
STATE AID

Advanced Route to Market Demonstrator (ARMD) Competition – the “Scheme”

Legal Basis

The legal basis for the Scheme is the Science and Technology Act 1965.

Objective

The purpose of this fast start competition is to encourage UK industry back to R&D after the Covid-19 pandemic, accelerating the transition to zero emission vehicles. This competition and its format will not set a future precedent for future competitions, and has been designed solely as a green recovery initiative to support a Covid-19 economic recovery.

The Advanced Propulsion Centre are looking for collaborative, business led R&D projects that will demonstrate advanced propulsion technologies. The output of these projects must be in the form of a physical demonstrator. Applications must show how technologies developed will be significantly accelerated through their project, and must have clarity regarding how these products or processes could be brought to market. **The development, deployment and demonstration of how digital toolsets are used in supporting the accelerated development cycle are encouraged however they must be, as part of realising a physical demonstrator, and not the sole delivery of the project.**

General Provisions

The Scheme will use open, transparent and competitive processes to award projects that the Scheme wishes to fund (using, where appropriate, independent expertise to support the assessment activities). ARMD is open to UK based Industrial organisations and Academics/RTOs and, through review and consensus, applicants will be selected on merit for entry on to the programme, with presentation to BEIS for final ratification.

Projects will be funded on a shared basis, with a maximum of 65% grant funding available per project; the balance being matched by the collaborative partners. The actual amount of public funding from the scheme for each project will depend upon the nature of the funded R&D activity and, where it constitutes State Aid, be subject to the maximum intensities and relevant provisions under the GBER Framework for RD&I.

The Scheme is required to provide annual returns to the UK Government detailing the State Aid provided under the Scheme and to maintain detailed records regarding State Aid. Such records must contain all of the information necessary to establish that the relevant conditions laid down in the Regulation have been fulfilled. Records must be maintained for at least 10 years from the date on which the State Aid was granted. The information which must be provided to the Scheme and/or

retained by the recipients of the State Aid will be set out in the Grant Offer Letter between the Scheme and the recipient of the State Aid.

The Scheme (including where appropriate, with the support of independent experts) will ensure the objective assessment of the incentive effect for each beneficiary in a project.

The Scheme will ensure compliance with the cumulation rules. All sources of public funding shall be taken into account when considering cumulation to ensure that any relevant State Aid intensities and/or maximum State Aid amounts are not exceeded.

Type of Aid under the Scheme

The relevant Scheme State Aid is governed under Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17th June 2014: General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) under Article 25 (Aid for research and development projects).