**Business Explorer Programme**

**State Aid registration under General Block Exemption (GBER)**

This document sets out information relating to the Business Explorer programme and how State Aid granted to the project complies with Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2017 of 17 June 2014, the General Block Exemption Regulation.

**1. Member States:**

United Kingdom & Ireland

State Aid Reference No:

**United Kingdom:** SA109509

**Ireland:** SA109487

**2. Granting Authority:**

InterTradeIreland

**3. Legal basis:**

The North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) Northern Ireland Order 1999 – Section 2.3 Part 7 of Annex II of the Act empowers InterTradeIreland to invest, grant aid or lend for the purposes of its function, the British/Irish Agreement Act 1999 (Section 2.3 Part 7 of Annex II of the act empowers InterTradeIreland to invest, grant aid or lend for the purposes of its function) and European Communities Act 1972.

**4. EC Legal Basis:**

The aid provided to this Project will be within the limits and conditions set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014, the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)[[1]](#footnote-1)

**5. Project Name:**

Business Explorer Programme

Total Project Cost: £900,000/€1,075,000

**6. Grant Recipient:**

SMEs

**7. Project Aim:**

The Business Explorer programme provides support by funding a suitable academic professional or industry specialist to work with an SME to explore innovative solutions to business challenges or innovative techniques to develop out an idea further. The programme is a pathway of support which will continue to fund the academic/industry specialist to support the business to take their findings to create a plan to adapt the solution into the business therefore nurturing a culture of innovation.

**9. Compliance with GBER:**

All aid provided to Business Explorer programme participants will be within the limits and conditions set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014, of 17 June 2014 (as amended by Regulation 2017/1084 on 14 June 2017) declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation).

The State aid to this programme will be within the Common provisions set out in Chapter 1 and scope and conditions of Article 28 in the GBER – Innovation Aid for SMEs.

**10. Duration of aid:**

2023-2024

**11. Form of aid:**

Grant

**12. Name and Address of Granting Authority**

InterTradeIreland, The Old Gasworks Business Park, Kilmorey Street, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2DE

If you require more information about the Business Explorer programme please contact: Nicola Quinn

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1. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20170710&from=EN [↑](#footnote-ref-1)