



## **Research partnerships and collaborations helping to address the sustainable development goals**

Below is an example demonstrating our response to Target 9.5:

*Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending*

Innovation is essential for organisational competitiveness regionally, nationally, and globally, yet organisations struggle to realise their innovation potential. Exeter researchers have created, refined, and successfully implemented an Innovation Fitness Toolkit (IFT) that examines organisations' Innovation Management Capability (IMC) with regards to process, learning, networks, innovation culture, and strategy, across public and private sector organisations in the UK, EU and globally. Based on their research, the IFT enables organisations to develop, manage and capitalise on new products and services, facilitating firm growth (e.g., Bott Ltd experienced a £600,000 increase in annual sales turnover and invested over £100M as a result of the process), as well as improving existing efficiency and productivity in the UK's South West region (e.g., more than half of the 260 firms involved in a regional programme in Devon indicated an increase in efficiency).

The programme has had global reach through its adoption in 60 countries worldwide via the International Society for Professional Innovation Management (ISPIM). ISPIM is a community of 600 members from research, industry, consulting and the public sector across 60 countries. ISPIM have worked with the innovation management capability (IMC) model through a series of initiatives since 2010. As part of these, a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Teaching and Coaching Innovation for industry and academia was developed (2015-2020) and through this group 'Professors Alexander and Bessant have changed the way innovation and entrepreneurship is taught and coached in upwards of 500 organisations, mostly throughout the EU', states - Operations Director, ISPIM, in 2018. Between 2014 and 2020, The IMC has impacted innovation and entrepreneurial activity across 60 countries through the coaching of 600 global businesses at ISPIM