UK Research and Innovation

CR&D: Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components and DEVEX: Underground hydrogen storage demonstrator DEVEX support

Applicant briefing

Date: 28th October 2026

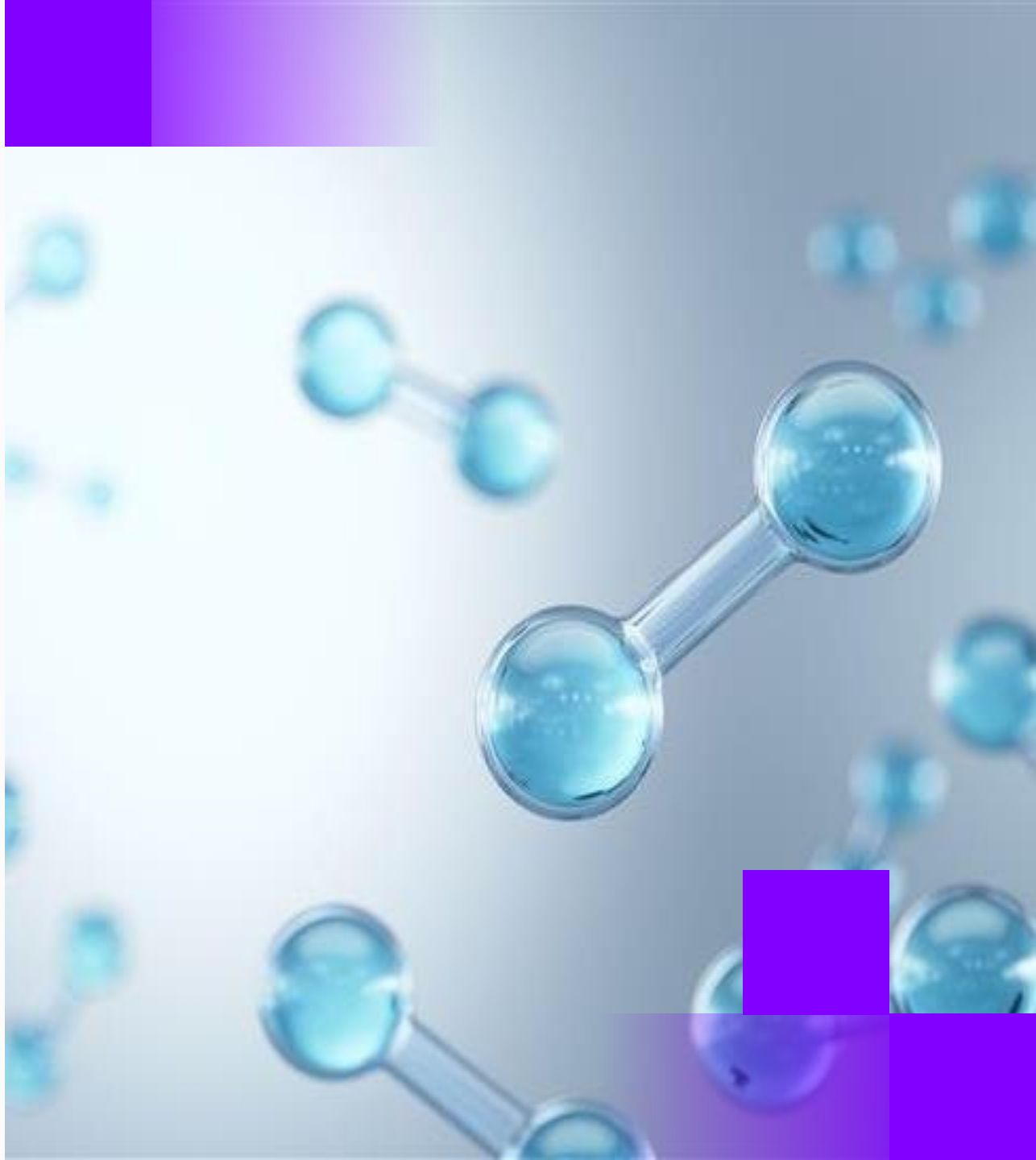
The webinar will start at 11am

- 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 in the Q&A box
- For more information on the competition process, please view our YouTube channel

Agenda

1. Key Dates
2. Competition Summary & Scope
3. Innovate UK Business Connect Support
4. Eligibility criteria
5. Innovation Funding Service (IFS)
6. Funding Rules
7. Assessment
8. Use of AI
9. Additional Support
10. Q&A

UK Research and Innovation



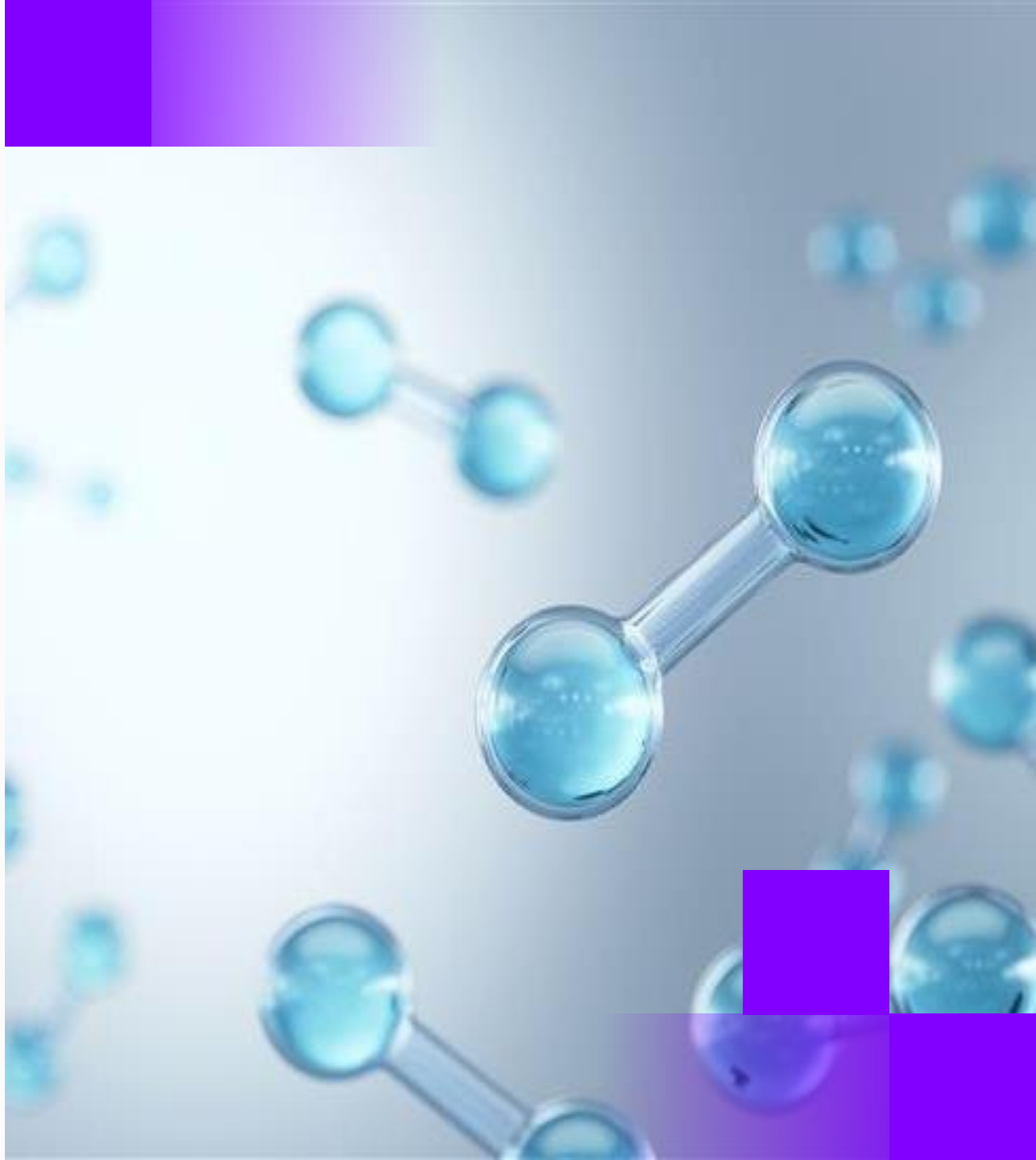
Welcome and introductions

Avi Kharel
IUK Business Connect Knowledge Transfer Manager – Clean Energy

Jamie-lee Baker
Innovate UK Competition Manager

Grace Belshaw
UKRI Delivery Lead, Clean Energy Superpower Mission

UK Research and Innovation

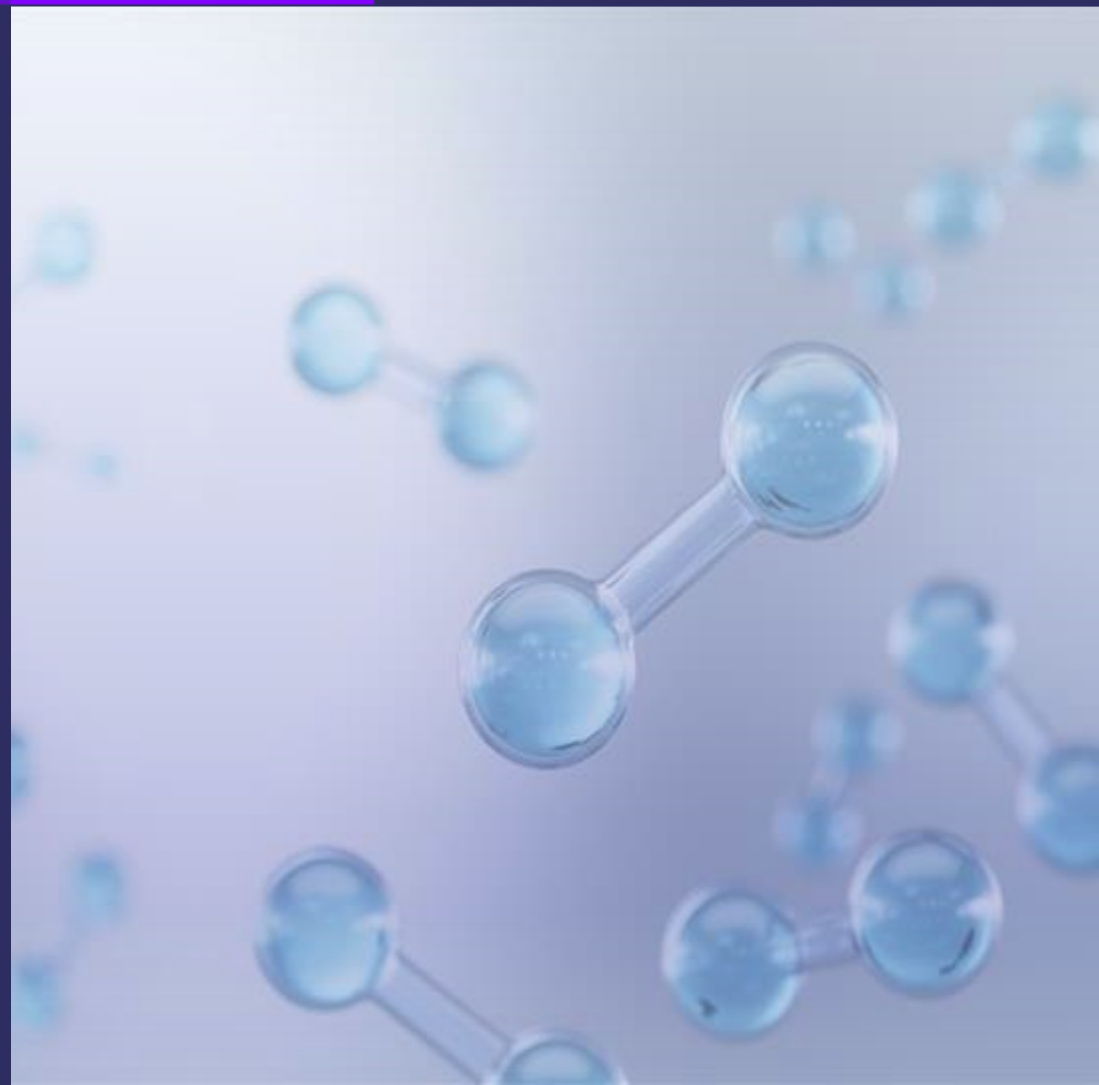


Key dates

Timeline	**Dates -** Underground hydrogen storage demonstrator: DEVEX support	**Dates -**Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components
Competition Opens	23rd October 2026	23rd October 2026
Submission Deadline	13th January 2027 at 11am	13th January 2027 at 11am
Applicants informed	13th February 2026 by 5pm	24th March 2027 by 5pm
Interview panel starts	N/A	15th March 2027
Interview panel ends	N/A	18th March 2027
Project dates	Start by 1st May 2027 End by 31st April 2028	Start by 1st May 2027 End by 30th November 2029

UK Research and Innovation

Competition Summary and Scope



Clean Energy Superpower Mission (CESM) and UKRI's contribution

- **About this Mission**

CESM is the UK's world-leading response to climate change, delivering the Clean Power Action Plan 2030 to accelerate progress towards Net Zero and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

- **Our UKRI response and vision**

From within the UKRI R&D Missions Accelerator Programme, our contributions to CESM aim to improve system efficiency, cut emissions, lower bills, boost energy security, and create new opportunities for UK innovation and economic growth.

