

# DRIVE35 Innovation Fund Collaborate – Applicant Briefing

# Welcome and Introductions

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# Agenda

- Competition Summary
- Key Dates
- Scope
- Eligibility Criteria
- Application Questions
- Innovation Funding Service (IFS)
- Funding Rules
- Assessment
- Use of AI
- Additional Support
- Q&A



# Competition Summary, Key Dates, Application Questions, & Scope

Alex Wood

Head of Product – Innovation  
(APC)



# Established 2013, together we've already delivered substantial benefits Great foundations for a suite of new programmes that are fit for the next decade



Automotive Transformation Fund (ATF)

**~£6bn**

Private capital investment attracted across capital & R&D programmes

**>6,000+**

Jobs created / safeguarded

**Supply chain focused**

From battery raw materials to electric motor manufacturing

**302**

Low-carbon projects



**59,000+**

Jobs created / safeguarded

**1 million+**

Vehicles use APC-supported technology



**529**

Project Partners



**425 million+**

Tonnes of CO2 savings

**£1.65bn+**

Investment facilitated



DRIVE35 - start talking to us now



£2bn

To 2030 plus £500m to 2035 in partnership with the Department for Business and Trade, Innovate UK, and the Advanced Propulsion Centre

## 3 Strategic Funding Priorities

### Supporting INNOVATION

Concept design to late-stage R&D

£150k up to £25m available, project duration from 12 to 36 months, depending on selected stream

### Accelerating SCALE-UP

Validation and process delivery

£150k up to £20m available, project duration from 12 to 72 months, depending on selected stream

### Enabling TRANSFORMATION

Industrial deployment at scale

Vehicle Assembly  
Supply Chain Development



ADVANCED  
PROPULSION  
CENTRE UK

DRIVE35



ENABLING  
TRANSFORMATION

Automotive Transformation Fund

ACCELERATING  
SCALE-UP

Scale-up Fund

Feasibility Studies

SUPPORTING  
INNOVATION

Collaborate

Demonstrate

Mobilise

# Introducing Collaborate

Up to

**£25m**

**in match-funding**

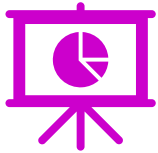
- The aim of this competition is to support **collaborative R&D projects** that **design, develop, and enable the manufacture** of technologies which target **post-project commercialisation**.
- Exploit from or within the UK
- Have an eligible grant funding request between £2.5m and £25 million
- A minimum of 50% match-funded
- Achieving TRL7-8 or MRL6-7 by completion
- Be collaborative
- Last between 18-36 months (starting by 1<sup>st</sup> March and ending by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2029)
- If your grant funding or duration fall outside these criteria you must provide justification at least 10 working days before competition close (see IFS for details) – but we advise to talk to us as soon as possible.

# The funding objectives for your proposals

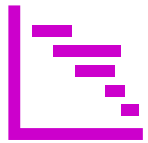
Your Proposal Must:



**GROWTH:** Support growth, transition and resilience of the UK's automotive supply chain, increasing capability whilst improving productivity, efficiency and competitiveness,



**CONTRIBUTE:** Contribute to the UK's strategic aims and priorities, such as the HMG's Industrial Strategy as well as the Automotive Council's Roadmaps and Strategic Technology areas,



**DELIVER:** Deliver on-vehicle technologies or enable manufacturing capabilities which support the transition to zero-emission vehicles



**TARGET:** post-project commercialization, with clear articulation on how the innovation will be brought to market or used in an industrial setting



**IMPACT:** Have the potential to create and safeguard numerous high-value jobs, enable substantial investment and create a lasting economic benefit to the UK,

# Collaborate is strand 1 of a 2-strand £40m competition

## DRIVE35 - INNOVATION FUND

**This is a competition consisting of two strands:**

Strand 1: Collaborate  
Strand 2: Demonstrate

Select and apply for the strand which fits your proposal.

### Strand 1: Collaborate (this briefing)

- Late-stage collaborative R&D
- Commercialisation outcome
- £2.5m-£25m grant
- 18-36months

### Strand 2: Demonstrate

- Product or process demonstrators
- Increasing commercial or deployment opportunity
- £0.5-1.5m grant
- 9-12months

# Timeline

Milestones	Dates
Application Deadline	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Invite to Interview	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Economic Feedback released	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Technical Feedback released	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Response to Economic Feedback	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
DBT VfM online discussion	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Response to Technical Feedback	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Presentation Submission	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Interview Panel	24 <sup>th</sup> November – 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Notifications	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Project Start date	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026

## Scope overview

Your proposal must fall within one or more of the following areas:

Theme 1:

### Zero-Emission Vehicle Technologies

Focus on product and process innovations that contribute toward achieving zero-emissions for on-board vehicle applications throughout the vehicle lifecycle

Theme 2:

### Manufacturing Competitiveness

Use R&D innovation to improve the efficiency, productivity and cost-competitiveness of manufacturing plants and their supply chains enabling the competitive transition to manufacturing of zero-emission vehicles in the UK and/or lowering embedded carbon emissions in the manufacturing process.

