

UKRI Clean Energy Superpower Mission

Consumer Led Flexibility Collaborative
R&D competition

Applicant Briefing

Date: **22/06/2026**

The webinar will start at **10:30AM**



R&D Missions
Accelerator
Programme

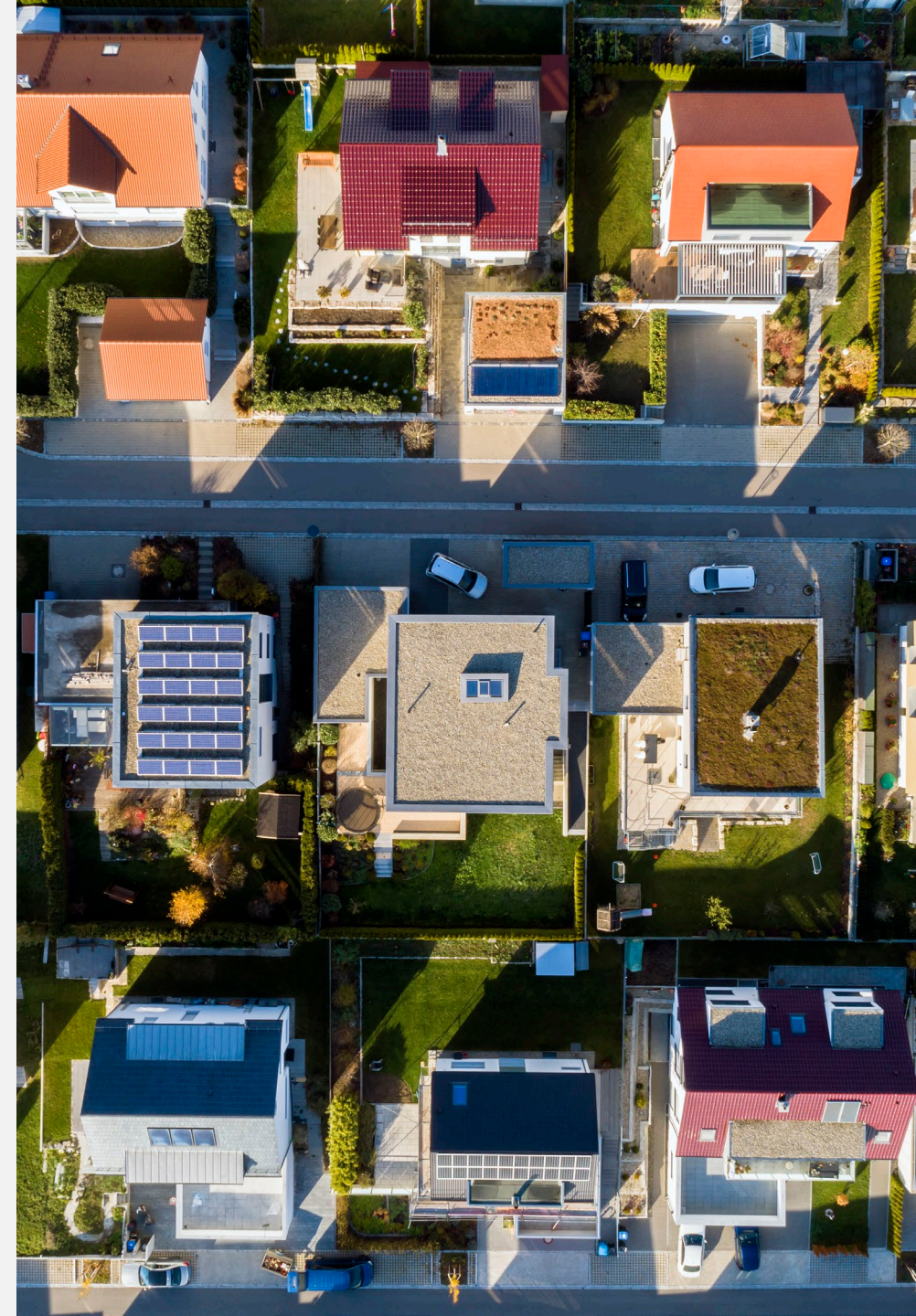


UK Research
and Innovation

Consumer Led Flexibility for the Clean Energy Superpower Mission

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

Grace Belshaw

Mission Programme Delivery Lead

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Competition Manager

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Knowledge Transfer Manager – Energy

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Senior Programme Design & Delivery Lead -
Innovator Support



Agenda

Competition Overview

- Clean Energy Superpower Mission
- Consumer Led Flexibility - aims
- Funding Available