- **Our UKRI approach**

The response to the CESM was developed in partnership with DESNZ in early 2025, to focus on two key challenges where research and innovation can help deliver clean power by 2030, and we will deliver a portfolio of activities using research council and Innovate UK mechanisms to do this with an approximate £100m funding envelope:

1) **Consumer Led Flexibility: Minimum 2GW additional flex by 2030**
2) **Ultra-Long Duration Energy Storage: Electrochemical and Hydrogen approaches**

UK Research and Innovation

Government support for innovation across the energy system

Driving innovation for the UK to become a Clean Energy Superpower

UKRI R&D programmes in Clean Energy and Growth

Funding to be confirmed

Primary focus on industrial strategy areas

UK Research and Innovation

Clean Energy R&D Mission Accelerator Programme (RDMAP)

2030 Challenges on Consumer Led Flexibility and ultra-Long Duration Energy Storage

R&D Missions Accelerator Programme

Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)

Outcome-driven funding to address priority innovation gaps

Focus on energy network innovation

ofgem | Innovate UK

CLEANTECH INNOVATION CHALLENGES

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

‘North star’ targets to mobilise public and private sector investment and policy efforts to create market pull to accelerate the deployment

Challenges spanning a variety of priority cleantech sectors

UK Research and Innovation

R&D funding

Commercialisation support for innovators

Pull through planning

Target setting and monitoring

NB: this diagram is illustrative to highlight particular programmes and not exhaustive of all government support for innovation in the clean energy sector

Ultra-Long Duration Energy Storage (ULDES) Challenge

- The aim is to accelerate the UK's commercialisation, manufacture and deployment of ULDES technologies.
- These will focus on technologies and systems which can affordably meet demands of over 100 hours continuously.
- It aims to build UK manufacturing capacity, supply chains, skilled jobs, and investor confidence, and associated export opportunities.

Two priorities:

- **Electrochemistry technologies**. Batteries offer modular, scalable deployment and credible pathways towards storage durations of 100 hours or more.
- **Hydrogen**. Underground hydrogen storage (UHS) has been chosen due to its potential to provide large scale, multi-day to interseasonal energy storage capacity required to support a future low carbon energy system.

UK Research and Innovation

Why Hydrogen

- **Scale:** Hydrogen storage has a critical role alongside low carbon dispatchable power (LCDP) and is one of the few clean storage solutions capable of providing 100 hours or more of reserve power at the scale required.
- **UK potential competitive advantages:** including favourable geological resources, internationally recognised subsurface expertise, established engineering and energy sector capabilities, and a growing pipeline of prospective projects.
- The 7th Carbon Budget includes just under 40 GW of LCDP in 2050, and hydrogen to power is expected to have a **strong economic advantage over gas Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** at low load factors.
- **Distinct UK geological advantages for hydrogen storage**. These include, but are not limited to, salt caverns, though these are not always located near renewable generation.
- **Targeted R&I** now is an essential part of de-risking carbon budgets.

Funding available via two competitions

The UHS DEVEX competition	The UHS Collaborative R&D competition
Underground hydrogen storage demonstrator: DEVEX support	Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components
up to £1.5 million for project development studies supporting underground hydrogen storage demonstrator facilities in the UK	up to £5 million for a collaborative programme to accelerate the development and validation of critical technologies needed for the safe, reliable and cost effective use of underground hydrogen storage.

It is your responsibility to ensure you submit your application to the correct competition for your project. You will not be able to transfer your application, and it will not be sent for assessment if it is out of scope.

UK Research and Innovation

UK Research and Innovation

Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components

Shorthand: UHS Collaborative R&D

UHS Collaborative R&D: aim and scope

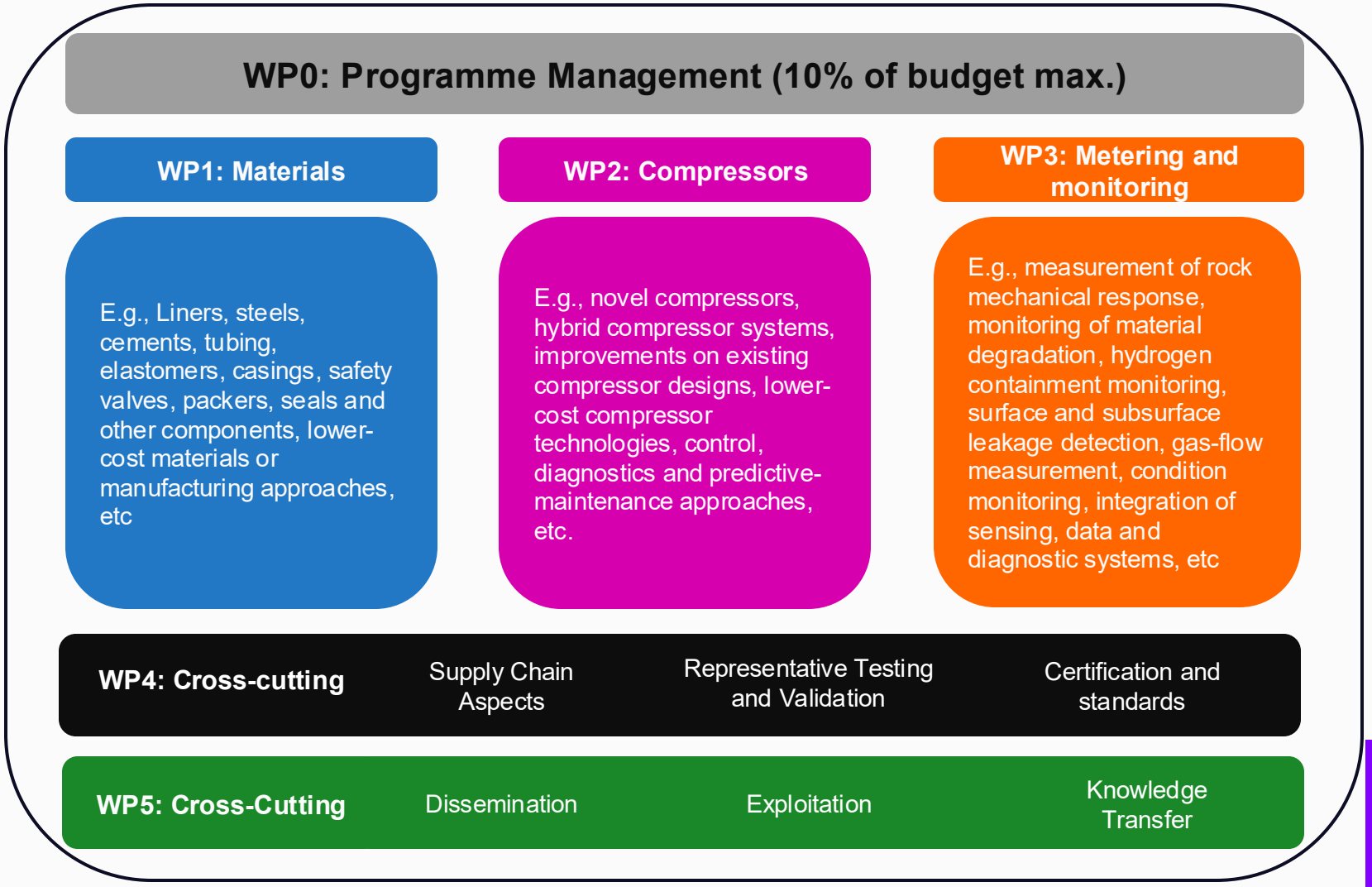
- Aim: fund a consortium programme which will enable the UK to accelerate the development and validation of critical technologies needed for the safe, reliable and cost-effective use of hydrogen in ULDES within the UK electricity sector.
- This should enable components to be used in commercial settings within a 2030 timeline.
- The awarded consortium should work as one cohesive programme, containing the skills and expertise to deliver the competition aim.

UHS Collaborative R&D: themes and structure

Single integrated programme containing all themes.

Stage gates will be used to support ongoing development of the programme

Lead organisation is an important role: may be a business, RTO or academic institution.



UK Research and Innovation

NOTE: This is an example structure. Alternative WP structures accepted if they clearly address every requirement and retain a cross-programme approach.

The CR&D competition: outcomes

- Significantly **improved the performance and cost** of materials, compressors and metering or monitoring technologies, with validated performance evidence
- Improved understanding of degradation, fatigue, integrity, efficiency and reliability
- Credible models or tools supporting design, operation and maintenance
- Defined certification pathways and evidence that can inform relevant standards
- Manufacturing and supply-chain plans
- Exploitation and commercialisation plans
- Recommendations for further research, demonstration or deployment
- Transferable learning for the wider hydrogen ULDES sector Ideally – consideration of how the programme could approach commercial sustainability and longevity

UK Research and Innovation

Underground hydrogen storage demonstrator: DEVEX support

Shorthand: UHS DEVEX

UHS DEVEX: aim and scope

- Aim: support the development of credible underground hydrogen storage (UHS) demonstrator projects from an early stage (FEL-1 or -2) opportunity.*
- Projects should be capable of progressing to defined, commercially credible and materially de-risked (FEL -3 complete) investment ready propositions, final investment decision (FID), and on to project execution.
- Successful projects must generate evidence and public learning to support cost effective UHS deployment in the UK, **demonstrating a discharge availability of at least 100 continuous hours.**
- Projects must target initial megawatt hour (MWh) scale deployment by 2030, and demonstrate a credible pathway to commercial, gigawatt hour (GWh) scale deployment in the UK by 2035.

UK Research and Innovation

***Please refer to the project definition and cost estimate classification system guidance for FEL definitions and associated cost estimate classification used in this competition.**

UHS DEVEX: your project must-

- involve the proposed deployment of an **UHS demonstrator facility capable of injecting, storing and withdrawing hydrogen** from a subsurface environment within defined safe operating limits
- be a **first of a kind development** in the UK, working to develop a commercially viable demonstrator or prototype facility rather than a business-as-usual commercial project
- **be designed and specified for a hydrogen service**, with a defined pathway to dedicated hydrogen storage.
- propose a demonstrator **facility targeting at least 10 to 100 MWh of hydrogen working gas capacity**, with a credible pathway to GWh scale commercial deployment by 2035.
- be linked to one or more **credible hydrogen offtake pathways**, preferably including power generation applications, industrial offtake, or hydrogen transmission, distribution or storage services
- **identify a specific site**, and demonstrate a credible route to securing the land access, consents and permits required for construction and operation
- demonstrate that the proposed **lead or team has the capabilities** required to progress from the **funded studies through to FID, construction and operation**

UK Research and Innovation

DEVEX: Technology agnostic

Eligible UHS technologies include:

- engineered lined shaft
- subsurface silo or vertical pipe array
- engineered lined rock cavern
- depleted oil field
- depleted gas field
- novel salt cavern

DEVEX: wider support

Possible future CAPEX support

This competition is intended as the first phase of a potential wider investment of up to £10 million that UKRI has currently earmarked to support a demonstrator in this area, subject to approvals.

Stage gates

Used to help inform phase 2 funding decision and to ensure the focus on achieving outcomes by 2030 is maintained

e.g. a Basis of Design, will be expected within three months of the DEVEX funded period

UK Government Cleantech Innovation Challenges (CIC) programme

Successful projects awarded through this competition may have the opportunity to benefit from support through the UK Government Cleantech Innovation Challenges (CIC) programme, subject to relevant approvals and further programme development.