Theme 3:

### Software Defined Vehicles (SDV) / Electronic & Electrical Architectures (E/E)

Focus on innovations in automotive software and E/E architecture to enhance zero-emission vehicle functionality and reduce time to market. These projects will leverage the UK's unique innovation skills for global product competitiveness

# Technology Scope Theme 1: Promote zero-emission vehicle technologies:

Focus on product and process innovations that contribute to achieving zero emissions for on-board vehicle applications in one or more of the following areas:

- Electrical energy storage: development of batteries, supercapacitors, their components, management, and integration systems.
- Electric machines and associated driveline.
- Power electronics including Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X)
- Internal combustion engines (ICE) for on-road applications, we will only fund project proposals which aim to achieve **zero harmful tailpipe emissions** utilising non-fossil fuels
- Internal combustion engines (ICE) for off-road applications, we will fund project proposals that support **a transition to zero emissions, utilising non-fossil fuels**
- Lightweight materials and manufacturing processes.
- Fuel-cell systems and associated balance of plant.
- Hydrogen storage and management systems.

Within the technology scope outlined above; your project can include:

- Upstream supply chain for the above technologies, including;
  - Raw materials,
  - Component manufacturing,
  - Sub-assembly manufacturing
- Circularity and Design for Disassembly: Projects focused on the disassembly, remanufacturing, recovery, and reuse of materials.
- Digitalisation of Validation, Verification, and Design: Use of digital tools to enhance the design, validation, and verification processes for the listed technologies.

## Technology Scope Theme 2: Enhance Manufacturing Competitiveness

R&D projects which use innovations to enable productivity and cost competitiveness and reduce embedded carbon across all aspects of zero-emission vehicle and technology manufacturing and their associated supply chain in one or more of the following areas:

- Digital Transformation: Integration of digital tools within the manufacturing process. Such as the use of AI, digital twins, vision systems and Internet of Things (IoT).
- Manufacturing process decarbonisation: Switching processes to use non-fossil energy sources or innovations enabling reduced energy consumption within manufacturing processes including capture and reuse.
- Lean Manufacturing: Implementation of innovative lean principles to improve circularity of materials used in processes, reduce their environmental impact and improve efficiency including the use of advanced automation techniques.
- Supply Chain Development: Initiatives for suppliers to improve their processes, capability and capacity for R&D and subsequent industrialisation. Such as flexible production lines to service multiple customers to lower capital investment. UK capability building to enable market access, and sustainability

**The technologies in scope within this theme apply to any component, sub assembly or system, involved in the manufacture of zero-emission vehicles. The proposals must have an outcome which increases the likelihood and competitiveness of manufacturing zero-emission vehicles and their supply chain in the UK.**

# Technology Scope Theme 3 Software Defined Vehicles (SDV) and Electrical and Electronic (E/E) Architectures

**Focus on innovations in software and E/E architecture to enhance zero-emission vehicle functionality, reduce time to market and leverage the UK's unique innovation skills for global product competitiveness, in one or more of the following areas:**

- **Integrated E/E Systems:** Development of scalable and flexible E/E architectures, including software platforms and hardware design that support advanced vehicle functionalities and future technologies.
- **Validation and Verification Technology:** Use of digital twins and in the loop (xIL) innovations to create comprehensive models of E/E systems, enabling rapid simulation, optimisation, and validation of interconnected systems.
- **Embedded Software Development:** Innovations, including in the creation of, embedded software that decreases time to market, enhances vehicle performance, safety, security and connectivity.
- **Network Communications:** Development of robust network communication systems to support the integration of various electronic components and systems within the vehicle.
- **Control Systems:** Advanced control systems that improve vehicle functionality and performance.

