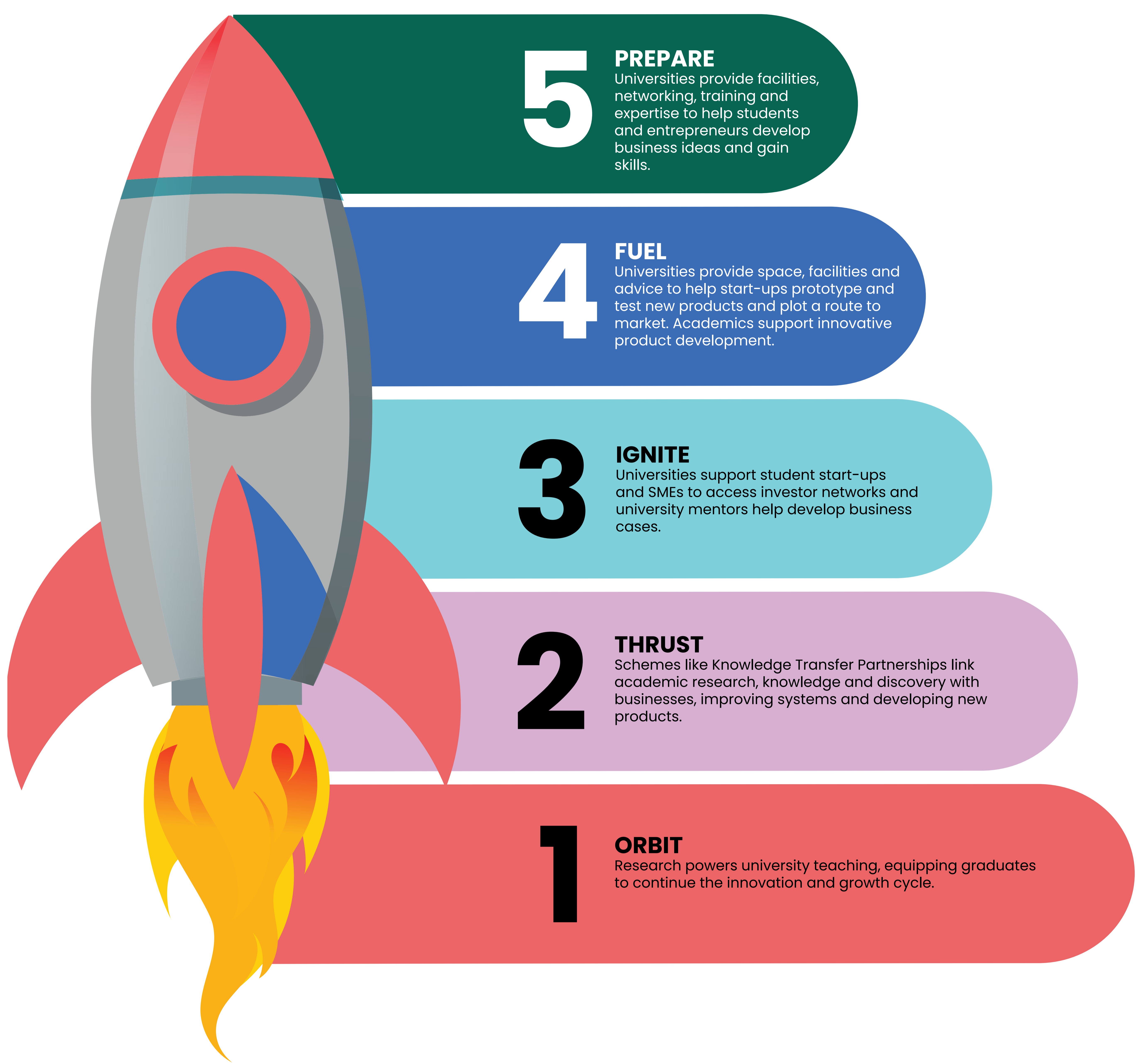


# Innovation and growth

How does professional and technical university innovation support businesses and economies to take off?



**SUPPORTING SME GROWTH IN YORKSHIRE:**

Yorkshire-based Riverside Greetings supplies greetings cards across the UK convenience store network. Leeds Beckett University (LBU) partnered with them to develop new technologies to boost productivity. LBU researchers helped create a low-cost Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system, enabling instant stock scanning instead of manual counting. Riverside estimates a 30% efficiency gain and an 11% sales increase. They also secured a patent for their stock management system. The partnership has delivered an estimated £25 million in benefits to the company.

**DRIVING BUSINESS GROWTH IN TEESIDE:**

Based in Northeast England, Quorn Foods is a global leader in meat alternatives. Marlow Ingredients, which produces Quorn's key mycoprotein ingredient, partnered with Teesside University's National Horizons Centre to develop an improved and more sustainable production method. Researchers used mass spectrometry to refine and control production, leading to a dedicated lab at Quorn's Billingham base. This ensures continuous product improvement and allows Marlow Ingredients to supply high-quality mycoprotein to other food manufacturers, creating significant new revenue streams.



**CREATING NEW SPINOUTS IN EAST LONDON:**

Carbon8 is a global leader in carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS). It was founded by researchers from the University of Greenwich who developed and patented a new technology which captures CO<sub>2</sub> directly from industrial waste and mineralises it to produce a new material: lightweight aggregates that can be used in construction. In June 2022, Vicat Group, the international cement group, EDF Group and its corporate venture capital arm, EDF Pulse Ventures, co-invested £4m in Carbon8.



**DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN ABERDEEN TO SUPPORT DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE:**

Recent flooding events have claimed lives, destroyed homes and exposed a lack of post-flood recording resources and expertise in the UK and overseas. Researchers at Robert Gordon University's Digital Innovation Lab are addressing this gap using laser scanning (LiDAR) technology. By capturing 3D spatial data, they can provide a digital foundation to underpin predictive modelling to mitigate future disasters and support community-driven recovery planning. They are already working with local authorities in Spain to support the recovery from flooding in Valencia.



**University Alliance**