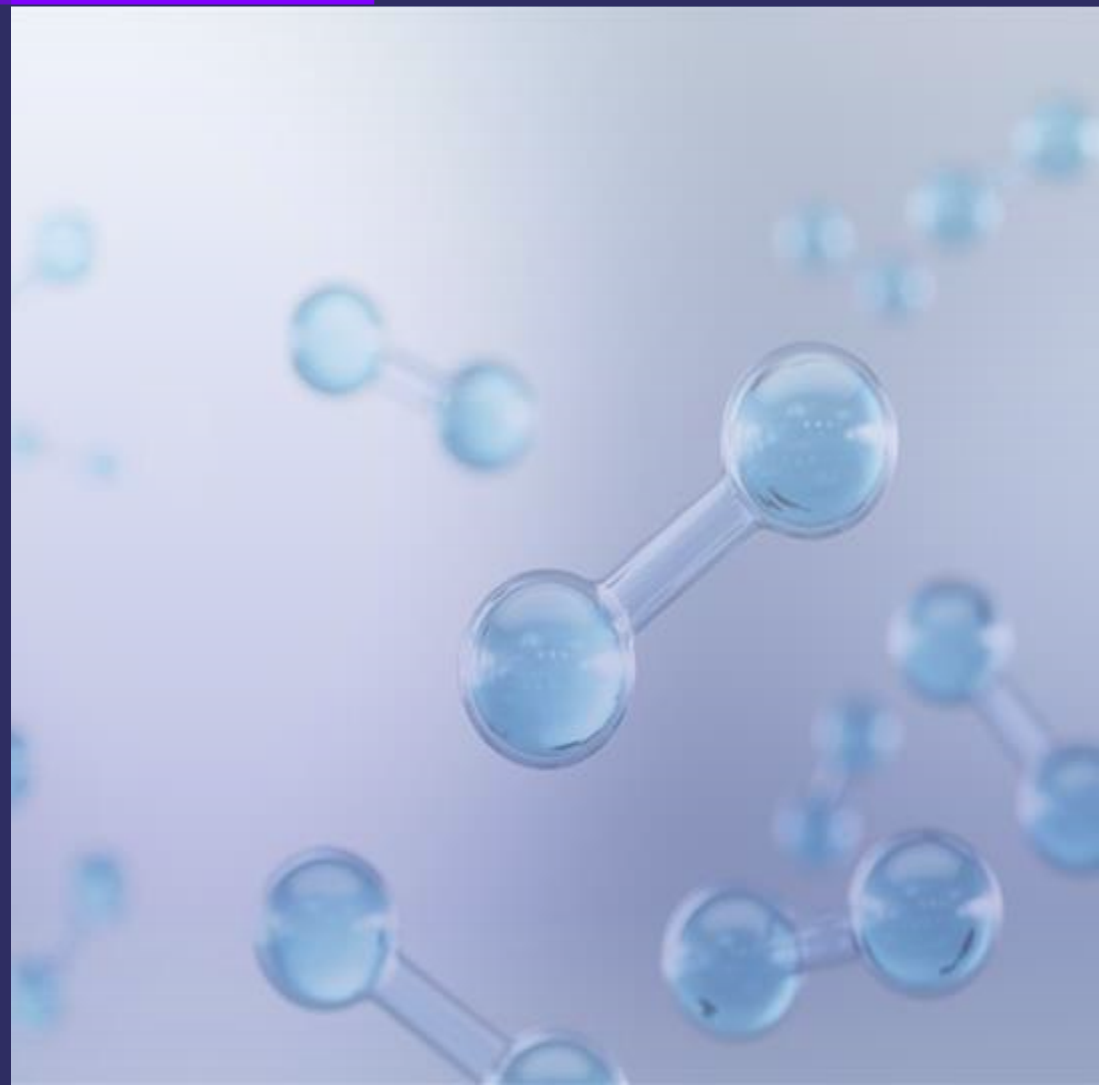
UK Research and Innovation

DEVEX competition: desired outcomes

- a well defined UHS concept, site and subsurface basis and credible route to (FEL) -3 completion
- a robust cost and project delivery schedule, with validation of key costs through vendor engagement and an integrated development programme capable of supporting investment decisions
- promising commercial prospects, including a viable business model, route to market and pathway to private investment
- credible hydrogen supply and offtake arrangements
- a clear planning, consenting, environmental permitting, and safety regulation pathway
- a robust project execution strategy, supported by credible project partner and supply chain arrangements
- the potential to strengthen UK engineering, manufacturing, construction and supply chain capabilities
- a commitment to open knowledge sharing and dissemination of evidence relevant to wider UK UHS deployment ·
- a project development study that materially reduces the principal barriers to FID, with each funded activity linked to an identified risk, a realistic target end position, and a clear account of the risks that will remain

Innovate UK

Innovate UK Business Connect Support



Surgery dates and times

Underground hydrogen storage: Competition briefing webinar and applicant surgeries



3 November 2026

11:00-12:30 UHS Collaborative Testing and Validation surgery

5 November 2026

11:00-12:00 UHS DEVEX surgery

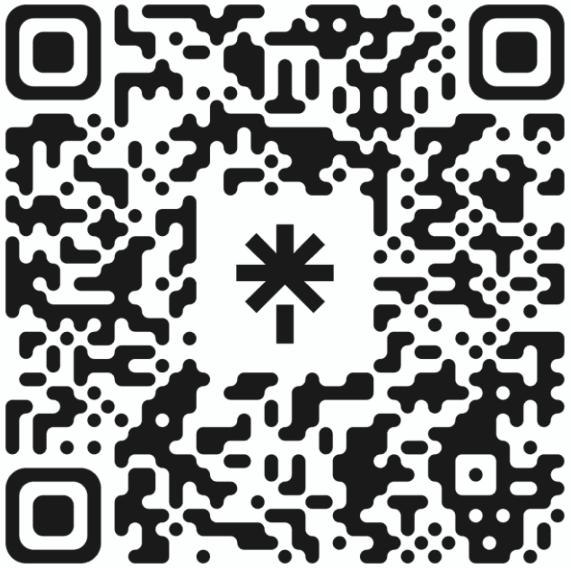
Partnering platform: B2Match Platform

What can you do on the platform?

- Post on the marketplace: Share information about your project idea, outline what you need help with, or describe the types of connections you're hoping to make
- Message individuals directly: Prefer one-to-one contact? No problem! Reach out to people directly to see if you'd be a good match to work together
- Book a session with a potential collaborator: These sessions are designed to help you quickly assess each other's interests and expertise, identify common goals, and uncover synergies

Key features of a good application

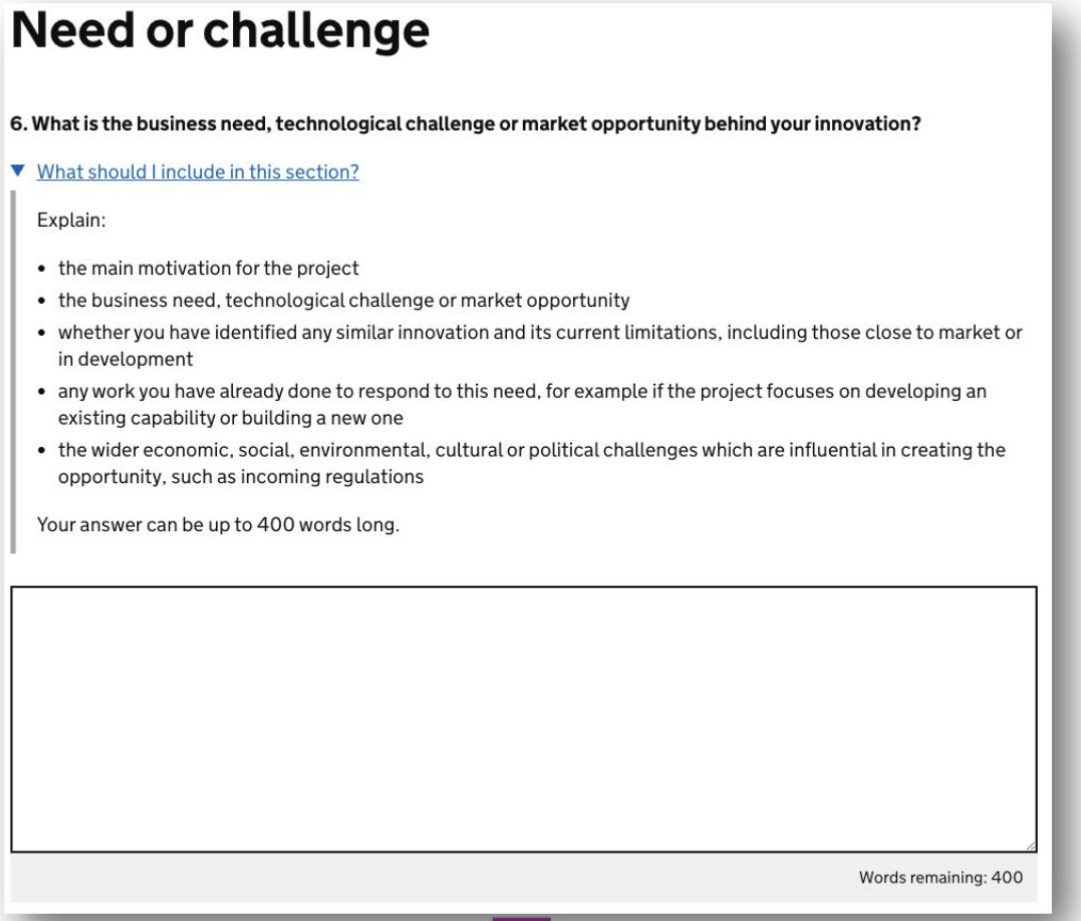
1. Alignment to the competition scope
2. Quality of research and innovation
3. A strong business case / a convincing value proposition
4. A credible plan for Research and Development
5. The right consortium (e.g. supply chain and route to market)
6. A clear need for support
7. Sufficient risk



UKRI Innovate UK | Business Connect

General tips

- Answer the question fully
- Build a narrative
- Use evidence and quantify where possible



Need or challenge

6. What is the business need, technological challenge or market opportunity behind your innovation?

▼ What should I include in this section?

Explain:

- the main motivation for the project
- the business need, technological challenge or market opportunity
- whether you have identified any similar innovation and its current limitations, including those close to market or in development
- any work you have already done to respond to this need, for example if the project focuses on developing an existing capability or building a new one
- the wider economic, social, environmental, cultural or political challenges which are influential in creating the opportunity, such as incoming regulations

Your answer can be up to 400 words long.

Words remaining: 400

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Connect

Assessment

https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/

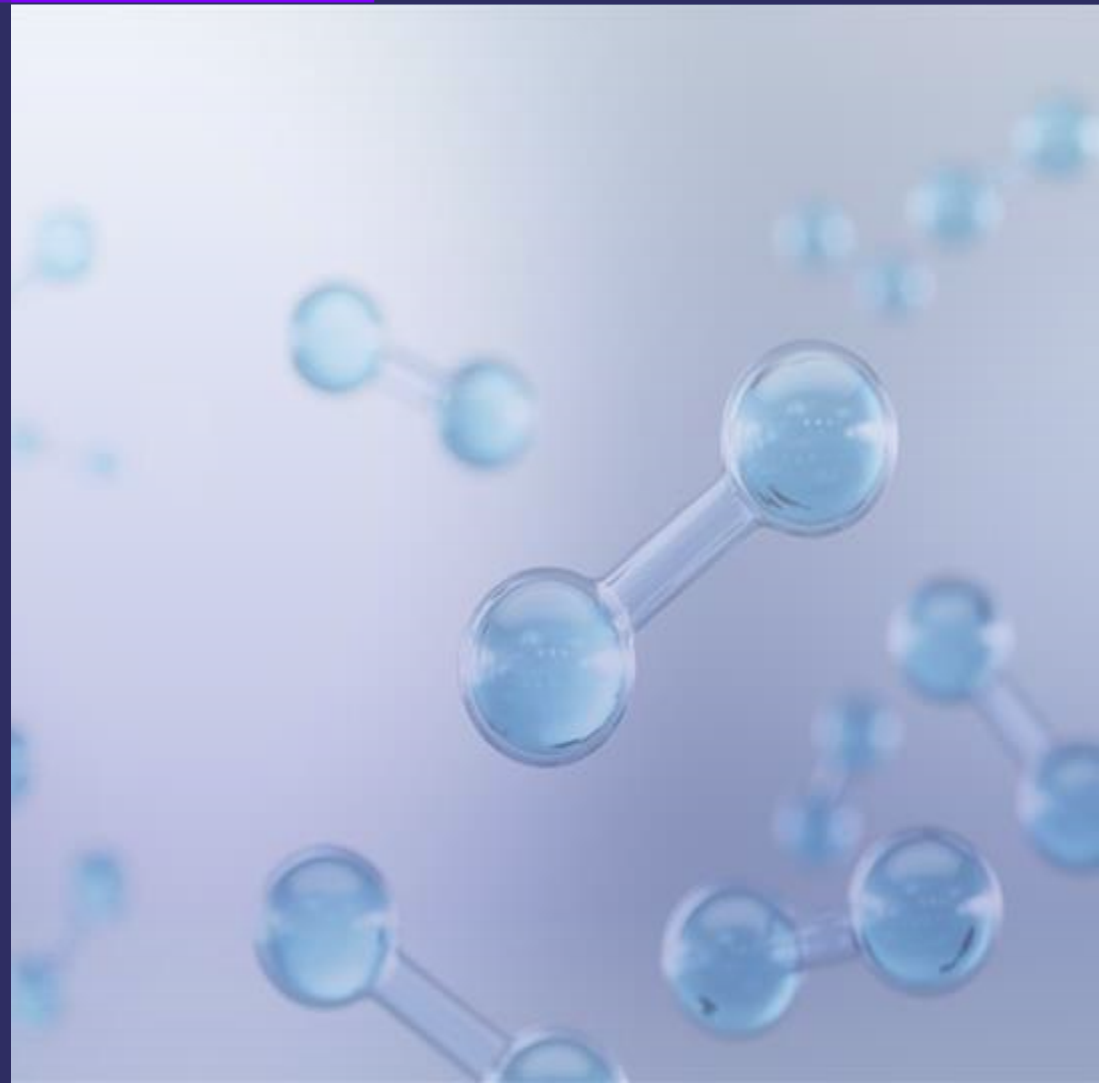
1. Applications are assessed for eligibility. They will check: business registered, collaboration requirements, finances, duration, if previously submitted
2. Applications are assessed against the scope by Innovation Lead. Their decision is final.
3. Sent to independent assessors – experts from across business and academia. They are allocated based on their skills and expertise relevant to your project.
4. Assessors complete their assessment independently and are bound by a non-disclosure agreement as part of their contract.
5. Each assessor submits a score for each scored question. They will also provide comments which form your application feedback.
6. A ranked order of all applications based on the average assessor score of each application. The highest-ranking applications (subject to meeting a minimum quality threshold and any **portfolio approach**) are recommended to Innovate UK for funding.