# Projects we will not fund

We are not funding projects that:

- focus on business processes not directly involved in the design, test, validation, recycle/reuse or manufacture of vehicles i.e. company back-office systems and infrastructure.
- relate to the design, development, integration, use, test or direct manufacturing of automated driving systems (ADS)
- only focus on the development of clean fuels
- are not aligned with the UK net-zero research innovations framework
- request more than 50% grant for total project costs
- are developing solutions such as e-Scooters or e-Bikes

We cannot fund projects that are:

- dependent on export performance, for example, giving a subsidy to a baker on the condition that it exports a certain quantity of bread to another country
- dependent on domestic inputs usage, for example, giving a subsidy to a baker on the condition that it uses 50% UK flour in their product



# Application

# Project Details and Application Questions Overview

## Project Details

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Application Team

Application Details

Research Category

Project Summary

100 words

informs assessment

Public Description

100 words

for future communications

Scope

200 words

suitability for funding

## Not Scored Questions

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Q1 Applicant Location

Q2 Animal Testing

Q3 Permits and Licenses

Q4 International Collaboration

Q5 Trusted Research and Innovation

Q6 Marketing and Communications

Q7 Which Themes are Applicable to your Application

## Technical Assessed Questions

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Q8 Why this project

Q9 Identify the market and your plan to address it

Q10 Benefits of this collaboration

Q11 Benefits to the UK Supply Chain

Q12 Innovation and Technical approach

Q13 Project management

Q14 Risk

## Value for Money VfM (assessed)

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Q15 VfM Workbook Upload

Q16 Additionality

Q17 Funding Model

Q18 Project Expenditure

Q19 Jobs

Q20 Sales and Emissions

# Application Questions

## Question 8 Why this Project? (Scored)

What is the rationale of this project?

- alignment to each consortium members organisational strategy
- internal justification
- customers problems (internal and external)
- viable solution
- business opportunity

## Question 9 Identify the market and your plan to address it (Scored)

What's the market like?

- size of the market
- scale, geography and dynamics of the market (new or existing)
- competitor analysis
- target price point requirements to compete in the market
- spillovers into other markets

## Question 10 Benefits of this collaboration (Scored)

Benefits of this collaborative project to the consortium members?

- benefits of being a consortium
- the financial returns for each consortium member of this project
- knowledge sharing
- filling capability gaps between partners
- dissemination of the outcomes in the public domain
- approach to forming longer-term partnerships and unlocking technical and commercial partnerships
- wider and future R&D activities

# Application Questions

## Question 11 Benefits to the UK Supply Chain (Scored)

How will the project support the UK automotive supply chain within and beyond your project?

- does the project increase access to UK supplied content, evidence opportunity to increase UK Bill of Materials
- impact sustainability and security of the UK supply chain
- jobs which could be safeguarded, created, changed or displaced, outside of the consortium partners
- benefits for businesses outside the consortium

## Question 12 Innovation and Technical approach (Scored) [600]

What are the risks affecting the project?

- technically innovative elements or application novelty to your business comparison to the best in class
- development status of the project
- proof of concept or demonstration work undertaken
- the targeted technical outcomes
- clearly show technical steps to reach the outcomes inclusion level of test and validation
- digitalisation tools and techniques used
- expected intellectual property (IP) for competitive advantage

## Question 13 Project management (Scored) [600]

What are the project deliverables?

- deliverables and physical outputs marked on your plan
- justified quantities and responsibilities
- your proposed work breakdown structure
- your project plan
- resource availability and planned recruitment
- sponsors within each consortium partner
- the project team, key members profiled
- escalation how will it be managed
- the plan shouldn't stop at project close consider the steps to commercialise

# Application Questions

## Question 14 Risk (Scored)

What are the main risks for this project?

- identify the main risks and uncertainties of the project, including the technical, commercial, legislative, managerial and environmental risks
- highlight the most significant ones and provide a risk register
- for UK based manufacturing, why this would occur in the UK and identify any risks to this occurring

## Question 15, VfM Workbook (Assessed)

upload

## Question 16 Additionality (Assessed)

why does the project need grant funding and the amount you have applied for?

## Question 17 Funding Model (Assessed)

how is each partner funding their share of the project costs, and any follow on R&D and capital investments required to scale up production?

## Question 18 Project Expenditure (Assessed)

how have you estimated the required investment in R&D, skills and capital for this project, and any follow on investment to commercialise the technology?

## Question 19 Jobs (Assessed)

how have you quantified the number of jobs created or safeguarded by the project and as a result of any post project R&D and manufacturing activities?

## Question 20 Sales and Emissions (Assessed)

vehicle related information you have given in tab Sales and Emissions in the VfM workbook.

