



Innovate
UK

AgriScale - Accelerating Agri-tech manufacturing (Experimental Development and Industrial Research)

Applicant Briefing

Date: 8 April 2026

The webinar will start at 10:00

- 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

Yvette Willis

Competition Manager, Healthy Living and Agriculture

Chris Danks

Head of Department - Research Programme and Funding Management



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	30 March 2026
Submission Deadline	3 June 2026 at 11am
Applicants informed – experimental development Applicants informed – industrial research	17 September 2026 by 5pm 4 August 2026 by 5pm
Project start and end dates – experimental development Project start and end dates – industrial research	Start by 1 January 2027 , end by 30 June 2028 Start by 1 October 2026 , end by 30 September 2027

Competition Summary & Scope



Innovate
UK

Context

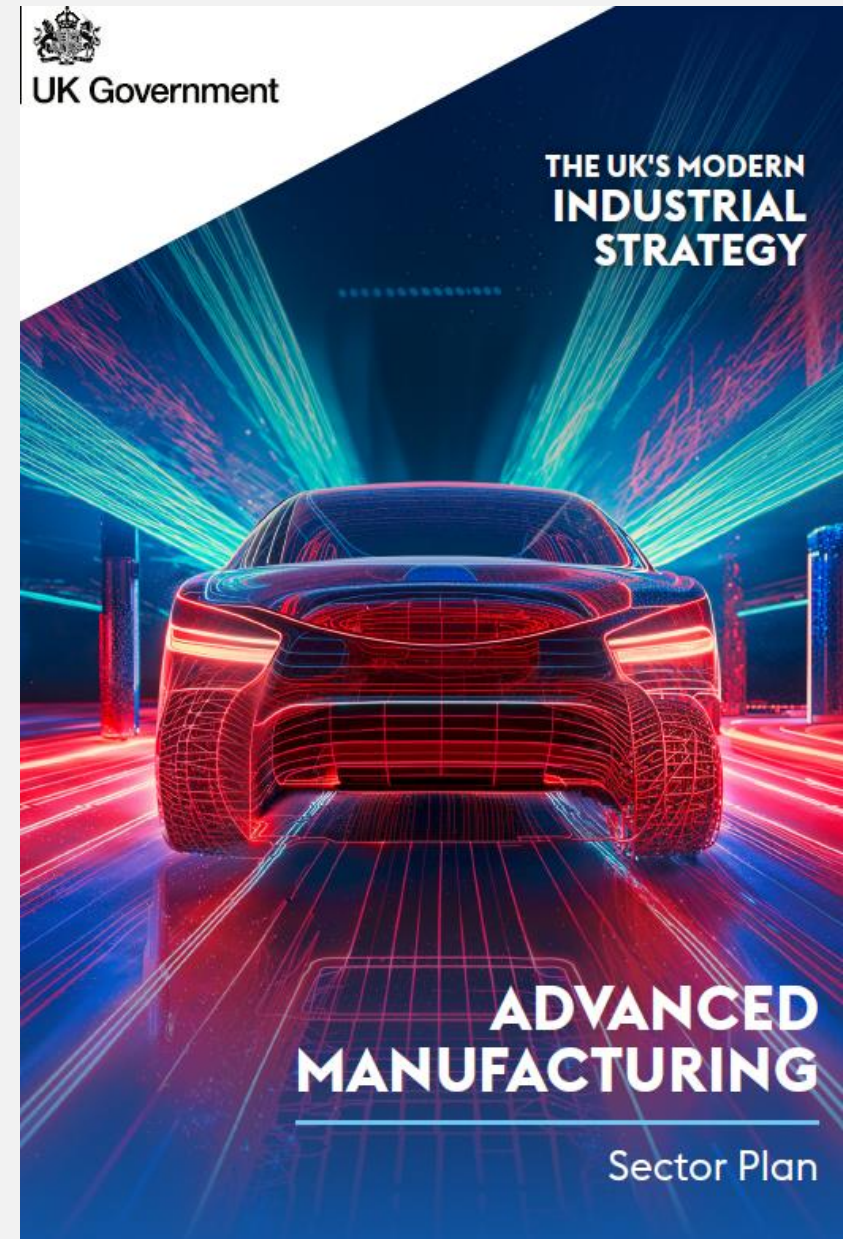
- Innovate UK has launched their new prospectus.
- This refreshed direction sets out how Innovate UK will better support the UK's most ambitious businesses to scale, commercialise and compete globally.
- This marks a significant moment for Innovate UK.
- The Prospectus brings together Innovate UK's ambition, role and offer in one place.
- It sets out their strategic focus, the sectors and technologies where they will concentrate their efforts.
- It also explains how they will work differently to support the UK's most promising innovators.