Feedback can be helpful for future

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Connect

Innovate UK

Eligibility criteria



Eligibility criteria – your project

The UHS DEVEX competition	The UHS Collaborative R&D competition
	▪ be collaborative ▪ address all three technical themes in the competition scope
▪ have total eligible grant funding request of between £200,000 and £750,000	▪ have total eligible grant funding request between £2.5 million and £5 million
▪ start by 1 April 2027 ▪ end by 31 March 2028	▪ start on 1 May 2027 ▪ end by 30 November 2029
▪ last between 6 and 12 months	▪ last between 24 and 30 months

Innovate UK

Eligibility criteria – lead organisation

The UHS DEVEX competition	The UHS Collaborative R&D competition
▪ To lead a collaborative project or to work alone, your organisation must be a UK registered business of any size.	**To lead a collaborative project, your organisation must be a UK registered:** ▪ business of any size ▪ research and technology organisation (RTO), provided you can demonstrate appropriate commercialisation expertise ▪ academic institution, provided you can demonstrate appropriate commercialisation expertise within the consortia
▪ Academic institutions cannot lead or work alone.	**The lead organisation of the consortium must:** ▪ be responsible for the overall delivery of the programme, though support from a partner with programme management expertise is acceptable ▪ manage the consortium and relationships between work packages ▪ demonstrate appropriate financial standing and programme management capability ▪ have authority to enter into a collaboration agreement with all project partners ▪ demonstrate how project outcomes will be exploited or supported towards exploitation in or from the UK

Eligibility criteria – project team

The UHS DEVEX competition	The UHS Collaborative R&D competition
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)	**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)
To be an eligible collaboration: ▪the lead and at least one other organisation must request funding ▪you must explain why you're collaborating and how the collaboration will work	**Your consortium must include:** • at least two grant claiming partners • an end user, storage developer, or operator, or supporting letters from this type of organisation • UK based testing and certification organisations where suitable capacity exists, or supporting letters from this type of organisation

Each partner organisation must be invited into the Innovation Funding Service (IFS) by the lead to collaborate on a project. Once partners have accepted the invitation, they will be asked to login or to create an account in the IFS. They are responsible for entering their own project costs and completing their Project Impact questions in the application.

UKRI Innovate UK

[both comps] Eligibility criteria – Partners & Subcontractors

Non-funded partners

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

Subcontractors

- Subcontractors are allowed in this competition.
- Subcontractors can be from anywhere in the UK and you must select them through your usual procurement process.

You can use subcontractors from overseas but must make the case in your application as to why you cannot use subcontractors 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.

[Both comps] Eligibility criteria – Number of applications

Number of applications

- An eligible organisation can only lead on one application. Any further applications by the same organisation as lead will be made ineligible.
- An eligible organisation that is leading an application can be included as a collaborator in a further two applications and if not leading, can collaborate in any number of applications.

UKRI Innovate UK

Previously submitted applications

Previously submitted application	Not a previously submitted application
A previously submitted application is an application Innovate UK judges as not materially different from one you have submitted before (but it can be updated based on the assessors' feedback). If you have previously submitted an application that reached our assessment stage, you can re-apply once more with the same proposal.	A brand-new application, project or idea that you have not previously submitted into an Innovate UK competition. or A previously submitted or ineligible application which: • has been updated based on assessor feedback • and is materially different from the application submitted before • and fits with the scope of this competition

Innovate UK



Innovation Funding Service (IFS)

Innovate UK

To create 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

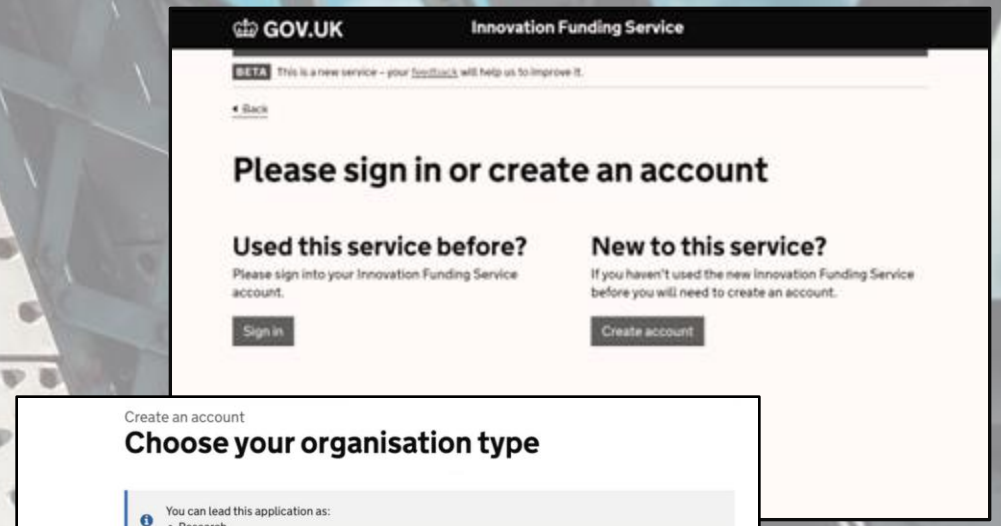
Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

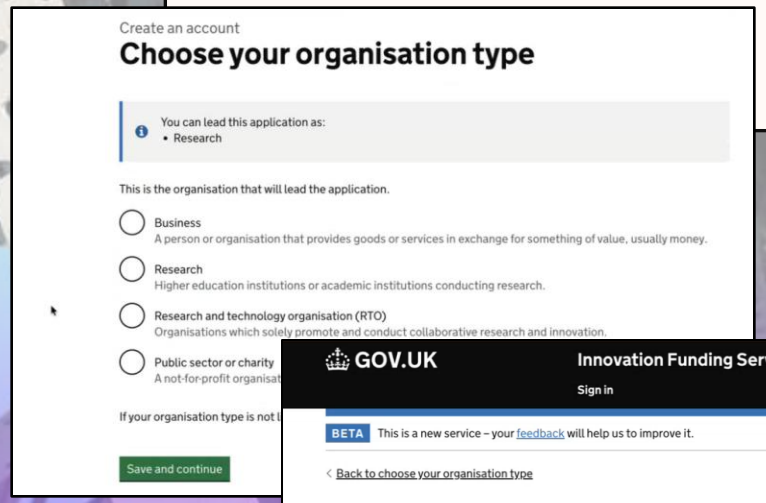
Academic Institutions

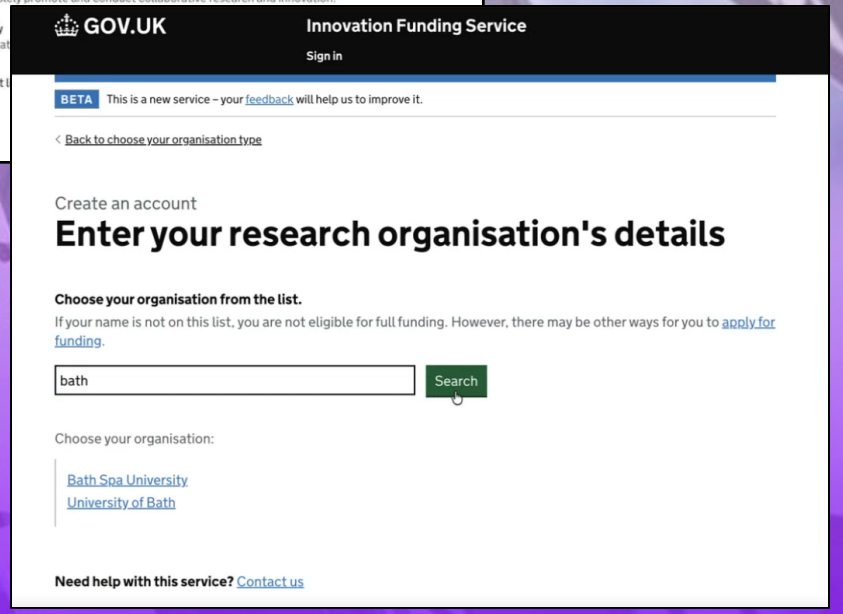
Are asked to enter their name and select from the list of organisations presented

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 – **unscored** questions **Underground hydrogen storage demonstrator DEVEX support**

Application Form		Word count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location	400 words	No
Question 2	Animal testing	Multiple choice	No
Question 3	Permits and licences	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	International Collaboration	400 words	No
Question 5	Export licence	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation	400 words	No
Question 7	Technology	100 words	No

Application questions – **scored** questions
Underground hydrogen storage demonstrator DEVEX support

Application Form		Word count	Appendix
Question 8	Development Expenditure (DEVEX) outcomes and pathway to demonstration	600 words	Yes – mandatory
Question 9	Current project maturity	600 words	No
Question 10	Cost and schedule	600 words	Yes – optional/mandatory
Question 11	Commercialisation potential	600 words	No
Question 12	Barriers to progress and risk reduction	600 words	No
Question 13	Team and resources	600 words	Yes - optional
Question 14	Project management	600 words	Yes – mandatory
Question 15	UK economic and supply chain benefits	400 words	No

Application questions – **unscored** questions
CR&D: Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components

Application Form		Word count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location	400 words	No
Question 2	Animal testing	Multiple choice	No
Question 3	Permits and licences	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	International Collaboration	400 words	No
Question 5	Export licence	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation	400 words	No

Innovate UK

Application questions – **scored** questions
Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components

Application Form		Word count	Appendix
Question 7	Idea	400 words	Yes – optional
Question 8	Route to Market	600 words	No
Question 9	Delivery	400 words	Yes - optional
Question 10	Skills	600 words	Yes - optional
Question 11	Risks	400 words	Yes - optional
Question 12	Benefits	400 words	No

Innovate UK

NATIONAL SECURITY AND INVESTMENT ACT

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.

UKRI Innovate UK

UK Strategic Export Controls - overview

UK strategic export controls – GOV.UK

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

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

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

Q4 International Collaboration (not scored)

Does your proposed work involve any international collaboration or engagement?

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

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

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

Innovate UK

Project Impact Questions

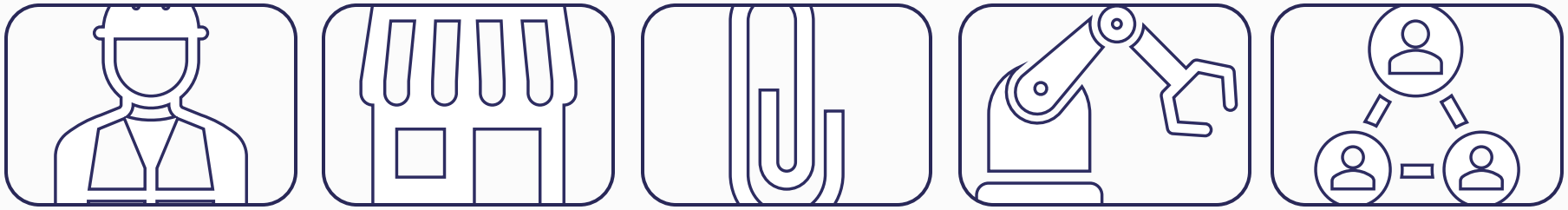
- Each organisation in your application will complete the Project Impact questions within the 'Supporting information' section
- The Project Impact questions ask for data about your business and innovation and its contribution to the UK economy, society, and the environment
- Visit the Project Impact 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

Innovate UK

Your project cost categories



Labour | Overheads | Materials | Capital Usage | Subcontractors



Travel & Subsistence | Other

View our Application Finances Instructional Video

Innovate UK

Your project finances

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.