Scope

- Strands
- Themes

How to engage

- Online
- In-person

Competition Mechanics

- Eligibility
- Innovation Funding Service (IFS)
- Funding Rules
- Assessment
- Use of AI
- Additional Support
- Q&A

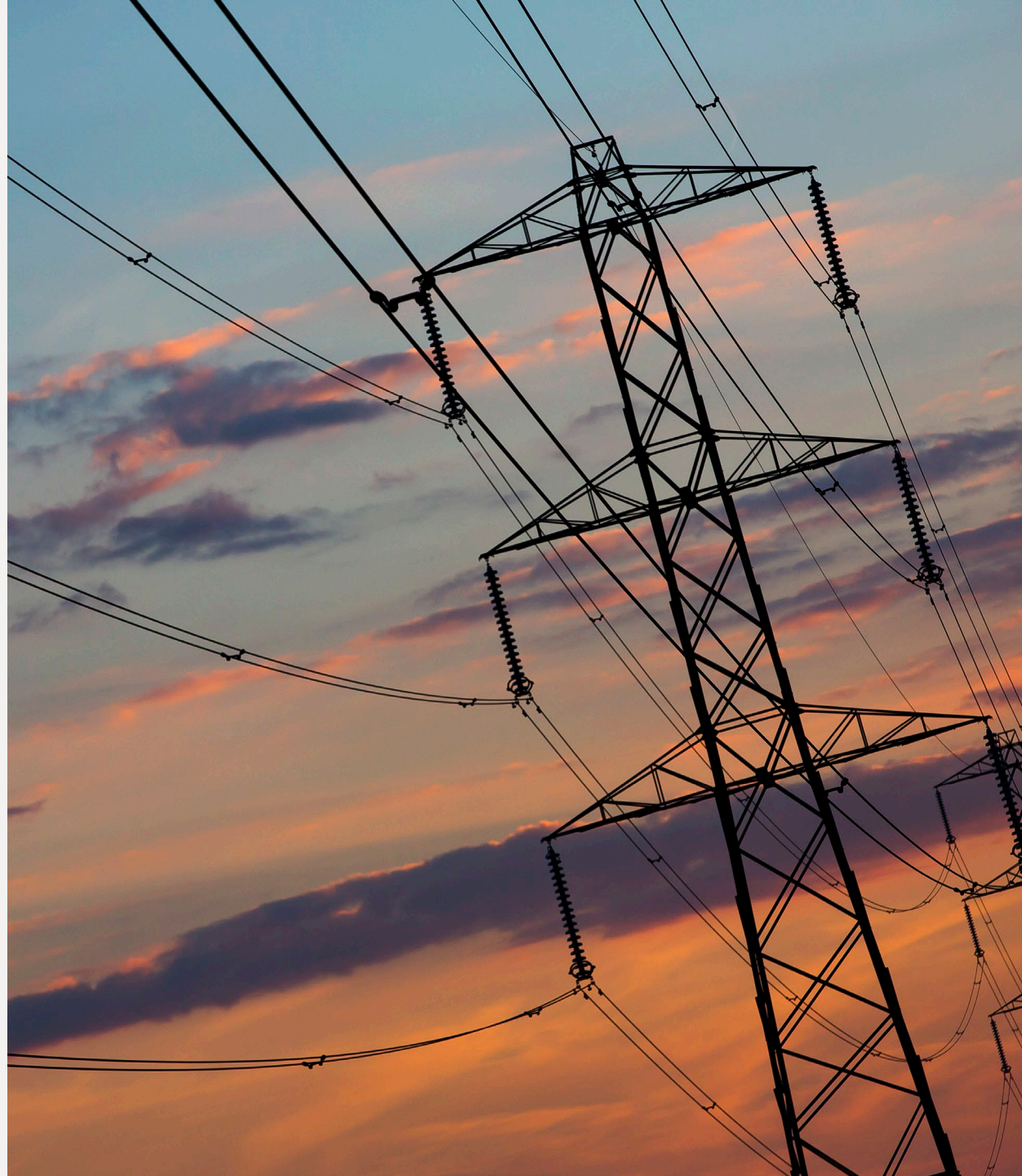


Key dates

Timeline	Date
Competition Opens	10/06/2026
Submission Deadline	26/08/2026 at 11am
Applicants informed	28/10/2026 by 5pm
Project start and end dates	Start by 01/01/2027 End by 31/06/2029



Competition Summary and Scope



Clean Energy Superpower Mission (CESM)

This Government wide Mission sets out the **UK's world-leading response to climate change**

It focuses on delivering the [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#) and accelerating progress towards net zero, while reducing reliance on fossil fuels

The UKRI CESM programme is part of the [UKRI R&D Missions Accelerator Programme](#)

