



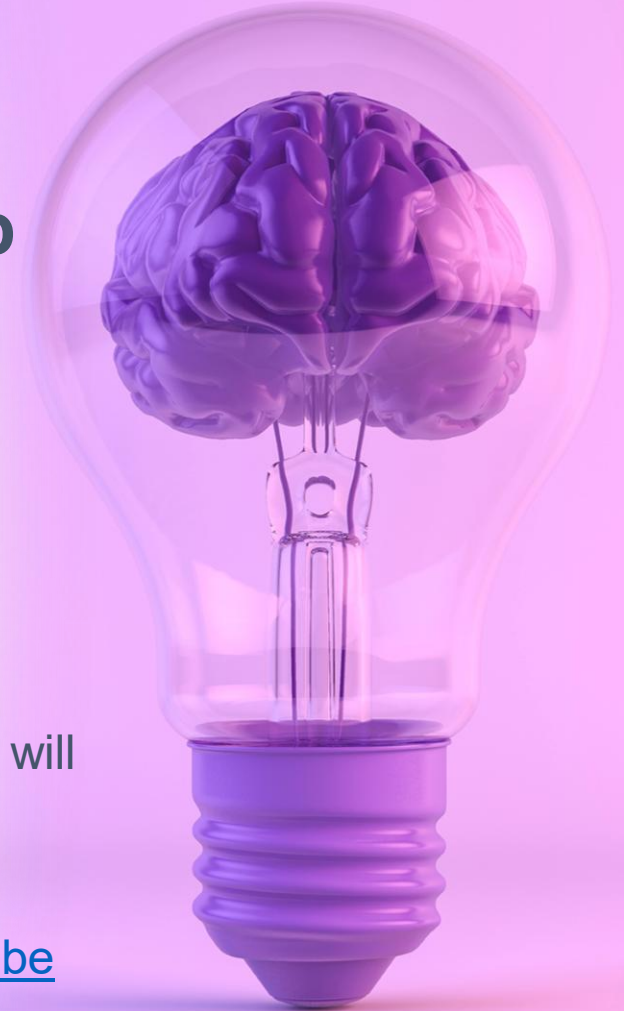
Innovate
UK

Defra Farming Innovation Investor Partnership Applicant Briefing

Date: 18 May 2026

The webinar will start at 12:00

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



Welcome and Introductions

Yvette Willis

Competition Manager, Healthy Living & Agriculture

Chris Danks

Head of Agrifood



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	11 May 2026
Submission Deadline	17 June 2026 at 11am
Applicants informed	16 December 2026 by 5pm
Project start and end dates	Start from 1 April 2027 End by 31 March 2031

Competition Summary & Scope



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The Farming Innovation Programme

- Since 2021, the **Farming Innovation Programme (FIP)** has been Defra's flagship for supporting research and innovation in farming and is one of the main vehicles for our innovation and research ambition.
- FIP aims to enhance productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors.
- Funding is awarded on a competitive basis to high quality, innovative projects.
- To date it has supported 294 projects involving 611 organisations, enabling nascent technology development and creating a long-term pipeline of future businesses.
- FIP has committed over £150m of Defra funding and attracted over £54m of private investment.



The **Farming Innovation Programme** offers a range of opportunities for farmers, growers, businesses and researchers to collaborate on industry-led research and development:



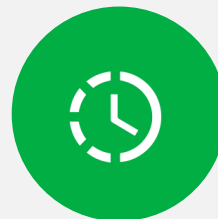
Small **Research Starter Projects** where farmers, growers & foresters can explore a new idea



Investor Partnerships blending public grant funding with private investment to help agri-tech businesses scale and commercialise late-stage innovations.



Feasibility projects where businesses can check if a research idea works in practice.



Themed competitions (Farming Futures R&D Fund), where businesses and researchers can work on longer-term innovation focussing on issues like: **Climate-Smart Farming, Sustainable farm-based Proteins, Robotics and Automation, Environmental resilience or Nutrient management, Precision Breeding, Low emissions**



Small/Large Partnership Projects, where businesses can further develop a new farming product or service towards commercialisation.



ADOPT Fund where farmers can trial on-farm new innovations, practices or technologies

Scope



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Defra Farming Innovation Investor Partnership

UK registered SMEs can apply for a share of up to £5 million to develop innovative farming solutions. This must align with private investment from selected investor partners.



Defra Farming Innovation Investor Partnership



Sole **UK SMEs** seeking aligned private investment minimum **2x** grant awarded

Opens 11 May
Closes 17 June 2026

Total grant budget



£5
Million

Research category

**Experimental
Development**

Total project costs

**£750,000 -
£3,000,000**

Duration

18 months



Must be able to demonstrate how the project will benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England.

Develop ambitious late-stage innovative solutions, technologies, systems or approaches that will make significant steps towards improving productivity, increasing sustainability and resilience.

Require 1 Investor from the Innovate UK Investor Pool



Currently
+200 Investor Partners, but can syndicate with others

SMEs above threshold notified on
24 July 2026

One-page investment profiles shared with all onboarded Investor Partners

Heads of Terms to be agreed by
2 December 2026

**Projects start by
April 2027**

Aim

The aim of this competition is to:

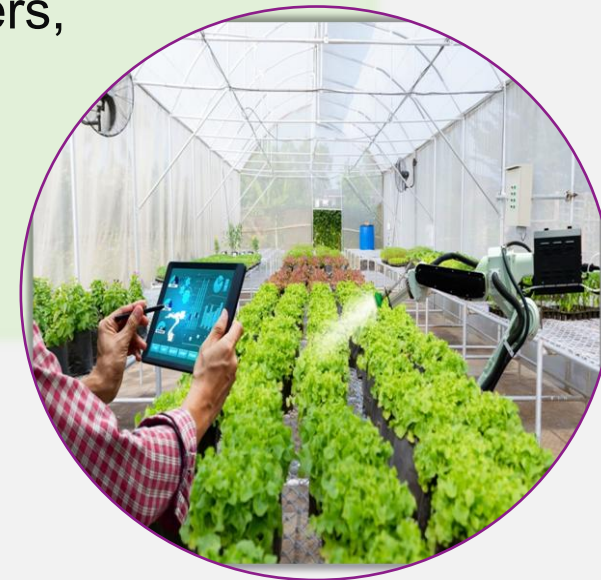
- Develop ambitious late-stage innovative solutions, technologies, systems or approaches that will make significant steps towards improving productivity, increasing sustainability and resilience, and helping the agriculture sector move towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050
- Support late-stage experimental development projects being close to market and ultimately adoption by farmers



Objective

Your proposal must:

- Demonstrate your ambition to finalise a late-stage innovation
- Show your potential to grow and scale your business through successful negotiation of investment from a lead investor associated with the competition
- Provide a coherent project plan which integrates into your business strategy
- Your project must be able to demonstrate how the project will benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England



Specific Themes



Address a significant **industry challenge or opportunity** in at least one of the below:

- ✓ livestock
- ✓ plants
- ✓ novel food production systems
- ✓ bioeconomy and agroforestry

Scope

In Scope

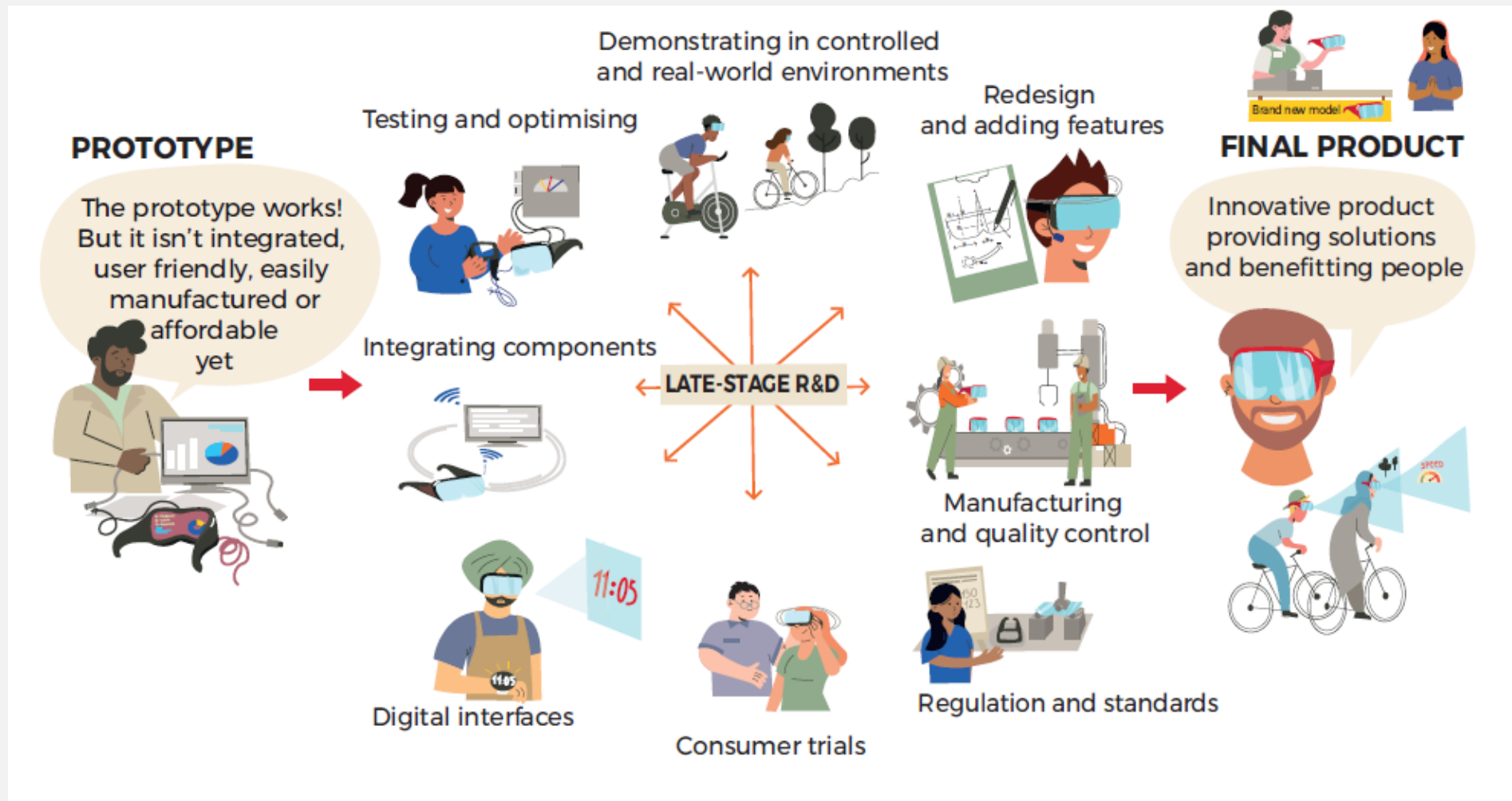
Address major on-farm or immediate post farmgate challenges or opportunities to benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England. Solutions **must** significantly **improve**:

- ✓ productivity
- ✓ sustainability and environmental impact
- ✓ progression towards net zero emissions
- ✓ resilience

Out of Scope:

- are not carried out by single SMEs
- are not part of a company's growth plan
- are unable to prove there is potential for return on investment and growth
- do not benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England
- are equine specific
- involve wild caught fisheries
- involve aquaculture for fish production or human consumption
- involve cellular or acellular production systems, fermentation systems for bacteria, yeast or fungi for human consumption
- are for the production of crops or plants for medicinal or pharmaceutical use

