

Analysis for Innovators Round 14 Stage 1 briefing Q&A

(These are the responses that were not answered live and as such would not have been seen by all delegates)

Q

Would a micro business of only two full time employees be eligible under the scope of this funding?

A

Yes they would, business size is any for this Round, you just need to have an existing product, service or process (PSP)

Q

Can you help if we already have already identified a technical partner (third party entity) to carry out the project, but we need grant funding to achieve the project outcome?

A

Hi Jas, you must work with one of the programme partners to receive this grant. An existing contact may be eligible as a sub contract in a large project, details of that will be made clear when Stage 2 is briefed

Q

What financial contribution is expected? 50%

A

Hi Chris, the funding depends on business size and project type. An SME could be 100% funded or be upto 60% match funded.

Large business will be around 40-50% match funded.

Q

Do you have any figures available as to how many businesses typically apply for a round of this type of funding? And how many, or what percentage typically make it through Stage 1, the brokerage meetings, Stage 2, and ultimately being successful?

A

Hi James, from initial application at Stage 1, roughly 50% of those projects are funded by the end of Stage 2

Q

How can this call be applied for?

A

Applications are managed through Innovate UK's IFS system, how to apply will be covered later in this mornings presentations.

Q

Hello, you suggested we should contact Innovate UK and agents without NDA to avoid holdups. Is this general advice or specific to this competition? I am in the patent application stage before publication and don't want to jeopardise my ability to withdraw/refile. Many thanks.

A

Hi James, my comment was specific to this programme and is not legal advice, just informed background information for applicants. When you apply for funding you have to give Innovate UK confidential information on your innovation for them to accurately judge the project and decide on if it should be funded. When you apply there are terms and conditions in the platform which confirm the confidentiality your information is held under. All the partners in the programme have in turn signed agreements with Innovate UK to say they will treat any information received in confidence. I'm pleased to say that over 500 projects have been funded over the last 8 years by this programme and no issues have arisen with an applicant's IP.

Q

Are UK Catapults part of this? Thank you!

A

No Catapults are not part of the Partner list.

The partners have capabilities very similar and in some cases beyond some Catapults.

Q

We are a supplier of a product and we know the product has limitations, and we would like to develop an improved a product, does this meet the scope?

A

No, as Bobby has just said it has to be YOUR product. If you are using a component to deliver your OWN product then that would be applicable.

Q

Could you provide any details how the IP ownership is decided?

A

In broad terms, entering IP remains with the originator and the collaboration agreement outlines ownership for results.

The main take aways are this programme is designed to help solve business challenges so the improvements to the PSP stays with the applicant. The partner may wish to have a licence to use a new measurement technique developed in the project as they are Nationally funded and as such need to be able to help other UK business.

Q

Have all partners agreed to the same collaboration terms when signing up? If not, do they at least reveal their collaboration agreement template before applicants make decisions about who to collaborate with?

A

The Collaboration Agreements are common across all partners and unified to avoid differences.

Q

Hi Simon, we are working on a very small device that needs to throughput HD video. We will need assistance with thermal analysis. Is this IN or OUT of scope?

A

Hi, if the thermal analysis can be done off the shelf conventionally then it would be out of scope.

If you have tried and failed to solve it currently for reasons other than cost, then yes it would likely be in scope.

Q

I haven't updated my SIC codes to reflect a new strand to my business. Does this matter/do you look at SIC codes? I have recently completed a feasibility study through BridgeAI and was advised to apply for A4I to add further features to our machine learning model

A

Hi Layla, I dont believe SIC code would be an issue as the programme is open to ANY industry/sector.

Q

From the (SME) business side, who ideally be the main applicant? e.g. The technical experts dealing with the specific problem

A

The lead applicant is the single company with the issue that needs to be solved.

Q

Are there differences in Round 14 from those in earlier rounds, please? From applications to funding rules

A

Hi Andrew, not that I'm aware. Main difference from pre R11 (i think) is the collaboration agreement has been streamlined to one version across all partners.

Q

We have a very specific, highly technical requirement to improve the competitiveness of our company and products, how would you address this if the partners you have do not possess the required technical skillset?

A

Unfortunately if the partners cannot address the issue then you are not eligible to apply. I would encourage you to apply into Stage 1 to be sure.

You can always have a call with me and go through it and I can offer advice as I broadly understand the partners capability.

I can be reached on a4i@iuk.ktn-uk.org

Q

What is the expected start date for successful projects, please? {expected does not mean definite)

A

Hi Andrew, sorry i don't have that but would expect the timeline to be similar to previous Rounds. We are trying to make project start sooner as are aware it can take some time.

Q

hi , our project is 3 months and cost £50 k , does both of us and our partners will be funded 100%?

A

Hi, if you can solve the problem in 3 months and you are an SME the TOTAL funding to be split between the applicant and the partner is £50K and would be 100% funding for both.

Q

With regard to the IPR that Bobby has just mentioned on his slides, my understand is that the partner owns the IP on the technique developed, and the business owns it on the applying it to its current process? What is the situation if the funded business wants to go on to develop the process further or use it in a new additional service or product in the future? Would the funded business have to licence the IP from the partner for future evolved uses?

A

Hi James, I cant really answer without knowing some more specific information, but in principle I think you are correct, the company would licence the IP for the process from the partner. This would all be agreed as part of the Stage 2 application process, we have changed the process to make the CA part of Stage 2 rather than leaving it until the grant is approved to reduce delays for applicants.

Q

To estimate the cost of project, are there publicly available sources of labour rates for the partner organizations?

A

No, the partner will tell you their total costs as part of the discussions, they do not provide a breakdown

Q

if we are the SME and one of the measurement institutes is the collaborator, are they considered as a subcontractor?

A

No, the partner from the approved list is a partner and you must have at least one of the partners in the project

Q

how can we be sure that the partners have the ability to solve our problems?

A

The brokerage process allows open discussion to drill into possible solutions. All 9 partners review the Stage 1 applications and more than 1 may ask to meet in brokerage.

The partner will not ask to work with you if they do not believe they can provide an answer

Q

We employ a technique to inspect some specific type of materials for cracks. The technique has limitations. We have done some tests to improve it, but we need help from partners. Can we suggest which technology we would like the partners to test to improve the inspection technique we use?

A

We suggest you do not propose a specific approach as the partner may have a capability you are unaware of. Do however put in the application all the methods you have already tried and list ones you think might work.

END