Anthony O’Riordan	Kazien PLM
Ruaridh Mitchinson	MTC
Len Pannett	DiManEx
Shaun Osbaldstone	ARRK Europe



Title	Description
Comprehensive Case Study Database	On the AMUK website the case study database will be further populated and look to provide a full range of AM examples across a range of processes, sectors, and materials.

Update: This is now well-established member service on the AMUK website and the most visited page: <https://additivemanufacturinguk.org.uk/case-studies/>. It will continue to be developed by requesting member case studies to continue to promote. **This action is now closed.**

Greater Membership exposure and engagement via existing social platforms (i.e. LinkedIn)	Explore the possibilities with using existing social networks to promote the AMUK membership, as well as platform for member communication. In the first instance LinkedIn should be looked at due to volume of members already engaging with the network
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Update: The AMUK social presence as continue to grow with over 3600 followers on LinkedIn and almost a further 2000 in the group. The membership spotlight videos are gaining further traction and new membership platform has been launched allowing better communication. **This action is now closed.**

Creation of an Adoption Guide	Identify the current tools and guides already publicly available which help companies adopt AM technology. Form them into a single process and fill any gaps identified to create a comprehensive AM adoption guide. This guide should then be part of the AMUK website for any company to engage with.
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Update: There is now an AM adoption guide on the AMUK website: <https://additivemanufacturinguk.org.uk/amuk-adoption-guide>. Further work is being done to ascertain how AI models can be used to further enhance it.

Funding Guide	AMUK to create a guide to what funding routes are available for UK companies along with a guide on what companies need to do to apply. This should be an AMUK member benefit.
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Update: Information on funding is now available on the AMUK membership platform. Further work is ongoing to make the information more directly available about appropriate funding pots that members can apply for (i.e. direct email, mycluster platform etc). As well as looking at how AI can assess applications for members to determine their likelihood of success.

Supply Chain and Professional Body Engagement	AMUK to talk to Supply Chain exhibitions and Professional Bodies to enable members to get in front of new and different audiences/potential customers.
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Update: Work has yet to commence on this action.

Online Part Printability Assessment	AMUK to investigate the benefit of having a platform on the website which will provide a basic assessment as to the potential printability of a part. The intention is that this could help companies assess if AM is for them, and potential reach out to members who offer certain capabilities (i.e. can we generate leads for members).
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Update: This service has now been live on the AMUK website for almost 12 months. Unfortunately there has been a lack of interest from industry in using such a service and therefore it will be removed in the near future. This action is now considered closed.



Challenge 2: Skills - Education, Training and recruitment

Having the right skills in place is essential to the growth of Additive technology in the UK. Without the skills, companies will be unable to adopt and take advantage of Additive Manufacturing in their own design to manufacturing processes. This challenge will look at what AMUK can do to aid in the creation of a talent pathway for individuals to come into the Additive technology sector in the UK.

The following people are part of the AMUK Working Group looking at the supply chain challenge:

Name	Company
Jono Munday	APEX
Bradley Hughes	GKN Aerospace
Joe Winston	Measurement Solutions Ltd
Robert Higham	Additive Manufacturing Solutions
Mark Dickin	Ricoh 3D
Rhodri Evans	Primetals Technologies
Anthony O'Briordan	Kaizen PLM
Tom Wasley	MTC
Ian Marsh	Additive Manufacturing Solutions
Paul Bullock	3D 360
Andrew Bjonnes	AFRC



Title

Description

AM training course review.

Working with AM companies (users and technology providers) understand the skills requirements that are out there and consequently create an AM curriculum. Map this against currently available training and identify any gaps that need filling. This should be a precursor to a form of AM certification.

Update: A pathway of skills/knowledge has been agreed for upskilling and engineer with specific AM skills. Work is ongoing with the skills working group to map this against available training courses. Once this has been mapped it will be made available publicly on the AMUK website and updated at regular intervals to ensure it remains relevant.

AM Open Days

AMUK will look to organise a series of regional open days with members with the purpose of promoting the technology to Non-AM companies.

