



Innovate  
UK

## 2469: National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2 Applicant Briefing

Date: **07/05/2026**

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

- 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

**Stephanie Armitage**

Competition Manager

**Neil Witten**

Innovation Lead, Advanced Materials

**Ajay Kapadia**

Knowledge Transfer Manager



# Agenda

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



# Key Dates

Timeline	Date
Competition Opens	<b>04/05/2026</b>
Submission Deadline	<b>24/06/2026 at 11am</b>
Applicants informed	<b>29/07/2026 by 5pm</b>
Project start and end dates	Start by 01/11/2026 End by <b>31/07/2027</b>

# Innovate UK

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### Competition Scope

**Dr Neil Witten**

Innovation Lead – Advanced Materials



# National Materials Innovation Programme

## Context



- Two-year long work to develop the **National Materials Innovation Strategy**, led by the Henry Royce Institute
- Highlights materials innovation opportunities for the next decade across:
  - 6 opportunity themes
  - 19 opportunity workstreams
  - 5 cross-cutting themes

- UK's Modern Industrial Strategy and Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan (June 25) announced a new **National Materials Innovation Programme (NMIP)**:
  - high-growth, application-focused opportunity areas for materials innovation
  - create networks of key stakeholders and a number of pilots
- Aim to champion a national approach to advanced materials, bolstering defence capabilities
  - an **initial £50 million** to deliver Phase 1 of a new **National Materials Innovation Programme (NMIP)**
  - initiate pilots that accelerate the development and adoption of **strategically important materials**



# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### Funding Summary:

- **£2 million** funding for material innovation feasibility studies
- Project duration of **up to 9 months** maximum
- **Grant request** between **£50,000 and £100,000**
- May be single applicant or collaborative....**MUST be business-led**

### Timing Summary:

- Competition Opens: Monday, **4<sup>th</sup> May 2026** at 11:00am
- Briefing: Thursday, **7<sup>th</sup> May 2026** at 10:30am
- Competition Closes: Wednesday, **24<sup>th</sup> June 2026** at 11:00am
- Projects start by **1<sup>st</sup> November 2026**
- Projects end no later than **31 July 2027**

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### Prioritisation of Themes

On behalf of DSIT, we continue to deliver Phase 1 of the **National Materials Innovation Programme** as announced in the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan

- UKRI has had to make strategic choices to ensure the available funding has the **greatest possible demonstration of impact**
- collaborating with the Materials Innovation Leadership Group, we assessed opportunity themes from the National Materials Innovation Strategy (NMIS) against **UK market opportunity, existing capability, time to impact, and the wider funding landscape**
- this has led us to prioritise three high growth opportunity themes, namely **Healthcare Solutions, Sustainable Structural Systems** (combining priorities across two NMIS themes), and **Power Electronics and Connectivity**, and one strategic opportunity theme, **Metamaterials and Metasurfaces**

We fully recognise the strength and importance of the wider materials innovation community so, where possible, certain future programme elements will remain broad in scope to accommodate these. We continue to look for additional future opportunities. We remain committed to engaging with, and supporting, innovation across the full breadth of UK materials research and industry.

# National Materials Innovation Strategy

## Prioritisation of high growth opportunity themes for Rd 2

### Energy Solutions

- battery energy storage
- large-scale electrochemical energy generation and conversion (incl. hydrogen)
- hydrogen transport, storage and use
- heat exchange, heat storage and waste heat recovery
- energy harvesting
- advanced nuclear fuels and nuclear test capability

### Future Healthcare

- biocompatibility
- bioelectronics

### Structural Innovations

- low-carbon construction
- sustainable structural systems – composites
- advanced sustainable metallics
- advanced ceramics

### Advanced Surface Technologies and Materials Durability

- surface engineering and tribology (incl. modelling of systems)
- surface treatments
- demanding environments

### Next-Generation Electronics, Telecoms & Sensors

- power electronics
- quantum technologies
- connectivity & telecommunications

### Consumer Products, Packaging & Specialist Polymers

- sustainable packaging
- speciality polymers (sustainable elastomers)

Combined

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 1: Future Healthcare Solutions: Biocompatible Materials

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- 3-D printable or fabricated biocompatible materials
- organoid bioprinting
- structural or scaffolding materials
- defined-porosity materials
- biosynthetic hybrid materials
- conductive materials
- patient-specific or patient-derived materials
- externally controlled implantable materials
- infection reducing surfaces
- coatings and drug release material systems
- bone and cartilage regenerative materials solutions
- shape memory materials
- smart, active and/or functional wound treatment materials