Context

The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy

- Agri-tech one of six priority frontier industries within the [Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan](#)
- *Adoption of new technology can often be slow within the sector, hindering the scale and growth potential needed to achieve a more resilient and productive food system. To address this, we will support UK agri-tech to target precision technologies that champion the application of controlled environments, robotics and automation, advanced sensors, AI and data systems in both the domestic and global markets.*

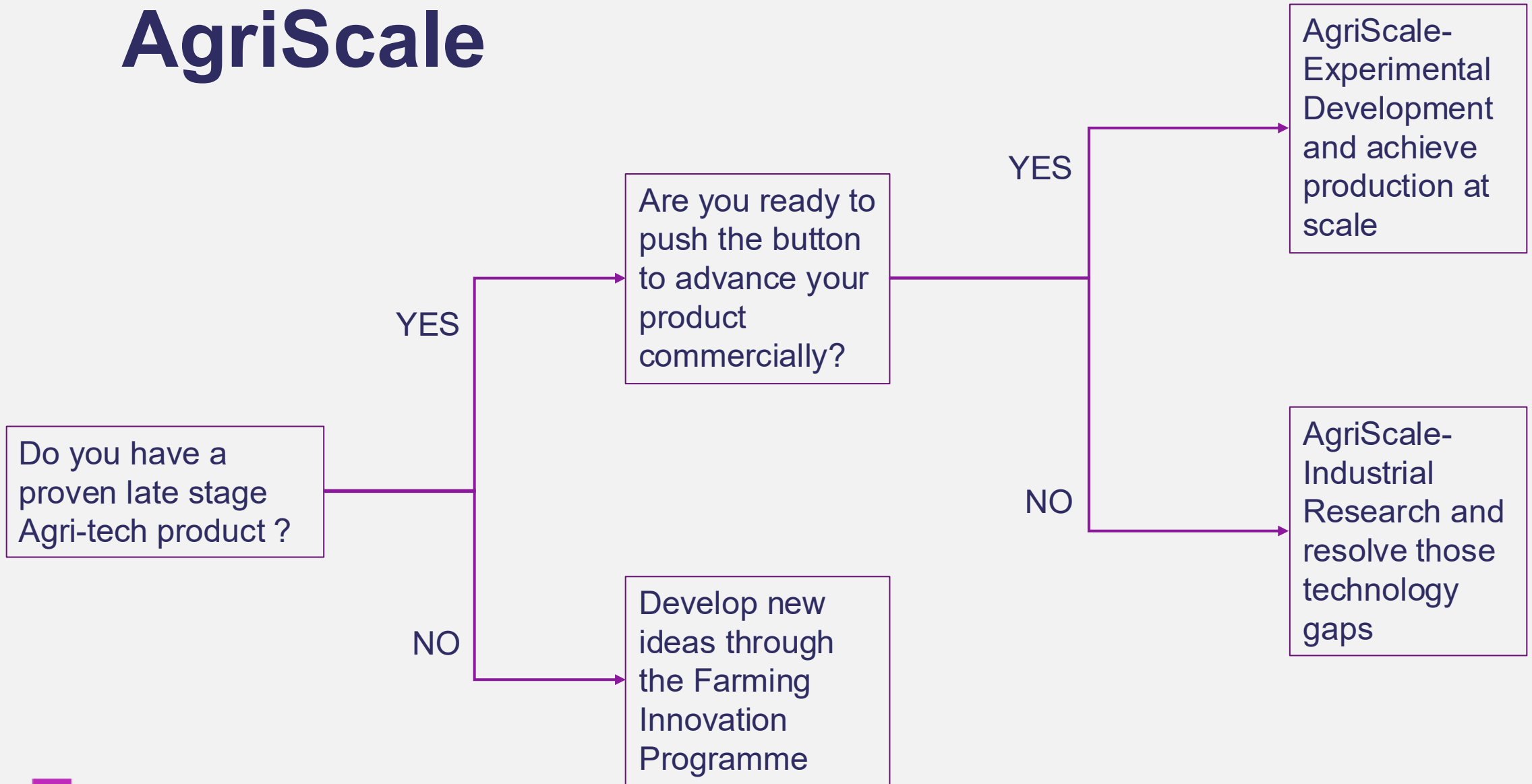


Context

- AgriScale will enable agri-tech businesses to scale within the UK, strengthening the country's advanced manufacturing capabilities and driving growth in the agri-tech sector.
- Focusing on accelerating product manufacturing rather than early-stage research, AgriScale fills a critical gap in the innovation pipeline and helps promising technologies move from concept to market more quickly and reliably.
- Automation and Robotic systems seen as key solutions to overcome challenges in Agriculture related to skilled labour shortages and need to improve productivity, profitability and sustainability
- Challenges persist related to product performance and reliability, or related to manufacturing scale-up that are preventing end user adoption and deployment



AgriScale




AgriScale – Accelerating Agri-tech Manufacturing

Two Strands: Industrial Research
Experimental Development

Mid to Late-stage projects
Late-stage projects



Total budget



£13
Million

Total project costs

IR: £250k - £750k


ED: £1.0m - £3.0m

Duration

IR: 6 - 12 months

ED: 6 - 18 months

Must be **collaborative** applications



Both strands must be led by a **UK Business**

Project Start Dates

IR: 1st October 2026

ED: 1st January 2027

Competition deadline
3rd June 2026 at 11:00

IR projects written assessment only

ED projects written and interview assessment

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Experimental Development Projects

- Some products are near fully developed and ready for end user adoption, but there is a need for scaling of both the business and manufacturing processes.
- These products need to be reliably manufactured at scale, have demonstrated long term reliability and performance, and be supported in the marketplace to gain end user confidence

AgriScale is intended to fund short, focused projects to

- accelerate and de-risk the transition to manufacture and distribution at scale
- complete design for manufacture and process optimisation
- develop procurement strategies and develop supply chain strategies
- complete testing and validation of products to demonstrate performance and reliability acceptable to commercial end users

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Experimental Development Projects

Experimental development may **comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real life operating conditions.** This would be where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set.