Update: This action has evolved to focus on getting 3D printing technology into schools with a focus on training all teachers in the technology so they can easily use it as part of their lessons. This is being done in collaboration with 3D 360. The intention is to run a pilot project with 6 schools in 2026 and assess the effectiveness and outcomes over the 12 months to determine the impact. If successful, the intention is to seek funding for a wider role out nationally.

AM Competition

Working with AM companies look to scope out a competition which is aimed at apprentices, student and graduates which aims to get expose them to AM technology and has them solving a real industrial issue.

Update: This has now been launched in collaboration with Engineers Without Borders. This competition will culminate in a live final at the MACH exhibition in April 2026. Further information can be found on the website here: <https://www.ewb-uk.org/amplify-impact-challenge/>.



Challenge 3: Standards – Roadmap, Testing, Certification, Inspection & Materials

Additive Manufacturing has created a whole new way of manufacturing parts and components. There are many standards out there for companies to use when using AM technology, however the standards landscape for Additive is complex – especially for companies who are entering AM for the first time. Furthermore, the Materials data to make parts and components through Additive is not easily accessible for all companies. This challenge will look at what AMUK can do to aid companies in understanding the available standards for them to adopt and use when manufacturing parts and components and look at ways of creating a centralised Materials database that AMUK members can take advantage of.

The following people are part of the AMUK Working Group looking at the standards challenge:

Name	Company
Matt Parkes	Renishaw
Charan Prakash	Bowman Additive
Rob Poyner	Siemens
Ian Marsh	Additive Manufacturing Solutions
Anna Terry	AWE
David Macknelly	AWE
Ruaridh Mitchinson	MTC



Title	Description
Sector Standards Database	Engaging with the regulators for different sectors, AMUK will document the standards the regulators are expecting companies to follow with regards to AM parts. This list of standards should be accompanied by regulator guidelines on what they are looking for to meet those standards.
<p>Update: This standards roadmap being development by TDI has now been completed and made available to AMUK members via the mycluster platform. This action is now considered closed.</p>	
Peer Review of Materials Databases	AMUK to produce a guide on the currently available materials databases for AM. Peer review each of the databases and identify where there are gaps.
<p>Update: The database is now available to AMUK members via the mycluster platform. This action is now considered closed.</p>	
AM Standards Event	AMUK will host an AM standards event – this could potentially be part of another event. This should look to include speakers from LRQA, a Regulator, BSI and opportunities to share best practice between members.
<p>Update: This event was held as part of an AMUK members forum in March 2025. This has now become a standing item on the AMUK members forum agenda and therefore is now considered closed.</p>	
Free Standards Access	This action was about offering the most used AM standards to members for free. AMUK are investigating the feasibility and cost of this and will report in due course.
<p>Update: The costs of this have been investigated by AMUK and found to be acceptable. This has been agreed by the Standards working group and will be implemented in April 2026 (new membership year).</p>	
UK Standards Activities	This action was for members to have place where they could find out about the ongoing Standards activities in the UK and learn how they could get involved with the activities. AMUK to investigate and provide an area on the website with the information.
<p>Update: Work is underway on this and will be put on the AMUK website once the activities have been mapped out.</p>	



Securing the UK's Future in Additive Manufacturing



Securing the UK's Future in Additive Manufacturing

The Case for Industrialising Additive Manufacturing: A Model

Additive Manufacturing (AM) is a technology that is now firmly part of the advanced manufacturing ecosystem. It enables lighter, more efficient products, rapid innovation cycles, reduced waste, and shorter, more resilient supply chains. Leading nations such as the USA, Germany, France, Spain and China, are investing heavily in AM industrialisation as part of their national strategies for economic growth and sovereign capability.

The UK is currently exceptionally strong in AM research and development (R&D), ranking 4th globally for AM-related IP generation, yet remains far behind in commercialisation and adoption. Only 17% of UK organisations use AM, and government support for AM R&D has fallen sharply from £66m in 2024 to £9m in 2025. This puts the UK at risk of not only losing our strong research base but also having a negative impact on our manufacturing supply chain resilience and future manufacturing jobs as other countries adopt and deploy at a quicker rate.