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 1: Future Healthcare Solutions: Bioelectronic Materials

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- bioelectronic materials with increases in implantable life (over 10 years)
- materials for high density, low power electrodes
- materials for light activated bioelectronics
- bioelectronic materials with mechanical properties, similar to tissue, for interfacing electronics with the body
- bioelectronic materials which improve sensor performance in vivo including, for example, wearable, contactless and other non-invasive sensing
- materials for smart devices for in situ disease monitoring
- bioelectronic materials to enable therapeutic intervention including, for example, materials for electrical stimulation (neurological or motor control)
- materials for accelerated wound healing and tissue repair
- materials to enable smart implants for cardiovascular conditions

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 2: Sustainable structural systems: Circularity

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- circularity of speciality grade steels
- circularity of other performance metals
- circularity of high performance metallic alloys
- circularity of fibre-reinforced polymer composites such as high-performance, low-global warming fibres, recyclable matrices, etc.
- circularity of other high value materials
- sustainable composites for construction

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 2: Sustainable structural systems: Surface engineering

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- surface engineering innovations to extend technology, asset or infrastructure lifetime
- materials innovations to control either the surface or bulk degradation of structural materials in real world conditions
- sustainable, multi-functional, damage-tolerant or self-healing material innovations for surface protection and enhancement
- materials which enable the replacement, substitution or a transition away from restricted use systems (therefore mitigating environmental impacts).

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 2: Sustainable structural systems: Design and deployment

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- materials to enable enhanced resistance to surface or bulk degradation of structural systems through improved modelling, characterisation, testing and certification of materials
- improving the predictability of surface and bulk materials degradation in real world conditions

...etc.

### Theme 2: Sustainable structural systems: Extreme environments

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- materials to reduce surface or bulk degradation due to, for example, thermal and radiation extremes, as well as multi-extreme environments

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 3: Power electronics and connectivity: wide and ultra-wide bandgap materials

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- current generation materials such as Gallium Nitride (GaN), Silicon Carbide (SiC), Silicon Germanium (SiGe)
- emergent material systems such as Gallium Oxide ( $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ ), Diamond, Graphene, Beryllium Oxide (BeO), Aluminium Nitride (AlN), cubic Boron Nitride (c-BN)
- materials to enable operation at higher temperature including thermal interface materials, thermo-electric materials and novel packaging materials

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 3: Power electronics and connectivity: Advanced connectivity

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- materials enabling reduction of high frequency signal loss
- materials enabling improved power efficiency and enabling device miniaturization
- current generation materials such as Gallium Arsenide (GaAs), Indium Phosphide (InP), Gallium Nitride (GaN)
- emergent material systems such as 2D materials, carbon nanotubes, Barium Titanate (BaTiO<sub>3</sub>), Lithium Niobate (LiNbO<sub>3</sub>)
- advanced dielectric substrates
- photonic and opto-electronic materials
- thermal interface and phase change materials

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 4: Metamaterials and metasurfaces: Future telecommunications and advanced connectivity

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- materials enabling advances and applications in 6G networks
- materials enabling advances and applications in satellite communications
- materials enabling advances and applications in signal coverage extension
- materials enabling advances and applications in enhanced precision positioning
- materials enabling advances and applications for more efficient energy networks

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 4: Metamaterials and metasurfaces: Convergent electronic-photonic technologies

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- flat optics and imaging (metalenses) for electronic-photonic integration
- materials for wavefront engineering
- materials for biosensing and imaging for environmental monitoring
- materials for quantum photonics for information processing
- metasurfaces to enhance nonlinear optics

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 4: Metamaterials and metasurfaces: Thermal or mechanical metamaterials

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- lightweighting and load bearing metamaterials for optimized structures
- metamaterials for high strength to weight lattices and energy absorbing structures
- morphing structures, origami and kirigami-inspired metamaterials
- metamaterials enabling reconfigurable haptics
- tactile sensing metamaterials
- thermoresponsive metamaterials
- metamaterials with adaptive, intelligent functionality

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 4: Metamaterials and metasurfaces: Energy security and net zero

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- materials enabling advances in renewable energy sources
- materials enabling advances in energy storage through, for instance, reduced system power consumption through acoustic and thermal management
- metamaterials for efficient co-processing

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd 2

### Theme 4: Metamaterials and metasurfaces: Healthcare

The following list is non-exhaustive but examples in this sub-theme could include innovations in:

- materials enabling reduced cost biosensors
- materials enabling real time biomonitoring
- materials enabling conformal sensor arrays for imaging
- materials enabling point of care diagnostics
- materials enabling biomedical devices stimuli responsive systems
- materials enabling advanced prosthetics
- materials enabling acoustic management in clinical settings

...etc.