This may include the **development of a commercially usable prototype** or pilot which is **necessary for the final commercial product** and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes.

Experimental development **does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products,** production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.

Intervention rate for SME's **45%**

Specific Themes – Experimental Development

Your project must focus on one or more of the following:

- technologies that enable automation to reduce labour demands and improve productivity and sustainability in agriculture, forestry, horticulture and aquaculture
- automation and robotic systems and equipment
- automated sensing and observation systems that must include associated data processing and intelligence systems to provide actionable management decisions or direct control actions
- identify specific manufacturing, engineering, performance or regulatory compliance issues to address through this process
- outlining how you will accelerate progress, attract investment, and expedite time to market
- you must be able to demonstrate that the product to be brought to market will drive productivity and sustainability, and provide evidence of farmer or grower demand
- a long-term market for the product or service; solutions that have the opportunity for global export would be considered advantageous
- demonstrate a robust business plan that supports production and market scale up
- your project must be seeking to accelerate late-stage development toward viable production and commercialisation

Specific Themes – Experimental Development

Technologies and project approaches can include but are not limited to:

- design and test of mechanical, electrical, electronic and software systems for robust and reliable function, operation, reliability and durability at scale
- design for manufacture and assembly, and development of manufacturing systems, including tooling and manufacturing development and process optimisation
- supply chain strategy and procurement development
- regulatory and safety compliance testing and approvals including food safety requirements, operational and functional safety, electromagnetic compatibility testing and compliance
- validation and verification for production readiness of software, navigation systems, safety systems, fleet management and deployment systems, including cyber security
- software and hardware system optimisation to enable easy integration with existing business management and process hardware, software and systems
- fleet management and fleet deployment hardware and software including; battery, charging, operator interface, support and monitoring systems
- field, workshop and laboratory trials to prove reliability, endurance and machine up-time in end user environments and to evidence and benchmark performance in real conditions
- devices, technologies and systems to enable effective end user product support, diagnostics and repair

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Industrial Research Projects

- Some products still demonstrate operational, performance or reliability technology gaps meaning that their readiness for scale-up, subsequent adoption and for commercial end user acceptance remains low.
- They have been developed and tested to work well most of the time, but not always, and not consistently enough to meet end user requirements

AgriScale is intended to fund short, focused projects to

- address these technology gaps
- accelerate and de-risk the late-stage final developments
- enable testing and validation of solutions to demonstrate performance and reliability acceptable to commercial end users

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Industrial Research Projects

The planned research or critical investigation that is aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services. **It can also be for projects that are aimed at bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services.**

Industrial research comprises the creation of **component parts of complex systems**. It may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines. Where necessary, this would be for the industrial research and notably for **generic technology validation**.

Intervention rate for SME's **70%**

Note: The combined funding of £13 million across both strands of these AgriScale competitions may not be distributed as published.

Specific Themes – Industrial Research

Your project must focus on one or more of the following:

- technologies that enable automation to reduce labour demands and improve productivity and sustainability in agriculture, forestry, horticulture and aquaculture
- automation and robotic systems and equipment
- automated sensing and observation systems that must include associated data processing and intelligence systems to provide actionable management decisions or direct control actions
- identify specific technology or performance gaps, manufacturing, engineering or regulatory challenges to be addressed through this process
- outline how you will accelerate progress, attract investment, and expedite time to market
- you must be able to demonstrate that the product to be brought to market will drive productivity, sustainability and evidence of farmer or grower demand
- a long-term market for the product or service; solutions that have the opportunity for global export would be considered advantageous
- your project must be seeking to develop and test your products to overcome known technical gaps, increase performance or reliability to levels that are acceptable for commercial end user operation

Specific Themes – Industrial Research

Technologies and project approaches can include but are not limited to:

- design and test of mechanical, electrical, electronic and software systems for robust and reliable function, operation, reliability and durability
- design for manufacture and assembly
- regulatory and safety compliance testing and approvals including food safety requirements, operational and functional safety, electromagnetic compatibility testing and compliance
- development and testing of software, navigation systems, safety systems, fleet management and deployment systems including cyber security
- software and hardware system optimisation to enable easy integration with existing business management and process hardware, software and systems
- fleet management and fleet deployment hardware and software including; battery, charging, operator interface, support and monitoring systems
- field, workshop and laboratory trials to develop and prove performance, reliability, endurance and machine up-time in end user environments to confirm end user acceptance and benchmark performance
- devices, technologies and systems to enable effective end user product support, diagnostics and repair

AgriScale – Accelerating Agri-tech Manufacturing

Guidance 1

Its not all about robots ! And not all about fruit picking robots !

It includes:

- technologies that enable automation to reduce labour demands and improve productivity and sustainability in agriculture, forestry, horticulture and aquaculture
- automation and robotics systems and equipment
- automated sensing and observation systems that must include associated data processing and intelligence systems to provide actionable management decisions or direct control actions
- software systems as well as hardware systems
- working in all sectors – crops, livestock, horticulture

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Guidance 2

It is all about short, focused, late-stage projects to complete and scale-up products that have already been well developed.