# Value for Money Workbook

Sheet labelled  
"APC\_TRL&MRL"

Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL) progress through this project?

[Link to Guidance](#)

Progress needs to be reported in terms of both TRL and MRL.

Please provide a description of the project TRL/MRL level broken down by development stages and name the project partner responsible for reporting progress, if necessary insert additional rows.

Current Status (INSERT additional rows as required)

System, sub-system or technology element	TRL Level	Please explain why you have assigned this TRL Level	MRL Level	Please explain why you have assigned this MRL Level

End Status (INSERT additional rows as required)

System, sub-system or technology element	TRL Level	Please explain why you have assigned this TRL Level

Technology classification of your project

Technology Options	Percentage (%)	Please define (Brief description)
Energy storage and energy management	90%	
Fuel Cells	5%	
Electric Machines and Power Electronics	5%	
Thermal Propulsion Systems		
Lightweight Vehicle & Powertrain Structure		
Digitalisation		
Intelligent Mobility		
Manufacturing Competitiveness		
Software define vehicles and Electrical & Electronic Architecture		



Department for  
Business & Trade

# DRIVE35 Innovation Fund: Collaborate Value for Money Guidance for Applicants

Dave Roberts

DBT Sector Analysis

# Presentation aims

1. Understand VfM and why it matters
2. Understand what information and evidence DBT need to assess VfM
3. Understand how to fill in the VfM workbook

# Presentation aims

1. Understand VfM and why it matters
2. Understand what information and evidence DBT need to assess VfM
3. Understand how to fill in the VfM workbook

# Value for money (VfM) overview

- Government spending must be good value for UK taxpayers.
- The Treasury requires that public funding for R&D projects undergoes a VfM assessment and meets a minimum threshold.
- DBT economists determine each project's VfM based on its benefit-cost ratio.

# How we calculate the benefit-cost ratio

$$\text{Benefit-cost ratio} = \frac{\text{Expected benefit to UK economy}}{\text{Cost to the Exchequer (Gov.)}}$$

## **Expected benefit to the UK economy:**

- Jobs, CO2 savings, R&D spill-overs – we use data from your written application and VfM workbook
- Adjusted for risk and additionality – we use evidence from your written application **and** your responses to the written economic feedback and the VfM interview.

## **Cost to the Exchequer (cost to Government):**

- Grant funding requested – for a set level of benefits, the lower the ask, the higher the BCR and your score

# Presentation aims

1. Understand VfM and why it matters
- 2. Understand what information and evidence DBT need to assess VfM**
3. Understand how to fill in the VfM workbook

# Overview of application documents

<b>1. Written application</b> (Q1 – Q20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Explain and justify why grant funding is necessary, why this amount. 50% grant intensity is the maximum, less is better.</b></li> <li>• Explain project benefits.</li> <li>• Explain risks and mitigation.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Value for Money Excel Workbook</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantify benefits, include evidence.</li> <li>• Ensure you provide evidence and methodology in the corresponding written application questions</li> </ul>
<b>3. Appendix</b>	Further evidence to justify your claims
<b>4. Responses to feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information, clarification and evidence following written economic feedback.</li> <li>• If the requested evidence cannot be provided, answer the question explaining why that is the case.</li> </ul>

**The four parts of the application should complement each other.**

**All four parts are used in the VfM assessment.**

# Your application should provide:

1. **A logical narrative**, explaining why reported benefits and costs are reasonable
2. **Details of your calculation methods**, including any assumptions
3. **Supporting evidence** and documentation, to validate the above

**What kind of evidence?** Diagrams, tables, internal documents, letters, Excel spreadsheet. Must be clear and easy to follow. Include evidence in the appendix.

**Insufficient evidence → application will score lower.**

# We need to understand project benefits

## 1. The wider impact of your R&D: 'spill-overs'

## 2. Employment

## 3. CO2 savings

### Written application

- Will you register IP for the technology?
- Are you going to share project results? Will other firms or industries benefit?
- How and where will the technology / knowledge be used?

- What are the job roles within the project and afterwards?
- Explain why the project safeguards certain jobs (explain why these jobs would be lost within 12m).
- What would happen to these jobs without the project?

- How does your technology deliver CO2 emissions savings.
- Explain which vehicles will be displaced ('comparator vehicles') and why they are the best alternative.
- Ensure consistency with emission regulations.

### VfM workbook

- Figures, calculation method, evidence:**
- Spending profiles for DRIVE35 grant and own funds, follow-up investment after the project (R&D spend and capital).
  - Explain how profiles were calculated.
  - Explain project impact on TRL/MRL.