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### Theme 4:

We recognise that the 'strategic material opportunity: metamaterials and metasurfaces' theme has potential overlap with some of the other three prioritised high growth opportunity themes, as guidance:

**If your innovation is based upon a metamaterial or metasurface technology then you must apply under theme 4**

Projects must demonstrate they meet the definition of a metamaterial as developed by the metamaterials community (UK Metamaterials Network):

- a metamaterial is a 3D structure with a response or function due to the collective effect of meta-atom elements that is not possible to achieve conventionally with any individual constituent material
- a metasurface is a 2D version of a metamaterial where the structural elements are confined to a 2D plane

*Note: The response or function of a metamaterial results from the ensemble effects of designed and engineered meta-atom elements. These can take many forms, for example the response or function may be electromagnetic; photonic, RF and microwave, terahertz (THz), acoustic; audio, ultrasonic, vibrational magnetic, mechanical or structural, thermal or chemical*

# Competition Scope

What do we mean by ‘...materials innovation projects...’?

‘Materials innovation projects’ in the context of this competition are those directed towards:

- **improving functionality of existing** materials for example, metals, composites, etc.
- **developing and deploying** completely **new** materials, for example, emergent advanced materials
- **deploying existing** materials in a **novel or innovative way** to address a major technical barrier

.....leading to materials which **overcome a technical hurdle** and **function in an enhanced way**

These outcomes may be evidenced through:

- improved performance or efficiency
- bolstering security and competitiveness of UK industry or,
- environmental benefits, for example, sustainability or resource efficiency

# Competition Scope

What does a good ‘...materials innovation project...’ look like?

Your project should:

- be **primarily focused** upon the applied materials science, materials development or novel materials deployment challenge (as opposed to the processing, product manufacture, end application, etc.)
- demonstrate the **expected improvement** in performance, efficiency, competitiveness or environmental benefits and clearly articulate these
- **clearly align** with one of the themes and sub-themes in the scope section
  - You will be asked to choose which theme/subtheme your project aligns with
  - it is **your responsibility** to ensure you submit to the correct theme/sub-theme combination for your project
- demonstrate a potential **end use application and support** from one of the IS-8 high growth sectors identified in the UK’s Modern Industrial Strategy
- Realistically recognise the **opportunities, barriers and challenges** to progressing your material innovation toward adoption in the end application

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

Additionally you **MUST**:

- explain how adoption of your materials innovation contributes to **broader UK net zero targets**, for example, through reduction in energy consumption, emissions reduction, resource efficiency, etc.
- upload an acceptable **signed letter of support**, on headed paper, from a potential end user of your materials innovation. The end user must be **operating within one of the eight growth driving sectors** identified in the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy (IS-8) sectors

# Competition Scope

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### We will not fund projects that:

- are not described by any of **the themes and sub-themes listed** in the scope section
- are focused on chemical or raw **materials synthesis**, rather than adoption of materials innovations in an end application
- are focused solely on the defence sector, but we **will recognise dual use material innovations** providing the **primary focus is on civil** applications
- do not show a **clear and realistic sector and application opportunity** for later adoption
- do not provide a **letter of support** as described in the eligibility and scope sections

### We cannot fund projects that are:

- dependent on export performance, for example, giving a subsidy to a baker on the condition that it exports a certain quantity of bread to another country
- dependent on domestic inputs usage, for example, giving a subsidy to a baker on the condition that it uses 50% UK flour in their product

# Letter of Support

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### Guidance

As is clearly explained in the 'How to apply' tab (under Q8), you must **upload your letter of support as an appendix** to question 8.

It **MUST** be:

- a **PDF no larger than 10MB**
- **up to two A4 pages** in length
- **legible at 100% zoom**

There is no requirement or benefit to uploading more than a single Letter of Support.

If you have options then select the Letter of Support which you feel provides the greatest support to your application.

