

# TechLocal AI Professional Degree and Traineeship Accelerator

## Applicant Briefing

Date: **10 February 2026**

**The webinar will start at 14:00**

- Welcome, we are currently waiting for more people to join
- This briefing will be recorded. A copy of the slides and the recording link will be made available on IFS
- Please enter any questions that you may have into the Q&A Box
- For more information on the competition process, please [view our YouTube channel](#)



# Welcome and Introductions

**Ellie Foden**

Competition Manager, Digital and  
Technologies

**David Spence**

Head of Applied AI

**Sofia Papadia**

Innovation Lead, Applied AI



# Agenda

- Key Dates
- Competition Summary & Scope
- Eligibility Criteria
- Innovation Funding Service (IFS)
- Funding Rules
- Assessment
- Use of AI
- Additional Support
- Q&A



# Key Dates

Timeline	Date
Competition Opens	<b>4 February 2026</b>
Submission Deadline	<b>18 March 2026 at 11am</b>
Applicants informed	<b>27 April 2026 by 5pm</b>
Project start and end dates	Start by <b>1 July 2026</b> End by <b>31 March 2030</b>

# Competition Summary & Scope



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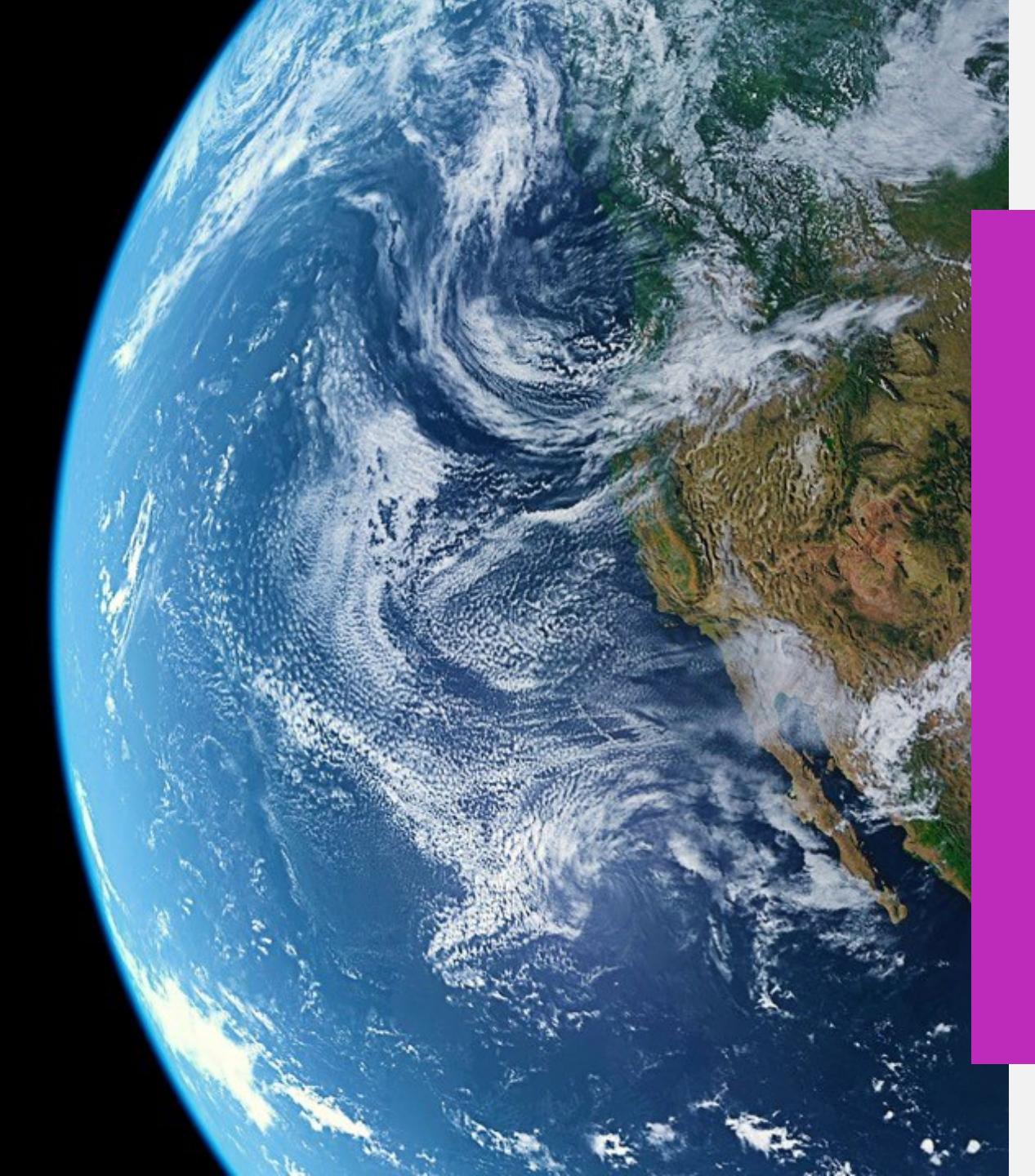




# What is TechLocal AI?

The **TechLocal AI Professional Degree and Traineeship Accelerator** is a funding programme to develop [Level 6](#) and [Level 7](#) equivalent higher education and professional practice courses, graduate traineeships and work experience opportunities.

The aim of these courses and opportunities is to prepare people for a career in Artificial Intelligence (AI) roles or within the AI industry.

A satellite image of Earth, showing clouds and landmasses, with a vertical magenta bar on the right side.

# Who can apply?

**UK registered academic institutions and education providers**  
can apply alone or in collaborations

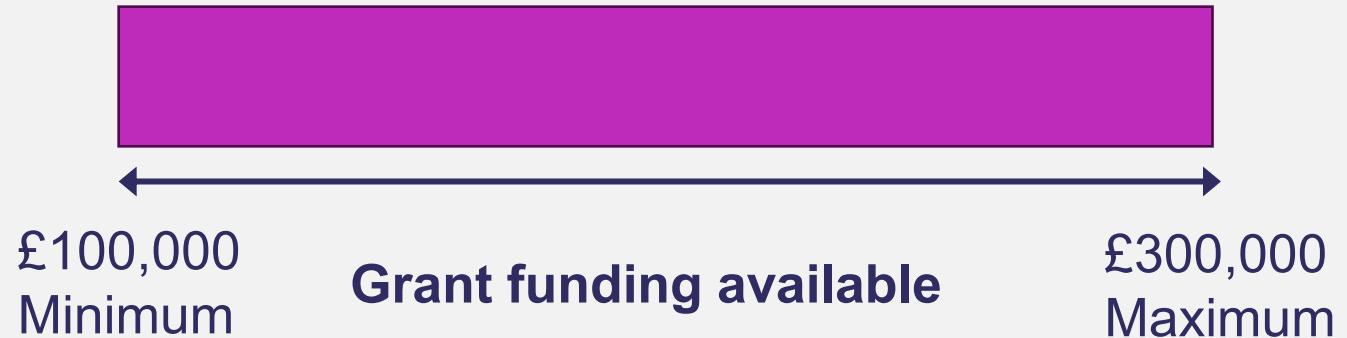
Collaborators of the lead can be UK registered:

- Business of any size
- Academic institution
- Charity
- Not for profit
- Public sector organisation
- Research and Technology Organisation (RTO)

# Funding allocation

- Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will work with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to invest **up to £7.8 million**:
  - Up to £5 million for the delivery of new AI Professional Practice Courses or Modules
  - Up to £2.8 million to the delivery of graduate traineeships
- Between £100,000 and £300,000 grant funding per project, for projects over 18-45 months
- The total project costs can be higher than your grant funding request.
- We want to fund a variety of projects across different geographical areas, type of initiative, value for money and theme. We call this a [portfolio approach](#).