- Figures, calculation method, evidence:**
- Provide numbers of jobs created/safe-guarded incl. job title, salary, post code. Include only R&D & manufacturing jobs.
  - Explain how jobs were calculated, e.g. detailed project plan / task lists.

- Figures, calculation method, evidence:**
- Vehicles that will use the technology.
  - Provide sales forecast and CO2 savings vs. displaced or alternative vehicles ('comparator').
  - Explain your project's impact on CO2 savings vs. comparator vehicles.

Questions 10, 11, 12, 13, 16

Questions 8, 11, 16, 19

Questions 8, 9, 16, 20

# Additionality: We need to understand why grant funding is essential for your project

From your written application, particularly Question 16, the following must be clear:

- 1. Why does this project need grant funding to go ahead? Why this particular amount? Provide evidence.**
  - e.g. unable to raise sufficient funds from other sources – provide proof of declined credit;
  - project doesn't meet IRR for internal R&D spend due to being high risk – provide analysis to show this.
  - internal competition from a lower-cost location – provide analysis comparing the locations showing the cost gap.
- 2. What happens if you don't receive grant funding (The counterfactual)?**
  - Will the project go ahead on a smaller scale? Or to a different timescale?
  - Would the project be undertaken overseas?

Your evidence of the need for funding → **Additionality score** → affects BCR

# We need to understand project risks

R&D projects are risky by nature. We need to be confident that the main risks have been identified and mitigation strategies are in place.

Your written application should demonstrate that you have:

1. **Considered different types of risks**  
(technological, commercial, route to market, project delivery etc.)
2. **Assessed the impact and developed mitigation strategies**

Your evidence of risks and risk management → **Risk score** → affects BCR

# Presentation aims


1. Understand VfM and why it matters
2. Understand what information and evidence DBT need to assess VfM
3. Understand how to fill in the VfM workbook

# Accessing the VFM workbook

## Question 15. Value for Money (VfM) workbook

Download your Value for money (VfM) worksheet from Q15

Words remaining: 400

 **Download the Value for money (VfM) worksheet template**  
[APC15 VfM form.ods](#)

**Upload your completed Value for money (VfM) worksheet**  
Your upload must be no larger than 10MB

No file currently uploaded.

Upload your completed worksheet

# How to complete the VfM workbook

## Q13 - Project Expenditure

[Link to Guidance](#)

Please use the text boxes on the right to describe the source / evidence and assumptions for the data provided.

### TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE (£, in current prices)

#### SUMMARY OF PROJECT EXPENDITURE

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
TOTAL UK R&D Expenditure	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL UK Capital Expenditure	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL UK Skills & Training Expenditure	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL UK Project Expenditure	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL Overseas Investment	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

#### UK GOVERNMENT FUNDING REQUESTED FOR THIS PROJECT

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
R&D Expenditure											£0
Capital equipment											£0
Skills & Training											£0
TOTAL Government funding	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

#### UK FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT FROM INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
R&D Expenditure											£0
Capital equipment											£0
Skills & Training											£0
TOTAL Company (Matched) funding	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

#### KEY

- Data Entry
- Internal calculations (do not change)
- Drop down menu

Grey cell: enter your data  
 Orange cell: select from dropdown  
 Yellow cell: internal calculation

Have you provided calculation details of your project expenditure profile in Question 15 of the written application? Please confirm:

Select from dropdown

1. Some sheets require cumulative figures!

2. Any number entered requires an explanation of how it was calculated in the corresponding written application question. Please confirm in the dropdown.

3. Several sheets to complete!

- Download workbook from Question 15 in the written application
- When complete, upload the workbook as an appendix to Question 15.

# Wider environmental benefits of the proposed project

To inform future policy and the scope of future APC competitions, we would like to understand wider environmental impacts your project may have. We are interested in environmental impacts across the vehicle life-cycle that result from your project, when compared to current state-of-the-art vehicles and vehicle manufacture. The information provided in this table is not scored as part of BEIS's value-for-money assessment, but may factor into the technical assessment.