# Letter of Support

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### Content

The Letter of Support must be from an end user who is working within the supply chain of one of the eight growth driving sectors (the 'IS-8') identified in the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy. The letter must confirm that your idea has potential to be scalable within the sector but does not need to constitute a commercial contract, formal partnership, or equivalent.

The content of the Letter of Support **MUST**, as a minimum, include the following:

- be on the **headed paper of the supporting organisation**
- be **addressed to the applicant**
- make **reference to the specific project application** title
- identify which of **the IS-8 sectors the supporting organisation operates within**
- **signature and title (position/role)** of the person providing the Letter of Support

The Letter of Support **should explain**, from the perspective of the supporting organisation, the **potential application(s), potential benefit(s)** of your material innovation and outline any **future barriers and challenges** they foresee to adoption in the IS-8 sector they are working within.

This may include factors such as functionality, technical performance, sustainability, etc.

# Letter of Support

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

### We will not accept:

- placeholders for the Letter of Support, i.e. 'will provide if successful' or 'lack of time' (i.e. awaiting from 3<sup>rd</sup> party), etc.
- copies of emails or other e-communication tools (Teams chat, WhatsApp, etc.) between the applicant and a third party, even if these refer to the project application
- letters or other documents between the applicant and a third party that do not directly refer to the project application (e.g. purchase orders, invoices, etc.)
- other forms of agreement between the applicant and a third party (e.g. HoA, MoU, JDA, Letters of Intent, supply agreements, commercial contracts, formal partnership agreements, etc.)

**Applications using any of the above will automatically be made ineligible and will not be sent for assessment.**

# Letter of Support (LoS)

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

- a) *What do you mean by an 'end user'?*
- b) *Can the LoS be provided by an overseas organisation or must it be from a UK based organisation?*
- c) *Can the LoS be provided by a partner on project?*
- d) *Can the LoS come from a public sector organisation, combined authority or sector trade council / body?*
- e) *Is there a template available for the LoS?*
- f) *Would a LoS be acceptable from an organisation within the Professional / Business Services sector (e.g. architects, etc). This is one of the IS-8?*
- g) *Should the LoS be project specific or general?*
- h) *Can the end user be another part of the same group of companies?*
- i) *If I provide multiple LoS is that a benefit to my application - is multiple better?*
- j) *My LoS contains confidential and commercially sensitive information which I do not want to share?*
- k) *Can my LoS come from an academic (University Professor) who is working in the field?*
- l) *My application sector is in construction, not directly one of the IS-8, can I apply?*

# ....and finally....

## National Materials Innovation Programme: Feasibility studies Rd2

- a) **DO NOT** include any website addresses (URLs) in any of your answers... **THEY WILL NOT BE VIEWED** and this is a **waste of your word count!**
  
- b) **DO** understand the difference between the **grant request** (between £50k and £100k) and your **total eligible project costs** (= the total cost of your project including you/your partners contributions).
  
- c) **DO** recognise the intent behind the wording difference 'your project **MUST...**' and 'your project **SHOULD...**'
  
- d) **DO** understand and respect the finance limits:
  - Subcontractors are allowed in this competition and are **limited to no more than 30% of the project's total eligible costs.**
  - Research organisations undertaking non-economic activity as part of the project **can share up to 30% of the total eligible project costs.**

# Thank you



**Dr Neil Witten CEng FIMMM**  
Innovation Lead - Advanced Materials

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[@neilwitten](https://twitter.com/neilwitten)

# Eligibility criteria



# Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

## Your project must:

- have grant funding request of between £50,000 and £100,000
- be no more than nine months in duration
- carry out all of its project work in the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- start by **01/11/2026**
- end by **31/07/2027**

# Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

## Lead organisation:

To lead a project your organisation must:

- be a UK registered business of any size
- Academic institutions, research and technology organisations (RTO), charities, not for profit or public sector organisations cannot lead a project or work alone.

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.

In all collaborative projects there must be:

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

*(This means one partner must not account for more than 70% of the eligible costs and you must include rationale for the collaboration and describe the structure in the application.)*

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

## Subcontractors

Subcontractors are allowed in this competition and are limited to **no more than 30% of the project's total eligible costs.**

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

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

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

# Eligibility Criteria – Number of applications

## Number of applications

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

If a business is **not** leading any application, it can collaborate in **any** number of applications.

An academic institution, charity, not for profit public sector organisation or RTO can collaborate on any number of applications.