# Funding – key points

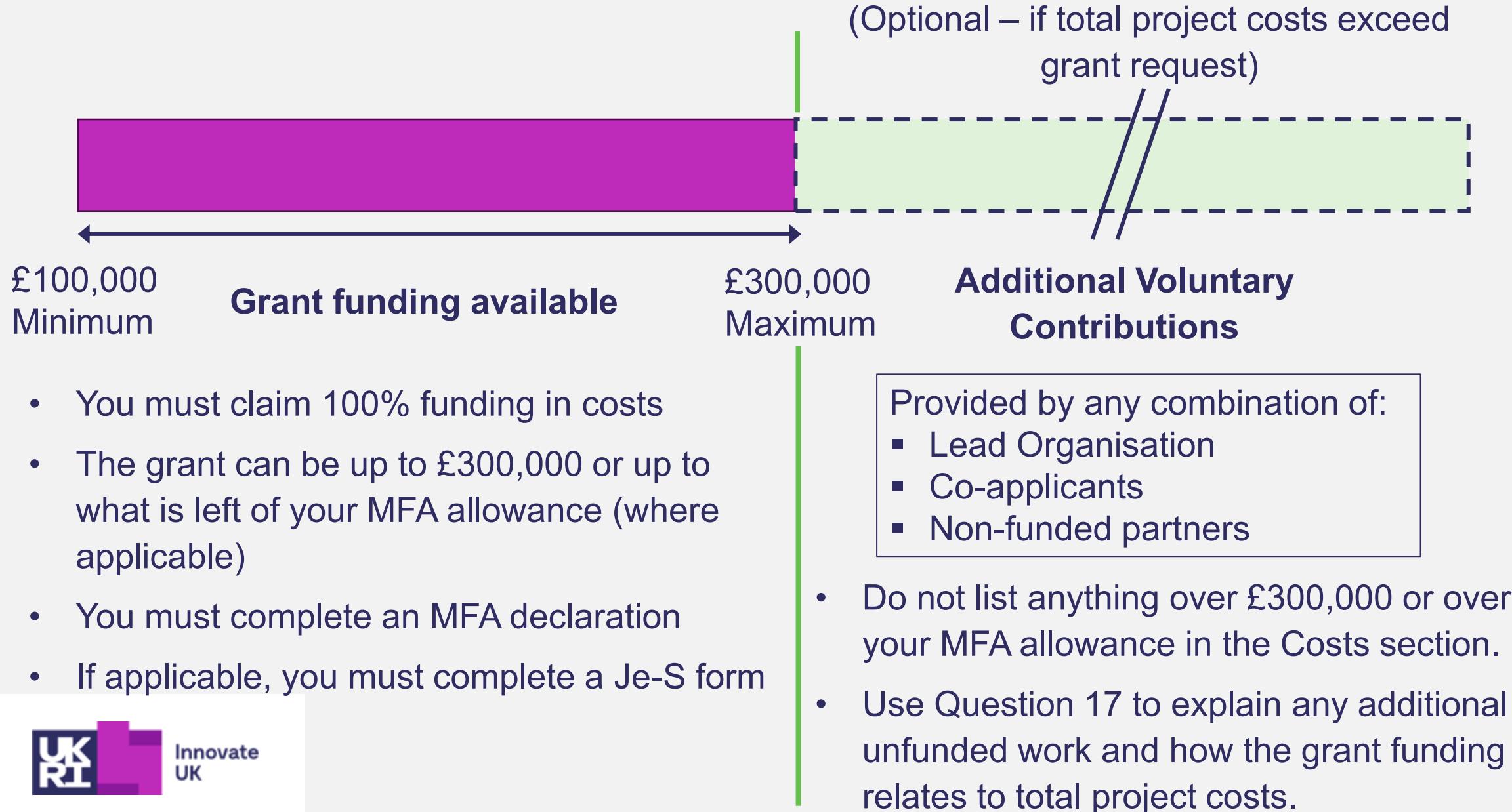


- You must claim 100% funding in costs
- The grant can be up to £300,000 or up to what is left of your MFA allowance (where applicable)
- You must complete an MFA declaration
- If applicable, you must complete a Je-S form



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# Funding – Total project costs



# Project Specific Themes

Your project must cover one or more of the following themes:

1. **Develop and deliver new or updated Level 6 undergraduate equivalent, or Level 7 masters equivalent AI focused curricula and courses with integrated professional work practice.** This can include the development of multiple modules or an entire course.
2. Deliver new **partnership mechanisms between educators and employers** to support innovation in the local ecosystem and provide opportunities for students and graduates to gain meaningful work experience.
3. Deliver a **new industry graduate traineeship-style model** where graduates work in teams under expert mentorship to deliver AI innovation projects with local businesses, gaining business exposure, industry skills and teamwork experience.
4. Facilitate **career acceleration and professionalisation of AI-skilled graduates**, supporting progression into advanced roles where skills shortages and gaps exist.



**Provide internships, work placements or cooperative education where students work alongside or within local organisations** to complete work relevant to their studies in AI.

# What are we looking for?

Your project must:

- be delivered and impact one or more of the specified geographical areas
- be clearly focused on Artificial Intelligence technology
- have a real commitment to diversity and inclusion
- not replicate the aims or activities of other TechFirst initiatives
- be delivered with strong levels of **employer engagement**
- have clear focus and impact on **employment readiness**
- deliver real world projects and placements for students or graduates to **equip them for immediate impact in the workforce**

See the [AI Skills for Business Competency Framework](#) for a clear, role-aligned articulation of industry-relevant AI skills for professionals to support your proposal

# What are we looking for?

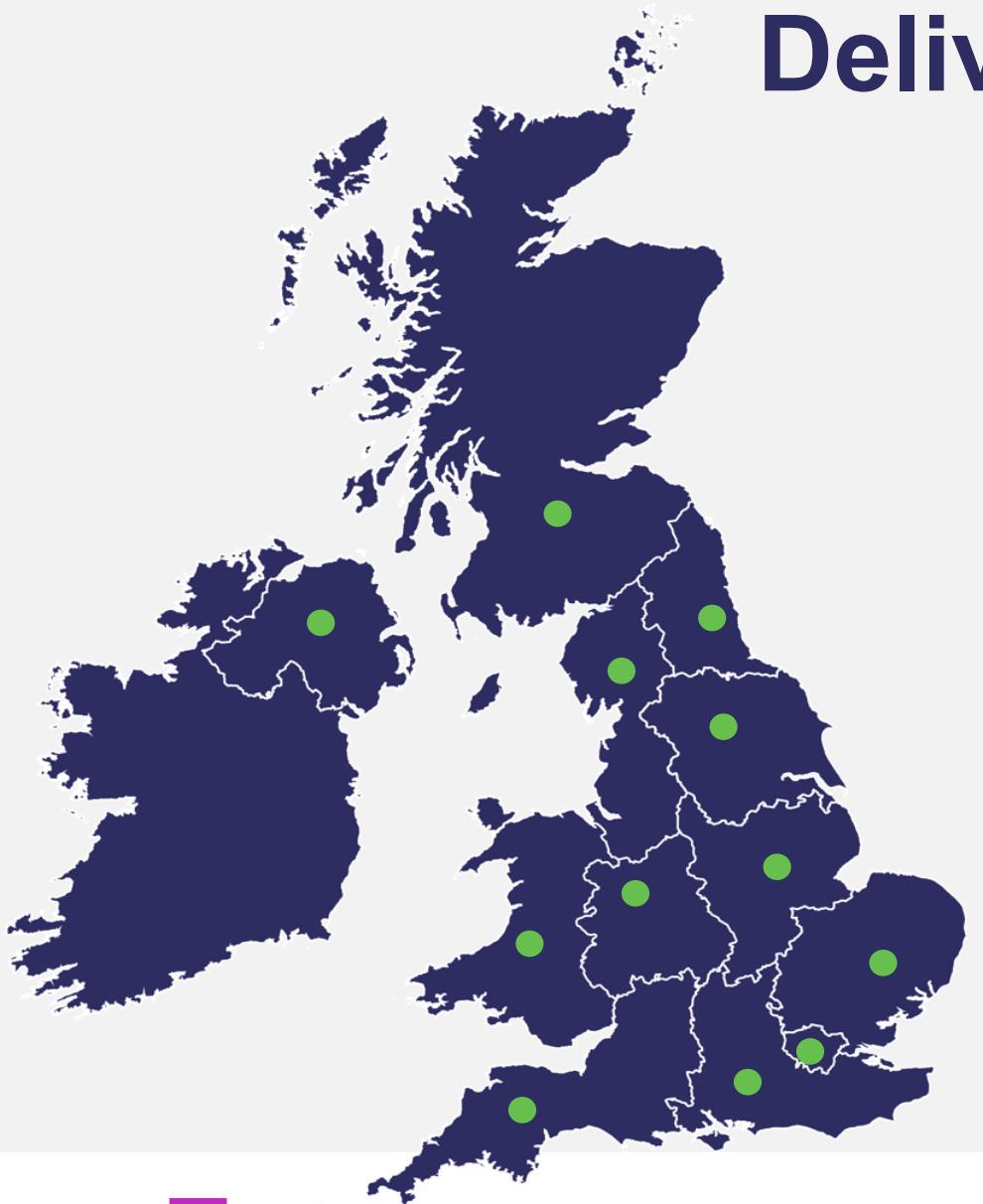
Furthermore, your project must:

- **Involve Work-Integrated Learning:** Support the development and delivery of professional practice models, such as industry placements, internships, graduate traineeships and work-based projects, into existing or new AI degree programmes of Levels 6 to Level 7 equivalent.
- **Enhance Industry-Higher Education Institute Collaboration:** Build deeper partnerships between industry, especially micro-and SMEs, and education providers to ensure curriculum design reflects current industry needs.
- **Drive inclusion of women:** increase the representation of women in the AI sector, so that female talent has a clear route into the industry.
- **Foster Regional Excellence:** Build on local economic strengths and align with the specific technical demands of the UK's twelve regions and nations.



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# Delivery Location



- The lead organisation must indicate the geographical area where the project will be delivered and demonstrate the necessary local networks and structure to explain their presence and rationale for selecting that area.
- This will be answered in the Delivery Location question in your application.
- You can choose more than one area to deliver your project.

The specific geographical areas are:

- North West England
- South West England
- Yorkshire and Humber
- North East England
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- South East England
- East of England
- London
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

# Your project can:



- Consider self-sustaining mechanisms to continue after the funding period
- Demonstrate collaboration with other local organisations or government bodies to boost reach and impact
- Integrate the professional practice of AI with other disciplines
- Tackle specific regional skills gaps or capitalise on local strengths, including leveraging local tech clusters and employer networks

# Out of Scope

We are not funding projects that:

- Are not in scope for this competition
- Do not have a clear regional impact in one of the twelve geographic areas
- Do not have an impact or application in AI or AI-related disciplines
- Replicate the aims or activities of other TechFirst initiatives
- Replicate other existing initiatives, such as those delivered by the Local Innovation Partnerships
- Do not have a real commitment to diversity and inclusion

# Eligibility criteria



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# Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

## **Your project must:**

- have a grant funding request between £100,000 and £300,000
- last between 18 and 45 months
- not start before 1 July 2026
- end by 31 March 2030

Any funded organisation needs to carry out their project work in the UK and must intend to exploit the project results from or in the UK.

# Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

## Lead organisation:

To lead a collaborative project your organisation must be a UK registered academic institution or education provider.

To work alone your organisation must be an academic institution or education provider. Other types of organisations can only collaborate.

A UK registered academic institution is a higher education provider based in the UK. It must be formally recognised within the UK higher education system. In England, this means being registered with the Office for Students (OfS). In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, recognition and oversight are through the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Medr (Wales), and the Department for the Economy (DfE NI).

# Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

An education provider is a legally registered UK organisation whose main purpose is to deliver education, training or skills.

For this competition, this includes:

- Further Education (FE) colleges
- Independent Training Providers (ITPs) eligible to deliver publicly funded training under Skills England oversight
- Providers listed on the Apprenticeship Provider and Assessment Register (APAR)
- Organisations delivering regulated qualifications through recognised awarding bodies

More information on the different types of organisation can be found in our [Funding rules](#).

# Eligibility Criteria – Collaboration

**For this competition your project can be collaborative.**

To be an eligible collaboration, the lead and at least one other organisation must:

- apply for funding when entering their costs into the application
- include rationale for the collaboration and describe the structure in your application
- ensure any one partner does not account for more than 70% of the total eligible costs

# Eligibility Criteria – Project Team

## Project team

To collaborate with the lead, your organisation must be one of the following UK registered:

- business of any size
- academic institution
- charity
- not for profit
- public sector organisation
- research and technology organisation (RTO)

# Eligibility Criteria – Partners/Subcontractors

## Non-funded partners

Your project can include organisations who do not claim any funding for their work on the project. Their costs will be covered from their own resources. These can include UK, EU and other non-UK organisations. Non-UK partners are permitted to carry out project work from within their home countries and exploit the results outside the UK.

Where non-funded partners have been invited to the application on IFS, their costs will count towards the total eligible project costs.

## Subcontractors

Subcontractors **are** allowed in this competition.

Subcontractors can be from anywhere in the UK and you must select them through your usual procurement process. You can use subcontractors from overseas but must make the case in your application as to why you cannot use suppliers from the UK.

You must provide a detailed rationale, evidence of the potential UK contractors you approached and the reasons why they were unable to work with you. We will not accept a cheaper cost as a sufficient reason to use an overseas subcontractor.



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# Eligibility Criteria – Number of applications

## Number of applications

An academic institution or education provider can lead a maximum of two applications and can collaborate in any number of applications.

If an academic institution or education provider is not leading any application, it can collaborate in any number applications.

A business of any size, charity, not for profit, public sector organisation or research and technology organisation (RTO) can collaborate in two applications.

If these limits are exceeded, applications will be made ineligible. Where an organisation appears on more applications than permitted, only the first two eligible applications submitted will be considered.

# Previously submitted applications

This competition **does** allow you to submit a previously submitted application.