UKRI worked with DESNZ in early 2025 to identify key CESM challenges where research and innovation can help deliver solutions by 2030



The Principles

The UKRI Clean Energy Superpower Mission will commit to a set of principles through its design and delivery which include:

- Alignment with the Government's Clean Power 2030 Focus – building to **scale** through the early 2030s
- Interventions will go '**Beyond Demo**', by investing in real-world solutions which endure beyond the conclusion of the programme
- A focus on **growth and comparative advantage** – growing UK-based innovators and skills
- Taking a **portfolio** approach with options to scale up funding across wider growth and AI portfolios
- Align with the RDMAP approach – **fail-fast**, investigate new commercial models alongside taking 'what works' from previous challenges, and have a commercialisation focus (high TRL)

Consumer-led flexibility

>2GW Peak Time Flexibility

We are seeking to partner with industry to develop AI and digital solutions that enhance the flexibility and resilience of the power grid. Our goal is to deliver at least **2 gigawatts** of peak time grid flexibility by 2030.

Aim of Consumer-led Flexibility June funding call

Support businesses and innovators who are developing novel AI and digital solutions and other innovative product and service solutions.

Accelerate consumer led flexibility and scale to system adoption by 2030.

Being able to evidence how your solutions will achieve impact by 2030 and contribute to the minimum two Gigawatts (GW) flexibility target is central to this opportunity



CLF R&D competition – funding available

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will **invest up to £25 million** from the Consumer Led Flexibility (CLF) Challenge as part of the Clean Energy Superpower Mission within the [UKRI R&D Missions Accelerator Programme](#).

Feasibility studies

(up to £500,000 total funding, per project, 6 months maximum)

- 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

Industrial research projects

(up to £1 million total funding, per project, 24 months maximum)

- 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

Experimental development projects which are nearer to market
(up to £3 million total funding, per project, 30 months maximum)

- 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

CLF R&D competition - Scope

Two Strands - Several themes targeted outlined in the scope section

Strand 1: Software first approach

- Multi-market co-optimisation and locational pricing
- Portfolio reliability and risk transfer
- Confidence and AI forecasting
- Feeder level flexibility and resilience
- Electric Vehicle smart charging and Vehicle to everything (V2X)
- Heat flexibility with comfort guarantees
- Open datasets for AI

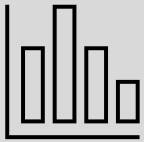
Strand 2: Demand segments

- Low income households in constrained areas
- Industrial and commercial anchor loads
- Residential scaling



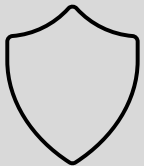
Market Design & System Confidence

Themes 1 – 4 of 10



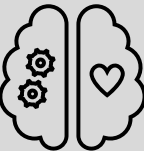
1. Multi-market co-optimisation & local pricing

Fragmented market design blocks value stacking and locational price discovery. Need interoperable, auditable markets across wholesale, balancing, reserve and local services.



2. Portfolio reliability & risk transfer

Weak delivery verification limits System Operator confidence. Need transparent, auditable frameworks so aggregated CLF competes on parity with conventional Balancing Mechanism units.



3. Confidence & AI forecasting

Data gaps and unexplained forecasts limit dispatcher trust. Need explainable, uncertainty-aware forecasting models from feeder to national level.

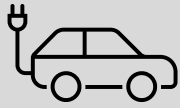


4. Feeder level flexibility & resilience

Limited automation constrains low-voltage capacity. Need autonomous, distributed systems for constraint management and outage recovery, coordinated with regional balancing.

Network, Mobility & Data

Themes 5 – 7 of 10



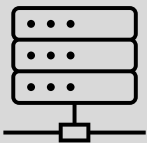
5. EV smart charging & vehicle-to-everything (V2X)

Limited settlement-grade control restrictions dependable value. Need mobility-aware charging and V2X control with robust verification for market settlement. Hardware itself is not funded.



6. Heat flexibility with comfort guarantees

Little evidence exists of reliable automated heat flexibility. Need automated load shifting that maintains comfort and is verified at feeder scale.



7. Open datasets for AI

Energy data is fragmented and proprietary. Need real or synthetic datasets that enable AI forecasting and flexible-asset control tools.



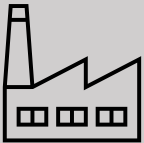
Who Delivers the Flexibility

Themes 8 – 10 of 10



8. Low Income households in constrained areas

Fuel poor households face low participation readiness and fragmented delivery chains. Target: 100,000 low-income households lowering bills by 2030.



9. Industrial & commercial anchor loads

Flexibility stays fragmented – revenue is uncertain and operational risk is prioritised over savings. Need incentive models and replicable blueprints with anchor participants.