- If you have one of these then please apply

It is not for the research and development projects for early or mid-stage technologies or concepts.

- If you have one of these then please do not apply.

We hope to announce further funding for early and mid-stage projects in this sector later in the year.

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Guidance 3

A business can lead only one application in each strand, however:

- your application and your project can include multiple work packages and activities to resolve multiple challenges that your product may have and that you want to resolve to become commercial
- you can select different partners with specific technical capabilities and resources to resolve the specific challenges
- You should aim to remove all challenges, technical and manufacturing gaps, that are holding back your product and business
- It is likely that your business, product and therefore project will only be at the right development stage to be suitable for one strand, so choose wisely

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Guidance 4

It's about business growth both for the product and UK manufacturing

We need to understand how your project and this funding will enable your product to become commercial and your business to scale-up and grow

Both strands require some explanation of your business model, route to manufacture, scale up and distribution and product support to end users

There is additional flexibility consortium structure to enable the use of suitable manufacturing partners if required, but you must have at least one partner

This is not FIP and you do not need a Farmer in the consortium.

Meeting the brief: What are we looking for ?

- Products at the right stage of development
- Building on previous innovation funding
- Clear expectation of scale up need and its subsequent impact on adoption
- A robust business plan to underpin the scale-up opportunity
- Ambitious scale-up plans, volumes and timescales
- A well-structured consortium to bring scale-up to reality
- A triple win for UK economy
- UK and global opportunities

Eligibility criteria



Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

Your project must:	Experimental Development	Industrial Research
Have total eligible costs	between £1 million and £3 million	between £250,000 and £750,000
Last	between 6 and 18 months	between 24 and 36 months
start by	1 January 2027	1 October 2026
end by	30 June 2028	30 September 2027
carry out all of its project work in the UK		
intend to exploit the results from or in the UK		

Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

Lead organisation:

To lead a project your organisation must:

- be a UK registered business of any size
- collaborate with other UK registered organisations

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

Eligibility Criteria – Collaboration

For this competition your project must be collaborative.

In all collaborative projects there must be:

- at least two grant claiming partners
- evidence of an effective collaboration

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 partners that do not receive any of this competition's funding, for example, non-UK businesses. Their costs will count towards the total 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.

All subcontractor costs must be justified and appropriate to the total project costs.

Eligibility Criteria – Number of applications

Number of applications

A business can only lead on one application but can be included as a collaborator in a further two applications.

If a UK registered eligible organisation is not leading an application, it can collaborate in any number of applications.

Previously submitted applications

This competition **does not** 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">• has been updated based on assessor feedback• <u>and</u> is materially different from the application submitted before• <u>and</u> fits with the scope of this competition



Innovation Funding Service (IFS)

Creating an account

Select the radio button that aligns with your organisation type to apply as the project lead or partner..

For pre-existing businesses and Research organisations

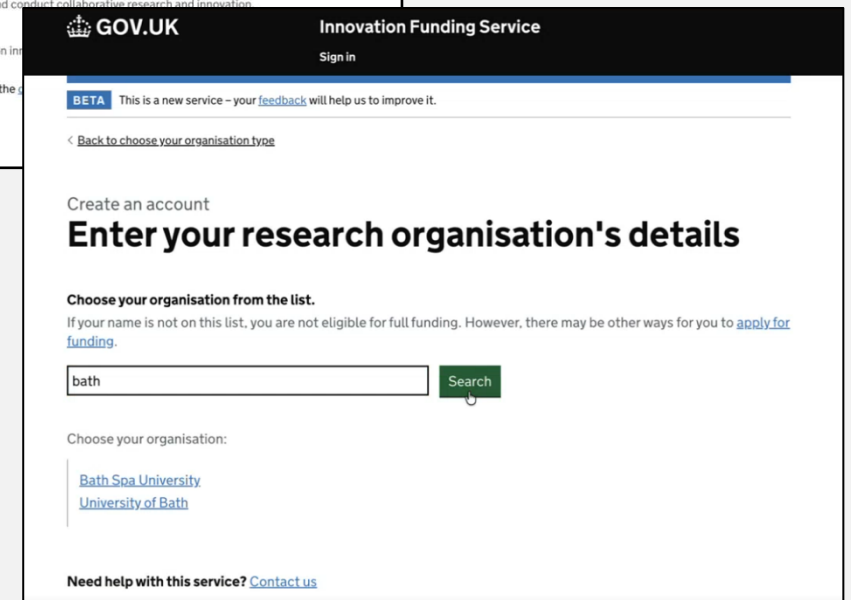
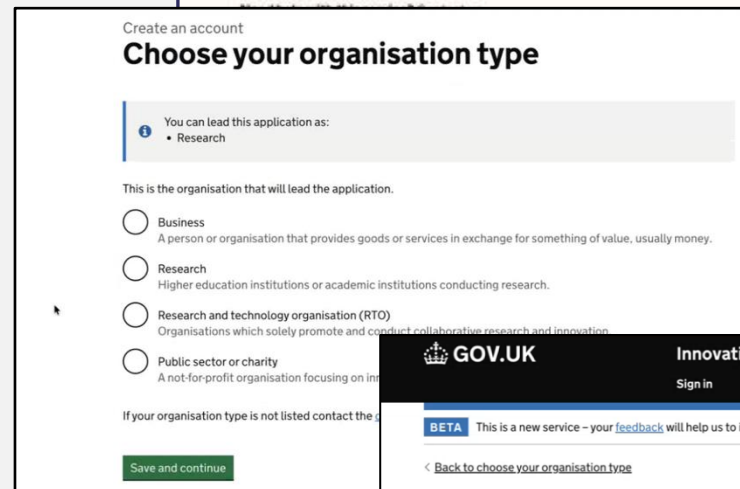
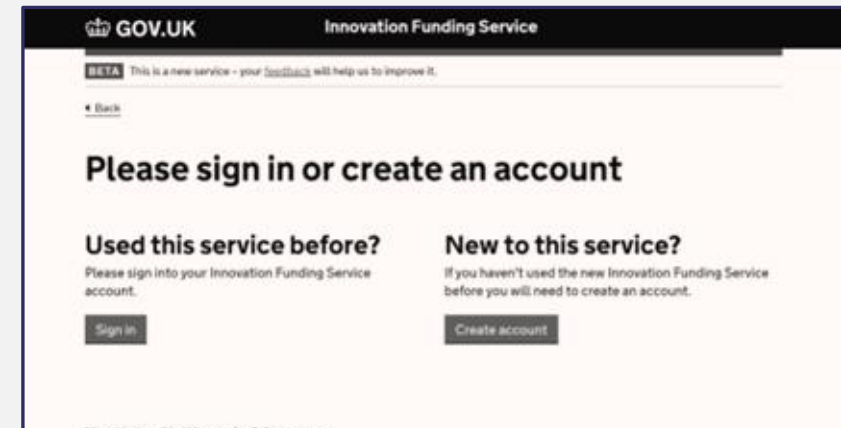
Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