Previously submitted application	Not a Previously submitted application
<p>A previously submitted application is an application Innovate UK judges as <u>not</u> materially different from one you have submitted before (but it can be updated based on the assessors' feedback).</p> <p>If you have previously submitted an application that reached our assessment stage, you can re-apply once more with the same proposal.</p>	<p>A brand-new application, project or idea that you have not previously submitted into an Innovate UK competition.</p> <p>or</p> <p>A previously submitted or ineligible application which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• has been updated based on assessor feedback</li><li>• <u>and</u> is materially different from the application submitted before</li><li>• <u>and</u> fits with the scope of this competition</li></ul>



# Innovation Funding Service (IFS)

# How to apply

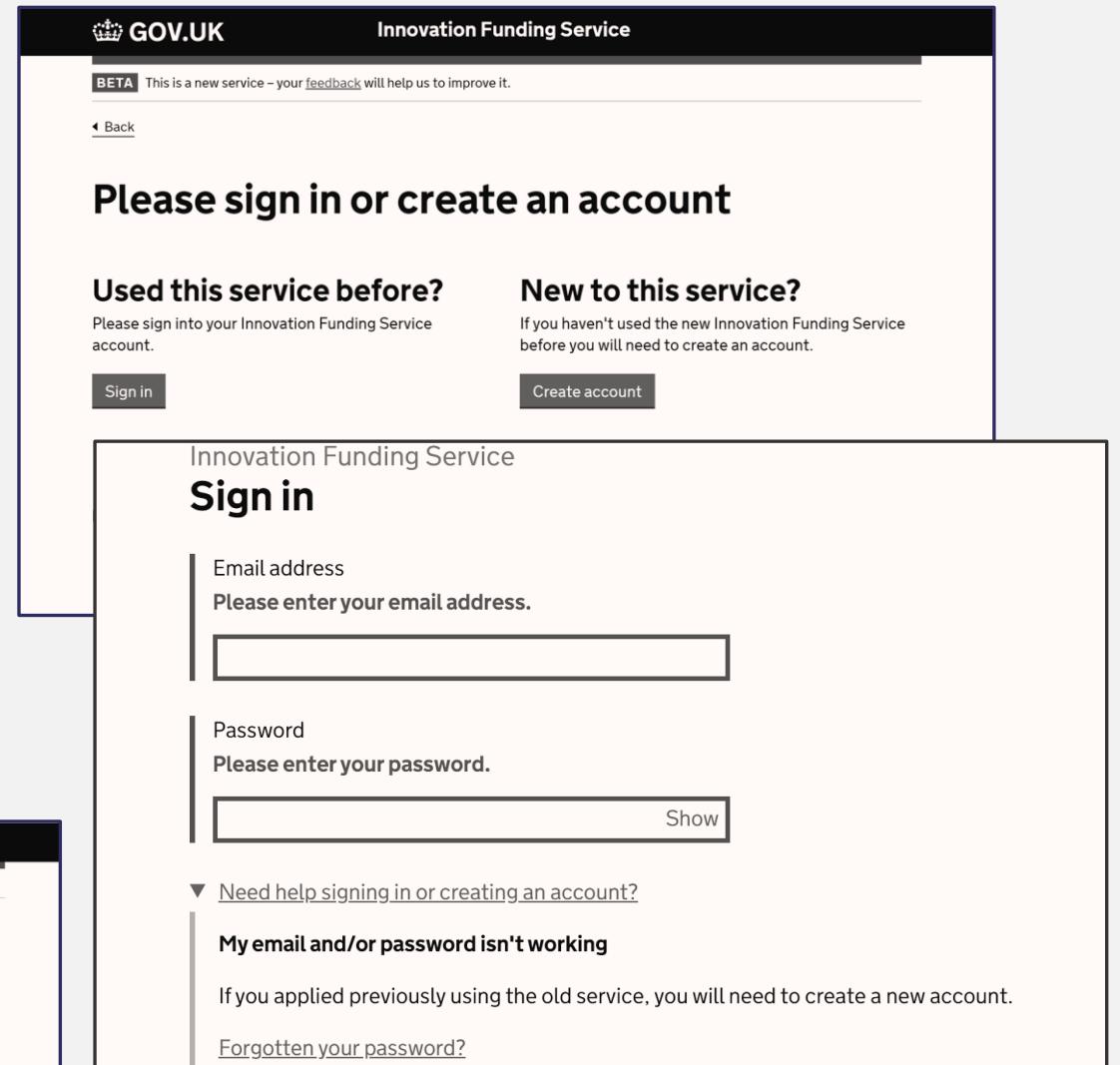
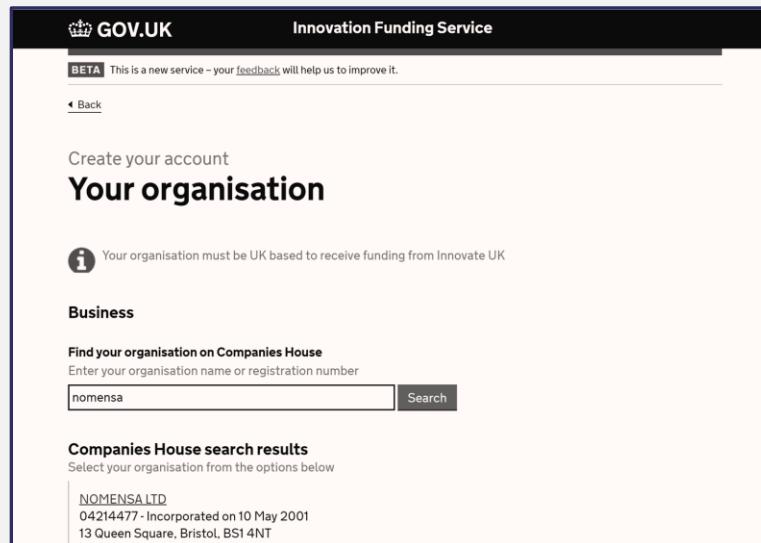
The lead applicant must create an account:

## UK registered businesses

Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

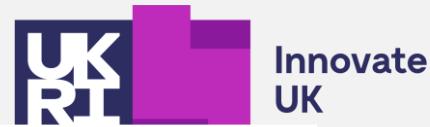
## Research organisations, academics and universities

To avoid being listed as a business and to ensure you receive the correct funding, enter your information manually on IFS



# Application Questions

Detailed guidance available on IFS



Application Form	Word Count	Appendix
Question 1		No
Question 2		Yes- mandatory
Question 3	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	Multiple choice	No
Question 5	400 words	No
Question 6	Multiple choice	No
Question 7	400 words	No
Question 8	400 words	No
Question 9	400 words	No
Question 10	400 words	No
Question 11	400 words	Yes- optional, 2 pages
Question 12	400 words	Yes- optional, 2 pages
Question 13	400 words	No
Question 14	400 words	No
Question 15	400 words	Yes- mandatory, 2 pages
Question 16	400 words	Yes- mandatory, 2 pages
Question 17	400 words	No
Question 18	400 words	No

# National Security and Investment Act - overview

Subject to certain criteria, UK applicants are legally required to tell the government about acquisitions of certain entities in 17 sensitive areas of the economy (called 'notifiable acquisitions').

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-security-and-investment-act-guidance-on-notifiable-acquisitions/national-security-and-investment-act-guidance-on-notifiable-acquisitions>

These 17 areas are:

- Advanced Materials
- Advanced Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence
- Civil Nuclear
- Communications
- Computing Hardware
- Critical Suppliers to Government
- Cryptographic Authentication
- Data Infrastructure
- Defence
- Energy
- Military and Dual-Use
- Quantum Technologies
- Satellite and Space Technologies
- Suppliers to the Emergency Services
- Synthetic Biology
- Transport

If there is significant uncertainty about whether an acquisition is notifiable, you may contact the government on [investment.screening@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:investment.screening@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) to seek a view or get legal advice from your own sources.

# UK Strategic Export Controls - overview

## [UK strategic export controls - GOV.UK](#)

The UK government has put together this guidance for those who export or transfer goods, software or technology (including data, information and technical assistance) which might be subject to strategic export controls.

It explains what control lists are, as well as who they apply to and when, so that exporters can make sure they comply with the law.

Applicants should assess how these controls may impact the project and confirm if they will need a licence (see question 5).

# Q4 International Collaboration (not scored)

**Does your proposed work involve any international collaboration or engagement?**

You must provide details of any expected international collaboration or engagement. You must include a list of the names and the countries any international project co-leads, project partners, visiting researchers, or other collaborators are based in. You must also include details of any subcontractors or service providers.