10. Residential scaling

Millions of small assets lack aggregation, forecasting and interoperability tools. Need end-to-end, user centric solutions enabling rapid scale up of participation.



Innovation Support Programme

As part of a wider programme of work, Energy Systems and Digital Catapults will provide business and scale up support, as well as access to resources such as trial type environments.

Two support packages:

Package 1: Trials & testing

- Engage Catapults in advance for costing
- Costs included in application narrative (not counted toward project thresholds)
- Funded separately through the Innovation Support Programme if approved

Package 2: Scale-up support

- No upfront costing required
- Scoped with successful applicants post-selection
- No need to contact Catapults in advance

CATAPULT
Energy Systems

CATAPULT
Digital



Engagement opportunities

- Surgery Session 1 with Innovate UK Business Connect: **25 June 2026**
- First convening day (in-person, London): **8 July** (Industrial & Commercial, Demand) →
- Second convening day (in-person, London): **15 July** (Software first) →
- Surgery session 2 with Innovate UK Business Connect **21 July 2026**
- Competition closes: **26 August (11am)**



Online matchmaking tool

Start your project
collaboration here



Eligibility criteria



Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

Your project must:

- have a total grant funding request of between £100,000 and £3 million, depending on which research category you are applying through
- last between 4 and 30 months
- start by 1 January 2027
- end by 30 June 2029

Any organisation receiving funding must carry out its project work in the UK, intend to exploit the results in the UK, and spend most of the funding within the UK.



Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

Lead organisation:

To lead a collaborative project (or work as a sole applicant) your organisation must:

- be a UK registered business of any size
- a research and technology organisation (RTO),
- charity, not for profit, public sector organisation, or academic institution.

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

For example:

If the total project costs are **£1,000,000** the maximum costs that can be accounted for by any partner is **£700,000**



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.

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 of any size or a research and technology organisation (RTO) can only lead on one application but can be included as a collaborator in two further applications.

If a business, academic institution, research and technology organisation (RTO), charity, not for profit or public sector organisation, or business is not leading any 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

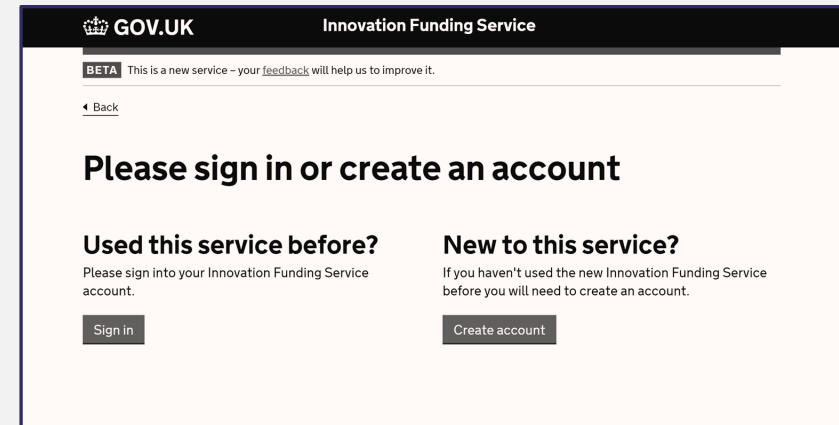
Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

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.



GOV.UK Innovation Funding Service

BETA This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

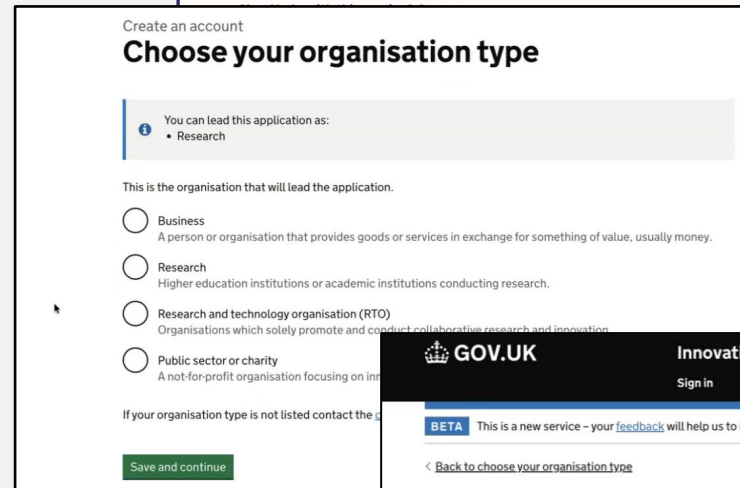
[Back](#)

Please sign in or create an account

Used this service before?
Please sign into your Innovation Funding Service account.

