

FAQ Document

Contracts for Innovation: Resource Efficient Construction Impacts

Contracts for Innovation: Resource Efficient Automotive Impacts

Contracts for Innovation: Resource Efficient Chemical Impacts

Question	Answer
Does Resource not cover operators?	As answered live, this competition is only for material resource efficiencies, which does not include human resources
Please could you clarify the eligibility requirements? In particular, what are the requirements in terms of company type, size, HQ location for the lead bidder and also for any partners or subcontractors in the bid?	Answered live
Being from another country (Argentina) there is a possibility. Gracias	Answered live
"Repair and remanufacture of vehicles and vehicle components" - does this incl. replacement & repair using newly manufactured parts? or only renovated parts from used parts are considered?	Answered via email
Please can you share the slides with attendees after the call?	live answered
Are there any limits on amount of subcontracting?	No, but the lead applicant should be doing the majority of the work, rather than acting as a facilitator. Sub-contracting should be for specialist skills not available in-house.
Can proposed project use patented tech from a third party (with consent) and develop a new IP?	Yes, providing the IP clauses within the contract can still be met, i.e. potential usage of background IP by the funder at fair market rate and any foreground IP developed, the funder would be entitled to a royalty-free licence.
Can this be accessed for projects and business in Wales?	yes
is digitisation and cyber resilience part of the scope?	digitalisation could be in scope if directly helping material resource efficiency

<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am an academic currently developing an innovative project independently, outside of my institutional working hours. I would like to ask whether you offer advice or guidance regarding intellectual property (IP) matters in such cases.</p>	<p>We do not offer any advice on IP and would recommend you seek independent advice and thoroughly review the terms of the contract in conjunction.</p>
<p>Can you please elaborate on the royalty free license for use</p>	<p>The royalty-free licence is only granted to the funder (DESNZ) and would allow them to use the foreground IP developed without paying ongoing licence fees.</p>
<p>For the automotive theme... how far down the automotive supply chain will you fund projects? (eg. are Tier 2 or below suppliers in scope?)</p>	<p>There are no specific restrictions on the levels of suppliers in the auto competition. The applicant should explain how their business interacts with the auto chain, and that their solution will improve the resource efficiency of the sector.</p>
<p>Is this contract only for businesses or would academic researchers also be eligible?</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>How can be personnel costs be claimed / exposed without profit ? are there personnel cost already fixed or they must be considered on the actual personnel costs based on payroll?</p>	<p>Employees on PAYE should be claimed at cost, i.e. payroll costs on a pro-rata basis for the duration of the project.</p>
<p>It looks like the zoom has been set up to prevent copying/saving the chat information, please could you also share the chat after the call? People have been sharing their information for others to connect afterwards.</p>	<p>live answered</p>

I read in the "unlocking resource efficiencies" report's exec summary that the 'manufacturing and efficiencies' phase of the automotive industry is considered to be quite advanced in terms of resource efficiency.... does this mean that projects in this area is out of scope, or might be a lower priority when it comes to assessing applications? thank you.	We plan to fund projects across the three strands
Can we get a print out of the chat please? For contacts awareness and contact	live answered
What sort of TRL is expected here?	TRL must be at least 5 at the start and demonstrating at 7 in the project.
Can you provide some guidance on the levels of resource efficiency/gains you are looking to achieve in order to be fundable? and will projects with higher gains/efficiencies be marked higher when assessed? thanks.	There aren't specific quantitative levels to target, as this varies from sector to sector. However, one of the portfolio balancing factors is the potential for UK impact
On the IP point and royalty free license, does this mean that if we want to later to see the product into for example a government construction framework, that this would have to be without profit?	No, the licence rights are only granted to the funder - DESNZ. We would encourage applicants to exploit any IP developed.
can a project undertake a lab/controlled environment pilot phase THEN a real world trial/demonstration phase, if it fits within the timescales?	Sorry, but we are only looking for solutions that have already reached TRL5 for this specific competition.
Hello, Can the R&D delivered by an Acedemic institution - is there any constraints in term of cost	Yes absolutely. Any organisation is eligible to apply and costs must be within the maximum allowable costs for this competition. R&D must be at least 50% of the total project costs, including solution exploration and design. R&D can also include prototyping and field-testing the product or service
Does the technology need to be already at TRL5 or reach at least TRL 5 by the end of the project?	It needs to be at at least TRL5 at the start and TRL7 by the end