The UK must now shift to full industrialisation strategy by continuing to invest in and build on our strong AM research base and developing it into production products, exports, sovereign supply chain capability and economic growth.

Industrialisation as the Driver of UK AM Growth

Industrialisation is the process of taking AM from promising research outputs into validated, qualified, repeatable and scalable production within the UK. It is the phase where research becomes productivity, supply chain capability, jobs, exports and sovereign industrial resilience. For AM to scale in the UK, industrialisation must become the central focus of national effort. Yet industrialisation is not a single programme or institution, it is the outcome of a set of enabling conditions: strong commercialisation pathways, support to adopt and scale for early industrial users, resilient supply chains, and a skilled workforce.

At present, these enabling conditions are fragmented and hidden. The UK has world-class research capability and strong technical development infrastructure through world class Universities and the Catapult network, however, the transition from invention to mass adoption remains slow. Organisations struggle to commercialise AM research, scale pilot activity, access materials and equipment domestically, find export routes and recruit skilled practitioners. Industrialisation will only occur at scale if these structural barriers are addressed.



For this reason, this report identifies five pillars that collectively enable AM industrialisation in the UK:

1 Commercialisation and IP Readiness

2 Adoption and Scale-Up Support

3 Supply Chain Resilience

4 Export Competitiveness

5 Skills and Talent Pathway

These pillars do not replace the role of universities, research organisations or Catapult centres but connect them, ensuring the UK can move AM technologies through TRL development and into commercial deployment. Each of the following sections sets out the targeted actions required under each pillar to strengthen the UK's ability to industrialise AM and unlock the full economic potential of the technology.



Pillar 1: Commercialisation & IP Readiness

Industrialisation cannot occur without strong commercial pathways that turn AM research into market-ready products. Although the UK excels in AM research and IP generation, commercialisation remains slow, and recent reductions in public research funding risk weakening the innovation pipeline. Continued investment in AM research is essential to push the boundaries of materials, processes and high-value applications; however, research alone will not deliver industrial impact without stronger commercial pathways.

To support commercialising of IP, the UK must:

- Support the transition from research to production, with greater support for TRL 6–8 development, prototype validation and qualification.
- Commercial readiness of AM businesses, including support for spinouts, SMEs and early-stage scaling.
- Help organisations protect and exploit IP, helping them understand the value of commercial AM-related IP.
- Continue to support the broader innovation environment, including continued AM R&D funding and visibility of UK capabilities.

Ask 1

Return public research funding for AM-related projects to 2023/24 levels to maintain the UK's world-leading innovation base.

Ask 2

Increase government and investment support for TRL 6–8 commercialisation activity.

Ask 3

Reinstate government-funded IP audits to improve AM IP valuation and exploitation.

AMUK Actions:

- Provide clear signposting to commercialisation support, Catapult capabilities and funding routes.
- Convene universities, Catapults and industry to identify priority commercialisation opportunities.



Pillar 2: Adoption & Scale-Up Support

Industrialisation of AM depends on widespread adoption through the manufacturing supply chain. Many organisations, particularly SMEs, face barriers such as cost, technology unfamiliarity and funding models that discourage risk-taking. To enable industrialisation, companies need practical and easy routes to trial AM and create pathways from first builds to scaled production.

To support commercialising of IP, the UK must:

- Support the transition from research to production, with greater support for TRL 6–8 development, prototype validation and qualification.
- Commercial readiness of AM businesses, including support for spinouts, SMEs and early-stage scaling.
- Help organisations protect and exploit IP, helping them understand the value of commercial AM-related IP.
- Continue to support the broader innovation environment, including continued AM R&D funding and visibility of UK capabilities.

Ask 4

Introduce rapid-deployment AM adoption grants to de-risk early trials and accelerate industrial uptake

AMUK Actions:

- Provide clear signposting to commercialisation support, Catapult capabilities and funding routes.
- Convene universities, Catapults and industry to identify priority commercialisation opportunities.



Pillar 3: Supply Chain Resilience

A resilient AM sector in the UK requires strong domestic supply chains for materials, equipment, qualification and post-processing. The UK currently relies heavily on imported powders, wires, alloys and equipment, exposing manufacturers to risk and constraining industrial growth.