Impact category: <i>Project has impact on...</i>	Box 1: Quantity and type of materials and natural resources required for vehicle manufacture	Box 2: Energy use and environmental footprint during vehicle manufacture process	Box 3: Transport and logistics over the entire vehicle manufacturing supply chain	Box 4: Environmental impacts during vehicle use (excluding fuel/energy consumption)	Box 5: Vehicle disposal at end of life	Box 6: Any other environmental impacts not captured in boxes 1 to 5
Does project impact this category?	Select from dropdown	Select from dropdown	Select from dropdown	Select from dropdown	Select from dropdown	Select from dropdown
Impact description						
Guidance	Provide details on impacts such as: - Reduced extraction of raw materials - Reduced use of raw materials - Reduced use of rare earth materials and/or minerals (e.g. cobalt) - Changed (geographical) source of raw materials - Zero Waste Manufacturing Processes - Re-use of recycled materials	Provide details on impacts such as: - More energy efficient manufacturing (electricity, water savings) - Reduced noise - Reduced light pollution - Reduced air pollution - Reduced hazardous waste production - Reusable packaging - Emission/waste capture and reuse - Onsite energy generation	Provide details on impacts such as: - Operating more efficient transportation methods by volume of resources e.g. localising supply chain - Viability of using more sustainable transport methods - Reduced packaging	Provide details on impacts such as: - Reduced noise - Reduced air pollution e.g. from braking/tyres - Reduced maintenance or consumables use - Extended useful life of vehicle - Total Cost of Ownership reduction/calculations	Provide details on impacts such as: - Increased eases of recycling - Increased % of materials or parts that can be recycled or re-used - Material selection to increase value retention for following uses - Increased use of biodegradable materials - Reduced landfill waste	Provide details on impacts such as: - Increased eases of recycling - Increased % of materials or parts that can be recycled or re-used - Material selection to increase value retention for following uses - Increased use of biodegradable materials - Reduced landfill waste

Not directly related to the VFM assessment

Important to the development future competitions

Please be as detailed as possible

# Questions

- Any questions: e-mail me:
  - [dave.roberts@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:dave.roberts@businessandtrade.gov.uk)

# Eligibility criteria



# Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

## Your Project Must:

- have a total grant funding request of between £2.5 million and £25 million
- be late-stage R&D targeting direct commercialisation at the end of the project
- be collaborative
- be a minimum of 50% match funded, for example, if you are asking for £2.5 million in grant your total eligible project costs must be a minimum of £5 million
- align to at least 1 of the 3 scope themes
- be achieving TRL 7-8 or MRL 6-7 by completion, based on published Automotive Technology and Manufacturing Readiness Levels
- last between 18 and 36 months
- carry out all of its project work in the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- start by 1 March 2026
- end by 28 February 2029

# Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

To lead a collaborative project your organisation must:

- be a UK registered business of any size
- collaborate with other UK registered organisations
- be a grant claiming recipient
- include in your consortium a vehicle manufacturer or Tier 1 supplier who supplies parts directly to an original equipment manufacturer (OEM)

The consortium must contain at least one UK registered [micro, small or medium sized enterprise](#) (SME) claiming grant funding on this application.

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

# Eligibility Criteria – Collaboration

**For this competition your project must be collaborative.**

To be an eligible collaboration, the lead and at least one other organisation must:

- apply for funding when entering their costs into the application.
- include rationale for the collaboration and describe the structure in your application

# Eligibility Criteria – Project Team

## Project team

To collaborate with the lead, your organisation must be one of the following UK registered:

- business of any size
- academic institution
- charity
- not for profit
- public sector organisation
- research and technology organisation (RTO)

# Eligibility Criteria – Non-Funded Partners

## Non-funded partners

Your project can include non-UK partners, including partners based in the EU, who bring their own funding. Non-UK partners are permitted to carry out project work from within their home countries and exploit results overseas. Their costs will count towards the total eligible project costs.

# Eligibility Criteria – Number of applications

## Number of applications

There is no limit on the number of applications an organisation can be involved in.

# 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 subcontractors 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.

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



# **Innovation Funding Service (IFS)**

# How to apply

The lead applicant must create an account:

## UK registered businesses

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

## Research organisations, academics and universities

To avoid being listed as a business and to ensure you receive the correct funding, enter your information manually on IFS



GOV.UK Innovation Funding Service

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

◀ Back

Create your account

### Your organisation

**i** Your organisation must be UK based to receive funding from Innovate UK

**Business**

**Find your organisation on Companies House**  
Enter your organisation name or registration number

**Companies House search results**  
Select your organisation from the options below

[NOMENSA LTD](#)  
04214477 - Incorporated on 10 May 2001  
13 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4NT

GOV.UK Innovation Funding Service

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

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## Please sign in or create an account

**Used this service before?**  
Please sign into your Innovation Funding Service account.

**New to this service?**  
If you haven't used the new Innovation Funding Service before you will need to create an account.