New to this service?
If you haven't used the new Innovation Funding Service before you will need to create an account.

[Sign in](#) [Create account](#)



Create an account

Choose your organisation type

You can lead this application as:

- Research

This is the organisation that will lead the application.

Business
A person or organisation that provides goods or services in exchange for something of value, usually money.

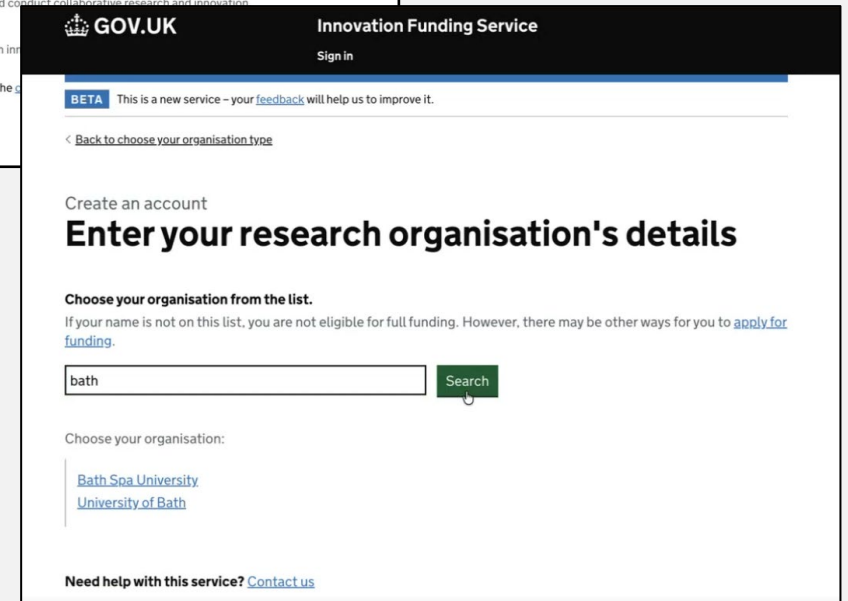
Research
Higher education institutions or academic institutions conducting research.

Research and technology organisation (RTO)
Organisations which solely promote and conduct collaborative research and innovation.

Public sector or charity
A not-for-profit organisation focusing on innovation.

If your organisation type is not listed contact the [helpdesk](#).

[Save and continue](#)



GOV.UK Innovation Funding Service

BETA This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

[Back to choose your organisation type](#)

Create an account

Enter your research organisation's details

Choose your organisation from the list.
If your name is not on this list, you are not eligible for full funding. However, there may be other ways for you to [apply for funding](#).

[Search](#)

Choose your organisation:

- [Bath Spa University](#)
- [University of Bath](#)

Need help with this service? [Contact us](#)

Application Questions

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location (not scored)	400 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)	400 words	No
Question 5	Export licence (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 7	Research Theme (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 8	Innovator support (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 9	Technical project summary and commercial potential	400 words	Yes – mandatory
Question 10	Project management and delivery	500 words	Yes – mandatory
Question 11	Team and resources	1000 words	No
Question 12	Current state of the art and intellectual property	400 words	No
Question 13	Wider Impacts and benefits	400 words	Yes – mandatory
Question 14	Costs and value for money	500 words	No
Question 15	Video pitch (not scored)	200 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](#)



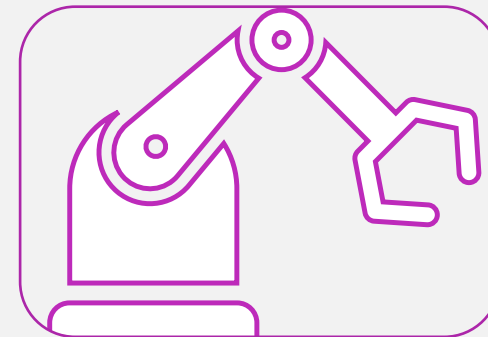
Labour



Overheads



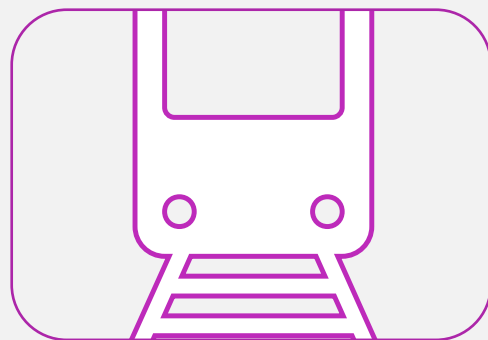
Materials



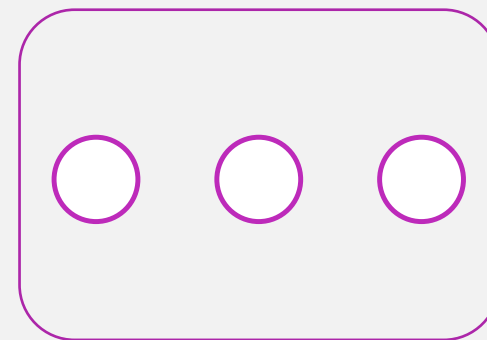
Capital Usage



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.