# Previously submitted applications

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

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



# **Innovation Funding Service (IFS)**

# Creating an account

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

## For pre-existing businesses and Research organisations

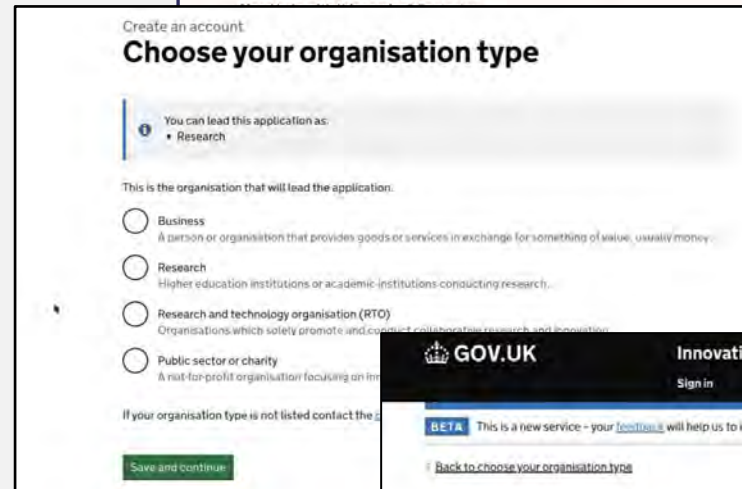
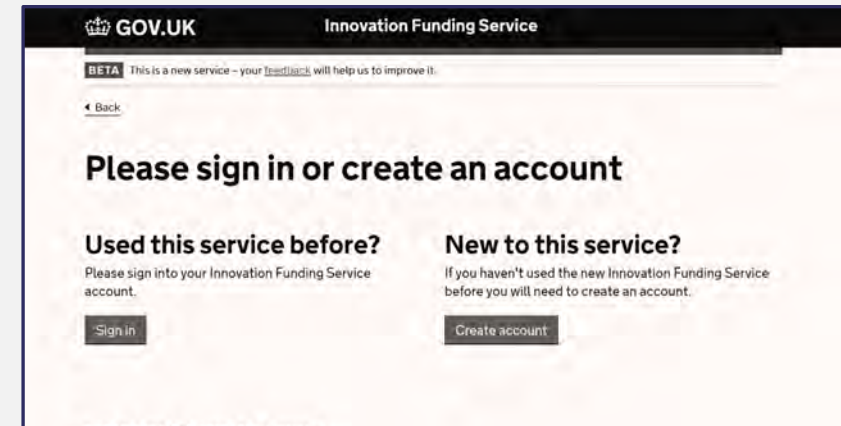
Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

## Academic Institutions

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

## If your organisation is yet to be formed

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



# Application Questions

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 2	Animal testing (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 3	Permits and licences (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	International Collaboration (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 5	Export licence (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 7	Project Theme (not scored)	Multiple Choice	No
Question 8	Letter of Support (not scored)	4 words	Yes – mandatory up to 2 pages
Question 9	Need or Challenge	400 words	No
Question 10	Approach and Innovation	400 words	Yes – optional, up to 2 pages
Question 11	Team and Resources	400 words	Yes-optional up to 2 pages
Question 12	Market Awareness	400 words	No
Question 13	Outcomes and route to market	400 words	No
Question 14	Wider Impacts	400 words	No
Question 15	Project Management	400 words	Yes-mandatory-up to 2 pages
Question 16	Risks	400 words	Yes-mandatory-up to 2 pages
Question 17	Added Value	400 words	No
Question 18	Costs and Value for Money	400 words	No

# National Security and Investment Act - overview

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

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

These 17 areas are:

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

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

# UK Strategic Export Controls - overview

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

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

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

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

# Q4 International Collaboration (not scored)

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

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

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

# Q6 Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)

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

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

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

# Project Impact questions

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



## For more information:

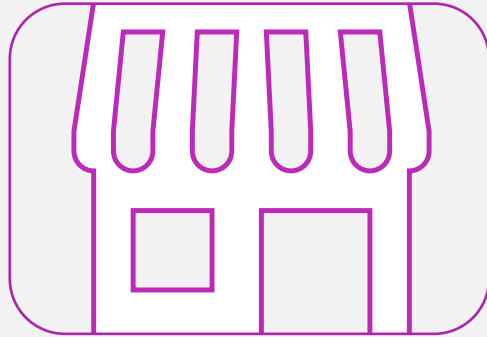
- [Watch Our Impact Management Framework video](#)
- [How is the Project Impact data collected? video](#)