### Innovation Funding Service Sign in

Email address  
Please enter your email address.

Password  
Please enter your password.

▼ [Need help signing in or creating an account?](#)

**My email and/or password isn't working**

If you applied previously using the old service, you will need to create a new account.

[Forgotten your password?](#)

# 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](mailto: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).

# New Question - 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.

# New Question - Q5 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

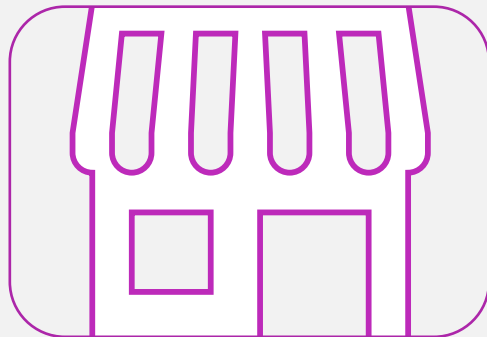
We may ask you to provide additional TR&I information at a later date, in line with UKRI TR&I Principles and funding terms and conditions

# Your Project Cost Categories

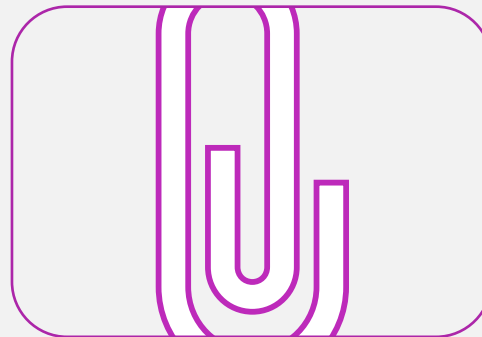
View our [Application Finances Instructional Video](#)



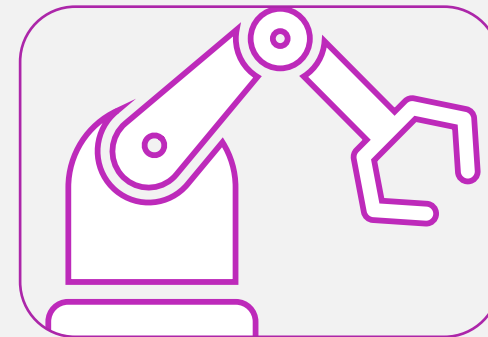
Labour



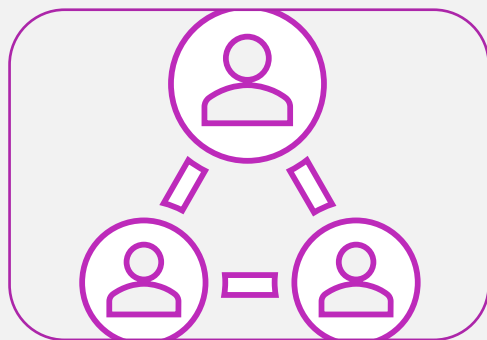
Overheads



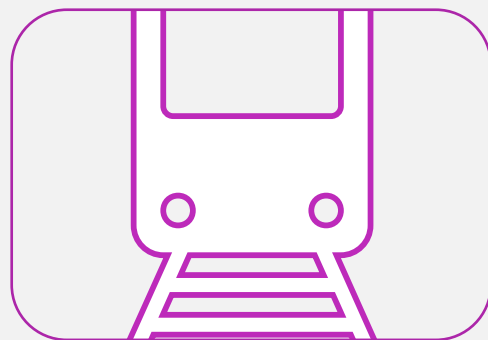
Materials



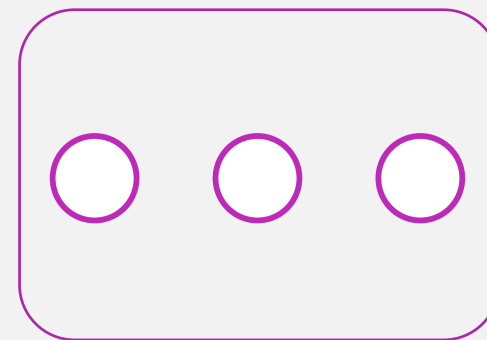
Capital Usage



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

**i** 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 (£)
<b>Empire Ltd</b> Lead organisation	✓	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
<b>Ludlow</b> Partner	⚠	200,903	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
<b>EGGS</b> Partner	⚠	990	100.00	990	0	0
<b>Total</b>	⚠	<b>£402,796</b>		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.