If your proposed work does not involve international collaboration or engagement, your answer must confirm this.

# Q5 Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)

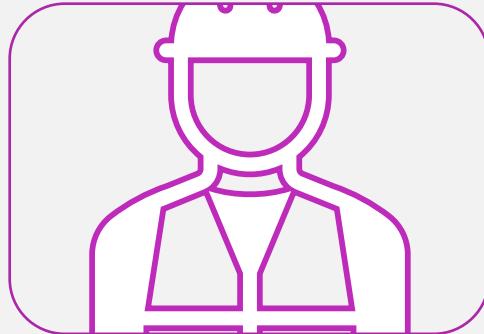
You must explain if your proposed project work relates to UKRI's Trusted Research and Innovation Principles, including:

- a list of any dual-use (both military and non-military) applications to your research
- a list of the areas where your project is relevant to one or more of the 17 areas of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act )
- whether an export control license is required for this project under the academic export control guidance and the status of any applications
- a list of any items or substances on the UK Strategic Export Control List

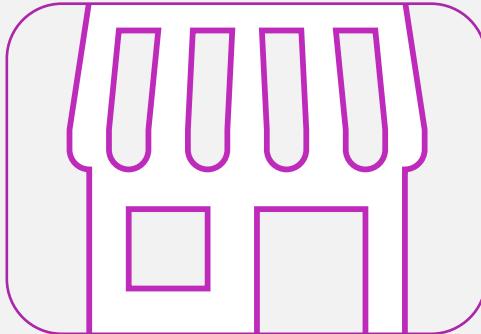
We may ask you to provide additional TR&I information at a later date, in line with UKRI TR&I Principles and funding terms and conditions

# Your Project Cost Categories

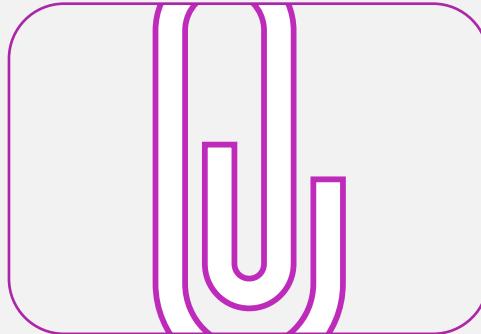
**View our Application Finances Instructional Video**



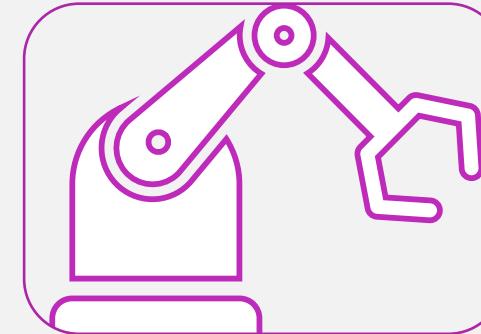
Labour



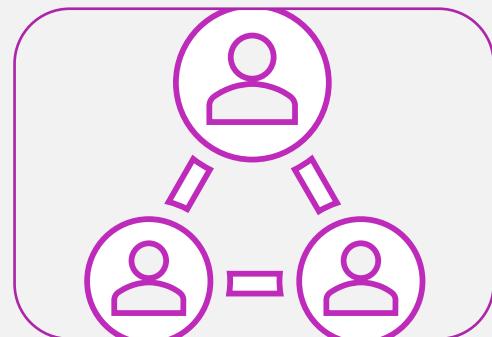
Overheads



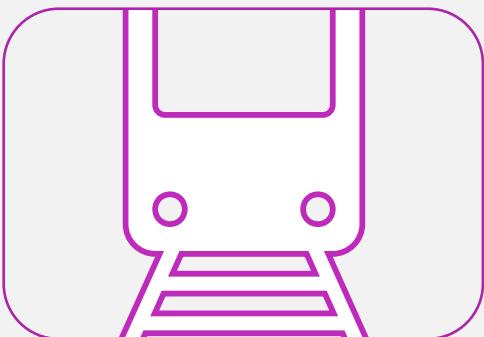
Materials



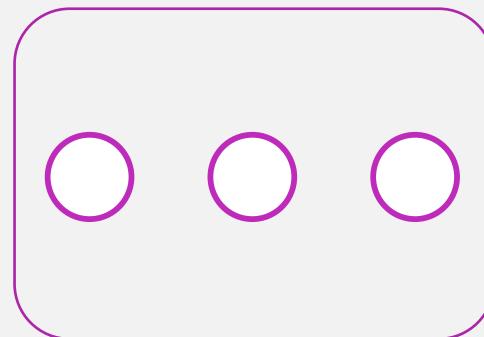
Capital Usage



Subcontractors



Travel &  
Subsistence



Other

# Your project finances

## Finances

Your organisation is required to submit its project finances. Your organisation's project costs can be seen in the 'Finances overview'.

[Your project finances](#)

 Incomplete

[Finances overview](#)

 Incomplete

## Finances

 Only members from your organisation will be able to see a breakdown of your finances.

Please complete your project finances.

[Your project costs](#)

 Incomplete

[Your project location](#)

 Incomplete

[Your organisation](#)

 Incomplete

[Your funding](#)

 Incomplete



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## Your project costs

Add your project costs by category – refer to previous slide for link to instructional video

## Your project location

Enter postcode for where most of the project work will take place.

## Your organisation

Add details of your organisation including size, turnover and number of employees

## Your funding

Include your funding level percentage according to the competition's funding rules.

You can declare Other Public Sector Funding here if you have previously received public money for **exactly** the same activities

# Checking your finances are complete

## Finances summary

These organisations have not marked their finances as complete:

- Ludlow
- EGGS



This application cannot be submitted until all items in the finances section have been marked as complete by all partners.

	Total costs (£)	Funding level (%)	Funding sought (£)	Contribution to project (£)	Other public sector funding (£)
<b>Empire Ltd</b> Lead organisation	✓	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632
<b>Ludlow</b> Partner	⚠	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632
<b>EGGS</b> Partner	⚠	990	100.00	990	0
<b>Total</b>	⚠	£402,796		116,596	281,264
					4,936

Check your finances have been correctly entered, with the correct costs, funding level % and funding sought figures, as per the eligibility criteria of the competition.

If collaborative, the lead must ensure that all partners have marked their finances as complete.

**IFS DOES NOT VALIDATE  
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS**

# Terms and Conditions

Before you can submit your application, **all** organisations in an application must agree to the draft terms and conditions for this competition. Please ensure you share the T&Cs with your legal team at the earliest possible opportunity.

## Terms and conditions

You must agree to these before you submit your application.

[Award terms and conditions](#)

 Incomplete

[Review and submit](#)

 [Print your application](#)



I agree to the [full terms and conditions](#) set out by the funding authority. I understand I need to agree to the final contract if my application is successful.

