

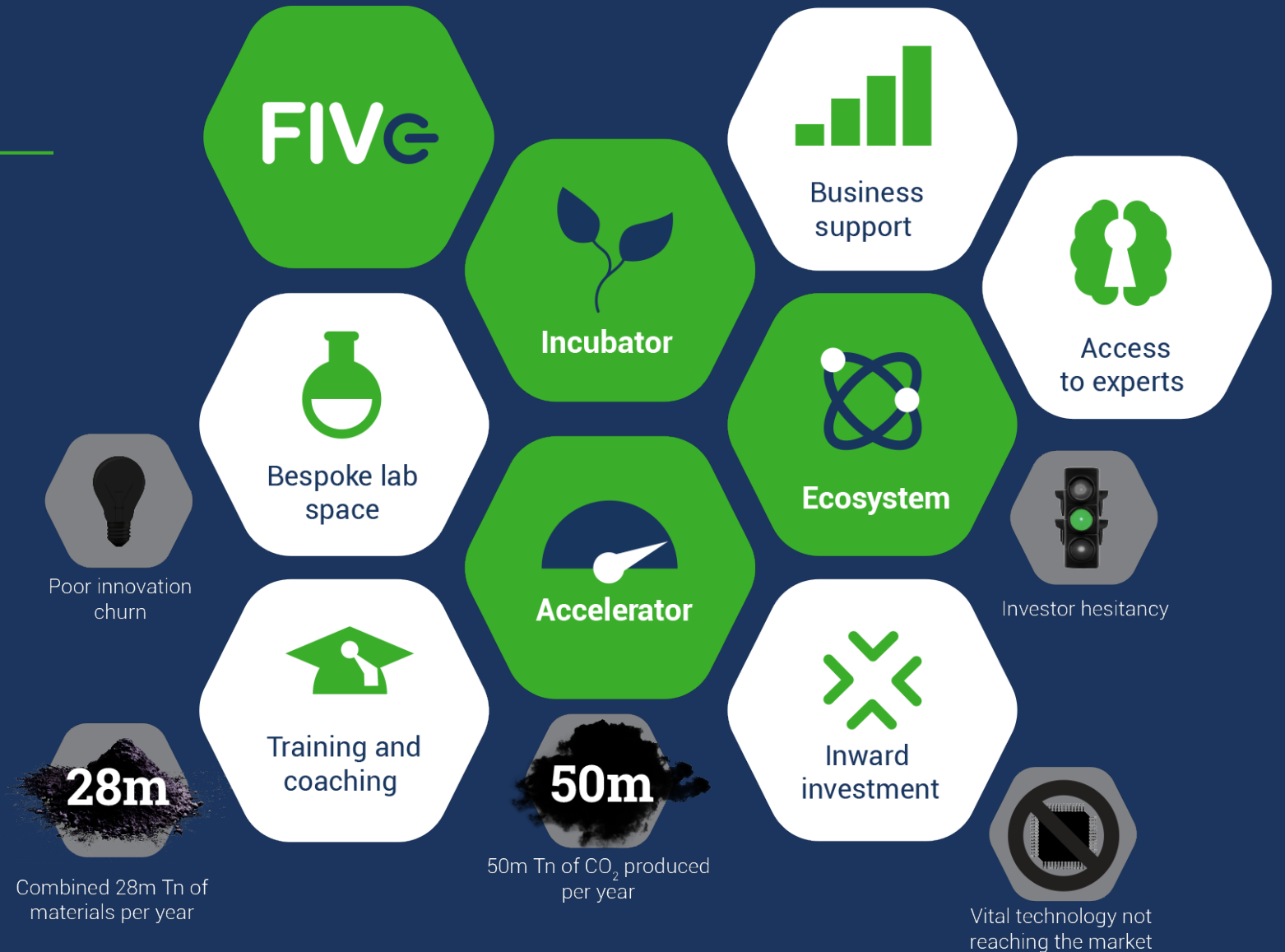


Quarterly Impact Report  
**Q2 April – June 2024**

# The Vision

## FIVe will:

- Provide a flexible space to champion growth and expansion
- Enable business growth through access to business support and services
- Foster a culture of disruptive innovation and sustainable growth through connectivity and collaboration
- Create a diverse vibrant community of industry experts, investors and researchers




# Focus for the quarter

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This quarter, FIVE has focused upon kick-starting our Science and Innovation Network (FIVengage), concentrating on addressing the regulatory barriers that sustainable materials start-ups face in their scale up and commercialisation journeys.