Academic Institutions

Are asked to enter their name and select from the list of organisations presented

If your organisation is yet to be formed

You will need to enter your information manually, should you be successful, you will need to be a registered organisation to receive funding.



Application Questions

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 2	Animal testing (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 3	Permits and licences (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	International Collaboration (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 5	Export licence (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 7	Need or challenge	400 words	No
Question 8	Approach and innovation	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 9	Team and resources	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 10	Market awareness	400 words	No
Question 11	Outcomes, route to market and exploitation	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 4 pages
Question 12	Wider impacts	400 words	No
Question 13	Project management	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 14	Risks	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 15	Added value	400 words	No
Question 16	Costs and value for money	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** to seek a view or get legal advice from your own sources.

UK Strategic Export Controls - overview

[UK strategic export controls - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-strategic-export-controls)

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.

Q6 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

Project Impact questions

- Each organisation in your application will complete the Project Impact questions within the 'Supporting information' section
- The Project Impact questions ask for data about your business and innovation and its contribution to the UK economy, society, and the environment
- Visit the [Project Impact guidance](#) page for more information, the types of questions you will be asked and how to get further support
- By providing this data, you are enabling us to better understand the impact of our support. It will help us identify success stories and provide evidence to government and the public of the value of supporting innovative businesses



For more information:

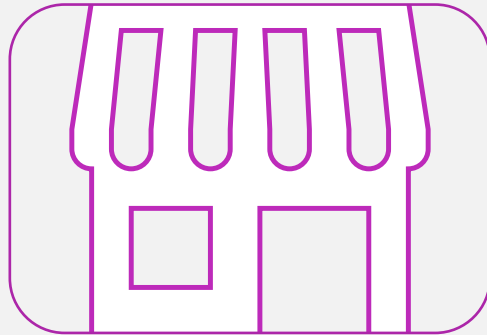
- [Watch Our Impact Management Framework video](#)
- [How is the Project Impact data collected? video](#)

Your Project Cost Categories

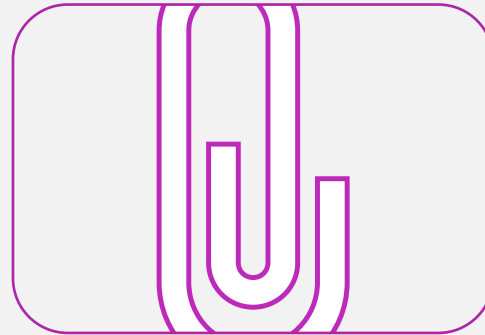
View our [Application Finances Instructional Video](#)