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](#)



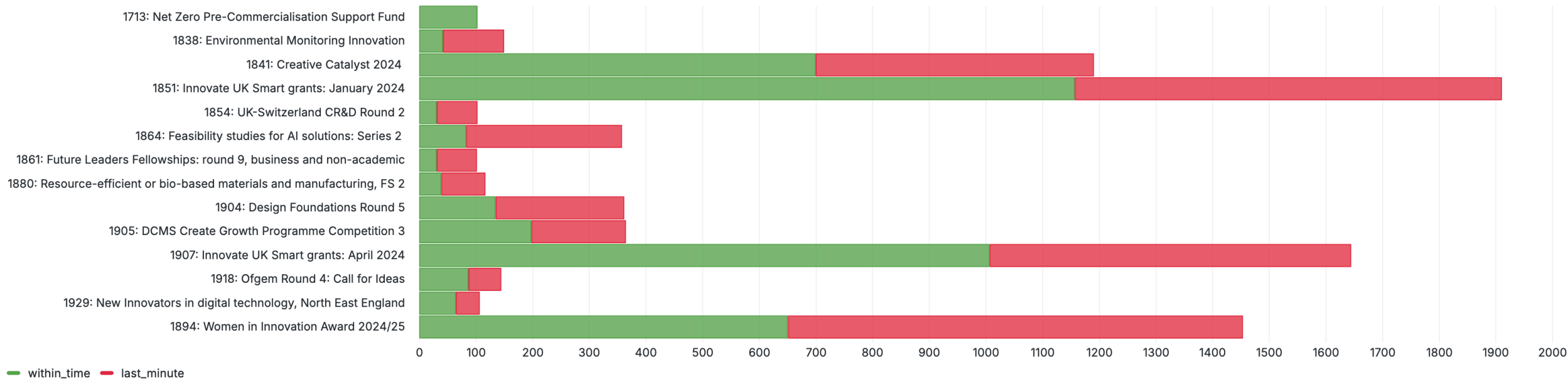
I agree to the [full terms and conditions](#) set out by the funding authority. I understand I need to agree to the final contract if my application is successful.

[Agree and continue](#)

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

Your project costs

Provide the project costs for XXXXX

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.

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

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

- Directly incurred
- Directly allocated
- Indirect costs

If your project is successful, Innovate UK will fund an academic partner at 80% of FEC. The remaining 20% is not counted as part of your contribution to your project and **must not** be included in the total project costs.

Please note: Costs of PhD students is not eligible for inclusion in research organisation project costs.

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](#)
- 2 categories available please check the competition you are applying for applicable categories
 - Feasibility Studies
 - Industrial Research and Experimental Development
- 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 1: Feasibility Studies

For feasibility studies projects, you could get funding for your eligible project costs of:

(up to £500,000 total funding per project, 6 months maximum)

- 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



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

For a detailed definition of feasibility studies see [guidance document section 13.1.](#)

Category 2: Industrial Research and Experimental Development Projects

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

(up to £1 million total funding, per project, 24 months maximum)

- 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 £3 million total funding, per project, 30 months maximum)

- 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.



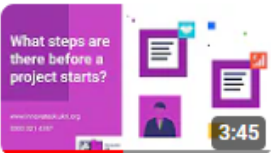


For a detailed definition of these research categories see [guidance document section 14.3.](#)

Assessment



Assessment

[YouTube Playlist](#)

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



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". At 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", where "free" is 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](#).

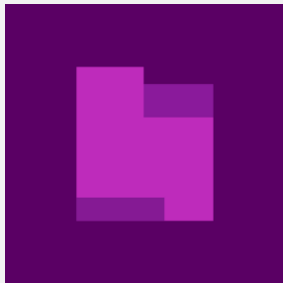
Innovate UK reserves the rights to host competitions on a needs basis and will adjust each competition criteria and scope accordingly. We may occasionally run closed competitions that are for invited applicants only. These are run based on the challenge requirement or need.