To establish a resilient supply chain, the UK must:

- Strengthen domestic access to AM feedstock materials, reducing reliance on imports.
- Support local manufacturing and post-processing capability, including systems, tooling, heat treatment and inspection.
- Raise visibility of the AM Supply chain, identifying gaps and opportunities.

Ask 5

Establish a UK AM Supply Chain & Materials Programme to build domestic feedstock, equipment and post-processing capacity in the UK.

AMUK Actions:

- Produce an annual snapshot of UK AM supply chain gaps and opportunities.



Pillar 4: Export Competitiveness

Industrialisation and export success reinforce each other. A strong domestic AM sector creates exportable capability, while international visibility drives inward investment. UK AM companies are currently underrepresented at major global events compared to competitors backed by coordinated national delegations.

To support our export competitiveness, the UK must:

- Recognise AM as a strategic export sector, enabling coordinated support.
- Support international visibility, ensuring strong UK presence at global AM events.
- Create foreign market access pathways, aligned with DBT export support.
- Aid global promotion of UK capability, through unified branding and thought leadership.

Ask 6

Designate AM as a National Strategic Export Technology and support coordinated UK delegations to major global events.

AMUK Actions:

- Coordinate small collective UK presences at priority international AM exhibitions.
- Share export market intelligence with members in partnership with DBT.



Pillar 5: Skills & Talent Pathway

Industrialisation requires a skilled workforce. The UK currently faces shortages in digital engineering, design for AM, machine operation and advanced manufacturing skills. Students often lack hands-on access to AM technologies, and AM is not widely embedded in technical qualifications.

To support the future AM skills requirements, the UK must:

- Provide practical AM exposure across education, building hands-on familiarity at an early stage.
- Ensure access to AM equipment and teaching resources, particularly in colleges and universities.
- Create industry linked training pathways, including apprenticeships and T-Levels.
- Increase awareness and outreach, encouraging more young people into AM careers.

Ask 7

Develop a practical AM skills and talent pathway to embed hands-on AM learning across education and training.

AMUK Actions:

- Promote AM education and training routes through centralised signposting.
- Strengthen partnerships to support STEM outreach.



Annex





Annex 1: Regional Meeting Responses

#	Challenge Title	Description	Recommendations
1	Recycling Centre for Materials	No centre to recycle/reuse material. There are schemes in the US and mainland Europe. UK currently goes to incineration or landfill.	Collate all users/ pink xx using powder, for example PA12 nylon. Advise how materials can be stored, collected and recycled.
2	Materials and Methods	So many manufacturing methods. Don't always uses methods that have work in the past.	Material comparisons against injection moulded material.
3	Design	Products in Polymer designed for Injection. Restricts manufacturing design.	Training existing designers Training with India and Conxxx USA Casxx Short/mid-term
4	Sustainability/ Supply Chain	Lack of visibility as part of supply chain solutions/ sustainability. 3 Fold – Not being used anywhere to cxx as supply chain solution Not recognised by supply chain solutions No one organisation looking at recycling of waste and materials.	Look at/set up a roadmap for Polymer waste recycling. Set no?
5	Dedicated Software for Prices?	Industry software is too broad and as a result too costly, i.e. Materidise Mags = £10K+ we only use half the functionality.	-
6	Government rush to grow the UK AM industry	UK AM market lags behind the USA, Germany, France etc.	Government initiative similar to Biden government. AM Forward scheme whereby large US companies (particularly those who receive US govmt. Money) pledge to purchase 3D printed parts from small to mid-size US AM manufacturers.
7	Government Engagement	Some other trade bodies have huge influence in government and attract their own funding to support industry (look at Niche Vehicle Network and Advanced Propulsion Centre).	Long term – 10 years. Look to be the holder of grant funds for distribution into the AM sector. It will take several years of lobbying but could be hugely beneficial to the industry. Aim for funds like the Automotive Transformation Fund. The AM sector requires significant capital investment which is typically the hardest to find finance for. A Transformation fund can help to change that.