Late-Stage R&D (Experimental Development)



Investor Partnership model



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Investor Partnerships:

Accelerating Investment

Addressing challenge of innovative SMEs that need:

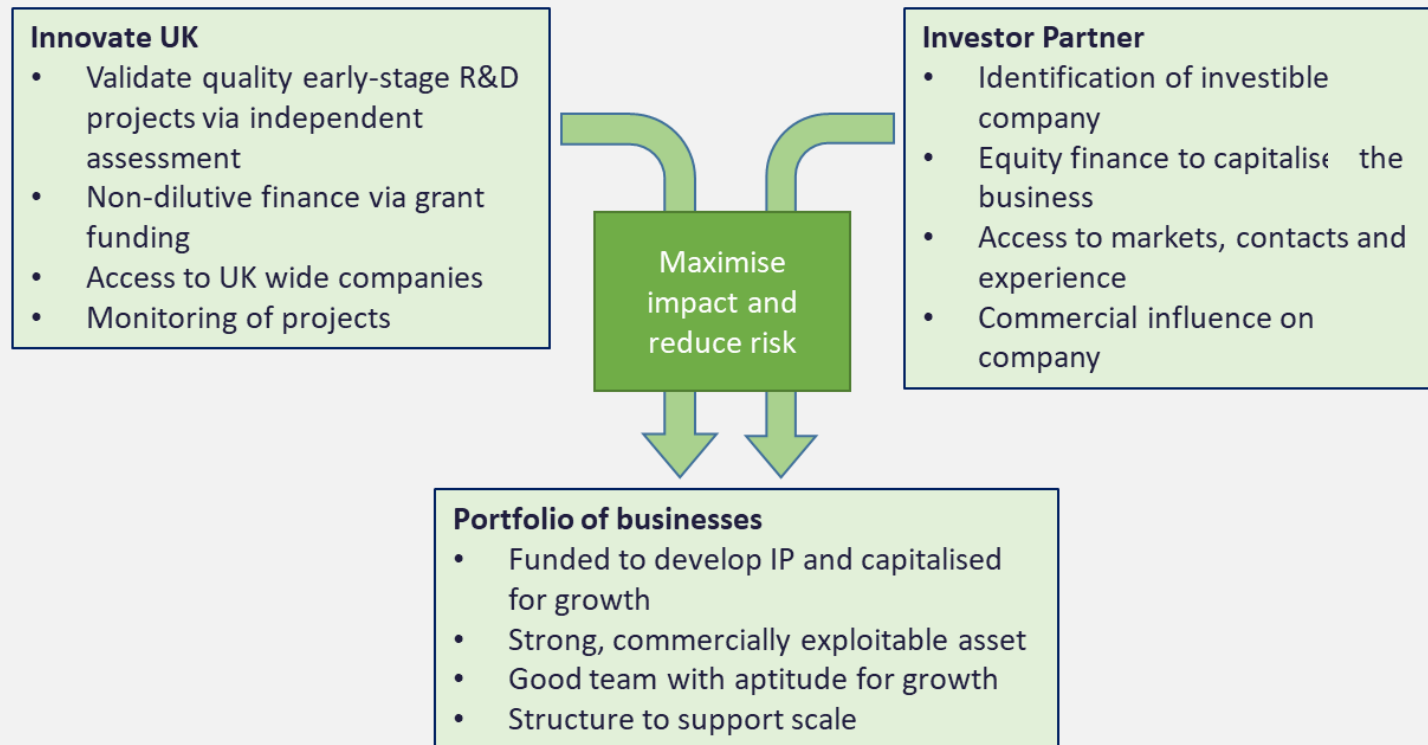
- support for innovation and
- access to capital

Bringing together:

- grant funding for innovative R&D projects in future economy areas
- aligned VC and Angel equity investment

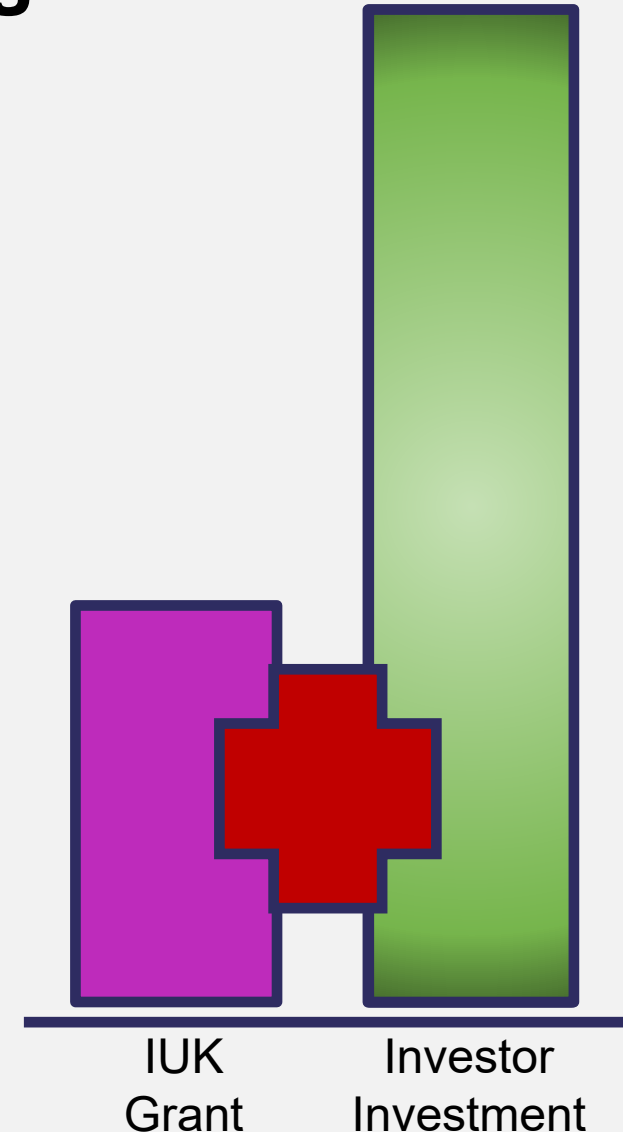
Delivering:

- accelerated investment
- growth at scale through innovation

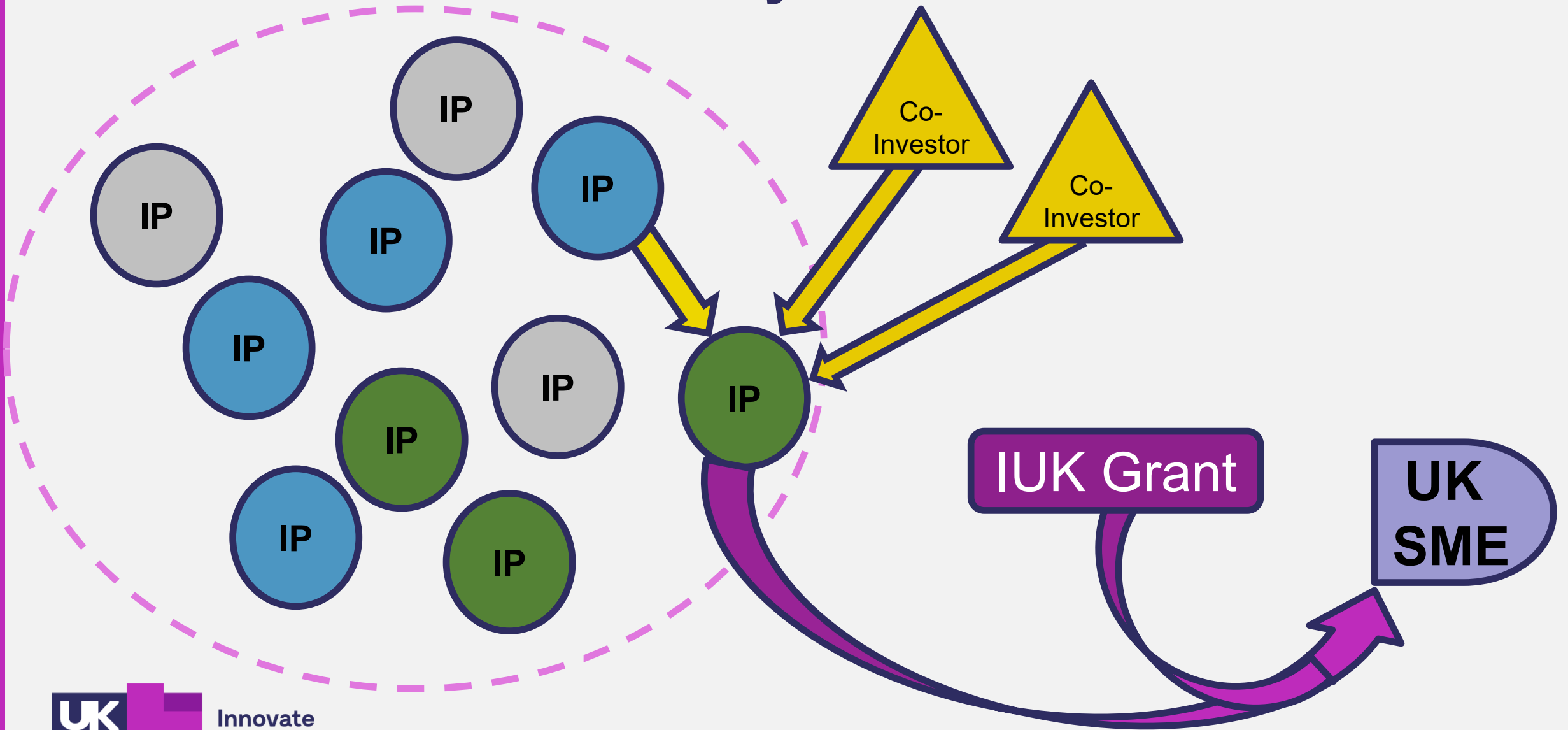


Late-Stage Investor Partnership Funding

- Aim to support pre/early-revenue SMEs with R&D requirements
- Experimental development (TRL 6-8): Project size between £750k and £3m total eligible cost
- UKRI fund up to 45% of project cost
- Only project costs deemed acceptable by UKRI can be claimed
- Investment is aligned to cover the required UKRI committed costs plus additional company investment
- Ratio minimum 2:1 Investment : Grant
- Ratios higher than the required 2:1 will likely have more additionality in particular none R&D investment
- Overall 'round' raising £1 m to >£5 million, with no cap



Investor Partner Pool & Syndicates



Example of 'bottom up' proposal

- Potential to build an investment requirement from the basis of a late-stage R&D project perspective
- The private investment requirement will need to be well justified and additional to the project requirements, and not just match funding

Total Project Cost	UKRI Grant	Investor Series A Investment*	Overall Funding
£750,000	£337,500	> £675,000	> £1,012,500
£1,000,000	£450,000	> £900,000	> £1,350,000
£2,000,000	£900,000	> £1,800,000	> £2,700,000
£3,000,000	£1,350,000	> £2,700,000	> £4,050,000

Example of 'top down' proposal

- More traditional approach to justify overall late-stage investment requirement
- A UK company, having previously secured IUK and seed investment were seeking a £3m Series A investment.
- Their 'ask' comprised of IP demonstration, experimental development R&D and trials (£1.7m) which could be identified as total project costs. Alongside this they have requirements for manufacture and capital (£900k) and a need to build their management team and sales and marketing groups (£400k).