This has included establishing our partner working group with FISC, TransFIRE, and Network+, kicking off the review of the current regulatory landscape with our partners Amion Consulting, and planning for our workshops and sandpits for data collection.

## 90-day commitment



*Represent the community: Clearly outline the regulatory barriers faced*

# Regulatory Barriers

- FIVengage is dedicated to advancing regulatory science and promoting innovation through strategic collaborations with partners. By working together, these collaborations aim to develop research that aligns with regulatory standards while accelerating the innovation process. This partnership approach leverages collective resources and expertise to establish robust regulatory frameworks that support and expedite scientific and technological advancements. The focus of FIVengage is:
  - **Collaboration:** Work with partners to develop research to deliver regulatory science that will accelerate innovation.
  - **Education:** Identifying the training required to up-skill the innovation value chain and deliver targeted training as a valued education partner.
  - **Communication:** Build a trusted network to influence policy through the publication of research and innovator-informed evidence.



# Regulatory Barriers

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Our review of the current regulatory landscape saw us host three online FIVengage workshops. Key FIVengage discussions included;

- the importance of adhering to health and safety regulations
- investment and funding regulations
- the impact of inadequate academic pathways
- the disproportionate impact of regulatory requirements on SMEs
- barriers throughout the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) scale
- maintaining product quality through this phase of innovation-push is critical
- regulatory synergy is key to guarantee success, and
- innovation-pull is needed from sponsors through the proof of concept phase and through public backing.



- Next quarter we will deliver our final workshop as a face to face event in London in partnership with Sensicon Ventures and work towards our application for the implementation phase of the network.

# FIVE Community Update

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Social Media: 27 posts, average 7.27% CTR & 9.39% engagement

Thought leadership: 3 articles, average 2.5% CTR



Events: 4 events, +141 new followers (31% increase in followers)

Partnership marketing: 3 articles

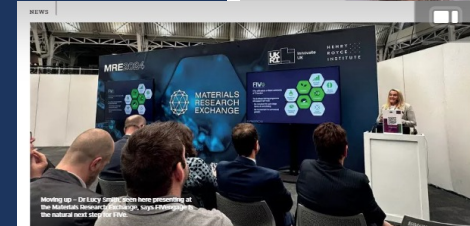
# Growing the FIVE Community

## Thought Leadership & partnership marketing

- [Embracing diversity within the Foundation Industries](#)
- [Is regulation stopping the UK from becoming a science and technology superpower?](#)
- [Why are women are leaving engineering in their droves?](#)
- [Firm Foundations: New network will provide missing piece of the puzzle for Foundation Industries](#)
- [UK's first incubator and accelerator driving innovation for the Foundation Industries bases itself at Materials Processing Institute](#)

## Embracing diversity within the Foundation Industries

How can the foundation industries attract and retain a diverse workforce?