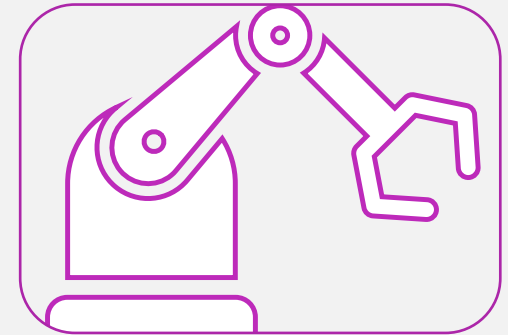
Labour



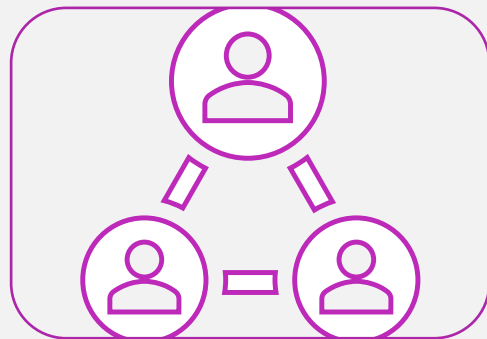
Overheads



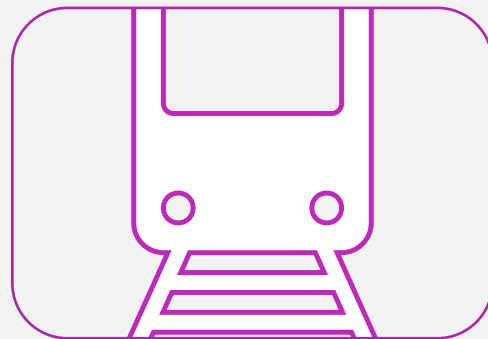
Materials



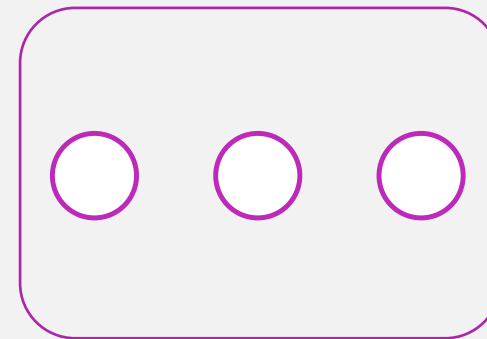
Capital Usage



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

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 (£)
Empire Ltd Lead organisation	✓	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
Ludlow Partner	⚠	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
EGGS Partner	⚠	990	100.00	990	0	0
Total	⚠	£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.

The lead must ensure that all partners have marked their finances as complete.

Research organisation participation must be no greater than **70%** or **50%** of the total project costs depending on the competition strand.

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](#)



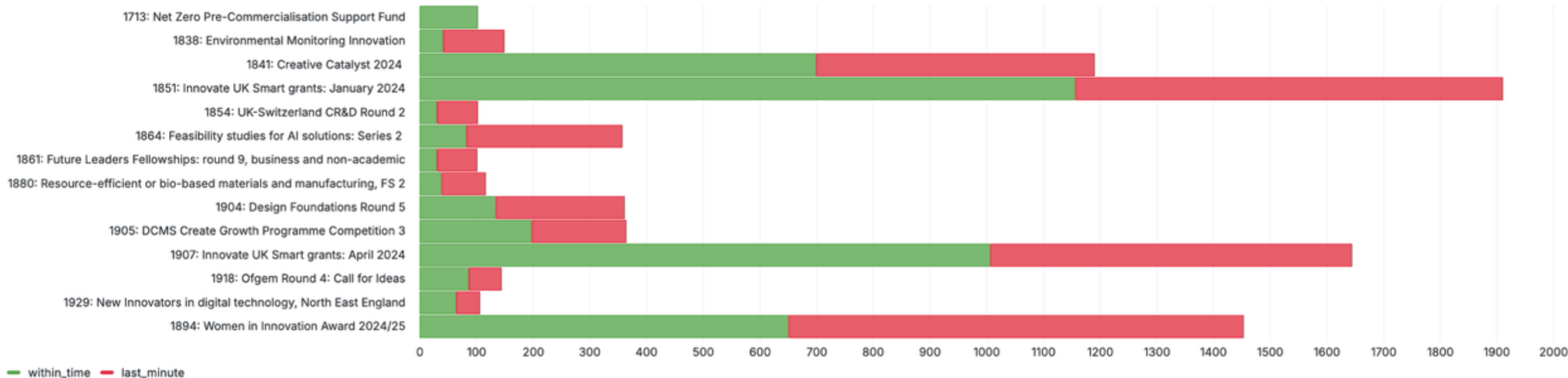
I agree to the [full terms and conditions](#) set out by the funding authority. I understand I need to agree to the final contract if my application is successful.

[Agree and continue](#)

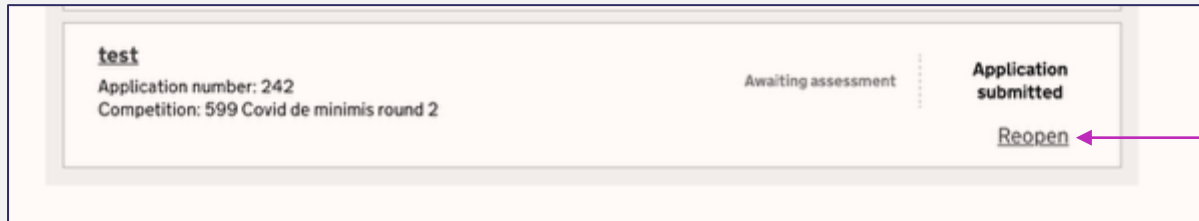
Submitting your application

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.