#	Challenge Title	Description	Recommendations
8	Funding	<p>Funding Lack of AM-focused CRCSD funding in the UK.</p> <p>Preventing industry (particularly SME) to exploit AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New materials - New applications 	Lobby UK Gov/ UK NI to address this lack.
9	Cross funding (sustainability and AM Automation)	-	-
10	Funding (Government) around R&D	<p>Fraunhofer Germany examples (not strictly AM focused).</p> <p>76 sites €2B funded/year!</p> <p>Expand Catapult centres</p>	-
11	Key Industries are shrinking in the UK	<p>Industries like Oil and Gas, Steel, Automotive etc would be good fundamental growth market for industrial high margin AM, if they are shrinking then AM has less market for growth.</p>	<p>Contact trade bodies from other key industries and help lobby on their behalf via MTA or by itself.</p> <p>Generally for manufacturing to grow UK has to ensure fundamentals for it: dead-cheap electricity and access to cheap resources, AMUK would also keep lobbying for it via MTA.</p>
12	Map of AM Industry	<p>State of UK AM industry. Difficult to identify who is doing what.</p> <p>Connecting potential users to suppliers.</p>	A database for industry (2-5 years)
13	End User Hand Holding	<p>Ensuring new potential customer (machines, material or parts) find the best supplier(s) and or technologies for their needs.</p> <p>We are losing opportunities when new users use the wrong technology /provider and it goes wrong.</p>	<p>Mid-Term – 5 years.</p> <p>Marketing</p> <p>Training & Education</p> <p>Sign-posting</p> <p>Opportunity diagnostics</p> <p>AMUK needs to be the place that new customers turn to first to find out what technology/service is the right one for them.</p>



#	Challenge Title	Description	Recommendations
14	Companies Relocating to Europe	Manufacturing moving out of UK to Europe due to Brexit/cheaper labour etc.	<p>Suggest incentives for manufacturers to move back into UK, for example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to key markets (USA/Japan) • Tax incentives • Less political risk • Help fxx manufacturing sites • Access to resources • Cheap electricity • Access and collaboration with British universities.
15	Industrial Digitisation	<p>Definitely need to link up with industrial digitalisation groups and programmes.</p> <p>Definitely need to link up with industrial digitalisation groups and programmes.</p>	SIC Codes and a recognised sector/ industry “Additive Manufacturing”
16	Recruitment	<p>Difficult to recruit, especially applications.</p> <p>Slows down our growth in developing new materials and applications. Having to look outside of the UK.</p>	<p>More links to education institutes, right down to high schools.</p> <p>Industry specific qualifications?</p>
17	Hiring location	-	Matching skills
18	General/ Skills & Education	<p>You need SME’s to adopt the tech by working with UK suppliers.</p> <p>Awareness is not there.</p>	<p>Focus awareness campaign on SME manufacturers – address the reasons not to adopt up-front.</p> <p>Accessible</p> <p>Easy to learn</p> <p>UK experts to help you</p> <p>Government funding – 3D printers, training, re-training.</p>
19	Getting the Government Involved/Education	<p>How do we get AM into the school curriculum!</p> <p>Who do we talk to?</p> <p>Keeping the industry from growing and stopping the correct skills for the future workforces.</p>	<p>EDUCATION</p> <p>EDUCATION</p> <p>EDUCATION</p>



