

# SBRI — the UK's Small Business Research Initiative, Reviewed and Relunched Twice

City Innovation Library · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 52/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

## Summary

The UK's SBRI has awarded over GBP 500M in R&D; contracts to SMEs since 2001, with an independent 2017 study crediting GBP 2.4 of economic benefit per GBP 1 spent, but a government-commissioned 2015 review found funding down 25% and 85% of contracts too small to matter.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                  | Score |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| Evidence of impact / measured results      | 2/3   |
| Transferability / demonstrated replication | 2/3   |
| Scalability                                | 1/3   |
| Sustainability / continuity                | 2/3   |
| Innovation                                 | 1/3   |
| Inclusiveness / equity                     | 1/3   |
| Multi-stakeholder collaboration            | 2/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[Innovate UK \(UK Research and Innovation / UKRI\)](#), delivering on behalf of public bodies including the NHS, Ministry of Defence and DEFRA — accessed 2026-09-10

[Cambridge Industrial Innovation Policy — Two Decades of SBRI](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[GOV.UK — SBRI programme collection \(archived\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

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Cite this — Evidoria. *SBRI — the UK's Small Business Research Initiative, Reviewed and Relunched Twice*. Persistent ID: 5c982a46-9285-4b49-9981-ea328752374d.