



# Case Study: Marc the Printers

MARC The Printers is a Greater Manchester-based social enterprise committed to environmentally responsible printing. The organisation uses sustainable processes to produce high-quality print materials while engaging students in community-based research and creative projects.

Their ability to grow and generate income was limited due to outdated printing equipment. The team wanted to increase production capacity, improve business sustainability and strengthen their community offer.

MARC The Printers needed investment in upgraded equipment to improve their capacity. Specifically, they identified the need for a two-drum environmentally friendly Risograph printing machine, the most sustainable printing process, which would allow them to significantly increase output.

## E26 Thematic Areas:

Through E26-supported community pitching events, MARC The Printers secured £1,300 in direct funding. This funding was used to assist in the purchase of the two-drum Risograph, a key asset in unlocking future business growth and operational efficiency.

**Access to and Management of Physical Assets** – Funding secured through E26 was directly applied to purchase new equipment, addressing a core operational barrier.

**Financial and Legal** – The pitching process supported the enterprise in developing and delivering a strong financial case for investment, which helped them secure the funds needed to grow sustainably.

**Demonstrating Social Impact** – By linking their business needs with community benefit (e.g., involving students in projects), MARC The Printers were able to make a compelling impact case to funders and community members.

## Outcomes:

The purchase of the two-drum environmentally friendly printer is expected to significantly increase MARC The Printers' production capacity, directly increasing their ability to take on paid work. Additionally, the new capacity will free up staff time to further engage students in meaningful community research and creative work.

## Insights and Lessons:

Small-scale, targeted investment in physical infrastructure can have a large impact on growth and sustainability.

Pitching events are not only useful for funding, but also for refining your business story and demonstrating impact in a compelling way.





# Case Study: Marc the Printers

## Questions for other Social Enterprise organisations:

What operational or equipment barriers are limiting your enterprise's growth?

How could small grants or pitching opportunities be used to remove these barriers?

Are you clearly linking your enterprise needs to wider community or environmental impact?

## Reflections:

*"This machine will aid capacity and sustainability across our business. We currently turn down work due to lack of capacity, but this new equipment, partly funded through pitching events, will increase our ability to print and take on paid work. It's a case of both environmental and financial sustainability while giving us more time to engage students in community research projects."*

**Link:** <https://www.marctheprinters.co.uk/>

**Contact:** Macc – Josie: [josie@macc.org.uk](mailto:josie@macc.org.uk)