Our solution is applicable in both Chemical (recycled polymers) and construction. The competition only allows to select one strand, my question is: will the assessment only judge our application on the single strand OR will assessment take into account our solution provides for both strands?	The key thing is where your solution will be demonstrated. If it is using polymers as a feedstock for the chemicals industry, then it should be in the chemicals strand. If it is about a resource efficient product for the construction industry, then it should be in the construction strand.#
Is there a limit on TRL levels that will be funded?	We are looking for demonstrators at TRL7. The solution should not already be commercialised.
If we have an idea with research data to support it but not the working prototype . Can we still apply for this funding? Also, can we have two or more companies to apply for this or only one ?	We are only accepting applications from technologies that have already reached TRL5. Only one company can lead an application.
could we get the recording of the session please?	live answered
How is "negative" environmental impact assessed? If a material makes a vehicle lightweight, but is energy intensive to make, would this be looked upon negatively?	You would have to explain how the whole system emissions make this a better solution.
The impact validation report is to be submitted while applying for this fund? or its a final report to be produced after the completion of the project?	A report to produced within the project.
Are these slides being provided after the meeting please?	Yes, the recording will be available on the dates page on IFS and briefing slides will be made available to download from Supporting Information.
Can you enter as a main applicant on 1 strand and be a subcontractor within another strand?	Yes, but if successful you will need to demonstrate your organisation has capacity and necessary resources to fulfil the projects.

<p>Hi</p> <p>We are working with a manufacturer who has a lower carbon concrete that Innovate UK has already funded a pilot structure.</p> <p>Despite its excellent performance it doesn't conform to BS 8500 therefore no residential developers can use it due to building warranties and the Building Safety Regulator. Insurance is also a challenge, but that aspect is about completing more testing to reduce the premium.</p> <p>We're interested in using funds to fill any gaps in the existing testing and using the funds for expert consultant advice regarding warranties and the Building Safety Regulator.</p> <p>Without overcoming this challenge it'll be limited to office and infrastructure projects, excluding the residential sector.</p> <p>Could this be eligible?</p>	<p>please email support@iuk.ukri.org and we can look at the details</p>
<p>Can PhD sponsorship be used as part of the competition? We've been getting a few Unis offering to work with us on this basis. If so, would this be a sub-contract?</p>	<p>Some work could be subcontracted to a university (which may involve the use of a PhD student), but it is only for the timeframe and specific tasks required to deliver this project.</p>

If an academic institute is included as a subcontractor, should they use 100% FEC?	<p>Full Economic Cost (FEC) calculations are not relevant for Contracts for Innovation competitions. Contracts for Innovation is a competitive process and applications will come from a variety of organisations.</p> <p>Whatever calculation you use to arrive at your total eligible project costs your application will be assessed against applications from other organisations. Bear this in mind when calculating your total eligible project costs.</p>
Does infrastructure in the construction strand include rail infrastructure please?	Yes, this would be included
Would electrification of vehicles used in the construction industry be in scope? For automotive or construction strand?	Please email support@iuk.ukri.org but off-road vehicle based innovations are out of scope
Does "structure" specifically refer to structures on land, or can projects related to offshore structures fall within scope?	Off-shore infrastructure can be in scope
does a project need to include a physical demonstrator? could a project include supply chain design?	A project could involve a digital solution, such as supply chain design, but we would expect the data to be from technologies operating at at least TRL 7. Please email support@iuk.ukri.org if you would like a scope check for a more detailed description of your proposal.
would partnering with a research institute i.e. university strengthen the application?	There are no project partners within CfI, only necessary subcontracting. A university could be included as a subcontractor if they have specific expertise that you need for the project.
If I am an organisation not based in UK how can the majority of the work to be done in UK ? Can you clarify.	We would expect that the demonstration activities take place in the UK. If you can not do this, then your application would not be eligible.
hi there's a lot of people I want to connect with from the chat. I can't copy the chat to go through it after the webinar - is there a way to download the chat? Thank you	answered live - please also contact IUKBC for any specific questions about finding expertise.
Are costs for using specialist facilities for chemical production eligible?	Costs for using specialised facilities can be included.