Total Project Cost	UKRI Grant	Investor Series A Investment*	Overall Funding
£1,700,000	£765,000	£2,235,000	£3,000,000

* Minimum Investment is >2 x UKRI Grant, no maximum ceiling

- This would favourably exceed the minimum investment ratio at a 2.92 : 1 ratio

Investor Partners



Investor partners

Application through the Innovation Funding Service to demonstrate:

- **credibility** as an investor – strategy and track record
- **capacity** for investment – overall and in relation to the programme
- **capability** as an investor – approach and team
- **commitment** – strategic alignment with the programme and how it will be impacted by being part of the programme
- **an approach to equality, diversity and inclusion**
- **financial standing** – information on financial position, assets under management and regulatory status

Assessment and financial due diligence, depending on prior engagement and ‘accreditation’ through investment from BBB or similar

Investor selection panel decide whether to onboard as an investor partner, which may include an interview

Investor partners

What sort of investors do we partner with?

- Venture capital
- Corporate VC
- UK-based... International... Regional
- Specialists, deep tech, sector specific and generalist
- Financial investors, strategic investors, impact investors, charities

What sort of investments do they make?

- Equity
- Quasi-equity (convertible loan notes)

What sort of stage of investment?

- Seed / late seed
- Pre-series A / Series A
- Leading or significant role in syndicate

“Angel investor partners”

- An organisation that can represent angels
- Brings investment capacity from one or more angel groups
- Manages the alignment in our process with the SME

Investor partners directory

[Directory of Investor Partners - Innovate UK Business Connect](#)

- Currently over 200
- Still ongoing recruitment through a new process being developed

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Connect

About Opportunities Events How we help

Directory of Investor Partners

The Investor Partner directory is a pool of carefully selected investors with an appetite to invest in innovation and who represent a wide variety of focus, be that sector focus, founding team, business stage and location. Providing the financing needed to grow and scale.

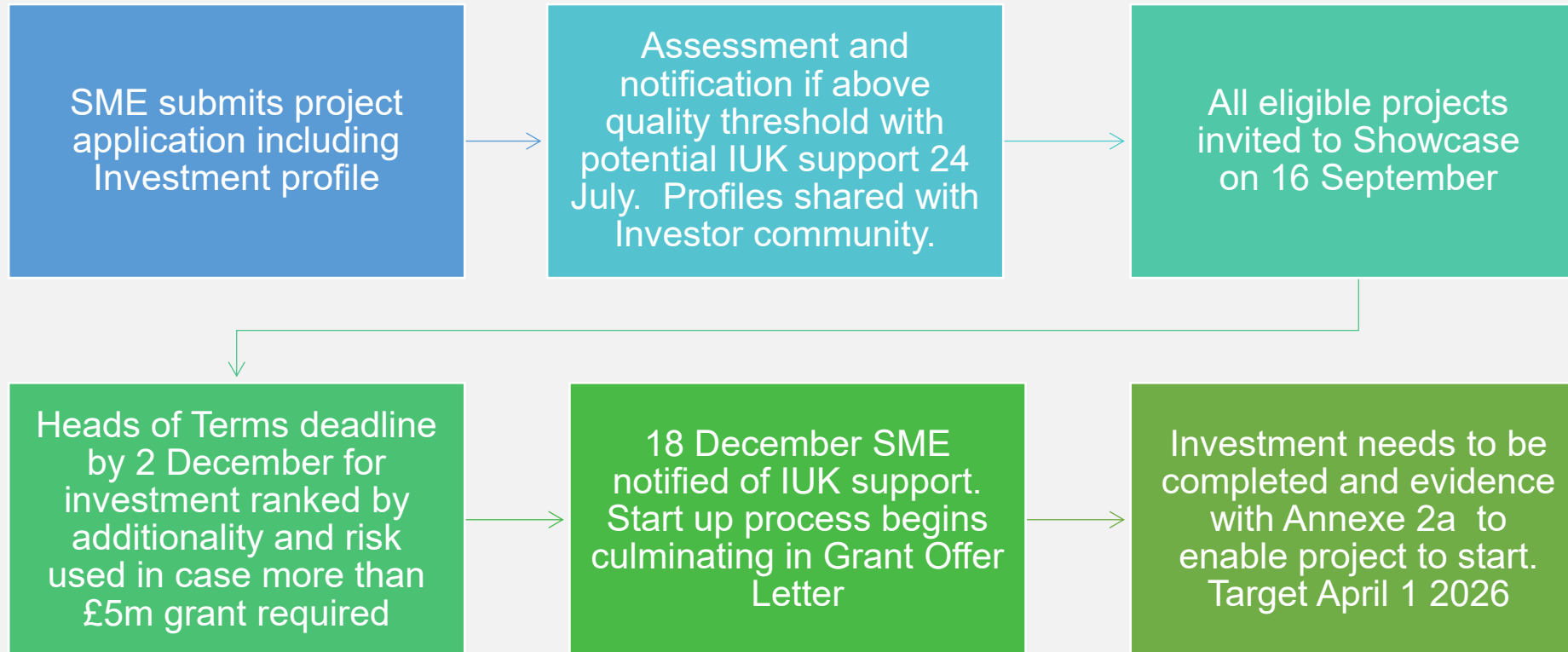
All Investor Types All Investment Stages All Sectors

Investor	Investor Type	Investment Stage	Sector Focus	Details
1818 Venture Capital Limited	VC	Early Revenue, Revenue	Digital and Technologies, Financial Services	More Info
24Haymarket Limited	VC	Early Revenue, Revenue, Growth	Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy Industries, Creative Industries, Digital and Technologies, Financial Services, Life Sciences	More Info
6 Degrees Capital	VC	Pre-Revenue, Early Revenue, Revenue	Digital and Technologies, Financial Services	More Info
ACT Venture Partners	VC	Early Revenue, Revenue, Growth	Clean Energy Industries, Digital and Technologies, Financial Services, Life Sciences, Defence and	More Info

UKRI Innovate UK



SME Application Process



NOTE:

Eligible 'HoT or Deal period' 24 July to 2 December

Deal transaction must be completed and evidence before project can start

Investor Partnerships

The impact of agrifood Investor Partnerships

38
Projects

£24m
Grant awarded*

£65m
Aligned investment**

2.7
Multiplier

These figures reflect only investor partnership projects within the agrifood sector and do not represent the full Innovate UK portfolio.