Contact

Customer Support Services

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

support@iuk.ukri.org



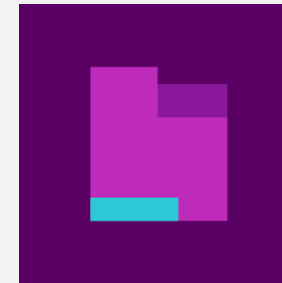
Innovate UK

ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk



**Innovate UK
Business Connect**

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



**Innovate UK Business
Growth**

www.iukbg.ukri.org



UK Research
and Innovation

Thank you



UK Research
and Innovation



UKRIforResearchers



**UK Research
and Innovation**

OFFICIAL

Questions?

Q&A

Does my project need to align with at least one of the key themes?

Yes. It is essential that you can clearly justify how your project aligns with at least one of the themes in this competition. The themes are listed in the 'scope' tab and a detailed pdf document is linked within the 'Specific themes' section which applicants must read to understand what this competition is looking to fund.

Can you apply to both strands, or one theme within each strand?

Yes, you can align with more than one theme and strand. The expectation is that any strand 2 project will need to draw on elements of strand 1 themes in the approach in order to address barriers and align with system needs.

Is 'implicit' flexibility in scope (e.g., making smart tariffs work for consumers, as well as explicitly/actively load shifting)?

Yes, as long as you can justify how this will contribute to the key aim of enabling flexibility by 2030

Should applicants read all the pdfs in the competition overview?

Yes, applicants are strongly encouraged to read all attached information, particularly the pdf under the specific themes section which provides further detail on what we're looking for, and the pdf which provides further detail on the catapult support services.



Q&A

Will stage gates be applied

Yes, please see further information in the 'scope' tab of the competition overview.

Does a single project need to deliver 2GW of flexibility by 2030?

No, the programme as a whole is looking to achieve at least 2GW of flexibility by 2030, and we will support projects that can contribute to this ambition.

Can you apply to both strands, or one theme within each strand?

Yes, you can align with more than one theme and strand. The expectation is that any strand 2 project will need to draw on elements of strand 1 themes in the approach in order to address barriers and align with system needs.

Does 'Consumer' in Consumer Led Flexibility refer only to the home/domestic context?

No, CLF in this content refer to any UK consumer, e.g., domestic, industrial, commercial, etc.

Are the assessment criteria available?

Yes, they can be found under the 'assessment' section of the 'How to apply' tab.



Q&A

Where can I find detailed of the engagement activities such as the Catapult convening days, online surgeries, and online matchmaking tool?

Within the 'Supporting information' section and sign-up links are in the 'key dates' tab.

How do I enquire about the catapult 'package one' support services?

Use the Microsoft form linked directly within the relevant section of the supporting information text. Note that this form **MUST** be completed by midday on the 12th August. You must consider whether this support is right for your project.

We have already convened our partner organisations and are not looking to broaden the consortium, can we have a 1-2-1 conversation with UKRI or the Catapults on specifics?

We would still advise you to consider looking at the online matchmaking tool, in case you see additional partners you had not previously considered. If you have specific questions for the UKRI team, please do use the contact information provided to reach out, though note that we cannot provide bespoke advice to every consortium beyond aspects such as scope discussions.

Will the online matchmaking tool continue to expand?

Yes, the online matching tool will continue to expand as more participants register, and we are actively engaging with certain stakeholder groups to encourage them to sign up so that new partnerships can be formed. Please do continue to engage with this tool and share it with others.



Q&A

We have already convened our partner organisations and are not looking to broaden the consortium, can we have a 1-2-1 conversation with UKRI or the Catapults on specifics?

We would still advise you to consider looking at the online matchmaking tool, in case you see additional partners you had not previously considered. If you have specific questions for the UKRI team, please do use the contact information provided to reach out, though note that we cannot provide bespoke advice to every consortium beyond aspects such as scope discussions.

How can non-UK organisation get involved?

Any organisation receiving funding must carry out its project work in the UK, intend to exploit the results in the UK, and spend most of the funding within the UK. To work as a sole applicant or lead a collaborative project your organisation must be a UK registered business of any size, a research and technology organisation (RTO), charity, not for profit, public sector organisation, or academic institution. 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. Further information is available in the 'non funded partners' section of the 'Eligibility' tab. Please do sign-up for the online matchmaking tool if you are looking to connect with relevant partners in the UK.



Q&A

What level of investor engagement would you expect to see?

Investor engagement is not essential, but we would encourage you to think about how you could involve the types of organisation that will support you to scale solutions within the 2030 timeframe. We appreciate that the appropriateness of engaging in an investor directly will vary depending on the maturing of the project.

Would an MOU be acceptable as evidence of investor engagement and do they have to be UK based?