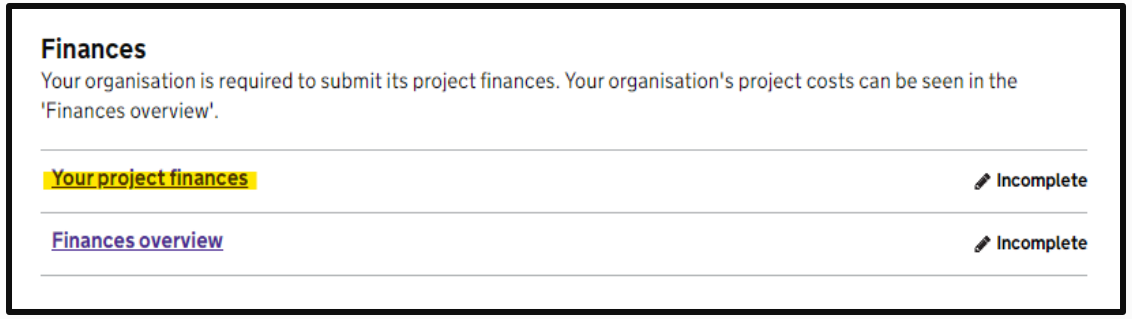
Your organisation

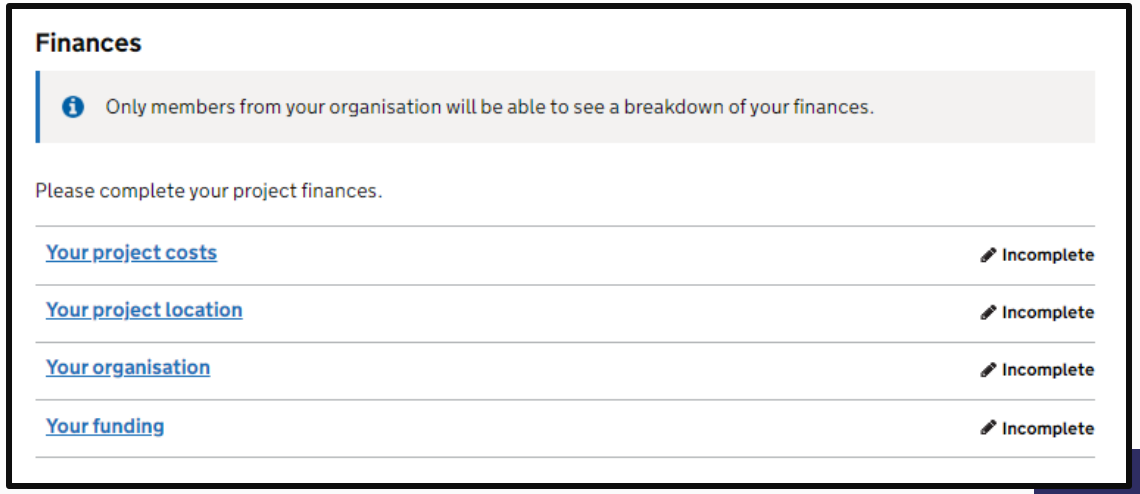
Add details of your organisation including size, turnover and number of employees

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





Innovate UK

Checking your finances are complete

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

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

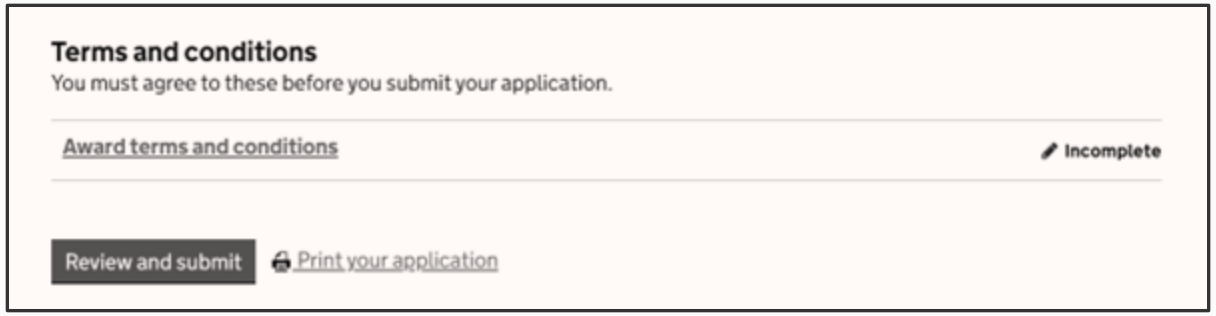


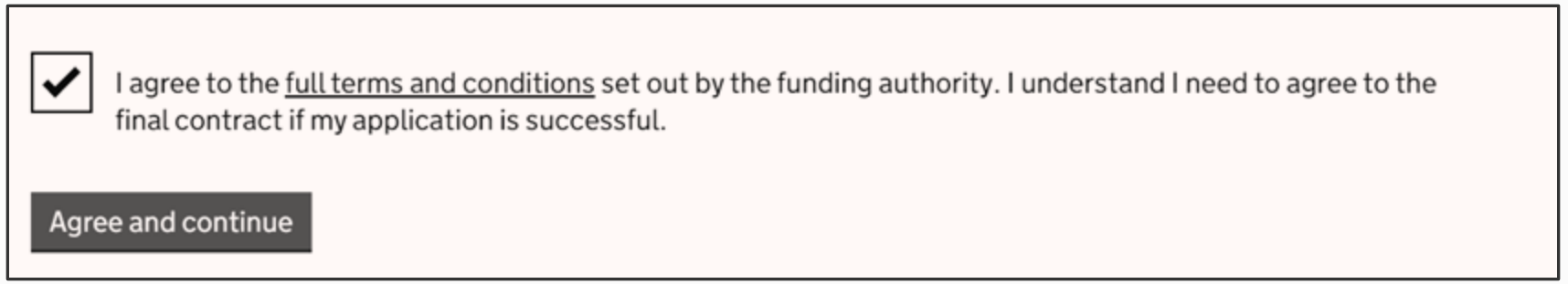
UKRI Innovate UK

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.



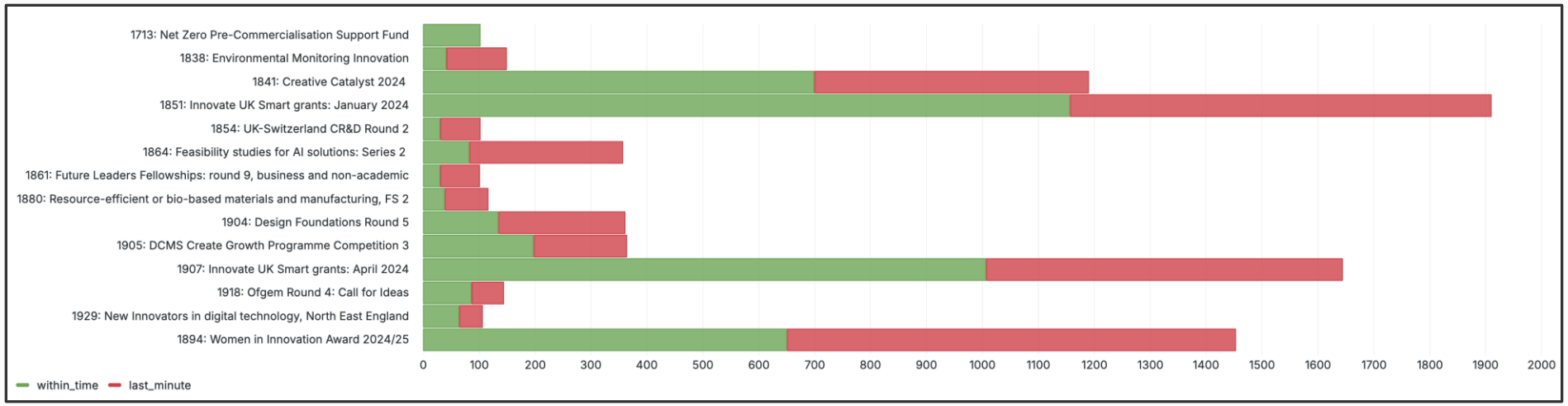


Innovate UK

Submitting your application

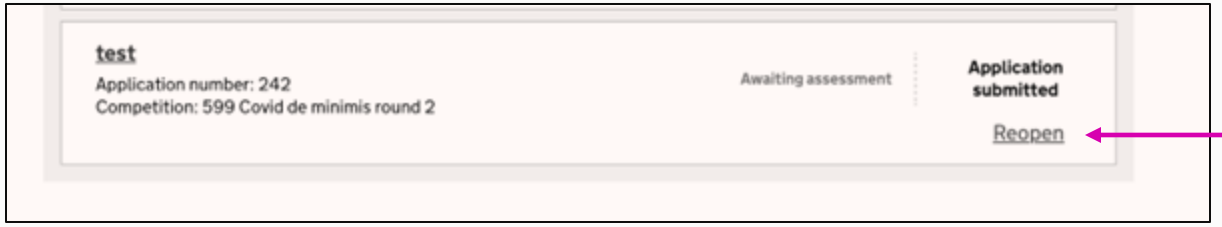
Customer Support can help resolve any issues you might have when submitting **but only if they are contacted before the deadline**.

Once the deadline has passed, your application cannot be submitted

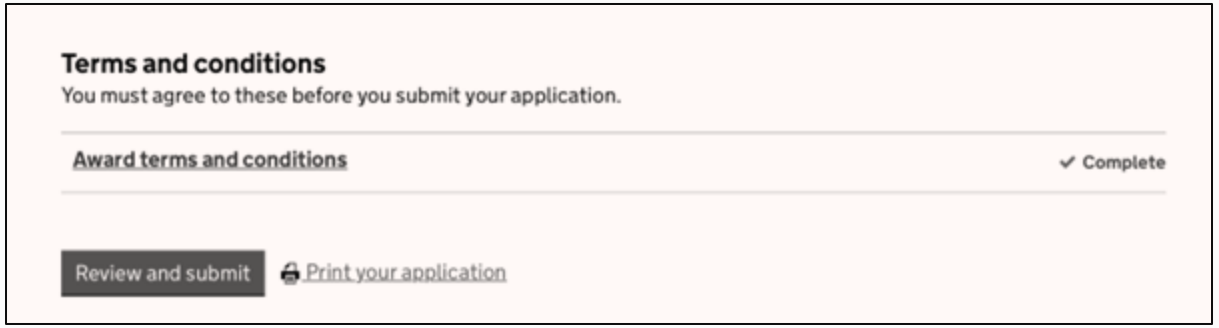


Innovate UK

Editing a submitted application



Reopen by clicking here



Remember to click 'Submit application'