* Grant and aligned investment are based on data submitted at application, which includes £4m grant support from Defra.

** Post project investment and overall multiplier based on investment according to Beahurst published data accessed 26/08/2025

£112m
Follow on investment

7.5
Overall multiplier

35
Companies supported



More successes
to be
announced

Scan QR code
for full brochure



Summary

- ✓ Only apply if you are seriously seeking **essential aligned investment**
- ✓ **Investment** must be led or have a significant inclusion of a designated **Investor Partner**
- ✓ Seek **support** from Innovate UK BC and BG to review application, prepare your investment profile and investor readiness
- ✓ Make sure you also **focus** on your application aligned with your business needs
- ✓ Review and **target** potential Investors
- ✓ Do not underestimate the **time** it takes overall

Eligibility criteria



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Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

Your project must:

- have total project costs of between **£750,000** and **£3 million**
- last **18** months
- carry out all of its project work in the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- not start before **1 April 2027**
- be able to demonstrate how it will benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England

Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

Lead organisation:

To lead a project your organisation must:

- be a UK registered micro, small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
- be prepared to negotiate heads of terms for an aligned private investment
- be seeking private financing of at least twice the amount of the grant requested

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

Eligibility Criteria – Subcontractors

Subcontractors

Subcontractors **are** allowed in this competition.

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

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

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

Eligibility Criteria – Number of applications

Number of applications

An SME can only lead on one application

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">• has been updated based on assessor feedback• <u>and</u> is materially different from the application submitted before• <u>and</u> fits with the scope of this competition



Innovation Funding Service (IFS)

Creating an account

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

For pre-existing businesses and Research organisations

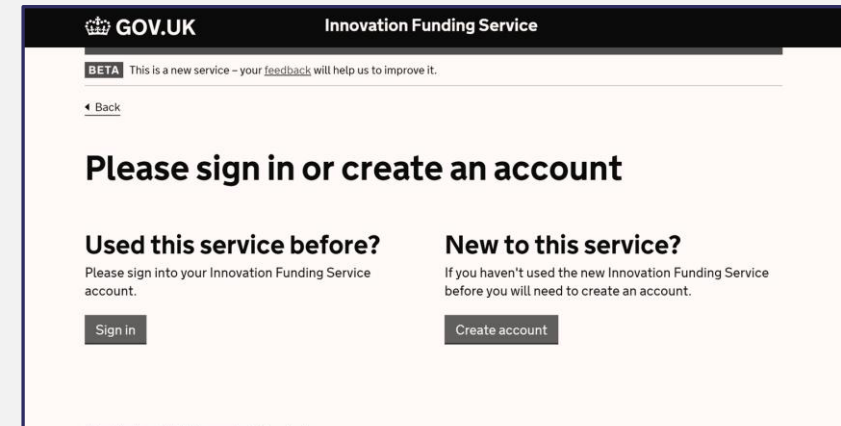
Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

Academic Institutions

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

If your organisation is yet to be formed

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



GOV.UK Innovation Funding Service

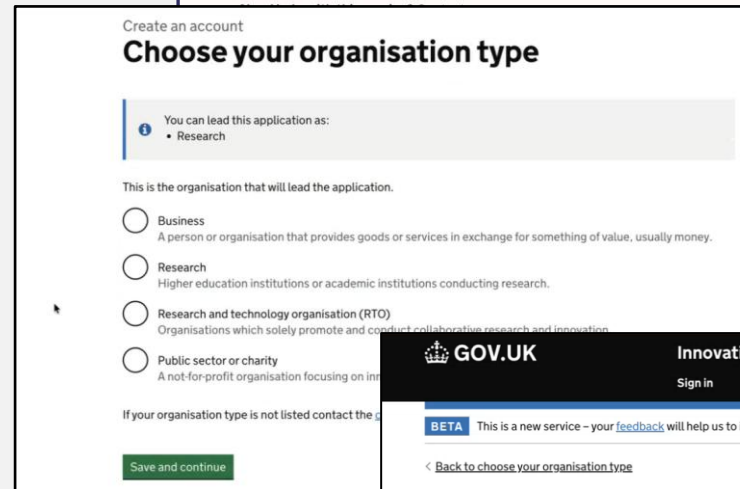
BETA This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

[Back](#)

Please sign in or create an account

Used this service before?
Please sign into your Innovation Funding Service account.
[Sign in](#)

New to this service?
If you haven't used the new Innovation Funding Service before you will need to create an account.
[Create account](#)



Create an account

Choose your organisation type

You can lead this application as:

- Research

This is the organisation that will lead the application.