The lead applicant must also ensure that all partners have marked their finances as complete.

Research organisation participation must be no greater than **30%** of the total project costs.

**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](#)



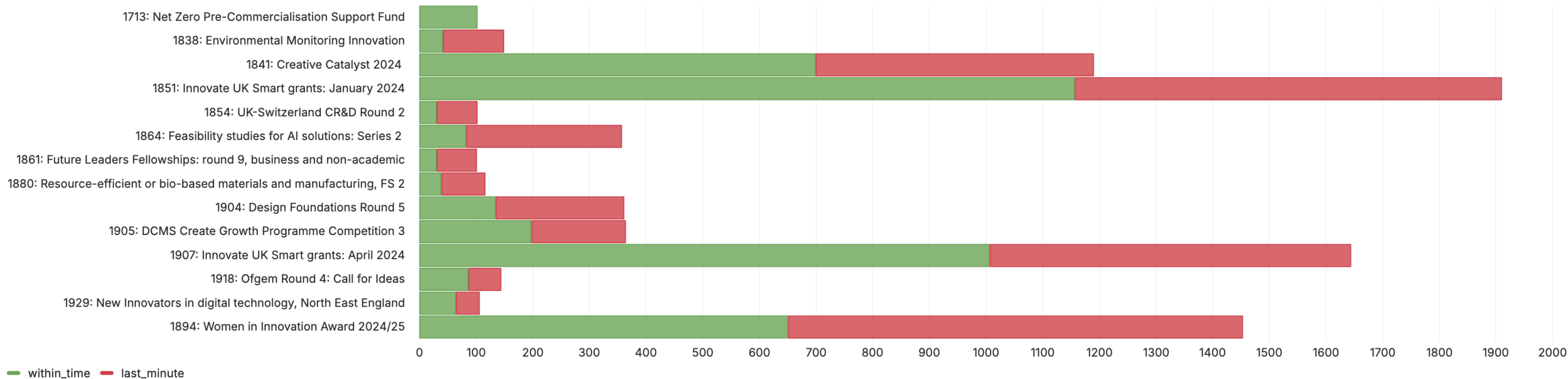
I agree to the [full terms and conditions](#) set out by the funding authority. I understand I need to agree to the final contract if my application is successful.

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.



# 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

Whilst AI offers many benefits, it is important you are aware that **you are potentially sharing your idea with the world**, so be careful what you share as you have no control over how it is shared on once you do.

# Funding Rules



# Other Innovate UK projects

If you have an outstanding 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.

# Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Regime

On 4<sup>th</sup> 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 **2** categories in this competition: industrial research and experimental development.

**For industrial research projects, you could get funding for your eligible project costs of:**

- up to 70% if you are a micro or small organisation
- up to 60% if you are a medium-sized organisation
- up to 50% if you are a large organisation

**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
- up to 25% if you are a large organisation

**For research organisations conducting fundamental research you could get funding for your eligible project costs of up to 100%.**

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](#)

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



# 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 **90 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.**

# Additional Support



# Innovate UK Business Growth

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/business-growth/>

Innovate UK Business Growth (previously Innovate UK EDGE) is a key part of the UK innovation agency's deep investment in the pioneering businesses that drive economic growth. It is a publicly-funded service available to all high potential small to medium sized innovation-driven companies, including Innovate UK grant winners.

## **Exploit Innovation:**

Grow your business by protecting your IP, improving innovation management and accessing the innovation ecosystem globally through us.

## **Source funding:**

Grow and scale your business by accessing the right finance and funding for you and becoming investment ready.

## **Enter new markets:**

Helping you to make connections to partners and leverage insights to expand into vertical and international markets and achieve scaling ambitions.

## **Ready to scale?**

The Innovate UK Scaleup Programme helps the highest potential businesses realise their ambitions.



# 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.

# Contact

## Advance Propulsion Centre Team



**DAN BUNTING**



**CHRIS HARRIS**



**STEVE GASSER**



**NIKHIL TOSAR**



**ALEX WOOD**

[info@apcuk.co.uk](mailto:info@apcuk.co.uk)

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## InnovateUK Customer Support Services

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

[support@iuk.ukri.org](mailto:support@iuk.ukri.org)



**Innovate UK**

[ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk](http://ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk)



**Innovate UK Business  
Connect**

[iuk.ktn-uk.org](http://iuk.ktn-uk.org)



**Innovate UK Business Growth**

[www.iukbg.ukri.org](http://www.iukbg.ukri.org)

# Thank You