"Work alone" is the required lead customer part of the proposal? Do they only provide a letter of support?	A customer could be a subcontractor to cover relevant costs to demonstrate their involvement, or LoS could be asked for to prove commitment.
To clarify, the expectation would be that Universities would generally be subcontractors, not lead.	Universities could lead an application.
Are UK universities eligible to lead?	Universities could lead an application.
The application seems like a typical Innovate UK application. Is there a guidance on marks for the question and weighting?	Your application will be reviewed by five independent assessors based on the content of your application and their skills or expertise relevant to your project. All of the scores awarded will count towards the total score used to make the funding decision unless you are notified otherwise. Each scored question can be given a score of between 1-10. There is no weighting applied. You can view the guidance will be assessed against at the bottom of the "How to apply tab".
we are building a modular robotic system to weigh raw powder materials accurately. This will allow raw material savings and essentially reducing carbon emission and cost savings as well as remove human operators from toxic and hazardous environment. Our system can be deployed in all sectors as you have shown, we are currently working in testing with an automotive company collaborator. But as I mentioned we believe we can also have impact in all the domains you mentioned. Do you think we align well with this innovation contract?	The sector should be selected based on where the demonstration activity will be done. Please note we are interested in the whole system analysis, so would need to demonstrate that the carbon savings from more accurate weighing "outweighs" the embedded carbon in the extra equipment required.
Can you enable saving chats, so that we can save contact details where they have been offered by people.	Answered live
will you share the deck after the webinar?	Yes, it will be available on the Supporting Information tab on IFS.
We are a TRL 1-3 stage startup, working on a point source carbon capture and utilisation solution for the cement industry. We are not are at TRL 5+ stage, could we apply?	Sorry, but we are only looking for solutions that have already reached TRL5 for this specific competition.

can we have overseas industry and academic collaborators?	overseas subcontractors can be used if you can demonstrate that the expertise is not available in the UK. However, the demonstrator and the majority of the work should take place in the UK.
Can you apply with two different applications if you can impact two themes?	Yes - if you mean two different strands (sectors) we would expect different applications for these, as the demonstrator would be in different sectors. If you mean your application covers more than one theme within a strand, then this is down to the number of demonstrators you need to do. If one demonstrator can provide the data for two themes, then one application - choose the main theme, then explain others than will be impacted in Q6.
What evidence is needed to validate TRL?	This should be explained and justified in your application, include details of previous R&D, testing and validation etc.
Hi, would R&D projects on chemicals used in heat batteries (decarbonisation of space heating) be eligible?	This does not sound like it is focused on Resource Efficiency (heating is out of scope). To be sure, you could email a more detailed description of your project to support@iuk.ukri.org for a scope check
How will the TRL levels be measured. for example I want to use a polymer to make something for light weighting. It is TRL 5 and above in another sector or application but I haven't done work on it internall in my start up. Is this ok or does the TRL development have to start within my organisation?	Please email support@iuk.ukri.org for a specific view. However, it is reasonable that a technology might start its development outside of your company. You would need to prove that you have relevant IP access and Freedom to Operate.
£300k is the cap for net cost + VAT or excl VAT?	Inclusive of VAT. You must not exceed the maximum amount of £300k.
Actually, I assume it's not possible given the short project period < 5 months	N/A
Will the VAT be added to labour costs using this method - that seems counter intuitive?	The VAT is for the provision of R&D services, which are the services the lead applicant is providing. VAT is calculated on the overall service cost, in the same way any service contract would be