# Your Project Cost Categories

View our [Application Finances Instructional Video](#)



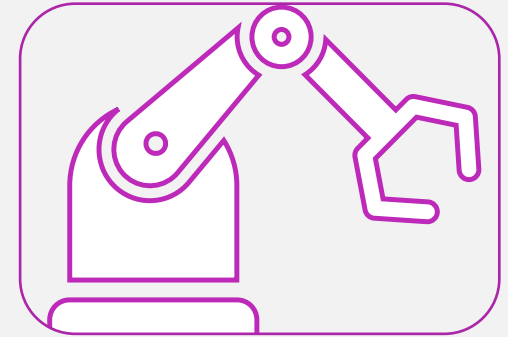
Labour



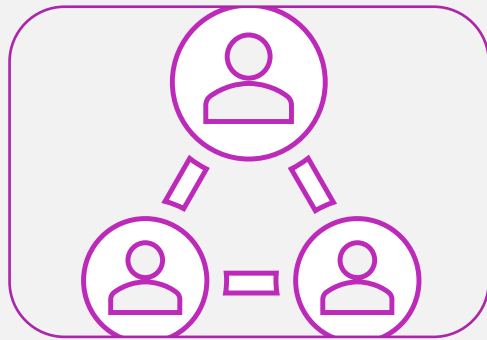
Overheads



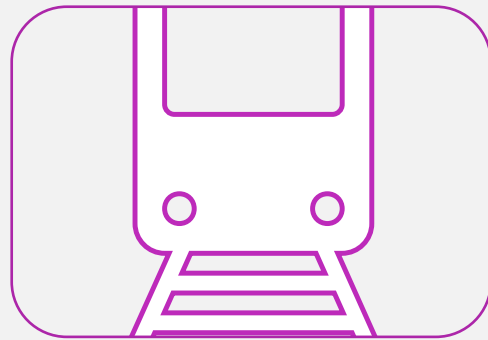
Materials



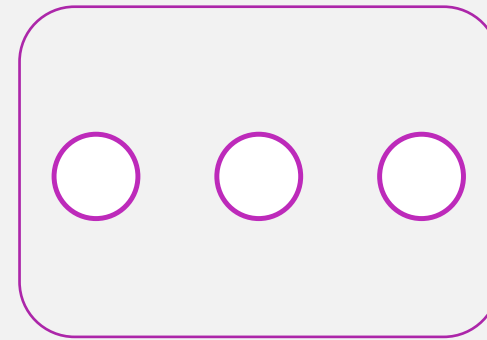
Capital Usage



Subcontractors



Travel &  
Subsistence




Other

# Your project finances


## Finances

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


---

**Your project finances**  Incomplete

---


[Finances overview](#)  Incomplete

## Finances


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

Please complete your project finances.


---

[Your project costs](#)  Incomplete


---

[Your project location](#)  Incomplete

---

[Your organisation](#)  Incomplete

---

[Your funding](#)  Incomplete

## Your project costs

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

## Your project location

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

## Your organisation

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

## Your funding

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

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

# Checking your finances are complete

## Finances summary

These organisations have not marked their finances as complete:

- Ludlow
- EGGS

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

		Total costs (£)	Funding level (%)	Funding sought (£)	Contribution to project (£)	Other public sector funding (£)
<b>Empire Ltd</b> Lead organisation	✓	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
<b>Ludlow</b> Partner	⚠	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
<b>EGGS</b> Partner	⚠	990	100.00	990	0	0
<b>Total</b>	⚠	<b>£402,796</b>		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.

**The research organisations undertaking non-economic activity as part of the project can share up to 30% of the total eligible project costs.**