Innovate UK

Use of AI in applications

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

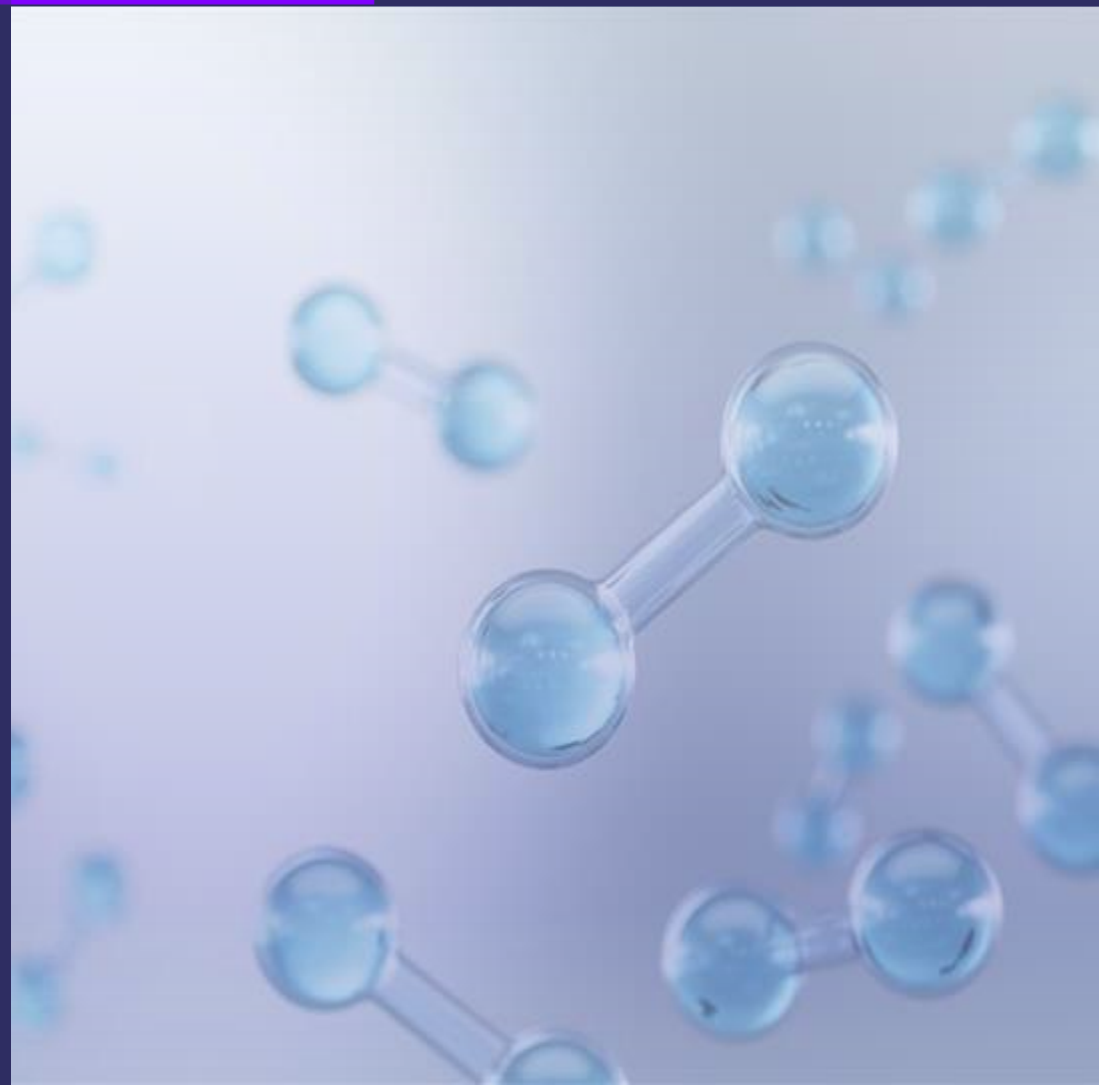
Cons

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

Innovate UK

Changes for academics

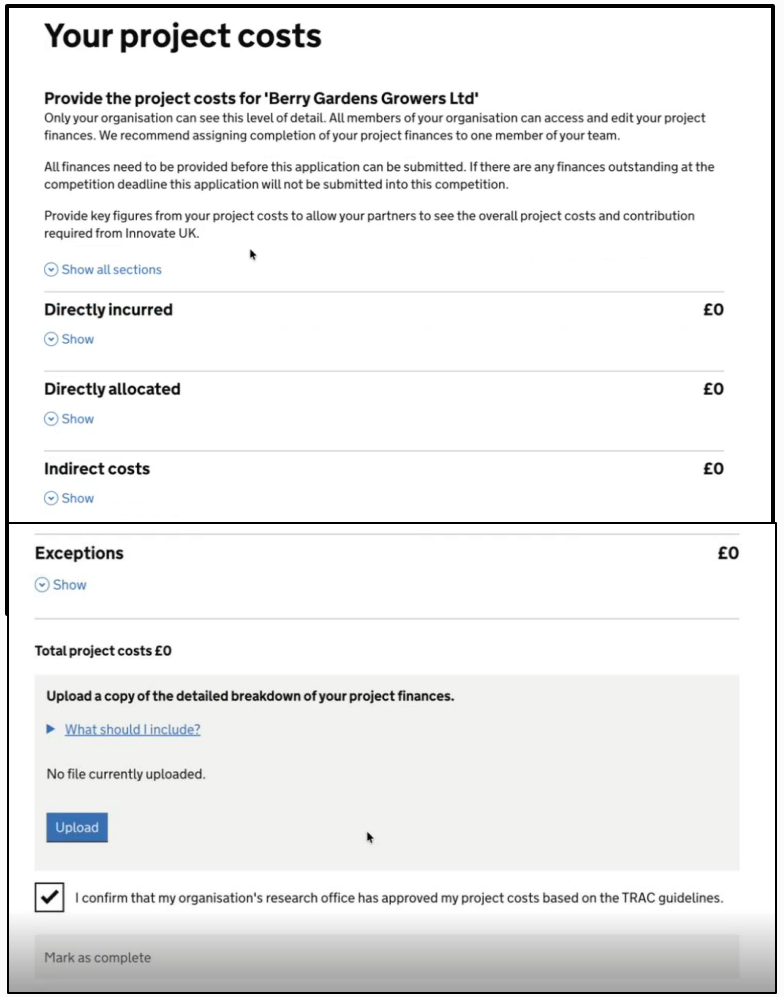


Academic cost categories

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

- Directly incurred
- Directly allocated
- Indirect costs
- Exceptions 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.

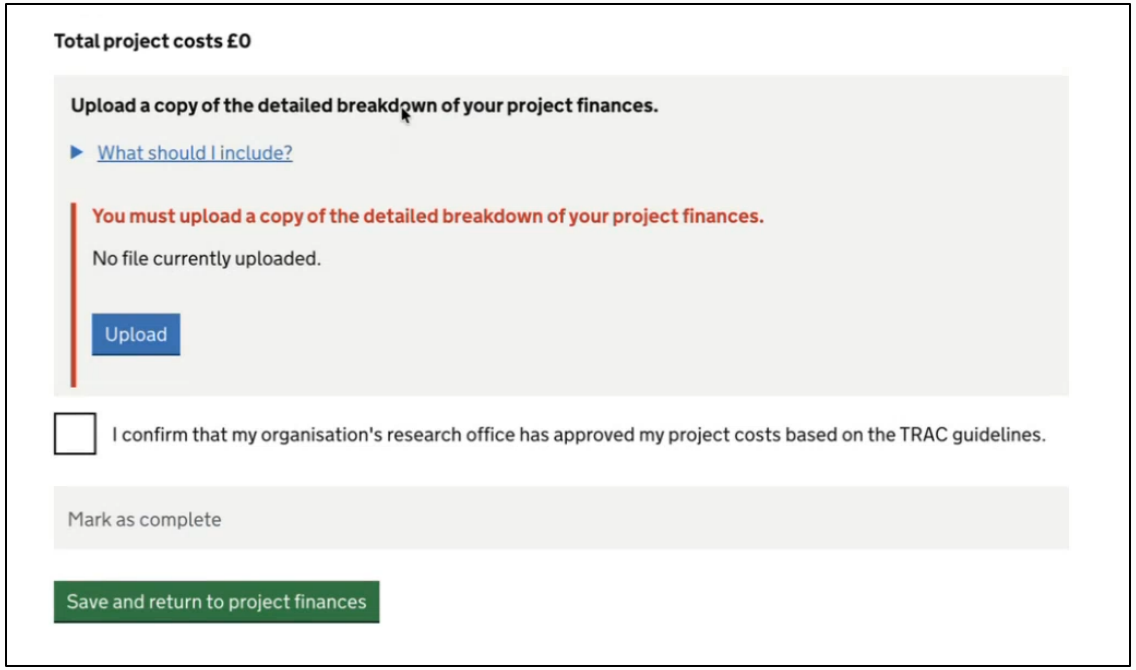
Please note: Costs of PhD students is not eligible for inclusion in research organisation project costs.



Innovate UK

Academic cost categories

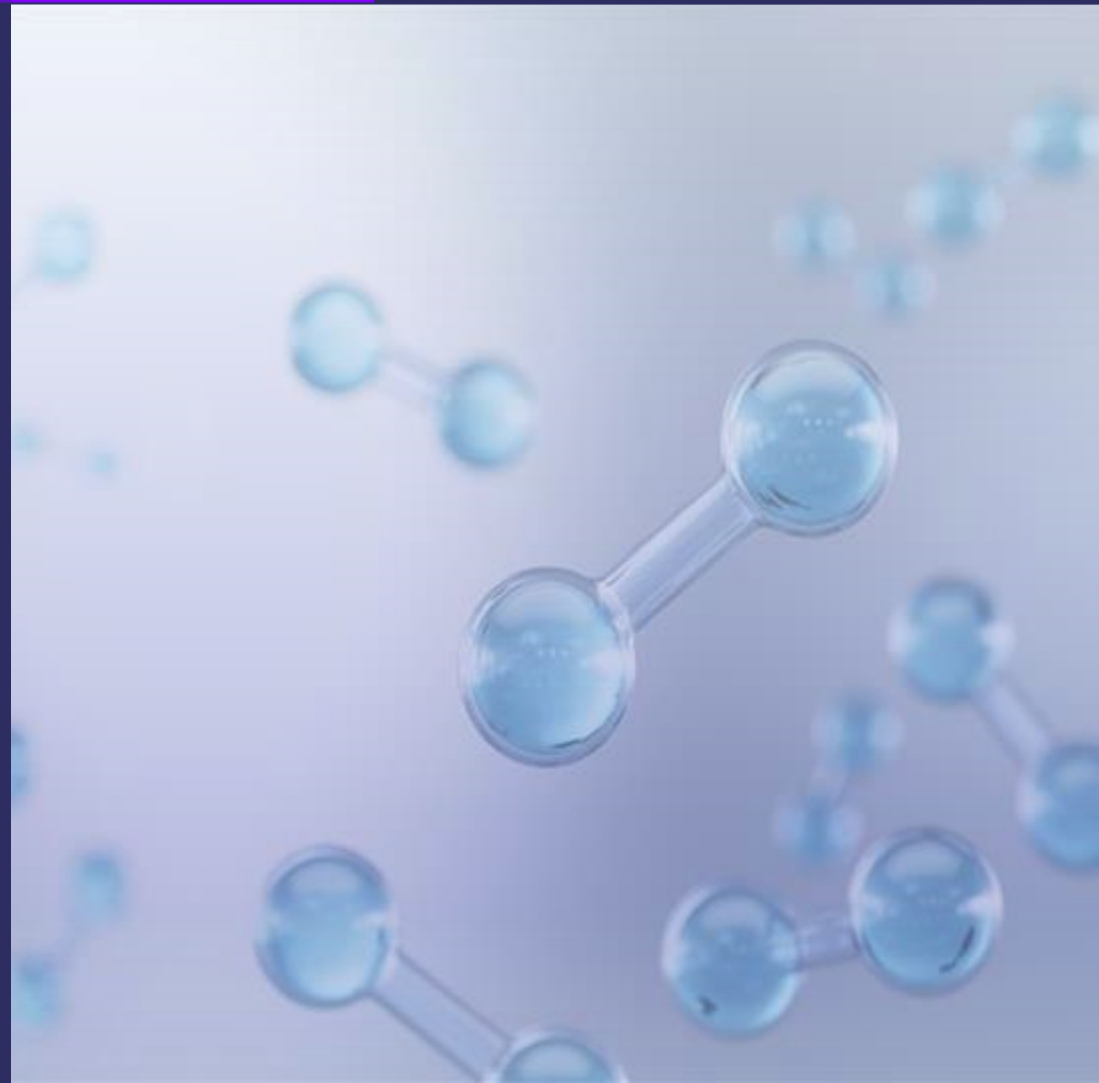
- A mandatory requirement to upload their detailed costs
- Must be a PDF format
- Approved by their research office



Innovate UK

Innovate UK

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**

Innovate UK

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

UKRI Innovate UK

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.

UKRI Innovate UK

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).

UKRI Innovate UK

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

Innovate UK

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

UKRI Innovate UK

Category 1: Feasibility Studies

For feasibility studies 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

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.

Innovate UK

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

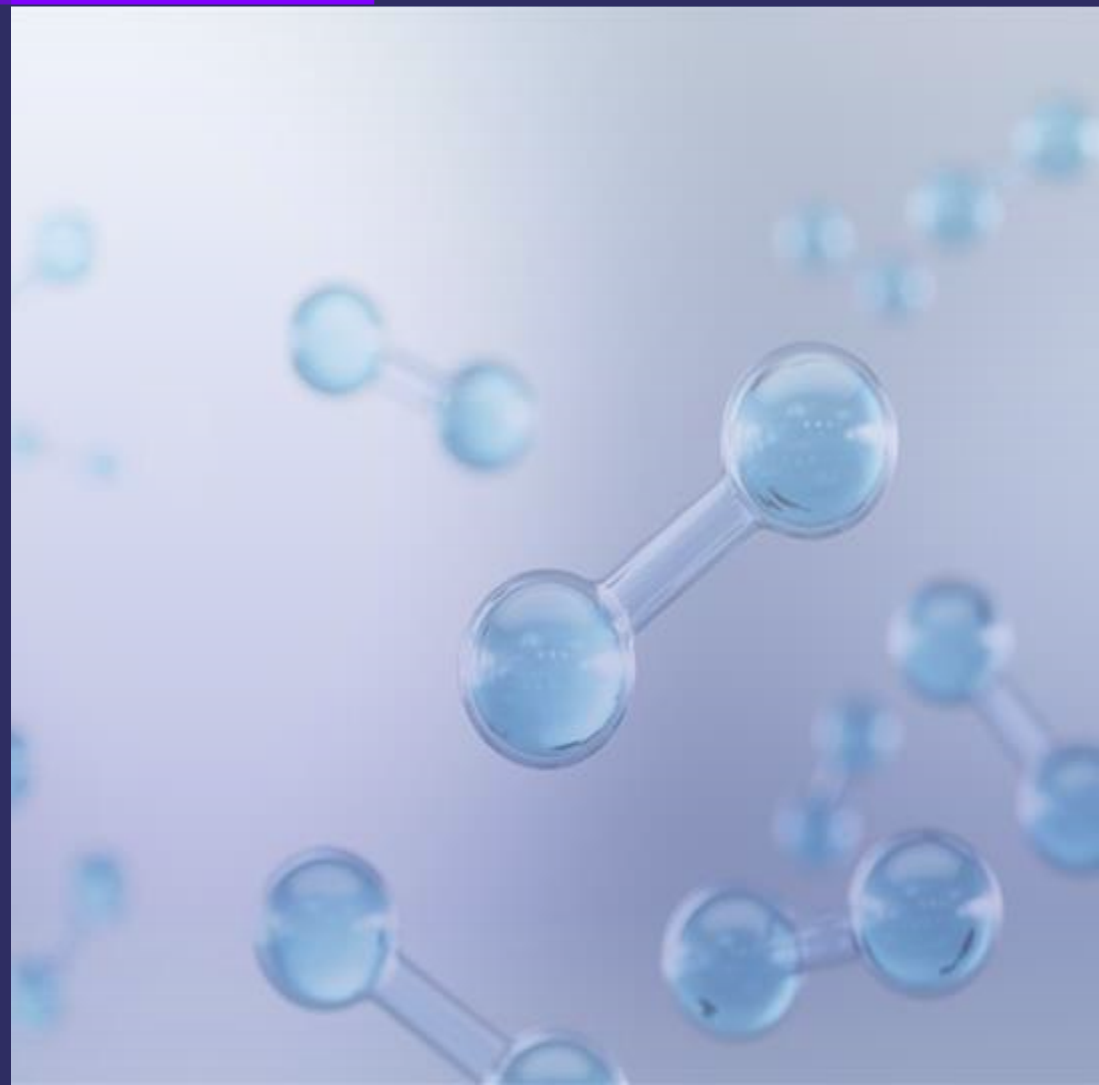
Eligible costs please refer to the competition to which you are applying.