Editing a submitted application



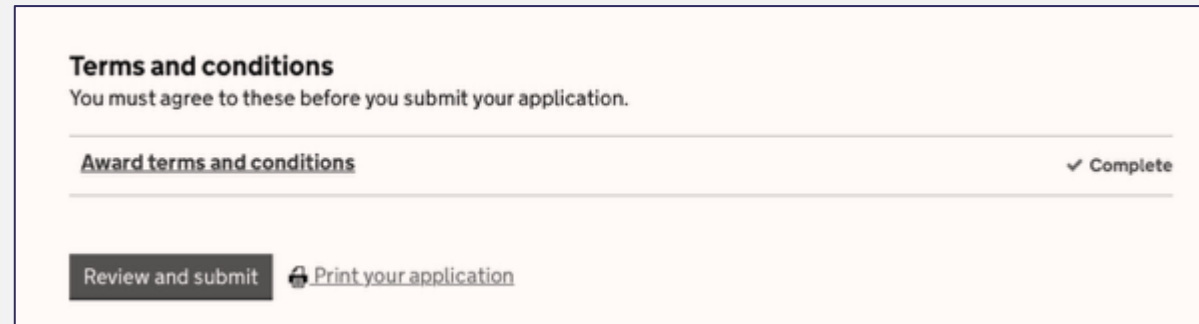
test
Application number: 242
Competition: 599 Covid de minimis round 2

Awaiting assessment

Application submitted

[Reopen](#)

Reopen by clicking here

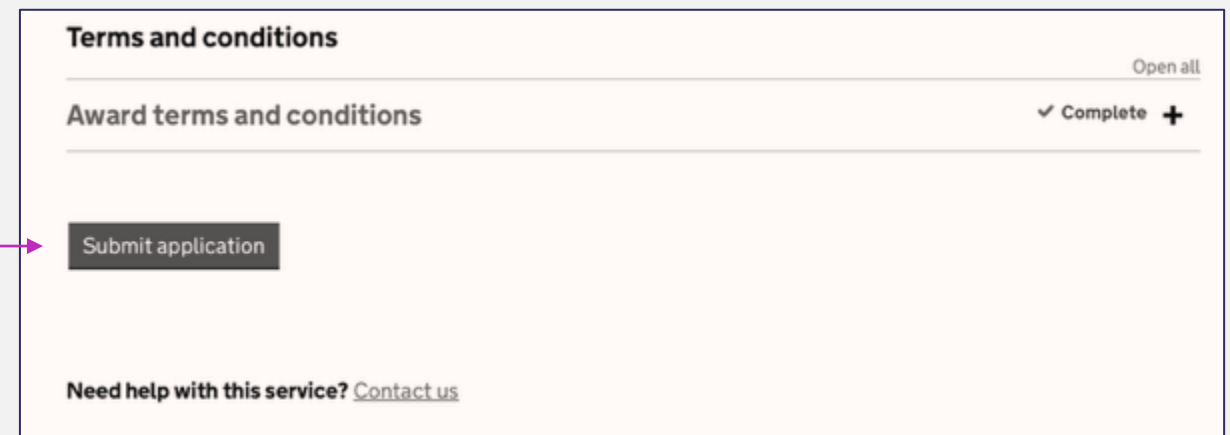


Terms and conditions
You must agree to these before you submit your application.

[Award terms and conditions](#) ✓ Complete

[Review and submit](#) [Print your application](#)

Remember to press
'Submit application'



Terms and conditions [Open all](#)

[Award terms and conditions](#) ✓ Complete +

[Submit application](#)

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

Changes for Academics



Academic cost categories

Following TRAC guidelines academic cost are captured under the following categories:

- Directly incurred
- Directly allocated
- Indirect costs
- Exceptions

Your project costs

Provide the project costs for 'Berry Gardens Growers Ltd'
Only your organisation can see this level of detail. All members of your organisation can access and edit your project finances. We recommend assigning completion of your project finances to one member of your team.

All finances need to be provided before this application can be submitted. If there are any finances outstanding at the competition deadline this application will not be submitted into this competition.

Provide key figures from your project costs to allow your partners to see the overall project costs and contribution required from Innovate UK.

[Show all sections](#)

Directly incurred £0

[Show](#)

Directly allocated £0

[Show](#)

Indirect costs £0

[Show](#)

Exceptions £0

[Show](#)

Total project costs £0

Upload a copy of the detailed breakdown of your project finances.

[What should I include?](#)

No file currently uploaded.

[Upload](#)

I confirm that my organisation's research office has approved my project costs based on the TRAC guidelines.

[Mark as complete](#)

Academic cost categories

Total project costs £0

Upload a copy of the detailed breakdown of your project finances.

[What should I include?](#)

You must upload a copy of the detailed breakdown of your project finances.

No file currently uploaded.

[Upload](#)

I confirm that my organisation's research office has approved my project costs based on the TRAC guidelines.

[Mark as complete](#)

[Save and return to project finances](#)

- A mandatory requirement to upload their detailed costs
- Must be a PDF format
- Approved by their research office

Funding Rules



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 **overdue** 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
- please note if you have a live project in progress this does not prohibit you from entering this competition

Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Regime

On 4th 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.

Undertakings in difficulty

In the unusual circumstance of an award having to be made under the EU GBER regulation (State aid), the applicant must pass **'undertaking in difficulty' checks as defined by GBER (2014)**.