**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](#)



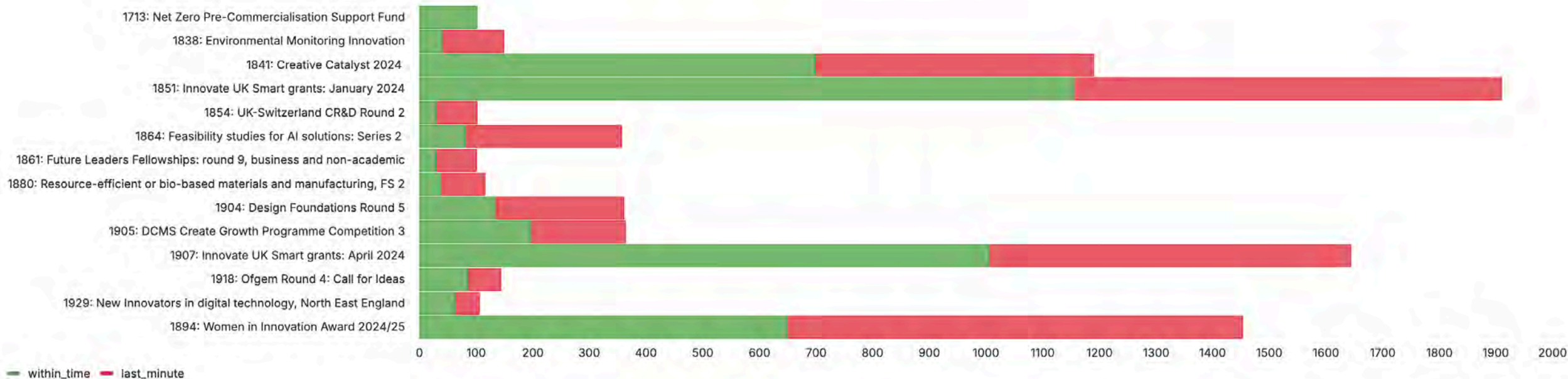
I agree to the [full terms and conditions](#) set out by the funding authority. I understand I need to agree to the final contract if my application is successful.

[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.

Upload

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

Mark as complete

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.

# 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



Innovate  
UK



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

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

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

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

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

# Subsidy Control (and State aid where relevant)

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

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

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

## **Financial viability and eligibility**

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

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

# Article 10 of the Windsor Framework

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

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

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

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

## **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)**.



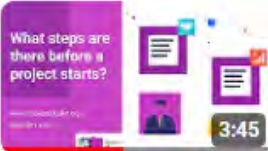


Guidance on [Article 10 of the Windsor Framework](#).

# 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





# Connecting & Convening

## Innovate UK Business Connect

With more than 200 innovation, technology and sector experts based across the UK we:

- understand **innovation needs**
- signpost to **investment finance**
- support in **navigating the UK innovation landscape**
- have links to more than **500,000 innovative businesses and individual innovators** throughout the UK



# Drop In Sessions

- 13th May 13:00 -14:00
- 2nd June 13:00-14:00

Neil Witten and Ajay Kapadia will be available to answer your questions and queries.

Also, a representative from the UK Metamaterials Network will be available at the drop-ins to 'be on hand' to support any queries that come from the community on project partners, other support, etc....

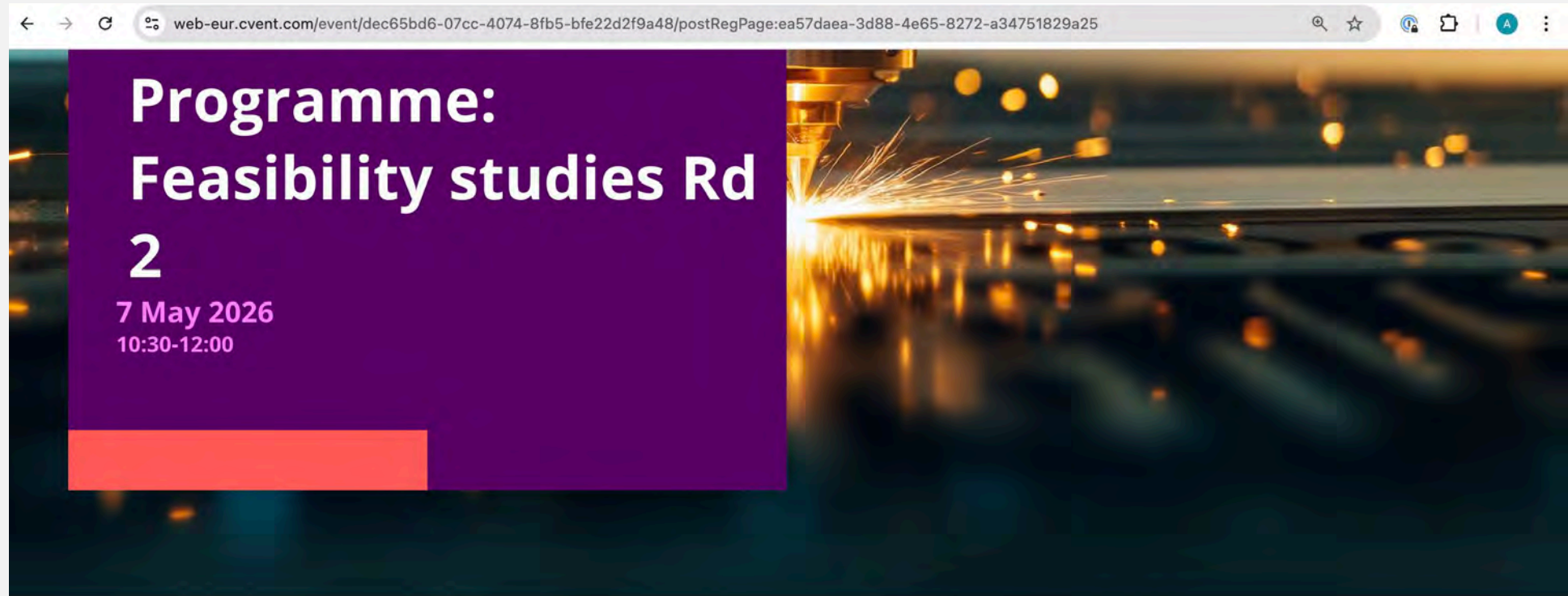
# Questions on scope and eligibility, or accessibility support