[Agree and continue](#)

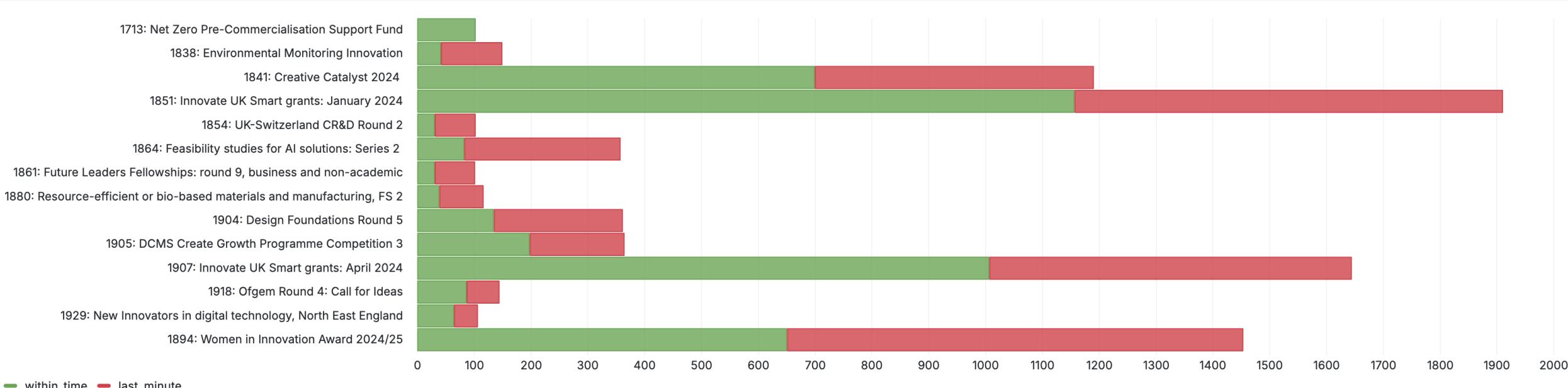


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# Submitting your application

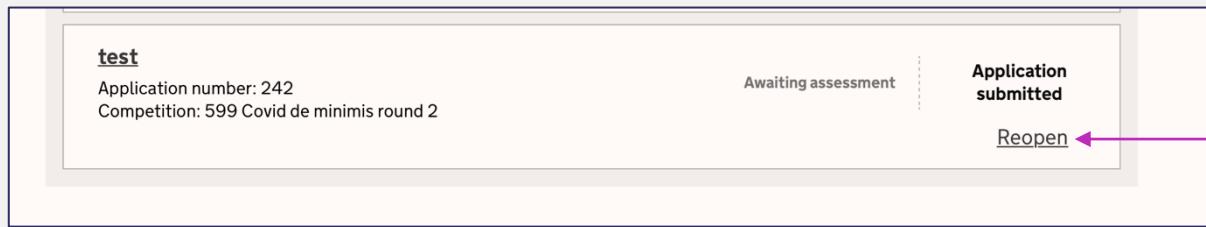
Customer Support can help resolve any issues you might have when submitting **but only if they are contacted before the deadline**.

Once the deadline has passed, your application cannot be submitted.



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# Editing a submitted application



Reopen by clicking here

A screenshot of a web application interface. It shows a 'Terms and conditions' section with the text 'You must agree to these before you submit your application.' Below it is a 'Award terms and conditions' section with a 'Complete' status indicator. At the bottom are 'Review and submit' and 'Print your application' buttons.

Remember to press  
'Submit application'

A screenshot of a web application interface. It shows a 'Terms and conditions' section with the text 'Award terms and conditions' and a 'Complete' status indicator. Below it is a 'Submit application' button. At the bottom is the text 'Need help with this service? [Contact us](#)'.

# Pros & Cons of using AI to support you

*With the advances in AI technology, it is only natural to use technology to support you in applying to our competitions. Whilst we don't recommend or advise against it, we would like to make you aware of the following which could potentially impact your project.*

## Pros

- Removes barriers for people with disabilities and non-English speakers
- Allows you to rephrase your content to meet the word count in a question
- Ensures all aspects of a question are answered
- Can aid a better understanding of:
  - intended/wider market
  - best practice in project management
  - complementary technologies and advances in the industry
  - expected project impacts

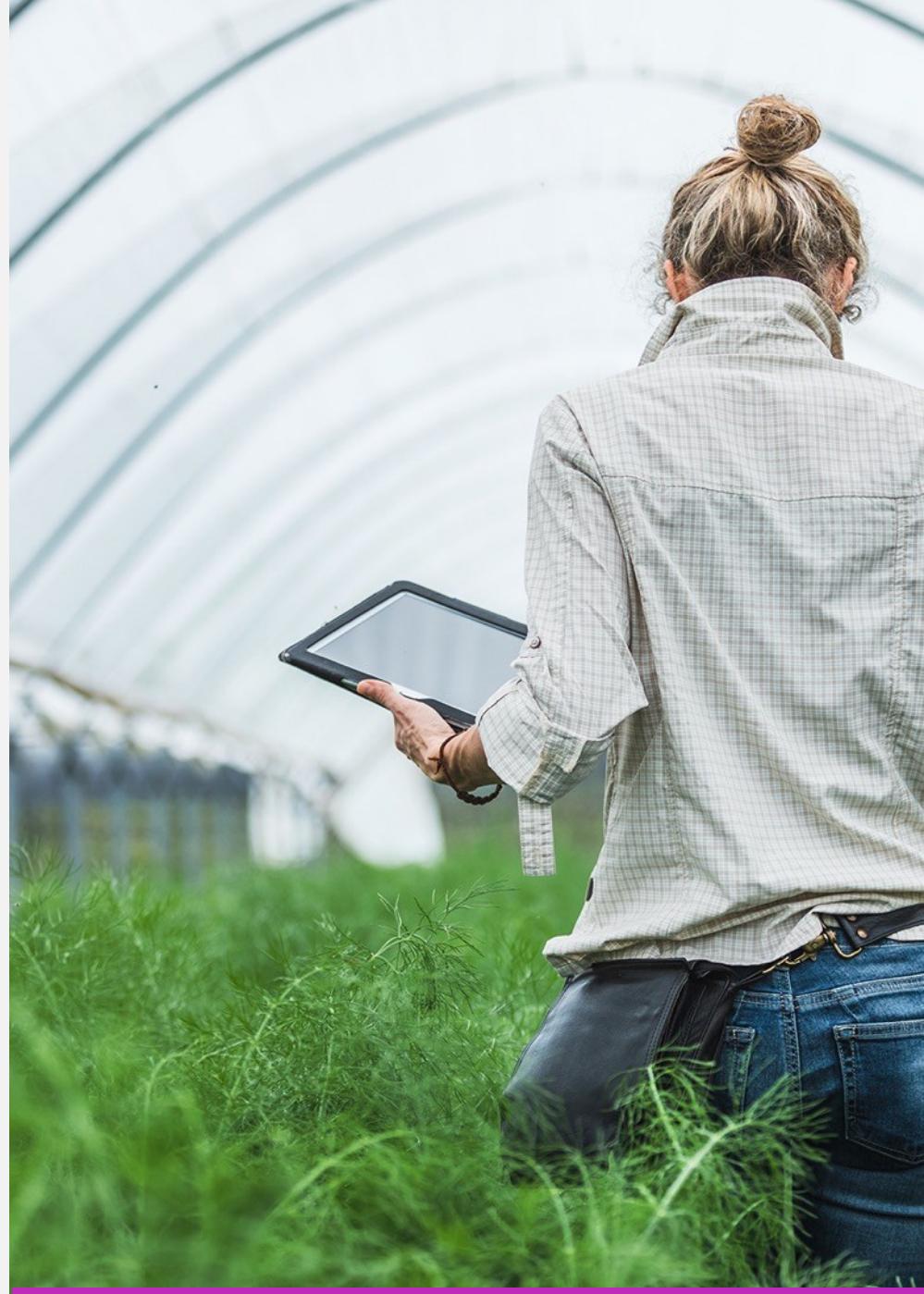
## Cons

- It is not always accurate in its assumptions and can get things wrong
- AI learns from the information you give it as well as what it has already learnt
- May provide a generic response meaning your application could use similar phrasing to others
- AI can be detected as non-human as it lacks expression and insight because it relies on logic to summarise information based on the question asked

# Funding Rules



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# You are unable to claim funding if

- you are an **overseas organisation** - your company number begins with **FC**
- your organisation is **setup as a branch** - your company number begins with **BR**
- you are a **collaboration with no formal structure of ownership or control** - your company number begins with **ML**
- you are a **Crown Dependency**:
  - if your company is based in **Jersey** - your company number begins with **JE**
  - if your company is based in **Guernsey**
  - if your company is based in the **Isle of Man**

# Other Innovate UK projects

If you have an outstanding final claim or Independent Accountant Report (IAR) on a live Innovate UK project, you will not be eligible to apply to this competition, as a lead or a partner organisation.