#	Challenge Title	Description	Recommendations
20	Specific Academic Qualifications at Universities	AM is a bolt on for many engineering courses, needs to be a standalone course. Not enough understanding of design for AM or design for applications.	Work with Uni's of academic institutes to establish qualifications.
21	Skills & Education	No curriculum for AM. Lack of trained students coming through to employment. Employment/skilled workers gap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy picking: amend D&T GCSE qualification to specifically include AM. (5 Years) • Develop an AM Curriculum – attracts girls into STEM, include post 16 course at colleges/FE/HE (5-10 Years). • Gather intel on current curriculum/training, e.g. Lulzbot, 3DGBIRE – World Schools, NCAM – AM course, others... (2 Years).
22	Skills and Knowledge to adopt AM	There currently isn't enough knowledge and skills in industry for successful adoption of AM. Therefore industry is reluctant to adopt AM or train 1 individual so don't support growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap for AM adoption of skills • Make clear what skills and knowledge and tech/team are required for successful AM adoption in an organisation. • Training on to skills – 3DGBUK offer this. • Certified recognised endorsed courses/training.
23	Slow rate of adoption of AM/manufacturing methods incompatible/ uneconomic for AM	Education skills problem. Engineers are set in their usual way of manufacturing, not "sticking their neck" out to trial new ways, possibly not knowing about AM or not thinking it can be economic/ make economic sense, while in other countries same level of manufacturing is applied via AM.	Some sort of education of young generation of engineers/business managers of AM, enabling the use of AM in educational institutions early on. I think this is a long-term solution but it will make a huge impact once the new generation comes.
24	Adoption	Narrow approach to cost analysis – no adoption.	Business case = Print costs – understand re-usability – design for AM – Future state production (2 years).
25	Adoption of 3D technology	Difficult to get manufacturing companies onboard with AM, use traditional manufacturing methods. Industry remains stagnant which impacts innovation within specific industries.	Implement success stories/use cases within AMUK to show how adoption can improve companies etc. More awareness of how AM applications can benefit customers. Short to mid-term priority.



#	Challenge Title	Description	Recommendations
26	Lack of awareness of 3D Printing at lower-level education	Current 3Dp education all appears to be only from Uni level onwards. Impact means a smaller workforce as lots of people are either less educated or don't know AM is an option when Job/education searching. Lots of 3D designs are poorly optimised for 3D printing.	3Dp needs to be integrated in lower level educations. Lots of establishments cant afford the "professional" printers without realising cheaper alternatives exist. There is also very little reason for schools to use 3D printers with their current education plans.
27	Technical Innovation, Developing new Technologies	I think UK academic IP could be better exploited and utilised to help existing or new AM companies to introduce and develop new solutions. UK has very good IP potential within its universities and that could be used better.	Add British IP related to AM that is ready for licensing or development at value chain website. This would be both short and long term solution. UK also have good grant funding opportunities for development of technologies (Innovate UK) so this would have good combined effect.
28	Digital Modelling	Digital modelling of existing data and physical verification – needs parallel studies to drive innovation and optimisation of processes.	Upskilling and collaborative forums with primes to leverage lessons learnt.
29	Design for AM/ Change of Design for AM	The expectation of management that AM can be used as a direct replacement to conventional manufacturing. Lack of AM adoption as it can't directly replace conventional manufacturing. Furthermore, people can't decide for AM so the technology can't be up taken.	Update Training modules from universities and teach people the process. Showcase the potential of parts and industries benefits. Short term: training of design engineer. Mid term: change to university education to get AM a full module in university Long term: Apprenticeship for additive manufacturing.
30	Bid Writing (Skill)	Specialised skill set. Difficult to develop in house for an SME and expensive to engage an expert.	Part-funded bid-writer supported by AMUK.
31	Standards	Understanding what Standards apply to AM and what can be introduced. Adhoc production parts.	Draw up a list of relevant Standards – Qualification £/p 2- 5 years
32	Inspection, Test, Standards	Pt 3 – develop and maintain an accessible AM material properties and standards database for current and emerging additive manufacturing technologies.	Use current existing materials centres to collate info and feed into centralised database. (2 Years). Could use collected data for FEA analysis.



#	Challenge Title	Description	Recommendations
33	Testing and Valuation	No defined regulations or testing. Expensive to offer and deliver consistent value or performance.	Standard testing procedures /practices to cover all grades and guidelines for custom grades.
34	Test Data	Not enough test data to go with materials. Material is being compared to injection moulded of extraction grade of materials.	Tighter standards/regulations for material data of testing.
35	Standards/ Accreditation	In particular Auto/Repo	Standards/Accreditation for parts not just materials.
36	Standards	Industry Standards for power and printing. Slows the implementation of stress loaded parts in Aerospace industry.	International standards bodies to work together to write Global Standards. Short to mid-term 2-5 years.
37	Standards Landscape Confusing	Which standard body to follow – seems to be no single source of truth.	Map of standards – what standards to adopt for which processes. Which standards to adopt for which sectors.



AMUK Annual Plan 2026

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