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

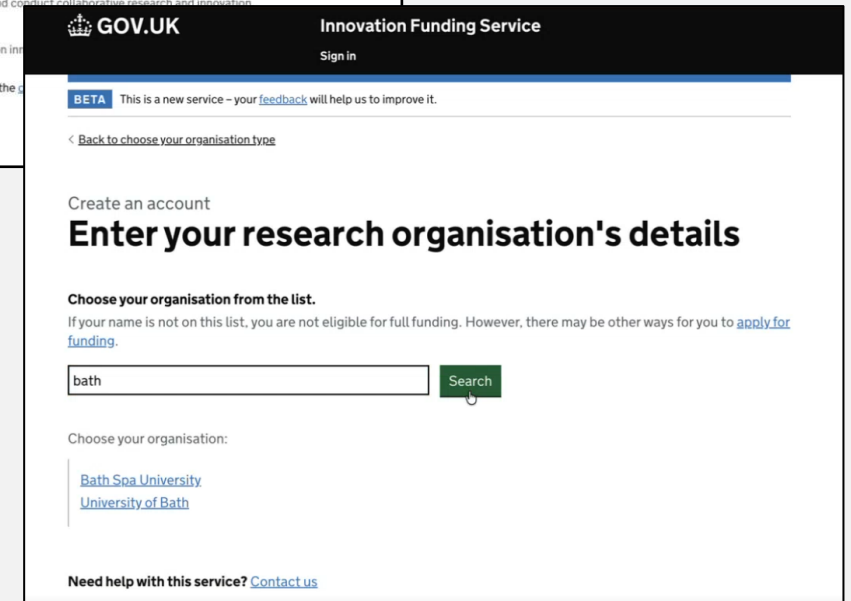
Research
Higher education institutions or academic institutions conducting research.

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

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

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

[Save and continue](#)



GOV.UK Innovation Funding Service

Sign in

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

[Back to choose your organisation type](#)

Create an account

Enter your research organisation's details

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

[Search](#)

Choose your organisation:

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

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

Application Questions

Detailed question guidance available on IFS

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 2	Animal testing (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 3	Permits and licences (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	International Collaboration (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 5	Export licence (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 7	Need or challenge	400 words	No
Question 8	Approach and innovation	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 9	Team and resources	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 10	Market awareness	400 words	No
Question 11	Outcomes and route to market	400 words	No
Question 12	Competitors and barriers	400 words	No
Question 13	Wider impacts	400 words	No
Question 14	Project management	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 15	Risks	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 16	Costs and value for money	400 words	No
Question 17	Added value and investment requirement	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 1 page

National Security and Investment Act - overview

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

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

These 17 areas are:

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

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

UK Strategic Export Controls - overview

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

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

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

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

Q4 International Collaboration (not scored)

Does your proposed work involve any international collaboration or engagement?

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

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

Q6 Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)

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

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

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

Project Impact questions

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



For more information:

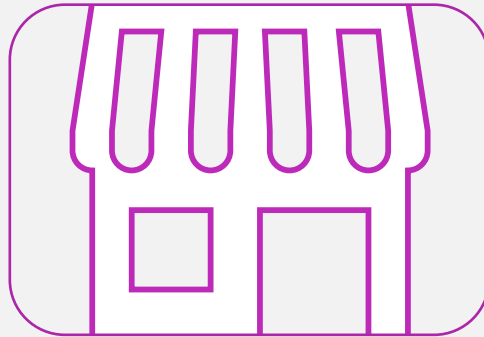
- [Watch Our Impact Management Framework video](#)
- [How is the Project Impact data collected? video](#)

Your Project Cost Categories

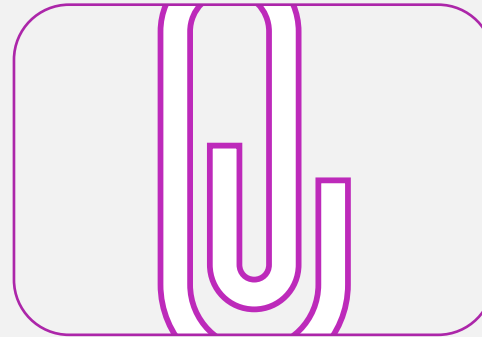
View our [Application Finances Instructional Video](#)



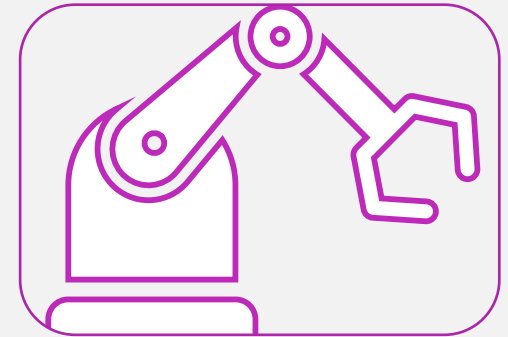
Labour



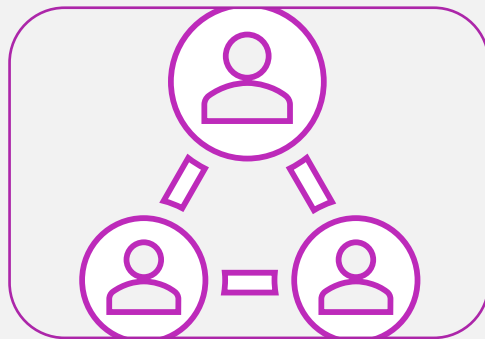
Overheads



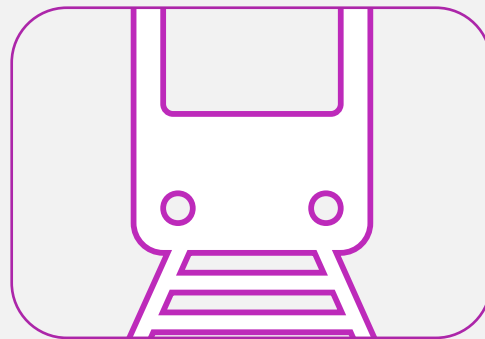
Materials



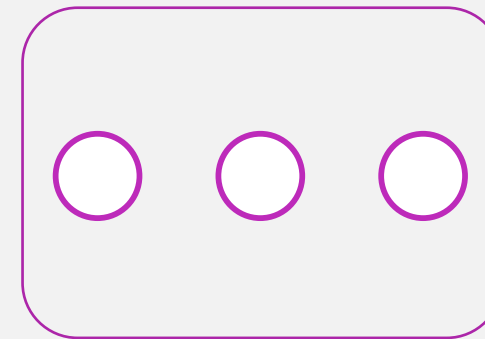
Capital Usage



Subcontractors



Travel &
Subsistence





Other

Your project finances


Finances

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


Your project finances  Incomplete


[Finances overview](#)  Incomplete


Finances


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

Please complete your project finances.