### FIRM FOUNDATIONS

New network will provide missing piece of the puzzle for foundation industries

Successful Teesside incubator and accelerator FIVE has launched a new go-to network for the Foundation Industries (FIs) Foundation Industries Ventures (FIVe), which opened its first centre in Middlesbrough earlier this year. It has launched FIVengage to support its aim to drive innovation and decarbonisation. The six vital foundation industries of cement, metals, chemicals, paper, ceramics and glass contribute more than £100bn to the UK economy and employ more than 250,000 people. But in producing 28m tonnes of products each year, they also generate 10 per cent of the UK's annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. FIVE supports start-ups and spinouts developing new innovative materials, processes and technology that will disrupt these traditionally process-driven, energy-intensive industries and help them reach net zero. FIVengage is the next step for the centre, providing flexible office, lab and events space among the businesses at the Materials Processing Institute (MPI). Housing a vibrant incubator for early-stage organisations to pilot and grow their ideas alongside an accelerator for organisations on their commercialisation journey, it already offers access to tailored support including finance, IP, legal, HR, and health and safety training. FIVengage will be the first network to offer innovation, start-ups, industry investors and universities to tackle industry specific and FIVE wide challenges. Dr Lucy Smith, co-founder of FIVE, head of transformation at the Materials Processing Institute and co-chair of the Critical Minerals Association Circular Economy Committee, said: "We've had a great first quarter and FIVengage is the natural next step for us to take to bring all the key people together in one place to share best practice, ideas and innovation so we can disrupt the status quo and decarbonise quicker and more efficiently. Through the network, we'll accelerate innovation pathways through collaboration, education and communication. Working with our partners we'll gather research and build a stakeholder network that will deliver regulatory science to accelerate innovation. "We'll identify the training required to upskill the innovation value chain then deliver targeted training as a trusted education partner. "Lastly, we plan to communicate our research findings to the wider community so FIVengage becomes the go-to, trusted network that brings people together to influence policy through innovator-informed evidence." Funded by Innovate UK's Science and Innovation Network's Discovery Phase competition, in partnership with the Foundation Industries Sustainability Consortium, the Transforming the Foundation Industries Network and TransFIVE, there are already underway for online workshops and in-person sandpit events. It comes on the back of soon-to-be published market research carried out by AMON Consulting on behalf of FIVE into the challenges preventing sustainable materials spinouts and start-ups from scaling up. Helen Wheatley, FIVE co-founder and collaboration lead for research and technology member organisation Glass.

To find out more, visit FIVE's LinkedIn page or [fiventures.org](#)



Leaders - Dr Lucy Smith and Helen Wheatley at the 2024 INCE Annual Industry Awards, to which they sponsored the Innovation category. Futures, said: "Having worked in the FIs for many years, we know the challenges and issues facing each industry to decarbonise, such as high barriers to innovation, cost and regulation. "But this research has identified several challenges that we can help address around business support and mentorship, the lack of physical space for those working on disruptive technology at scale and the lack of eco-systems for development journeys. "This ecosystem lies at the heart of what FIVE is about and FIVengage will help us create strong partnerships and a supportive investment environment where knowledge and ideas are exchanged and developed. "Partners in the network include businesses already working with FIVE, such as Middlesbrough's Engineering supporting process safety and Sensation Ventures, which scales innovation in the bulk environment."

Foundation Industries Ventures

Be the first network uniting #innovators, #startups to help break down the regulatory challenges faced by [lustries](#) (FIs).

Whether #regulation is stopping the UK becoming a [big superpower](#)...



Is regulation stopping the UK from becoming a science and technology superpower?

FIVE - Foundation Industries Ventures on LinkedIn • 3 min read  
Anyone who works in science and technology is familiar with the challenges of understanding and...

# FIVE Community Update

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Engaged with:



14 Spinouts



10 Investors



9 Universities



10 Companies



4 Letters of support  
from industry  
investors

# Market Research

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AMION Consulting have led development of market research and a business case which provides independent verification of customer needs and potential operating models.

This quarter, the team has tied up final consultations and validated the findings with key stakeholders.

Their full report will be published next quarter.

Discussions and findings from the three FIVengage workshops have been published in an interim report here

<https://fiventures.org/downloads/FIVe-WorkshopReport24624.pdf>

# Support Updates

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Bluecube use ultra-high-performance concrete (UHPC) to transform sea walls and defences into thriving habitats for marine life.

They became the first start-up to benefit from tailored support in the form of a three-day strategy sprint with our partner Peter Allen.

*“FIVE's training was instrumental in understanding and transforming our business approach and market understanding.”*

Read the full case study here:

<https://fiventures.org/article/?p=GPLpvoFjmdS3K3z8TySM21xAEkCNfxFxaBnKbNzqPvB76tN0snrIL3o>



# Q3 2024

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## Focus for the quarter

Next quarter, focus will be on disseminating the market research to potential sources of funding, communicating the findings about regulatory barriers and opportunity, and showing the how the FIVE model is already helping innovators to commercialise at pace.



*Show how FIVE  
can help you*