For a detailed definition of these research categories see guidance document section 14.3.

Innovate UK

Innovate UK

Assessment



Innovate UK

YouTube Playlist

1 

How do our assessors assess?

Innovate UK • 8.1K views • 2 years ago

2 

How are successful applications selected for funding?

Innovate UK • 17K views • 2 years ago

3 

What steps are there before a project starts?

Innovate UK • 7.7K views • 2 years ago

4 

How are successful projects monitored?

Innovate UK • 4.1K views • 2 years ago

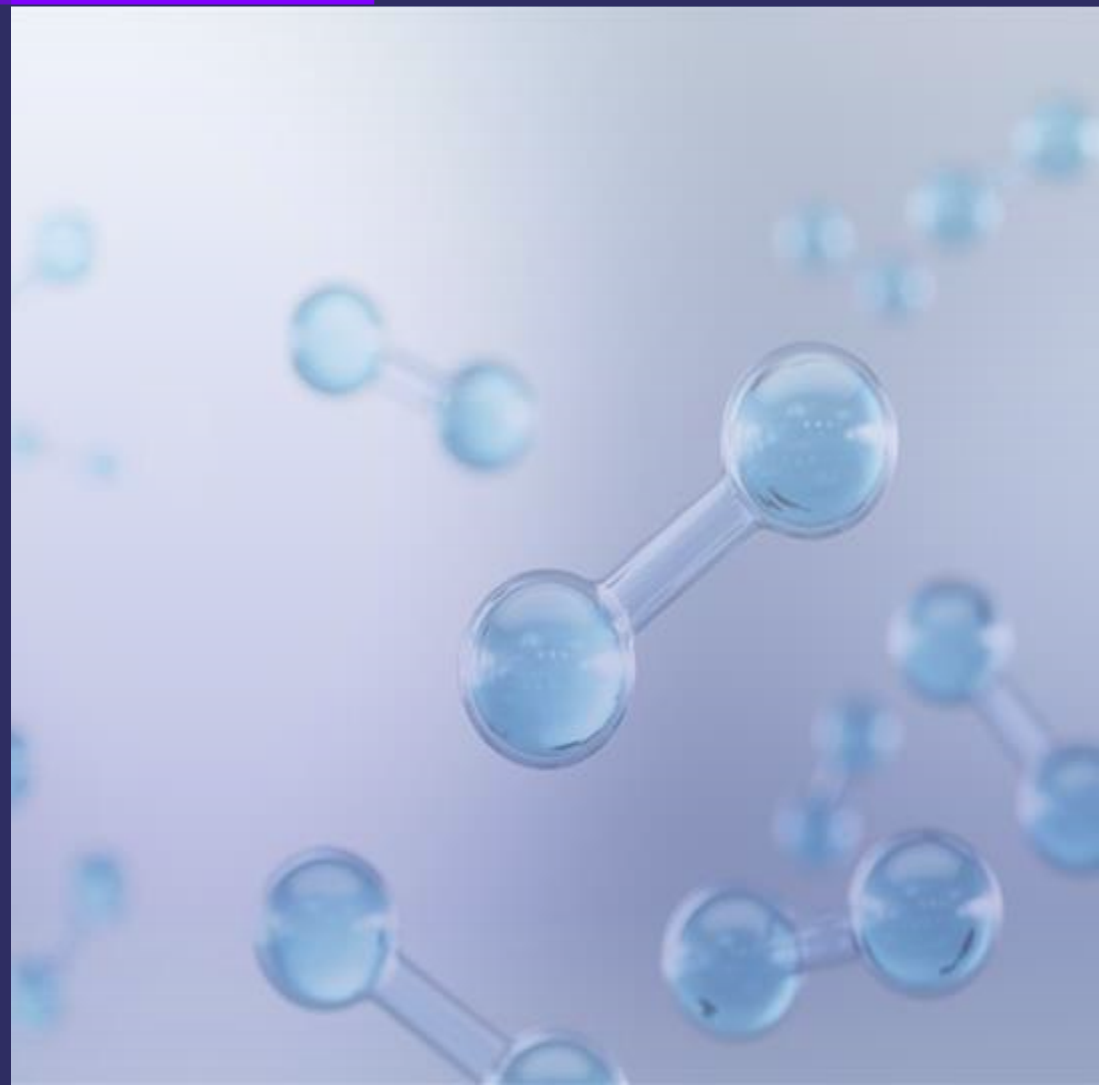
5 

How successful applicants receive their funding.

Innovate UK • 4.6K views • 2 years ago

Innovate UK

Project Set Up



Project Set Up

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

Innovate UK

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

Innovate UK

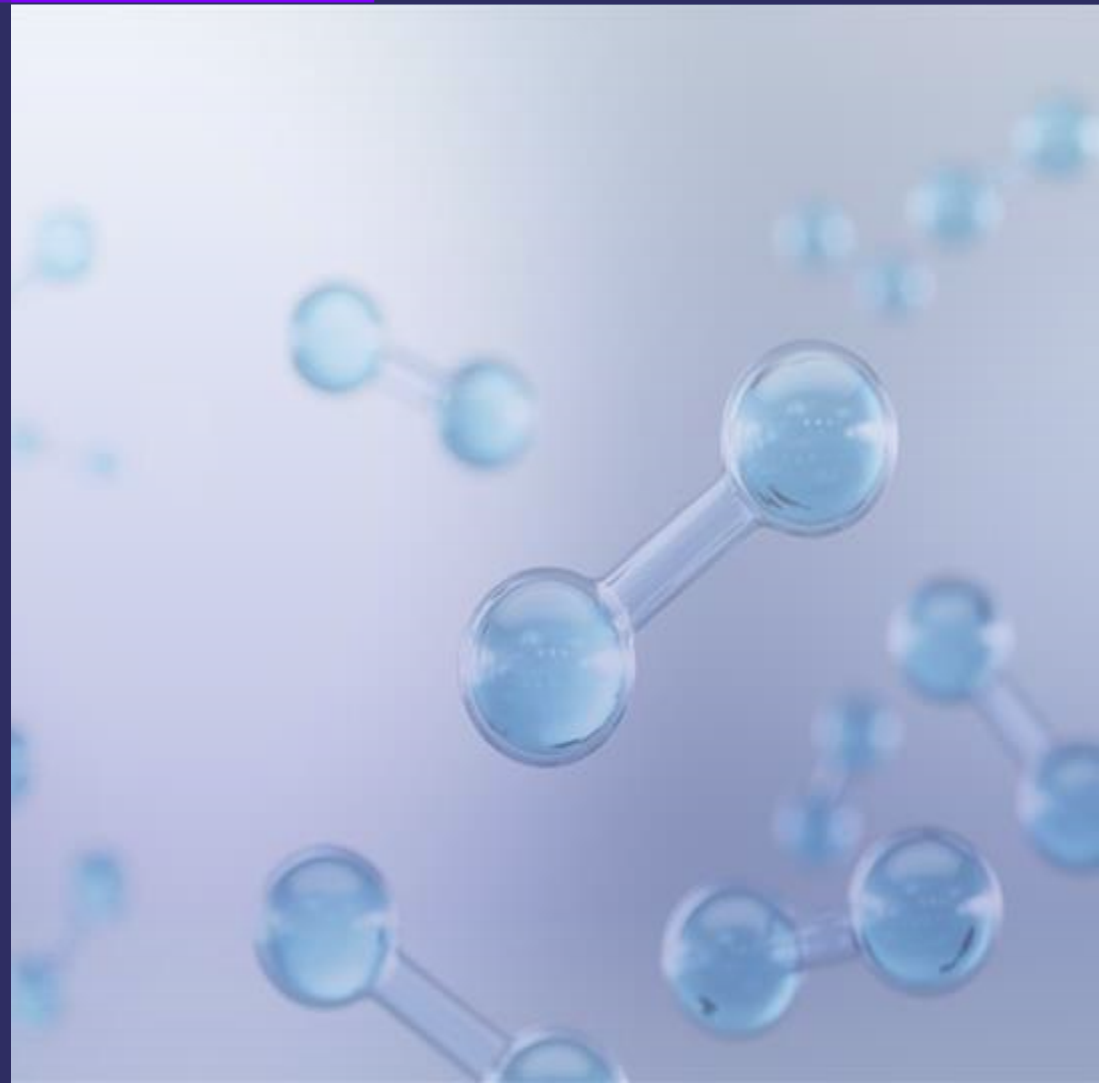
Accepted business bank accounts – subject to change

- 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.

UKRI Innovate UK

Innovate UK

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).

UKRI Innovate UK

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/

UKRI Innovate UK

Reasonable adjustments – what can we 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 cannot do

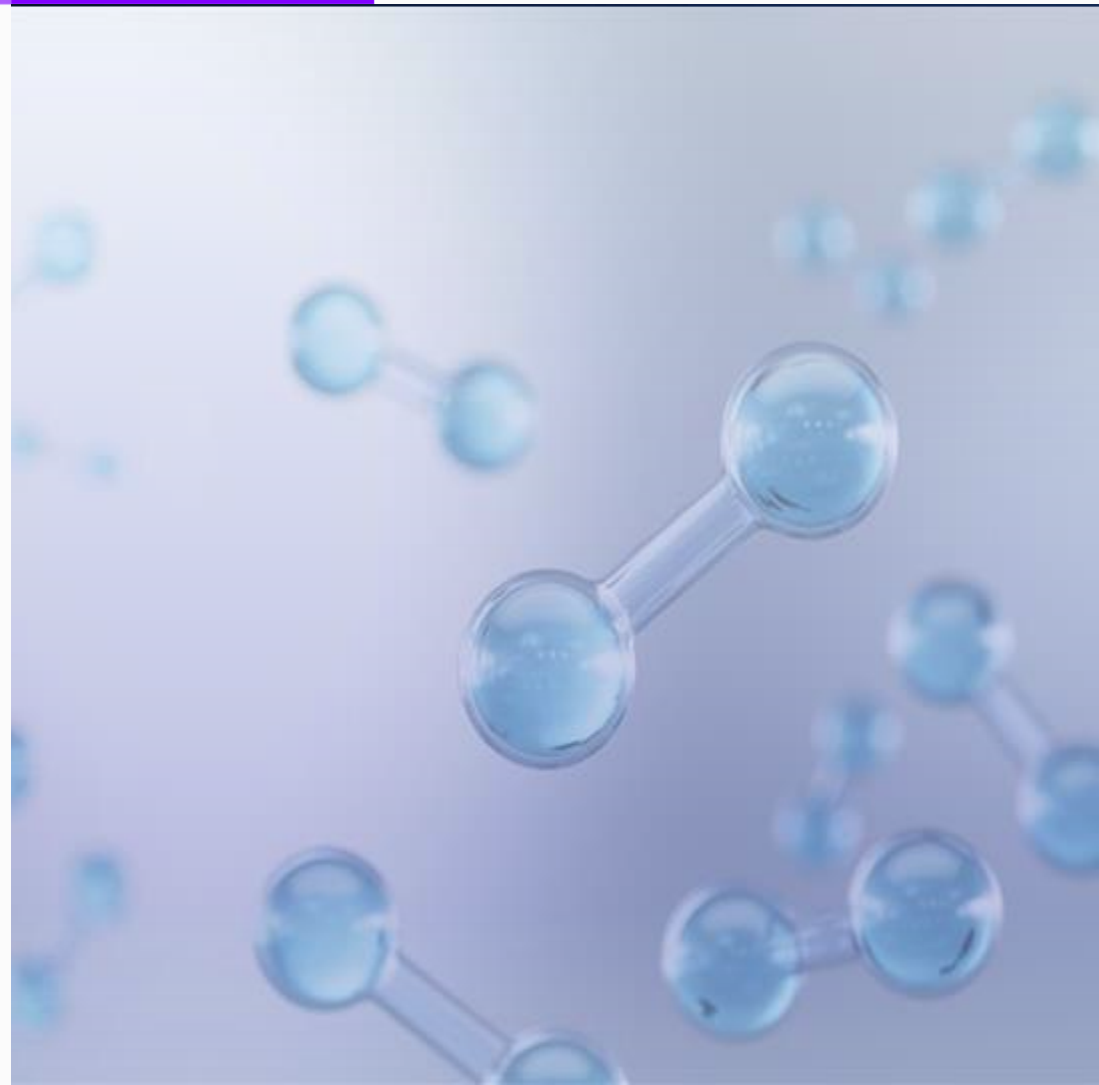
The reasonable adjustments offered are designed to remove barriers to applying, they are not designed to make decisions for you or give you advice on an application. With that in mind, the support we offer does not include the below:

- 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

Innovate UK

Business Growth



Business Growth

The indispensable partner for ambitious innovators

Innovate UK Business Growth equips 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%** say we impacted their growth

UKRI Innovate UK



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 suitable for support
- Registered at Companies House with up to 250 employees
- Management teams motivated to engage fully with us to help achieve growth milestones

UKRI Innovate UK

Innovate UK

A service designed around your needs – high-quality support combining:



A comprehensive spectrum of innovation and commercial expertise, providing high quality strategic advisory support



A single access point to the most significant regional, national and international innovation resources



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

Cyber Action Toolkit

The NCSC has created a free Cyber Action Toolkit that gives clear bite-sized actions to protect small businesses, their money and reputation from cyber crime.

