

Net Zero Heat Innovation Lab Competition Briefing

20th April 2023

For further details including the recording, please visit - <https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/events/net-zero-heat-innovation-lab-competition-briefing/>

Question	Answer
Will the slides be shared after, separate from the video recording?	Yes, they will be sent in the post event email. Additionally slides will be available alongside the recording via Innovate UK KTN at https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/events/net-zero-heat-innovation-lab-competition-briefing/ .
Please put the URL from the slide in the Q&A	
Would it be acceptable to focus on a particular building type for a project? Or would that potentially be classed as possibly excluding some groups of people? e.g. Bungalows, or Flats?	It would be permissible to focus on a building archetype/ typology as long as (a) that typology is commonplace in the UK for the solution to make a difference; (b) consideration is made for future applications of a solution to other typologies. The people element is vitally important, but we do recognise that different buildings have different users. The key thing here is being aware of the types of building users and not excluding people (by accident or design)
Is this focussed on single building retrofitting or can it support initiatives to leverage shared low carbon heat infrastructure?	The Lab is focused on upgrades to the building stock and portfolios of buildings. We are seeking solutions for decarbonisation of heat and community heating infrastructure is certainly part of this solution.
Does the fund just apply to buildings or can other heat decarbonisation areas be included e.g. manufacturing/industry processes?	We are addressing the whole system, so any process that can lead to more effective building heat upgrades solutions will be in scope
Looks like a fascinating approach, yet the final criteria of being able to commit would potentially rule out participation from many public body staff - is that intentional, given the importance of LAs say to LAEPS, local area retrofit, social housing etc.	The wording is applicants must "have the authority and backing of the organisation you represent to provisionally agree to working on a stage 3 project". We are not asking for commitment up front per se, we are seeking assurance an organisation is open to commitment if the opportunity and project are right. This will be teased out during the Lab.
As a start-up non-profit place-based intermediary in Glasgow I'm not sure I want to be in the lab unless there are going to be relevant partners for Glasgow/ Scotland. Maybe better for place-based orgs to simply be in the directory?	This is an important point. We will make an effort to ensure good geographical distribution with the Directory
Wondering what's the DECC rating for the hotel might be?	I appreciate that it is unlikely to be good. Finding a suitable venue that can accommodate 50 rooms (delegates and support) for 5 days has been challenging. There are plus sides to the venue, for a 5 day residential.
Will Universities be able to apply as the lead organisation?	No. Innovate UK is business focused while academic organisation can to attend the Lab and participate in projects, they cannot lead on any successful stage 3 project
Do you have a starting point in terms of a literature review of evidence of what works? Perhaps based on at least TCC, and other UKI programmes?	No. But this is something we can consider for the orientation session for Stage 2
Will NDAs be put in place?	Participants selected to attend stage 2 will be required to sign confidentiality agreements. This will happen at stage 2, prior to attending the Lab
NDA's ?	
Friday project pitching, would every attendee give one, or each group of attendees gives a pitch?	Project consortia that develop through the week will pitch as a team
What is the funding intervention rate?	Please refer to the competition page, which details the intervention rates https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1548/overview/36130e1f-58b2-4ac4-89d5-f23de0dc5526#eligibility