We will not award you any further funding if you:

- applied to a previous competition as the lead or sole company and were awarded funding by Innovate UK, but did not make a substantial effort to exploit that award
- applied to a previous competition as the lead or sole company and failed to comply with grant terms and conditions.

# Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Regime

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the [Subsidy Control Act 2022](#) came into effect.

This provides a framework for public authorities to design and award subsidies in a compliant way, whilst minimising any negative effects of subsidies both within the UK and Internationally.

Innovate UK offers funding in line with the UK's obligations and commitments to Subsidy Control. To ensure that Innovate UK remains compliant with the UK's international Subsidy Control duties in respect of:

- the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement;
- the subsidy control act 2022
- Article 10 of the Windsor Framework (successful applicants which are affected by the Windsor Framework will be funded in line with [EU State aid regulations](#))
- Article 138 of the Withdrawal Agreement (some Union law applicable after 31 December 2020 in relation to the UK's participation in Union programmes and activities)
- the Subsidies and Countervailing measures within the WTO (ASCM)
- any other Free Trade Agreements active at the time of award

All awards will be conditional on compliance at all times with the UK's international obligations on Subsidy Control - this will be reflected in the terms and conditions of any award.

# Subsidy Control (and State aid where relevant)

The Subsidy Control Act 2022 definition of a 'subsidy' means financial assistance which:

1. is given by a public authority. This can be at any level: central, devolved, regional or local government or a public body.
2. makes a contribution (this could be a financial or an in-kind contribution) to an enterprise, conferring an economic advantage that is not available on market terms.
3. affects international trade.

For awards made from 4 January 2023, the majority are subject to Subsidy Control Act 2022. EU State aid rules now only apply in certain limited circumstances.

## **Financial viability and eligibility**

Innovate UK is unable to award funding to organisations that are considered to be in financial difficulty. All applicant organisations are subjected to financial viability and eligibility checks to ensure they are suitable for public funding.

[General guidance on Subsidy control \(and State aid where relevant\).](#)

# Article 10 of the Windsor Framework

The EU and the UK formally adopted the [Windsor Framework](#) on 24 March 2023.

The Windsor Framework replaces the Northern Ireland Protocol, providing a new legal and UK constitutional framework.

Article 10 provides that European Union State aid rules will continue to apply to the UK in respect of measures which affect trade in goods or the electricity market between Northern Ireland and the EU.

Article 10 does not directly apply to subsidies for services and such subsidies will need to comply with the UK's subsidy control regime.

## **Financial viability and eligibility**

Innovate UK is unable to award funding to organisations that are considered to be in financial difficulty. All applicant organisations are subjected to financial viability and eligibility checks to ensure they are suitable for public funding.

[General guidance on Subsidy control \(and State aid where relevant\).](#)

# Minimal Financial Assistance (previously Special Drawing Rights) or De Minimis

Grant funding in this competition is awarded as minimal financial assistance (MFA). This allows public bodies to award up to £315,000 to an enterprise in a 3-year rolling financial period.

To establish your eligibility, we need to check that our support added to the amount you have previously received does not exceed the limit of £315,000 in the 'applicable period'.

The applicable period is made up of:

- (a) the elapsed part of the current financial year
- (b) the two financial years immediately preceding the current financial year

In your application, you will be asked to declare previous funding received by you.

This will form part of the financial checks ahead of Innovate UK making a formal grant offer.

EU Commission rules now only apply in limited circumstances. Find out more about the [De Minimis regulation](#).

# Grant requested

## Finances

[Close all](#)

### Finances summary

The finances of all project partners are included in this summary.

Organisation	Total costs (£)	Funding level (%)	Funding sought (£)	Contribution to project (£)	Other public sector funding (£)
	£30,000	100.00	£30,000	0	0

- Your Funding sought figure must be between £100,000 and £300,000
- You must request 100% funding

# Grant requested

Untitled application

## Your funding

Are you requesting funding?



Yes

Select a funding level

The maximum you can enter is 100%, based on this [competition's rules \(opens in a new window\)](#).

%



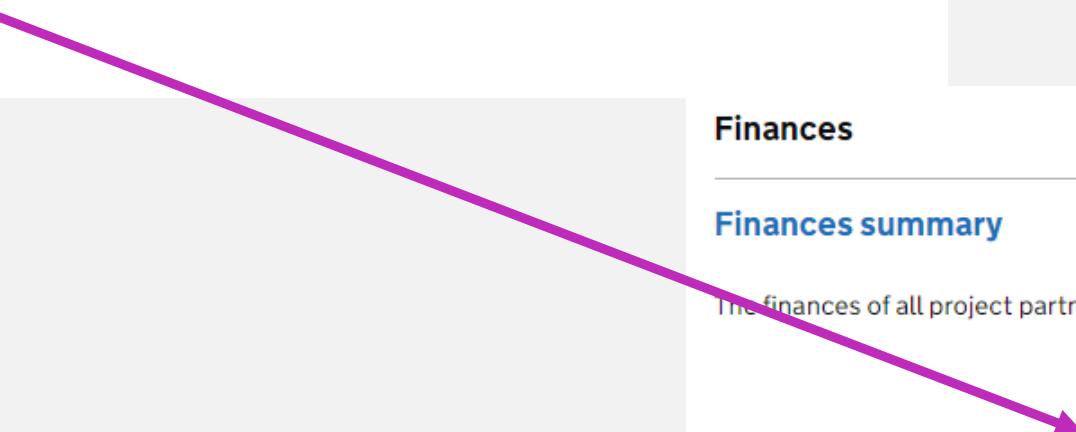
No

- This is where you place your funding level percentage figure
- Projects must be funded at 100% of costs

## Finances

### Finances summary

The finances of all project partners are included in this summary.



Organisation	Total costs (£)	Funding level (%)	Funding sought (£)	Contribution to project (£)	Other public sector funding (£)
	£30,000	100.00	£30,000	0	0



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# Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) Declaration Form

## Declaration statement

I confirm that I **have not** received any funding in the applicable period as defined above. (Please check the box if applicable and move to Recipient Acknowledgments.)

or

I confirm that I **have** received the following funding in the applicable period as defined above. (Please check the box if applicable and complete the table below.)

## DECLARATION:

I believe that the facts stated in this Declaration are true. I understand that legal proceedings for false and inaccurate declarations may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Company	
Applicant Name	
Signature	
Date	

False declarations will result in withdrawal of the offer made by the Authority. If an award is made to you based on false information, the Authority has the right to recover funding in full.

A	B	C	D
Body who provided the funding <i>(Who awarded you the funding?)</i>	Funding Amount received in GBP	Funding Amount received in Euros <i>(only use this column to declare your conversion of the De minimis funding you previously received in euros)</i>	Date awarded



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# Assessment



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# Assessment

## YouTube Playlist

- 1  **How do our assessors assess?**  
Innovate UK • 8.1K views • 2 years ago 2:33
- 2  **How are successful applications selected for funding?**  
Innovate UK • 17K views • 2 years ago 2:39
- 3  **What steps are there before a project starts?**  
Innovate UK • 7.7K views • 2 years ago 3:45
- 4  **How are successful projects monitored?**  
Innovate UK • 4.1K views • 2 years ago 2:20
- 5  **How successful applicants receive their funding.**  
Innovate UK • 4.6K views • 2 years ago 2:51



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# Project setup

If you pass the technical assessment, you will have a further eight steps detailed in your notification to complete in Project Setup before being able to start your project.