How should VAT be calculated on Labour costs	VAT is calculated on the overall service cost, in the same way any service contract would be. The VAT is for the provision of R&D services, which are the services the lead applicant is providing. Applications must list total costs inclusive of VAT. If you think you are VAT exempt then you may quote without VAT but you will not be able to increase invoice values to cover VAT later on.
Is it allowed to participate in multiple consortiums (where the innovations are of significant difference, yet the LCA calculations etc. will ofcourse not be different as they need to be standardised)?	yes
If I apply for this competition, would it still be possible to apply for a Knowledge Transfer Partnership from UKRI to support another aspect of the same product's development?	Answered live.
will there be guidance issued on how you want LCA to be conducted?	For some sectors we have specified standards. If you contact IUKBC or support@iuk.ukri.org we can try and help point you in the direction of relevant expertise.
I'm a little unclear whether green hydrogen production demo would be eligible under chemicals scope?	It is not eligible on its own, only that if CO2 is being used as a new feedstock for the chemicals sector then often it is combined with H2. It is in these situations that we specify that the H2 needs to come from non-fossil sources.
the VAT: Is the £300k including the VAT? OR is it £300k + VAT?	Inclusive of VAT. You must not exceed the maximum project cost size of £300k. We expect the majority of costs to be below £100k.
Would energy efficiency improvements in the manufacture of construction products be eligible?	Project focused solely on energy efficiency are out of scope for this competition.
Hi, will you be sharing the slides and also the chat box (as text) after the meeting? There are also collaboration opportunities between the participants.	The slides will be available to download from IFS on the Supporting Information tab. You can watch the briefing recording back via the dates tab.
Does the Construction call include fit-outs or is it just for shell and core?	Fit-outs are in scope

How many organisations are on the briefing and what level of application are you expecting i.e. how over subscribed might it be?	Answered live
What is the definition of an integration supporter?	Answered live
Will these proposals go through the same sort of assessment as other Innovate UK calls?	<p>Your application will be reviewed by five independent assessors based on the content of your application and their skills or expertise relevant to your project. All of the scores awarded will count towards the total score used to make the funding decision unless you are notified otherwise.</p> <p>You can find out more about our assessment process in the General Guidance. https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/#contents-list</p>
Does applying multiple times with distinct projects be seen in a negative light?	No, you can lead in any number of applications. However, if successful you will need to demonstrate your organisation has capacity and necessary resources to fulfil the projects.
Is it a stringent requirement that the demo where the impact benefits are measured happens within the UK? This was not the message received in paperwork visible up until now.	The competition briefs state that this is UK focused
What's the expectation of the relation between cost and contribution of the project?	Answered live

<p>Enhancing cyber resilience in EV charging by deploying deception-based security across charge points and energy systems. Our lightweight, proactive solution detects intrusions early without service disruption, supporting Office for Zero Emission Vehicles's goals for secure, accessible, and net-zero-ready infrastructure critical to the UK's transition to zero-emission transport.</p> <p>Is this work within the scope?Thanks</p>	<p>This does not appear to address material Resource Efficiency, so would not be in scope.</p>
<p>Can you please clarify the point about Gov Bodies being able to exploit result royalty free and exactly what this means? Thank you!</p>	<p>Answered live</p>
<p>"Thank you for the presentation. Could you please clarify whether it is mandatory for the proposed project to be royalty-free and non-profit? If so, could you elaborate on what exactly is meant by 'royalty-free' — does it refer to licensing terms or ownership rights? And in terms of 'non-profit,' does that apply to the project's operational model, or does it mean the solution cannot be commercialised at any stage?"</p>	<p>We actively encourage any solutions developed to pursue commercialisation post-project. Projects cannot enter into a commercial relationship for the solution being developed for the duration of the project.</p> <p>Non-profit relates to the cost charged by the lead applicant to the funder, these should all be at cost. Relationships between the sub-contractor and the lead applicant will be a standard commercial relationship.</p> <p>Royalty-free licencing is only applicable post-project if any IP has developed. This grants the funderc a royalty-free licence to foreground IP only.</p>
<p>Are you targetting this funding at startups and developers of solutions or at industry bodies to test and demonstrate the solutions in a real world environment.</p>	<p>Answered live</p>