- Email [support@iuk.ukri.org](mailto:support@iuk.ukri.org)
- Call 0300 321 4357 (Mon–Fri, 9am–12pm & 2pm–5pm)

# Connecting with registrants of this Application Briefing

- To access list of attendees and be able to contact those that gave their approval
- Goto the events page: <https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/dec65bd6-07cc-4074-8fb5-bfe22d2f9a48/summary>
- Click on 'Already Registered'
- Enter your email address and confirmation number
- Click on 'Post Registration'
- Click on 'Delegate List'
- Those with envelopes against their names can be contacted

# Attendee List



## Attendee list

Check out who's attending our event!

Search  152 attendees < Prev 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Next >

Name 	Company 	Job Title 
--	---	---

# Additional Innovate UK Business Connect Support

- Support with partner search
- Light touch review of applications – have you answered the questions
- Contacts:
- <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/people/ajay-kapadia/>
- <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/people/robert-quarshie/>
- <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/people/mili-tharakan/>
- <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/people/christopher-pilgrim/>
- <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/people/denise-goldsmith/>
- <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/people/dhinisa-patel/>

# 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/>

# 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](http://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 circular 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" in a blue box. The main heading is "Start protecting your business with our free cyber toolkit", where "free" is underlined with a yellow brushstroke. Below this, a sub-heading reads: "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](http://www.iukbg.ukri.org)

or call us on:

**0300 123 3066**



## Contact Business Growth

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

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

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

Telephone | 0300 123 3066

Name

Email

Telephone

Company name

Registered company name or intended trading name

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

# Useful Information

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

## Funding opportunities

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

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

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

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

# Q&A



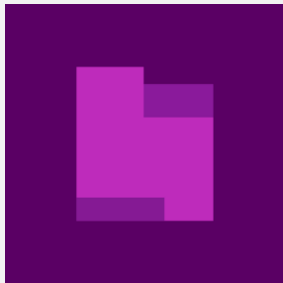
Innovate  
UK

# Contact

## Customer Support Services

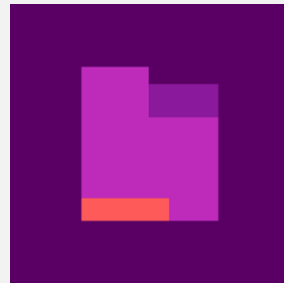
0300 321 4357 (Monday - Friday 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm)

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



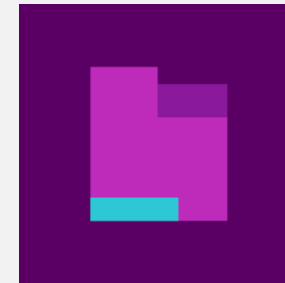
**Innovate UK**

[ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk](https://ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk)



**Innovate UK  
Business Connect**

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



**Innovate UK Business  
Growth**

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

# Thank You

 @InnovateUK

 Innovate UK

 Innovate UK

 @weareinnovateuk