

SBRI: Accessible solutions for disrupted journeys

Frequently Asked Questions

26 February 2024

Competition opens: 19 February 2024

Competition closes: 3 April 2024, 11:00am

A recording of the competition briefing webinar and the accompanying slide deck can be viewed [here](#).

For questions about the application process, eligibility criteria, or finance please contact support@iuk.ukri.org. For questions about partners, support for your application, or competition scope please contact conor.chaplin@iuk.ktn-uk.org.

Finance

Can more detail be provided about the contract awarded through an SBRI competition? For example, who is party to the contract and what is the difference between an SBRI contract and a grant.

Successful applicants will be awarded an SBRI contract to deliver what was described in the application. The contract is between the lead applicant and Innovate UK and is 100% funded to conduct the R&D activities described in your application. Payments will be made by Innovate UK to successful applicants against delivery of the milestones included in the application. By contrast, Innovate UK grants typically include an element of match funding and may have partners who also receive funding, whereas SBRI is a contract solely with the lead applicant.

SBRI contracts do not include profit. Does this apply only to the funded project, or for any subsequent development or deployment of the solution?

SBRI-funded projects must not include profits due to the benefit-sharing intentions of the SBRI portfolio. This applies only to the duration of the SBRI project; the lead applicant retains any foreground IP generated and any subsequent development or deployment is at their own discretion, through which they may wish to commercialise the product to generate profit.

£1 million has been allocated for this competition and projects can claim for up to £250k. Does this mean only four projects will be funded?

Up to £1 million will be awarded in total to projects in this competition. £250k is the maximum projects can apply for – some projects will need less than this amount. The £250k is a maximum amount, not a target. Please note that a portfolio approach is being used for this competition. Details of the portfolio approach can be found [here](#).

Does this competition provide 100% of funds for successful projects?

Projects will be 100% funded, with payments made by Innovate UK quarterly in arrears, subject to meeting project milestones described in the application.

With no up-front funding, are organisations who receive funding expected to cover Q1 costs on their own until the first quarterly payment is made?

Yes. Projects will be 100% funded, with payments made by Innovate UK quarterly in arrears, subject to meeting project milestones described in the application.

Innovate UK grant applications have previously assumed 20% of awarded funds are for labour cost overheads. Is that the case here?

Overheads are not calculated automatically during the application process for this competition and must be inputted manually into the finance section of the application. Please see the [competition briefing slide deck](#) for more details.

Can consultancy costs be covered under subcontractors?

Yes. However, the justification for these costs (including why the lead partner is not able to undertake the specific tasks the subcontractor will be completing) must be provided in the application. Subcontractors cannot receive more than 50% of the total project funds.

If we have previously received Innovate UK funding for a similar project, can we apply to this SBRI competition with the same idea?

Projects that directly duplicate other UK government or EU-funded initiatives or projects that have already been successful in applying for funded will not be funded. If you have received funding from Innovate UK for the same idea or innovation, it would not be eligible for this competition.

If successful in receiving funding through this competition, can we run two projects at the same time if the other is funded by another Innovate UK award?

Organisations can be in receipt of different funding awards from Innovate UK simultaneously, but they must be for different project ideas or innovations, as described above.

I intend to work with a disability specialist who is a technical expert and can also facilitate access to disabled groups for the purposes of this project? Can this be paid for through SBRI competition funding?

There are two options for this scenario: the disability expert will manage the relationship with the user group, with the expectation that they make the appropriate provisions for any tax liabilities incurred as a result of reimbursing the user group for their time, or you can take the user group on through the lead partner's own payroll system and declare them under labour costs.

Competition Scope

What Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is expected to be achieved by the end of projects? For example, only a proof-of-concept or does it need to be a market-ready solution?

SBRI funding is intended to support an innovation to move closer towards market readiness. Successful applicants are encouraged to exploit the IP developed during projects funded through this competition and actively seek out opportunities to commercialise your solution. Projects funded through this competition should be in the range of TRL 3-8 and can start or conclude anywhere along this process. This competition will not fund any fundamental feasibility studies.

Does the actual developed solution need to be shown in the application, or only the approach to a specific problem to be addressed?

A fully developed solution does not need to be included in the application as this may be part of the project's activities. The approach to the problem and how you aim to tackle the problem must be included.

We have been developing a solution to address anxiety about disruption by preparing people to deal with disruption, rather than mitigating disruption directly. Is this within the scope of the competition?

Yes. Solutions can be pre-emptive of the disruption.

How much information or detail is expected in the application?

The [‘How to Apply’](#) tab of the competition webpage includes details of all the questions and required information for applications.

Can you explain how outcomes of projects would relate to disruption where it is the provider who is responsible for onward travel? For example, an airline who cancels a flight.

This is essentially the purpose of the competition. Solutions could, for example, provide information about alternative ways to complete a disrupted journey, alleviate discomfort caused by disruption while waiting, or provide a way to return to the point of origin.

Do journeys need to start within the UK or just have at least some part in the UK?

Solutions should address journeys where at least one part of the journey takes place in the UK. If a solution does not demonstrate any benefit to the UK transport networks then they will be deemed out of scope.

Eligibility Criteria

Is this competition open to individuals?

Individuals can apply but you must do so with a registered business or organisation. If successful, funds can only be awarded to registered businesses or organisations and not to an individual.

Can you apply to this competition if you are already involved in the sector?

Any organisation is welcome to apply to this competition.

Is this competition open to organisations that are not VAT registered?

Yes. Please see the [competition briefing slide deck](#) for more details of how to complete the project finances section of an application for organisations that are not VAT registered.

Project Partners and Supporters

What support or access to transport providers will be provided prior to submission and during projects?

Innovate UK Business Connect can facilitate introductions to transport providers, however there is no obligation on transport providers to participate in this competition and Innovate UK has not pre-arranged for specific providers to support projects.

Can you publish a list of people on this webinar to facilitate networking for partnerships?

For GDPR reasons, a full list of attendees cannot be shared publicly. However, organisations interested in this competition are welcome to contact Innovate UK Business Connect who can facilitate introductions.

How can I engage with organisations that provide transport supply to the network?

Innovate UK Business Connect can facilitate introductions to transport providers.