Will the project developed during the Lab be in collaboration with other organisations? How many per group?	All projects must be collaborative. The number of collaborators per project is the decision of consortia members
Am I right in thinking we can bring an existing idea in development to the event? And encourage existing consortium members to apply? To find other possible partners we need to source for an Innovate UK project?	Project ideas should be developed as part of the Innovation Lab. It is anticipated that attendees will already have ideas, but we do not expect them to be forcefully pushed as part of the Lab. Anyone can apply to attend, but there is no guarantee that partners you are already collaborating with will be invited to attend.
Are you aware of the pre discovery project that the Department for Education is carrying out on exactly this issue in schools?	We are in contact with DfE as part of our work on GenZero. There are aspects of the GenZero work that are relevant here. DfE could certainly seek to be involved as part of a client group, maybe through the Directory - https://eur.cvent.me/Y91bd
Project ideas for cost reduction/ scaling up at advanced TRL will likely already have consortiums, partners and demonstrations. Can you say more about what you want this lab to add vs conventional innovation processes?	We are not seeking to extend funding to projects/ consortia that have activities in flight. We are seeking new additional approaches that ensure that vulnerable parts of society are included and a just transition is achieved.
If a technology/project included new builds but didn't solely focus on them, would it still face being 'out of scope'?	Any proposed solutions developed through the Innovation Lab by first consider the existing stock. If that can also address challenges in new buildings then that is acceptable. New building alone, would be out of scope
Collaboration is key - Agreed. Does the consortium award need to include multiple attendees from the workshop - potentially it may be that a near complete solution does not identify a suitable partner during the 5 day session	It is important that the final Friday pitch covers the knowns and unknowns. You will be able to contact other organisations externally as part of the Lab. If any gaps are still present by the Friday pitch, then it is important to acknowledge these. If we assess your pitch in the knowledge that there are "unknowns" we are happy to work with you during Stage 3 to resolve them if the proposal is a good idea
Will the application follow the same format?	[No. We have completely different application questions. Please see section 2 - how to apply at https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1548/overview/36130e1f-58b2-4ac4-89d5-f23de0dc5526#how-to-apply
Would attending the 5 day Innovation lab with the support of your own engineering organisation (freelancer) be considered in the application process?	Yes, we will base your application on the merits of you and your organisation/company. If you do not operate a PAYE system then funding mechanism differ, see section 1.1 Labour Costs at https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/costs-we-fund/costs-guidance-for-non-academic-organisations/
Will a product that reduces fossil fuel consumption and sets a clear roadmap for phasing it out completely will be considered eligible? As it does not stop usage of fossil fuel immediately	This is a tricky one. The elimination of gas for heating is central to this activity. The roadmap for elimination must be clear and rapid. At stage 3 suggesting there is a continued use of fossil fuels is likely to be disadvantageous to a successful application
As a micro company, a low intervention rate would probably rule us out. Certainly 30% intervention rate would rule us out.	The 30% intervention rate has been misinterpreted - this is the proportion of funding that can go to an academic or research/ 3rd sector organisation. See Funding section at https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1548/overview/36130e1f-58b2-4ac4-89d5-f23de0dc5526#eligibility
Could you please clarify the funding rates once again please. Is it 100% possible per org. but only 30% per project?	The intervention rates differ depending on the project type and organisation funded. See the Funding section at https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1548/overview/36130e1f-58b2-4ac4-89d5-f23de0dc5526#eligibility
Some public bodies would not be able to pre-commit as your criteria require	We must have some assurance that those attending in the Innovation Lab are seeking involvement in a project to make the building renovation delivery process more efficient, effective and lower cost. If the interest is not there, then the Innovation Lab is not right for them.

At the end of Stage 2, if people are committed then, but afterwards drop out in the proposal development in Stage 3, can they be replaced with another partner? (Or is there a level of commitment that people need to make at Stage 2 that is binding?)	We anticipate that things may change. Stage 3 is the formal application process and any changed from the Stage 2 pitch can be discussed with Innovate UK
If software or data solutions are created, who would own the Intellectual Property?	This is the decision of the consortia that develops the proposal. Innovate UK do not retain any IP if the solution is commercialised
Does existing Innovate UK funding of research and development projects prohibit participation?	Not if the project / solution resulting from stage 2 is different. Organisations can hold multiple Innovate UK grants from different activities. We will not fund extensions to exiting Innovate UK funded projects.
We are a climate EdTech start-up that is tackling the green skills emergency and building the net-zero workforce. Our mission is to get 10 million people into green jobs in 10 years. We're building an app to be the talent portal for green jobs: with green job discovery, opportunity-matching and social community. Would this programme be appropriate for us?	Skills and supply chain involvement is important and falls under the requirement of involving the right people at the right time. You can certainly apply to attend and I suggest also submitting to be part of the directory
Are solutions that focus on specific parts of a building considered within the scope of the lab's terms, or do the terms limit solutions to entire buildings?	We are looking for deep renovation and who systems approaches. Projects that focused on incremental/ room by room/ consequential improvement approaches should not be included
What will happen if the product is commercialised, how will the product created be divided?	This is a matter for the consortia to discuss amongst themselves for the best commercialisation / IP approach for the solution.
What would be the distribution process for intellectual property generated during the process?	
Can international participation / contributions of entities be funded?	Not if the project / solution resulting from Stage 2 is different. Organisations can hold multiple Innovate UK grants from different activities. We will not fund extensions to exiting Innovate UK funded projects.
"Reducing heat demand" versus providing renewable thermal energy solutions – is the heat reduction focus excluding that opportunity?	It does not exclude this. The aim of NZ Heat is to take all buildings off gas for space and hot water heating and all approaches to achieving this are considered
Is Innovate UK looking for novel renewable energy systems that are at lower TRL's now, but would be at a suitable TRL by the project start?	We are seeking whole systems approaches, not single technology approaches. If a technology is at a low TRL then it is completely up to project team members that form as part of Stage 2 to decide whether to include
Will embodied carbon impacts be considered as part of the pitch?	While not core to the aims of the Lab, embodied carbon is considered part of the "whole system" for achieving net zero. This is certainly a benefit which would enhance a project idea
The list of eligible participants does not include individuals. Is this correct?	Correct, unless you were applying as a self-employed attendee, which has a different funding intervention. See https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/costs-we-fund/costs-guidance-for-non-academic-organisations/