[Your project costs](#)  Incomplete

[Your project location](#)  Incomplete

[Your organisation](#)  Incomplete

[Your funding](#)  Incomplete

Your project costs

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

Your project location

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

Your organisation

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

Your funding

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

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

Checking your finances are complete

Finances summary

These organisations have not marked their finances as complete:

- Ludlow
- EGGS

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

		Total costs (£)	Funding level (%)	Funding sought (£)	Contribution to project (£)	Other public sector funding (£)
Empire Ltd Lead organisation	✓	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
Ludlow Partner	⚠	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
EGGS Partner	⚠	990	100.00	990	0	0
Total	⚠	£402,796		116,596	281,264	4,936

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

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](#)



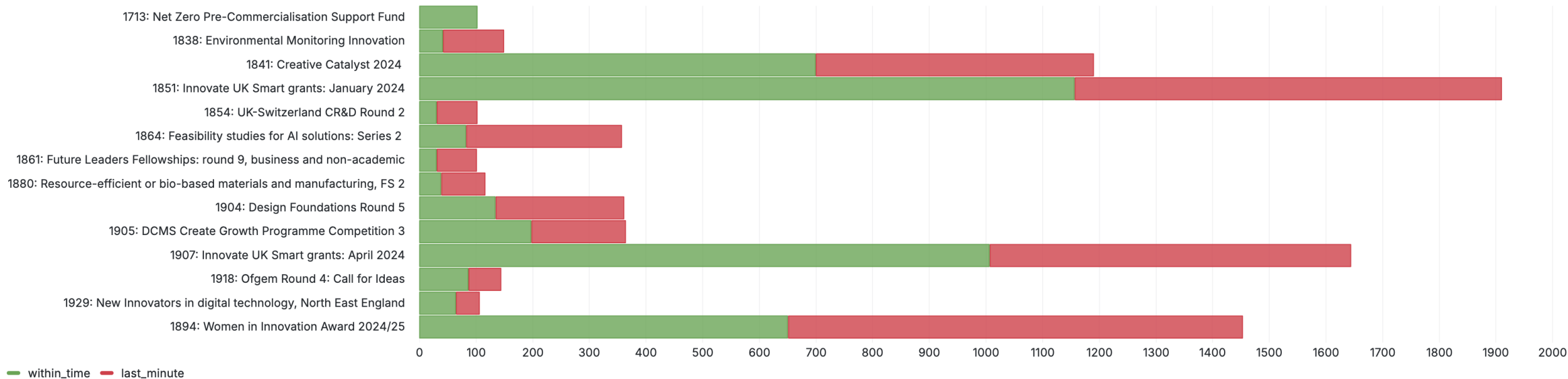
I agree to the [full terms and conditions](#) set out by the funding authority. I understand I need to agree to the final contract if my application is successful.

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

Funding Rules



You are unable to claim funding if

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

Other Innovate UK projects

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

We will not award you any further funding if you:

- applied to a previous competition as the lead or sole company and were awarded funding by Innovate UK, but did not make a substantial effort to exploit that award
- applied to a previous competition as the lead or sole company and failed to comply with grant terms and conditions
- please note if you have a live project in progress this does not prohibit you from entering this competition

Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Regime

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

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

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

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

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

Subsidy Control (and State aid where relevant)

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

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

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

Financial viability and eligibility

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

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

Article 10 of the Windsor Framework

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

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

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

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

Undertakings in difficulty

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

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

Eligibility Criteria: Funding Opportunities

Funding for R&D projects split into 3 categories: feasibility studies, industrial research and experimental development.

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

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

For general guidance on what our research categories are please visit:


<https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/categories-of-research-and-development/#contents-list>

Assessment



Assessment

[YouTube Playlist](#)

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



Project setup

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

These are:

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

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

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

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

How you get paid

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

Bank account – Guidance



Accepted business bank accounts – subject to change

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

Additional Support



Reasonable adjustments

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

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

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

Reasonable adjustments – what we need from you

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

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

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

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

Reasonable adjustments – what we can do

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

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

Reasonable adjustments – what we can not do

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

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



Innovate UK Business Growth

The indispensable partner for ambitious innovators

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

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

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

97% of clients would recommend us

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

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

Natali Georgieva, Co-founder at ALIANAz

Who do we support?

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

Cyber Action Toolkit

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

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



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

Contact Us

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

visit our website:

www.iukbg.ukri.org

or call us on:

0300 123 3066



Contact Business Growth

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

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

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

Telephone | 0300 123 3066

Name

Email

Telephone

Company name

Registered company name or intended trading name

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

Useful Information

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

Funding opportunities

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

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

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

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

Q&A



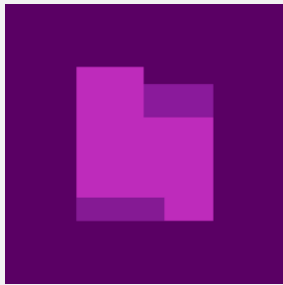
Innovate
UK

Contact

Customer Support Services

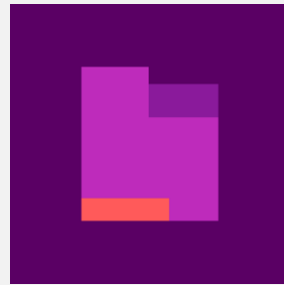
0300 321 4357 (Monday - Friday 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm)

support@iuk.ukri.org



Innovate UK

ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk



**Innovate UK
Business Connect**

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



**Innovate UK Business
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Thank You

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