Guidance on [Article 10 of the Windsor Framework](#).

Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Subsidy Scheme

- Designed by Government to award subsidies to enterprises if they met defined criteria contained within the [Scheme](#)
- 3 categories available please check the competition you are applying for applicable categories
 - Feasibility Studies
 - Industrial Research and Experimental Development
 - Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) Research, Development and Innovation Support
- When submitting an application as part of our due diligence you will be asked to declare any previous awards made in the 'applicable period' to ensure limits are not breached.
 - 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

Category 2: Industrial Research and Experimental Development Projects

For Industrial Research projects, you could get funding for your eligible project costs of:

- up to 70% if you are a micro or small organisation
- up to 60% if you are a medium-sized organisation
- up to 50% if you are a large organisation

For experimental development projects which are nearer to market, you could get funding for your eligible project costs of:

- up to 45% if you are a micro or small organisation
- up to 35% if you are a medium-sized organisation
- up to 25% if you are a large organisation

Eligible costs please refer to the competition to which you are applying.

For a detailed definition of these research categories see [guidance document section 14.3](#).








Assessment



Assessment

[YouTube Playlist](#)

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



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



Reasonable adjustments

We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to making our application process accessible to everyone. This includes making [reasonable adjustments](#), for people who have a disability or a long-term condition and face barriers applying to us.

You can contact us at any time to ask for guidance. We recommend you contact us at least 15 working days before this competition's closing date to allow us to put the most suitable support in place. The support we can provide may be limited if you contact us close to the competition deadline.

You can contact Innovate UK by [email](#) or call 0300 321 4357. Our phone lines are open from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm UK time, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Reasonable adjustments – what we need from you

To apply for a reasonable adjustment we will need to collect some information from you, below is the list of what we need:

- Name
- Organisation
- Email address
- Phone number
- Competition you are applying to
- Application number if you've started an application
- Consent to pass info to Innovate UK Business Connect

This information must be given to Innovate UK Customer Support Services, Business Connect are unable to provide support without a referral from CSS

Further information on the process can be found here <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/how-we-help/reasonable-adjustments-service/>

Reasonable adjustments – what we can do

Below is a list of possible adjustments we can make, this list is not exhaustive and not every adjustment will be appropriate for you, adjustments will be made on a case-by-case basis:

- Proofreading
- Clarifying language
- Resources
- Introduction to experts
- Time management
- Note-taking

Reasonable adjustments – what we can not do

The reasonable adjustments offered are designed to remove barriers to applying, they are not designed to make decisions for you or give you advice on an application. With that in mind, the support we offer does not include the below:

- Providing deadline extensions
- Choosing which competition to apply to
- Developing an idea
- Advising whether your idea is in scope for a competition
- Offering financial advice
- Helping with research

Innovate UK Business Growth

The indispensable partner for ambitious innovators

We equip innovation-focused businesses to **make the best strategic choices** and **harness the right resources** to accelerate their growth.

Thousands of innovators benefit from our **intensive and tailored advisory support** to achieve their ambitious goals every year.

We are in their corner – do you want us in yours? Visit iukbg.ukri.org to learn more.

97% of clients would recommend us

94% report that our service has had a positive impact on their growth

“Innovate UK Business Growth gave us the tools to grow with confidence”

Natali Georgieva, Co-founder at ALIANAz

Who do we support?

- Ambitious, innovation-focused businesses that have won an Innovate UK competition, and are growing strongly or have high growth potential, may be contacted about support
- Registered at Companies House with up to 250 employees
- Management teams motivated to engage fully with us to help achieve growth milestones

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' 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 landing page for the Cyber Action Toolkit. At the top left, there is a green shield icon followed by the text "Cyber Action Toolkit". On the top right, there are two buttons: "Sign in" with a user icon and "Get free toolkit". The main heading in the center reads "Start protecting your business with our free cyber toolkit", with "free" underlined in yellow. Below this, a sub-headline states: "The Cyber Action Toolkit gives you clear, bite-sized actions to protect your business's money and reputation from cyber criminals." At the bottom, it says "Provided by" followed by the logos for the National Cyber Security Centre and the 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

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](#).

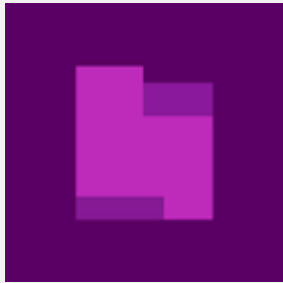
Innovate UK reserves the rights to host competitions on a needs basis and will adjust each competition criteria and scope accordingly. We may occasionally run closed competitions that are for invited applicants only. These are run based on the challenge requirement or need.

Contact

Customer Support Services

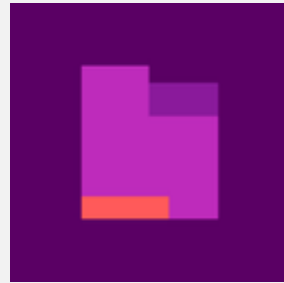
0300 321 4357 (Monday - Friday 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm)

support@iuk.ukri.org



Innovate UK

ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk



**Innovate UK
Business Connect**

<https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/>



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Thank You

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