Would you prefer a single, consolidated application that frames a number of workstreams as one large, integrated project with a larger budget request or as separate applications each with their own report?	Answered live
As a winner of a previous grant are we eligible to apply again to extend the technology?	Answered live
for Construction it may not be possible to demonstrate some solutions during the time period you have limited this to as some solutions are seasonal due to weather limitations.	Regrettably, we are time-constrained for this competition, so only applications that can demonstrate in the time period are eligible. We have also allowed projects that have demonstrated in the last 5 years to be eligible to account for some similar cases.
Though our innovation will benefit UK chemical sector emissions, our first project demo that would be used within the timeframe of this project would most likely be in the Netherlands...	Answered live
Can we apply more than once. I.e. an automotive application and a construction one	If the application is different, yes. We would expect the demonstrator to be in the relevant strand sector.
Can a payment milestone be at the start of the project?	Answered live
Does an application need to be supported or sponsored by a public sector body, or can it be supported by a company?	Answered live
Can you confirm that auto save chat is enabled so I can get a copy of the chat	Answered live
Why is it limited to UK territorial carbon savings? Does that include impact on the UK marine environment, e.g. the Ocean's ability to sequester carbon, given the impact of chemicals especially on the marine environment? Carbon emissions obviously cannot be so easily restricted to a geographic area as their impact is global.	We are interested in the whole system impact, ie the LCA should go beyond just the UK impacts. However, we are specifically interested in the UK territorial emissions, given the funding from DESNZ, which has the policy responsibility for this.

British Bank provides an advance funding service, to assist cashflow, is this an acceptable cost?	Answered live
What is a reasonable demo period? One month? Two? Three?	Answered live
Considering the total project budget, how many projects is this call aiming to fund?	We expect to fund a minimum of three projects per strand and up to 30 projects across all three strands.
Can university lead the application?	Yes, but they must be doing the majority of the work and own the IP developed
If a business is currently fundraising, and won't have the funds to continue as a going concern up to 31st March 2026 unless investment is achieved (which is TBC), can the business still apply?	Yes, but you must be confident you have the cash flow to deliver the project until the first payment is made which will be month 4 at the earliest, following a quarterly review of any milestones achieved. We will ask to see evidence that the project can financially support itself for the duration.
Please note I wished to submit my 10:54 question anonymously...	N/A
What proportion of total funding is expected to be allocated to the demonstration?	Answered live
Typically, what project cost size are you considering.	Answered live
How will DESNZ use the report? Will the reports be made public?	Answered live
For the automotive strand, what is the scope for innovations that involve other aspects of technologies that are not yet commercialized. So without too much detail, we plan to take advantage of products we are aware are currently in development for use in the automotive sector but are not yet public. We are developing technologies to help reduce the impact of those i.e. recycling of those new products. Would this be eligible?	Please email support@iuk.ukri.org for a specific scope check

In terms of LCA, we can generate what our LCA is, but we do not have intimate knowledge of the alternative processes. Is there a library of common and current techniques and materials?	Answered live
What is the opening and closing dates?	Competition opened 14th July. Closes 27th August, 11am
We have actual information about build and install reduced carbon in our construction project. But the future reuse will be estimated. Will that be OK?	Please email support@iuk.ukri.org with more details for a scope check
Why no alternative fuels in the Terms of Reference..I'm a big liquid air fan.....!	There are limited funds and many potential topics, hence boundaries have to be drawn somewhere.
can universities apply to this? or are they expected to be sub-contracted	Answered live
Could a US business entity be lead? Could an EU business entity be lead?	Answered live
Considering the number of professional bid writers and assessors at Universities does this not weigh the competition to the universities.	Guidance for writing bids is available through IUKBC. Note this is not a standard collaborative R&D grant competition, and the emphasis is demonstrating solutions beyond the research lab setting.
How many projects do you expect to fund? An approximate range would help	Answered live (roughly 30)
Will there be a future round of this?	This is a single round competition.
Are we at risk that the IP developed will be made available to the public for free use?	You should seek independent legal advice on the terms of the contract, specifically relating to the IP. A copy of the contract is available on IFS.
Could you clarify what is meant by "certain usage rights" for the public sector? Does this imply free licences for public sector use in any future commercial contracts?	Please review the contract. Licensing rights are applicable to the funder.

