Innovate UK Transformative Technologies

Frequently Asked Questions

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Who can apply

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Who can apply

Can we apply if we have only recently formed our business?

Absolutely – by the time the project starts, you must be registered on Companies House as a micro or small business and you must have a business bank account

We have not yet registered on Companies House – does this make us ineligible?

No – as long as you have registered as a micro or small business and provide us with the Company Number before the project start date (1st June 2023)

I am a sole trader – am I eligible?

As long as you are registered, or you will register, on Companies House by the project start date (1st June 2023), then yes

My organisation is a charity – can we apply?

Unfortunately not – this funding is for micro or small businesses

We are a Community Interest Company (CIC) – are we eligible?

Possibly – you must be registered on Companies House as a micro or small business and you must be eligible to receive Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) in order to be eligible

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Who can apply (cont)

Can we apply if we are a research and technology organisation (RTO) or academic institution?

Regrettably not – this funding is for UK-registered businesses

Are we eligible to apply if our organisation is not for profit?

You must be registered on Companies House as a micro or small business and must be eligible to receive Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA)

As a subsidiary of a non-UK company but one who is registered on Companies House, would we be eligible for funding?

Possibly. You must be registered as a micro or small UK subsidiary business to be eligible. You are not eligible if you are the UK-registered office of a non-UK company

We have already started our project – is it too late to apply?

You can still apply, however you will only be able to claim for costs that have been approved as eligible and that have been incurred after the formal start date state of your project, as stated on the Grant Offer Letter (GOL)

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Who can apply – Project Costs

Can the total eligible project costs be greater than £50,000, even if the contribution comes from my business?

The total project costs in your application must not be greater than £50,000 or the application will be ineligible

Is my organisation eligible if its costs are under £25,000?

No - the minimum total project costs are £25,000

Is the 'project cost' range the total costs for the entire project, or the grant funding which can be awarded?

The project cost range is the total eligible costs for the entire project.
The grant funding you can claim is up to 100% of the total eligible project costs.

Who can apply – previous funding

How do I know if I have received Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) before?

Please seek your own independent advice – Innovate UK are not licensed to offer this advice. If you have received previous grant funding from elsewhere, please consult the funding paperwork

We have previously received funding from the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) or Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) – can we apply?

Please seek your own independent advice – Innovate UK are not licensed to offer this advice.

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Scope Areas

Semiconductors

- With improvements and scale up for semiconductor manufacture within the UK
- Identifying or delivering a clear, game-changing intervention and address an identified industrial requirement or improvement
- Realistically and significantly meeting and providing a long-term commitment to supporting the UK semiconductor industry

Future Telecoms

- Applying innovation from at least one technology area utilising distributed computing, multi agent systems or the application of AI into networking technologies
- Developing new business models and innovation within both wired and wireless communications, including but not limited to: neutral host networks; citizen WI-FI; mesh networks; energy efficient networks; and satellite and non-terrestrial networking solutions

We encourage projects to build on or contribute to open standards development or the extension of OPENRAN

Engineering Biology

- With innovation that harnesses advances in biology, and the engineering of biological systems and organisms, to address challenges and improve productivity in: human and animal health, from discovery to manufacture; environmental solutions, sustainability and cleaner manufacturing processes; and food security or biosecurity
- Developing new tools, products, services or processes that exploit engineering biology techniques
- Supporting skills development in the broader engineering biology ecosystem, in areas such as precision fermentation and scale-up

Quantum

- With quantum technologies including quantum computing (hardware and software)
- Single photon detection or generation

Artificial Intelligence Assurance

- With the development of novel solutions and processes to advance trust in the compliance and risk of AI systems
- Delivering a clear, game-changing intervention for one or more of the following: auditing, impact assessment or evaluation, and reliability and robustness testing

Sustainable UK Materials and Manufacturing

- Accelerating the development and adoption of resource efficient solutions, with simultaneous demonstration of resilience or technological advancement
- Addressing two or more of the following: materials for the future; smart design; resilient supply chains; world class production; longer in use; reuse

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How do I apply

How do I apply?