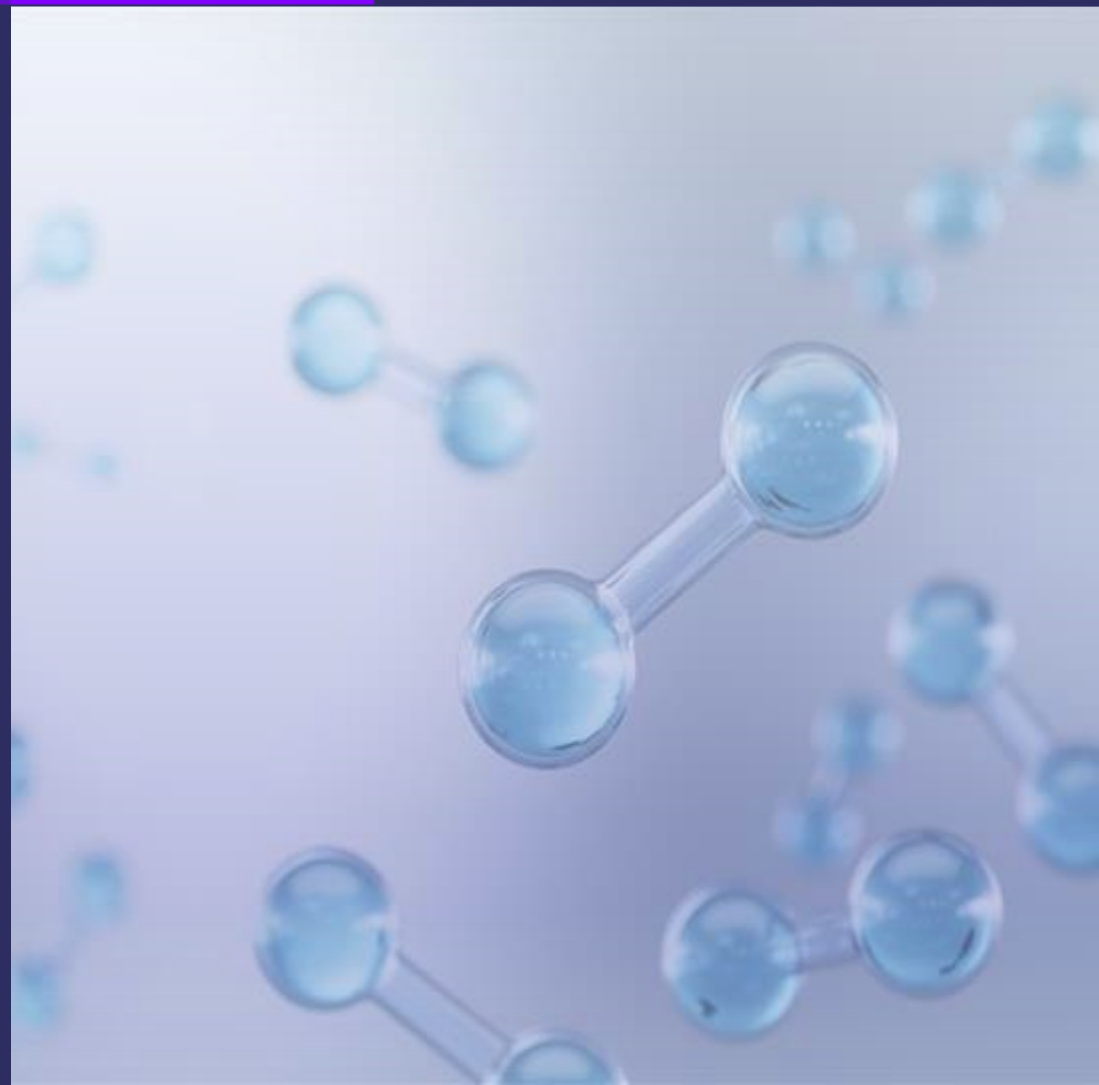
Search “NCSC cyber toolkit” or click here: https://cybertoolkit.service.ncsc.gov.uk/



Innovate UK

UK Research and Innovation

Useful Information



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.

UK Research and Innovation

UK Research and Innovation

Contact

Innovate UK ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk

Innovate UK Business Connect
https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/
avijita.kharel@iukbc.org.uk

Innovate UK Customer Support Services

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

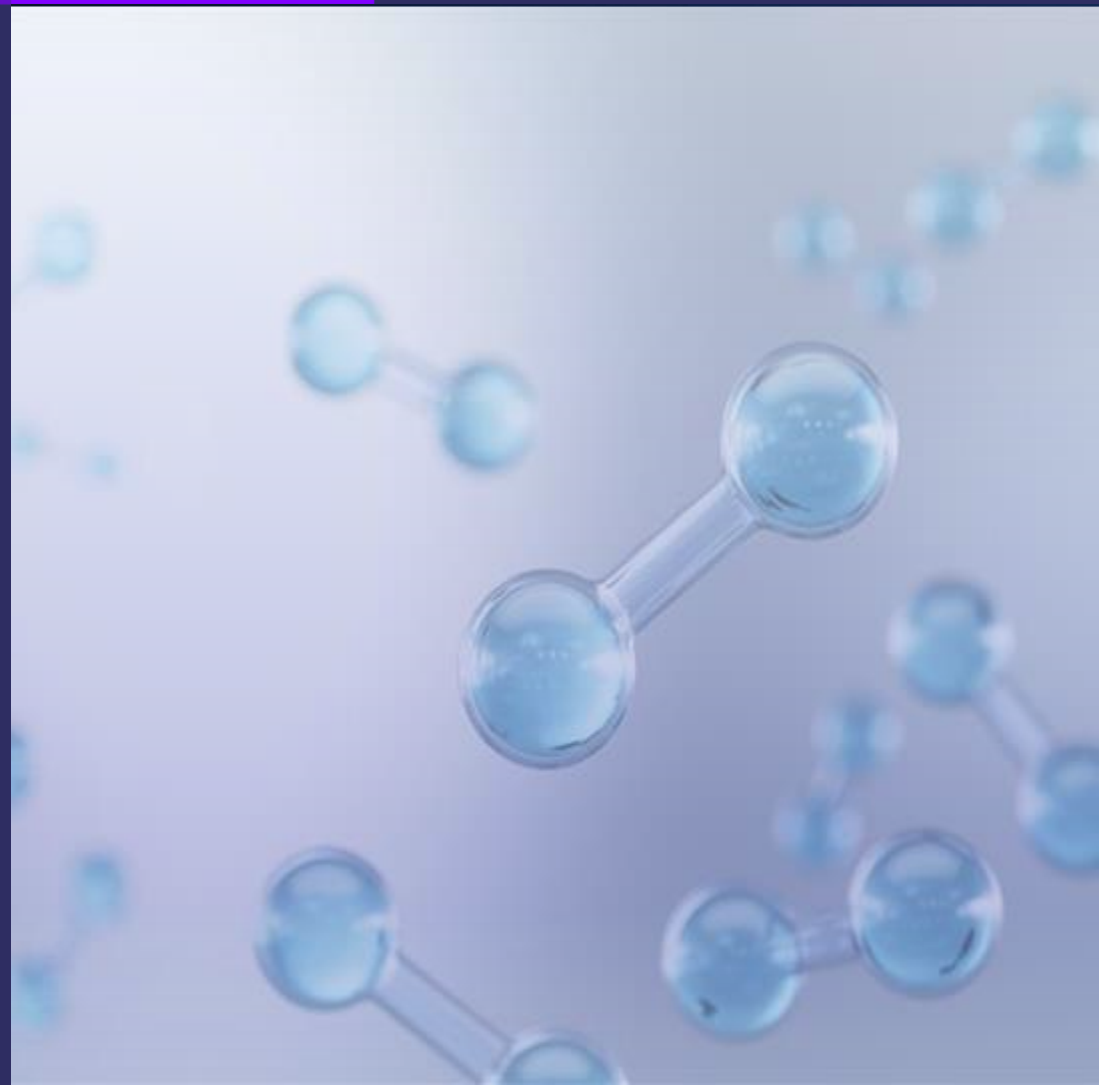
support@iuk.ukri.org

UKRI Clean Energy Superpower Mission: RDMAPEnergyMission@ukri.org

UHS links

UK Research and Innovation

Q&A



Questions

Does the application / project have to be a collaboration?
For the DEVEX competition: No, you can apply as a single organisation
For the collaborative CR&D competition: Yes, you MUST apply as a consortia that covers all the expected themes and aims of the competition, as we plan to make the £5m award to a single consortia.

What is the maximum grant award for a single application?
For the DEVEX competition: Maximum grant award is £750k
For the collaborative CR&D competitions: Maximum grant award to a single consortia is £5m, though note no single organisation can claim more than £3m in grant funding through this subsidy scheme.

How do I know how my application will be assessed?
Make sure to read the assessor scoring guidance which is linked in the 'how to apply' section.

UK Research and Innovation

Questions

With the Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components do end users have to only be for electricity generation? Would gas utility companies be relevant too?
The focus should be on Clean Power 2030 and over 100+ hours of continuous support for the electricity system and the need for interseasonal storage. So applicants must consider these ambitions within their applications, but may include any end user provided they have justified why.

You mentioned you are also looking beyond Salt caverns. 1. Does it include any type of underground storage? 2. Do you specify how deep it has to be? 3. Does the hydrogen have to be utilised onsite or offsite?
We are looking at a variety of types of underground hydrogen storage, and we are not specifying the depth. Open to a variety of utilisation options, as long as the focus remains on the 2030 ambitions and 100+ hours of continuous support for the electricity system.

Questions

Could you clarify what you mean by 'technology agnostic'? It appears that the scope is limited to pumping molecular hydrogen underground and doesn't include alternate hydrogen storage mechanisms

Our engagement and market testing has indicated that molecular hydrogen storage is an area where this particular UKRI programme may be able to have positive impact, hence we are mainly focussed on this yes. We do acknowledge that other forms of hydrogen and energy storage are available and may serve different aims that will also be valuable, but these will not be covered by this particular mission. Please do keep an eye out for other funding opportunities across UKRI and the wider public sector for future opportunities that may support this. If you are unsure, please contact the team.

Is it a single project to receive DEVEX funding or multiple and then UKRI will choose which project gets support for construction (subject to approval)?

We are anticipating multiple projects to be supported through the DEVEX competition. Phase 2 is still being scoped and is subject to approvals and progress, but we would anticipate this phase would support a single project to go forward from UKRI funding.

UK Research and Innovation

Questions

Can the technology be from overseas?

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 lead a collaborative project or to work alone, your organisation must be a UK registered business of any size. 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. You can use subcontractors from overseas but must make the case in your application as to why you cannot use subcontractors 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. To summarise – the technology may have been piloted outside the UK, but this funding must accelerate the progress of demonstrating your technology in the UK context, and organisations must comply with the rules detailed here, crucially to ensure results benefit the UK context.

Questions

Do universities need to complete the impact questions?
Any applicant will need to complete the impact questions.

For the DEVEX funding, how will UKRI evaluate proposals on different storage technologies? The project risk, system reward, investment case and route to commercialisation are all very different when comparing e.g lined rock caverns to porous gas fields. Are UKRI minded to funding a set number of projects from each type of storage technology?
You can read the full assessment guidance in the funding competition for this. Note that we are aware risks are unavoidable with these projects, the key thing is the risk mitigation you have in place to manage this. We have not set view at this point of a distribution of funding between technology types. We will take into account assessor comments when we conduct our final portfolio balancing activity to determine which projects to fund, which may include different technology types.

Questions

Is there a maximum subcontractor value / contribution?
Not specifically, but anything above around 30-40% will be flagged to us to check, and we would expect to see strong justification from you for why your subcontractor costs are taking up a large portion of your grant request.

For the DEVEX competition, are commercial projects that have already completed the FEED stage eligible?
The DEVEX competition is intended to accelerate projects towards being able to reach Final Investment Decision, and so we would not anticipate commercial scale projects that have already completed FEED type studies to be within scope of this competition. Please do email us if you have any further queries around this type of eligibility.