For the lead organisation, how many principal investigator and co-investigators can join the application?	Contracts for Innovation is open to single applicants only, meaning one lead organisation and no collaborative partners. You can subcontract elements of the work which require specialist skills. The organisation submitting an application will have a lead contact who completes the application, but they can also invite contributors from their own organisation to assist in completing the application form.
Does the demonstration include CAPEX costs?	Applications can include Capital Usage costs (so just the depreciated costs for the time period of their usage in this project).
Please can you clarify regarding the TRL 5 stipulation. If it is TRL 5 some place else and not in my organisation is that still valid?	Yes - but you need to have relevant IP to develop further.
Is it limited to R&D, or can it be used for other business-critical activities through the period	At least 50% of the contract value MUST be R&D. The contract will not cover any costs to establish commercial viability.
How many projects do you expect to be submitted and what would you guestimate as the acceptance ratio?	Answered live
Will you be in a position to guide us as to what demonstration would be most useful for Innovate UK objectives ahead of submission? Also will you be able to guide us to potential partners?	The themes listed and the background Unlocking Resource Efficiency reports detail the topics most of interest to DESNZ (the funders).
Does the summer holiday and the relatively quick turnaround time potentially reduce the numbers who may apply? If so, do you have an estimation from past years of the reduced percentage of applications when deadline dates are in August?	Contracts for Innovation have always operated a shorter setup period as this is a contract with one applicant only, which reduces the number of checks needed. We expect this competition to be very popular.
Considering the typical Innovate UK smart grants have 2% success rates (over subscribed) what is Innovate UK's expectation for this competition ?	We expect to fund a minimum of three projects per strand and up to 30 projects across all three strands.

If you are currently running another grant project, are you eligible provided the contract project, provided the contract project deliverables are completely separate?	This is not a grant. You can be eligible to apply if also receiving grant funding, but the activities and deliverables must not be double funded.
What's the definition of "majority of the work" as e.g. % of the scope?	There is no hard and fast rule as each project will vary significantly in scope and the number of subcontractors required. The lead must be doing more work than any of the subcontractors and be best placed to own the foreground IP.
As the project term is from 1st November to 31st March 2026, can you confirm that payments (subject to achievement of milestones) would be 1) End of January and then 2) End of March (in line with end of project) or end of April 2026?	Projects would have their first monitoring meeting in February, when claims would be approved and then paid in line with our payment SLAs. The final review meeting would be April and payment made following subsequent approval from the Monitoring Service Provider and DESNZ that the deliverables have been met.
TRL 5 is mentioned a few times, please can you clarify on this.	A link is provided in the briefs to more detail on technology readiness levels. TRL5 is demonstrated in a relevant environment, which is beyond the lab (TRL4).
But what is the technology has reached TRL 5 but outside of my organisation and I want to use this competition to build a demonstrator	If the technology has been developed to-date outside your organisation, you must show that you have access to the relevant IP (freedom to operate) to demonstrate
Will there be any follow-on funding for this competition?	This is a single round competition.
Could we apply for costs already spent in demonstrators?	Costs must be incurred between the defined project start and end dates.
Can we work with a food manufacturer to minimise and reduce their waste streams, energy consumption and increase the value of the outputs	Food manufacturing is not in scope for this competition (unless involving upstream Tier 1, 2 or 3 chemical suppliers).
Will the video recording be available later? I missed the majority of the briefing unfortunately. Thanks.	Yes, in the next couple of days, the recording will be available on the IFS dates page. You can download the slides from the Supporting Information tab.
Please define TRL 5 more clearly and where a technology needs to be shown as TRL 5.	As answered in previous question.