How do I apply for the competition?
You will need to apply online on the Innovation Funding Service (IFS) platform

How do I reset my password in the Innovation Funding Service (IFS)?
Go to the login page and read the information in the 'Need help signing in or creating an account?' section.

How many applications can I submit?
Any business can only submit 1 application for this competition

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My application

My application

Can we upload additional attachments to our application, such as a Gantt chart, Risk register, CVs or Letter of support?

The only supporting document required for this competition is the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) declaration form.

Where is the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) declaration form?

The form is available to download in Question 2 of the application – it must be completed and uploaded via the link in Question 2

Can I make changes to my application once it has been submitted?

Unfortunately not. You will need to contact us so we can ignore your incorrect application. Then you will need to create and submit a new application with the correct details before the competition deadline

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My live project

My live project – Start

When do I need my project to start by?
> *1 June 2023*

Can I start earlier?
> *If you are offered the grant and complete the project set-up checks before the specified date then it MAY be possible for you to start earlier. Please do not start incurring costs before you have had your start date confirmed by Innovate UK and returned your GOL*

Can I start my project, and therefore incur costs, before I receive the advance grant payment?
> *Please do not incur any costs until you have had your start date confirmed. If your start date is before you receive the advance grant payment, then you can start to incur costs*

Can I claim for costs incurred on the project before the official start date?
> *You can only claim for costs incurred after the confirmed start date (as shown on your Grant Offer Letter (GOL))*

My live project - Costs

Do we have to set up PAYE or can we report and claim with just time sheets?

Our preference is for you to have a HMRC registered payroll in place as this will evidence your gross employee costs.
If you are a micro/small registered company, not operating a PAYE scheme, please refer to the link to the cost guidance at the end of this guide

Do we need to pay for an Independent Accountants Report (IAR) at the end of the project?

These grants are under £50,000, so you will only need to submit a Statement of Expenditure (SOE). No IAR is required.

How do we bill for project overheads?

Overheads are allocated at 20% of the labour costs. No further breakdown is required

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My live project – Costs - Subcontractors

Is there a limit to how much of the project can be sub-contracted?
> *There is no limit on the amount of sub-contracting work. The eligible costs associated with sub-contracting must be well-articulated, justified and entirely necessary for the success of the project*

Do the sub-contractors need to be registered in the UK?
> *The funding for this competition is to support research and development in the UK, so we expect the work to be undertaken in the UK. Any overseas sub-contracting costs will require strong justification and clear articulation on why it is necessary in relation to the success of the project.*

What should we do if subcontractors suddenly request more money than was agreed upon once the project is live?
> *Unfortunately we are not able to increase the amount of the grant. However, you may be able to reallocate some funds through a project change request (PCR).*

Can I change subcontractors during the project?
Yes, you will need to submit a project change request (PCR)

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My live project - Close

When do I need to finish the project by?

The programme states that the project must last for a maximum of 6 months. The duration of your project will be shown on your Grant Offer Letter, which will be the project length from your application

What if I have delays on my project and need longer than 6 months?

If you think this may be the case once your project is live, speak to your Monitoring Service Provider or Innovate UK at the earliest opportunity

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General Questions

General Questions

Are the results of the competition going to be published online?

All funded projects feature on our transparency data. We include details of the project title, who the lead company is and also the public description (as provided in your application)

Can we change the public description that we put on our application before it's released?

Please get in touch with our Customer Support Team as soon as possible so that this can be arranged

Is there a deadline for contacting the press office about our project?

There is no deadline in place – please get in touch with the press team If you wish to promote your project

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Additional Support

Additional Support

Is there additional support that I can access?

Absolutely, please see some options below

Sign up for the Innovate UK Newsletter –
https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/news/

Innovate UK KTN
https://ktn-uk.org/

Innovate UK Edge
https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/

Cost guidance for applicants
https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/costs-we-fund/

Glossary

Glossary

CIC   *Community Interest Company*

GOL   *Grant Offer Letter*

IAR   *Independent Accountants Report*

IFS   *Innovation Funding Service*

MFA   *Minimal Financial Assistance*

MSP   *Monitoring Service Provider*

PCR   *Project Change Request*

RTO   *Research and Technology Organisation*

SOE   *Statement Of Expenditure*

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Contact List

Contacts

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