An MOU would be acceptable and no they do not need to be UK based. Though not that any organisation receiving funding must carry out its project work in the UK, intend to exploit the results in the UK, and spend most of the funding within the UK.

Do you need to have all licencing requirements needed for your project in place before the start of the project or can putting in place appropriate licencing be a part of the project?

We are unable to fund projects which do not have the correct permits or licences for essential parts of the project in place by your project start date. We appreciate that developments that occur once the project has begun may lead to the need to obtain further licenses, but note failure to obtain these may result in consequences at the stage gate periods of the project.



Q&A

How does the application scoring and assessment process work?

Applications are screening for eligibility and alignment with the competition scope by UKRI staff first. Applications determined to be in scope and eligible will then be passed to external assessors for scoring. Depending on the size of your project, you may also be required to take part in an interview stage. Further information is available in the 'how to apply' tab.

Can you comment on the timelines for achieving impact by 2030, which is shorter than many UKRI programmes?

This programme is aligned with the Clean Energy Superpower Mission and the Clean Power 2030 ambitions. For this programme, UKRI is being encouraged to think differently, accelerate progress and take a 'fast fail / rapid success' approach. That is why we are working with partners such as the catapults to provide aligned support for innovators to achieve outcomes in these timescales.

Has the split of funding across the three research categories been predetermined?

No, we will consider the quality of applications received and take a portfolio approach as stated in the competition summary to determine how the funding will be split.



Q&A

Can a recently formed startup apply?

Yes

What % of funding can I apply for as a charitable or other organisation?

An organisation either as lead or partner can get funding for 100% of eligible project costs if you are an RTO, charity, not for profit organisation, public sector organisation or research organisation. An organisation either as lead or partner can get funding for 80% of the full economic costs (FEC) if you are an academic institution.

If you are a UK registered business of any size, you must refer to the research category you are applying to determine what % of eligible project costs you can apply for either as lead or partner.

Does the % of the funding provided change depending on the business size?

Yes, please read the detail under each of the research categories under the 'Eligibility' heading of the competition overview, which includes links to the definitions and how to determine business size.

If as lead organisation we are (for example) a large organisation applying for the Industrial research category, does that mean if the total project cost is £2m, we can apply for grant funding of up to £1m from this competition?

Yes



Q&A

Can an academic institution lead more than one application in this competition?

Yes, but each department (or equivalent) within the university can only lead on a single application. The competition overview page will be updated to clarify this point.

What is the maximum subcontractor proportion?

There is no set maximum, though we would encourage applicants to consider whether consortium members should be considered as partners or as subcontractors. Any subcontractor costs need to be fully justified. You will need to justify how your proposal represents good value for money and considers any risks that may be associated with the balance of the consortium.

Do we need to a DNO leading the project to be eligible?

No. We do encourage you to think about how to build a consortium that can effectively deliver the project in alignment with the competition aim of enabling flexibility by 2030.

Can NESO, or DNOs or suppliers partner with multiple competition entrants?

Yes



Q&A

Are there standard definitions for the competitions different research categories?

Yes, they are detailed under the 'Eligibility' tab and further information is linked within the text ([Categories of research and development – UKRI](#))

Can a proposal fall under two research categories, e.g., partly experimental development and partly industrial research?

No. You must choose the research category that most appropriately aligns with your idea.

Has the split of funding across the three research categories been predetermined?

No, we will consider the quality of applications received and take a portfolio approach as stated in the competition summary to determine how the funding will be split. A project may conduct a small amount of work that falls into a different category, but we would only provide funding levels based on the majority category applied for.

How many projects will you fund?

We do not have a prescribed number of projects we anticipate funding. Funding will be allocated based on quality of applications and using the portfolio approach as set out in the competition overview.



Q&A

As hardware costs are not encouraged for the EV theme, does this apply to all themes?

Capital equipment may be requested within the grant funding, but you will need to strongly justify: how it is proportionate to the funds available, essential to the project's alignment with the main aims of the competition, and the scale of flexibility you anticipate your project will enable. For the EV theme, we would not anticipate funding any hardware costs. Any insufficiently justified hardware costs not aligned with the themes and aims with the competition are likely to be ineligible and may result in your project being marked as out of scope.

Can hardware costs count towards our funding contribution if they are not part of what is being asked for from the grant funding but are needed for the project?

Yes, you can provide the hardware costs from within the lead/consortium and they would count towards the funding contribution. Please do consider how the overall project represents value for money for the taxpaying and ensure costs can be directly linked to the specific project.

Will there be any further funding released for this programme?

We are still working up what future opportunities may look like over the next few years. Please do keep an eye on the R&D Missions Accelerator page for details of further funding opportunities.