These are:

- Project details
- Project team
- Documents
- You will be allocated a Monitoring Service Provider (MSP)
- Bank details
- Finance checks
- Spend profile
- Grant Offer Letter

Please share the T&Cs with your legal team at the earliest possible opportunity to avoid any delays.

You are expected to complete all the steps above within **60 calendar** days of receiving your notification. Failure to do so may result in funding being withdrawn.

**Work can only commence on your project once you have received your Go Live email.**

# How you get paid

- Grants are claimed and paid out following authorisation, **quarterly in arrears**
- Organisations being funded at less than 100% will need to provide evidence that they will have funding available to meet their share of costs
- You can only claim for costs incurred between your project's start and end date
- Grant can only be paid into an approved UK bank account

# Bank account – Guidance

## Accepted business bank accounts – subject to change

- Advance Payment Solutions (Part of Cashplus Ltd)
- Allica Bank
- Allied Irish Banks
- Bank of Ireland (UK)
- Bank of Scotland
- Bank of America
- Barclays
- BNP Paribas
- C Hoare & Co
- CAF Bank
- Citi Bank UK
- Clear Bank
- Commerz Bank
- Coutts
- Danske Bank
- Deutsche Bank
- DNB Bank ASA
- Guaranty Trust Bank (UK) Limited
- Handelsbanken Plc
- HSBC
- J.P. Morgan UK
- Lloyds
- Metro Bank
- Mettle
- Mizuho Bank Ltd
- MUFG Bank Ltd
- Monzo
- NatWest
- Nordea
- Revolut
- Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)
- Santander
- Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken Ab (Publ) [SEB]
- Starling
- The Bank of East Asia
- The Co-operative Bank
- Tide Bank
- Triodos Bank
- TSB Bank
- Ulster Bank
- Unity Trust Bank
- Virgin Money
- Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

# Additional Support



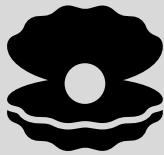
# Innovate UK Business Growth

...understands that innovation-focused businesses face obstacles to growth beyond those facing typical entrepreneurial companies. Common stumbling blocks include:



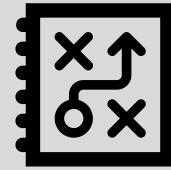
## Inherent risks

Managing technical risks  
e.g. new science, longer time to revenue, investor caution, regulatory approval, negotiating with partners and defending intellectual property



## Inaccessible resources

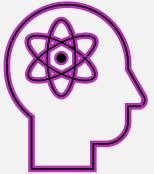
Knowing where to find and how to access the right innovation resources and opportunities in a fragmented and confusing landscape



## Incomplete skillsets

Having the right combination of business and product development expertise to achieve important milestones

Innovate UK Business Growth's high-quality advisory support helps innovation-focused businesses in all UK locations and sectors to overcome these challenges and seize opportunities.



It offers clients a comprehensive spectrum of innovation and commercial expertise from a dedicated specialist located nearby



It offers a single access point to the most significant regional, national and international innovation resources



The 1:1 support is flexible, tailored in focus and timescale to the individual needs of innovative businesses



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# Cyber Action Toolkit

The NSCS has created a free [Cyber Action Toolkit](#) that gives clear bite-sized actions to protect small businesses, their money and reputation from cyber crime

Search “NCSC cyber toolkit” or click here: <https://cybertoolkit.service.ncsc.gov.uk/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Cyber Action Toolkit. At the top, there is a header with a shield icon, the text "Cyber Action Toolkit", a "Sign in" button, and a "Get free toolkit" button. The main title "Start protecting your business with our free cyber toolkit" is prominently displayed in large, bold, black text. Below the title, a subtitle explains the toolkit's purpose: "The Cyber Action Toolkit gives you clear, bite-sized actions to protect your business's money and reputation from cyber criminals." At the bottom, there is a "Provided by" section featuring the National Cyber Security Centre logo and the UK Government logo.

Cyber Action Toolkit

Sign in

Get free toolkit

## Start protecting your business with our free cyber toolkit

The Cyber Action Toolkit gives you clear, bite-sized actions to protect your business's money and reputation from cyber criminals.

Provided by

National Cyber Security Centre

UK Government

# Contact Us

Whether you need help to set a strategic direction or with progressing your innovation, financing your growth or unlocking the potential of international partnerships.

visit our website:  
[www.iukbg.ukri.org](http://www.iukbg.ukri.org)

or call us on:  
**0300 123 3066**

## Contact Business Growth

The preferred way to get in touch with us is via email using the form below – we aim to reply within 2 working days. However, we will also be available by telephone during working hours (9am-5pm) and an answerphone will be available at all other times or when our lines are engaged (we will return your call as soon as possible). Please note that you cannot access our colleagues at Innovate UK through these channels.

If you're not from the UK, please [contact your local EEN branch](#).

You can also refer to [our FAQs page](#) to find answers to frequently asked questions about our services.

Telephone | 0300 123 3066

Name

Email

Telephone

Company name

Registered company name or intended trading name

Note: The service is offered to all Innovate UK competition winners but any suitable ambitious innovation-focused businesses with under 250 employees can be supported

# Useful Information

- UKRI's [General Guidance](#)
- Innovate UK Business Connect's [Good Application Guide](#)
- [Who we fund](#)
- Collaboration Agreement Guidance: [Lambert Toolkit](#)
- [Innovate UK: Shaping the Future](#)

## Funding opportunities

To find out more about the competitions currently available you can visit either the [Innovation Funding Service \(IFS\)](#) or the [funding finder](#) on the UKRI website. Through these links, you can review the competitions available and decide which ones may be right for you.

You can [sign up to our newsletter](#) to receive all the latest information on our competitions straight to your inbox or [register for email alerts](#) to get page updates from Innovate UK.

The government also offers [other opportunities for businesses to get finance and support](#).

Innovate UK reserves the rights to host competitions on a needs basis and will adjust each competition criteria and scope accordingly. We may occasionally run closed competitions that are for invited applicants only. These are run based on the challenge requirement or need.

# Q&A



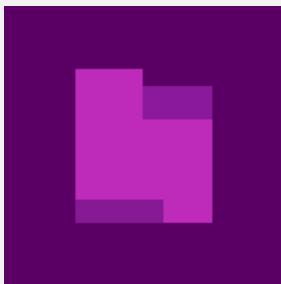
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# Contact

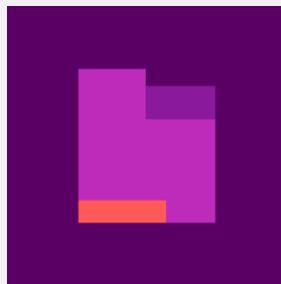
## Customer Support Services

0300 321 4357 (Monday - Friday 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm)

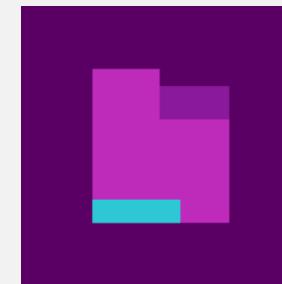
[support@iuk.ukri.org](mailto:support@iuk.ukri.org)



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[iuk-business-connect.org.uk](http://iuk-business-connect.org.uk)



**Innovate UK Business  
Growth**  
[www.iukbg.ukri.org](http://www.iukbg.ukri.org)



# Thank You

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