Innovate UK

DRIVE35 Innovation Fund: Collaborate 3 Applicant Briefing

Date: **08/07/2026**

The webinar will start at 13:00

- Welcome, we are currently waiting for more people to join
- This briefing will be recorded. A copy of the slides and the recording link will be made available on IFS
- Please enter any questions that you may have into the Q&A Box
- For more information on the competition process, please view our YouTube channel

Welcome and Introductions

James Rayner

Competition Manager, IUK

Alex Wood

Head of Product Innovation, APC

Dan Fung

Head of Strategy and Planning, APC

Dan Bunting

Head of Business Development, APC

Harry Roberts

Programme Manager, APC

Dave Roberts

Economic Adviser, DBT

Agenda

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

Innovate
UK

DRIVE35 Innovation Fund Collaborate 03 – Applicant Briefing

Alex Wood
Head of Product – Innovation

ADVANCED PROPULSION CENTRE UK

Established 2013, together we’ve already delivered substantial benefits
Great foundations for a suite of <u>new programmes</u> that are fit for the next decade

ADVANCED PROPULSION CENTRE UK

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

354
Low-carbon projects

614
Project Partners

59,000+
Jobs created / safeguarded

425 million+
Tonnes of CO_2 savings

1 million+
Vehicles use APC-supported technology

£1.65bn+
Investment facilitated

DRIVE35 - start talking to us now

ADVANCED PROPULSION CENTRE UK

£4bn

To 2035 with the Department for Business and Trade, Innovate UK, and the Advanced Propulsion Centre UK

3 Strategic Funding Priorities

Supporting INNOVATION

Concept design to late-stage R&D

£150k up to £20m 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

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DRIVE35

Department for Business & Trade

ENABLING
TRANSFORMATION

Automotive Transformation Fund

ACCELERATING
SCALE-UP

Scale-up Fund

Feasibility Studies

SUPPORTING
INNOVATION

Collaborate

Demonstrate

Mobilise

Introducing Collaborate

Up to

£20m **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 £20 million
- A minimum of 50% match-funded
- Achieving TRL7-8 or MRL6-7 by completion
- Be collaborative
- Last between 18-36 months (starting by 1st May 2027 and ending by 30th April 2030)

- 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,

What will a strong Collaborate project consist of?

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- Focus on commercialisation, not early-stage engineering research, with clear plans for product and manufacturing qualification.
- A well-defined customer or customers, or customer(s) actively engaged in the project.
- Genuine collaboration, forming coherent supply chains, partnerships, or wider industry spillover benefits. Be mindful of the number of partners!
- Deliver outcomes that support UK-volume manufacturing, high-value products, or the establishment of high-skilled, high-wage R&D centres.
- Pragmatically ambitious in commercialization, delivering job creation and safeguarding, and in attracting additional investment that would not occur without funding.
- Cost-effective and well justified; any significant costs (e.g. prototypes, components) must be essential and proportionate to delivery.

Timeline

Milestones	Dates
Application Deadline	16th September 2026
Invite to Interview	7th October 2026
Economic Feedback released	15th October 2026
Technical Feedback released	22nd October 2026
Response to Economic Feedback	22nd October 2026
DBT VfM online discussion	30th October 2026
Response to Technical Feedback	30th October 2026
Presentation Submission (**30 slides max)**	2nd November 2026
Interview Panel	9th November to 13th November 2026
Notifications from	18th December 2026
Project Start date	1st June 2027

Your ongoing eligibility is contingent upon receiving the requested information by the stated deadlines. Failure to provide this information by the specified dates will result in the withdrawal of your application and removal from the competition.

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 <u>can</u> 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

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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

Software Defined Vehicles (SDV) and Electrical & Electronic (E&E) Architecture is focused on enabling features through software and involves a major paradigm shift and redesign across the electrical and electronic architectures. This transformation is critical to supporting zero-emission vehicle functionality and leveraging UK innovation strengths for global competitiveness.

This is system, vehicle and process-level evolution in one or more of the following areas:

- delivering features faster, through a shift to rapid software native tools and processes adapted to meet automotive safety and security requirements (software factory)
- innovations in embedded software development and connectivity to enhance performance, safety, and time to market
- development of advanced control systems software and platforms, including software and control systems integration
- scalable and flexible future E/E architectures, communication systems, and high performance compute including their systems, components, sensors and actuators
- vehicle and system level simulation, including the use of digital twins and in the loop (xIL) innovations to enable rapid simulation, optimisation, and validation of interconnected systems
- innovations in the safe and secure use of ai in the functional software
- innovations in tools, processes, and design practices for SDV and E/E architectures, including ai-driven approaches for development, validation and optimisation

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 (although two-wheel is in scope)

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

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Project Details

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

Q1 Applicant Location
Q2 Animal Testing
Q3 Permits and Licenses
Q4 International Collaboration
Q5 Export licence
Q6 Trusted Research and Innovation
Q7 Marketing and Comms lead
Q8 Which Themes are Applicable to your Application
Q9 Funded project context

Technical Assessed Questions

Q10 Why this project
Q11 Identify the market and your plan to address it
Q12 Benefits of this collaboration
Q13 Benefits to the UK Supply Chain
Q14 Innovation and Technical approach
Q15 Project management
Q16 Risk

Value for Money VfM (assessed)

Q17 VfM Workbook Upload
Q18 Additionality
Q19 Funding Model
Q20 Project Expenditure
Q21 Jobs
Q22 Sales and Emissions

Application Questions

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Question 10
Why this Project?
(Scored) [400]

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 11
Identify the Market and your plan to address it
(Scored) [400]

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 12
Benefits of this Collaboration
(Scored) [600]

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 13
Benefits to the UK Supply Chain
(Scored) [400]

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 14
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 15
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 16
Risk
(Scored) [400]

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 19
Funding Model
(Assessed) [400]

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 17
VfM Workbook
(Assessed)

upload

Question 18
Additionality
(Assessed) [400]

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

Question 20
Project Expenditure
(Assessed) [400]

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 21
Jobs
(Assessed) [400]

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 22
Sales and Emissions
(Assessed) [400]

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

Value for Money Workbook

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TRL / MRL

Please provide a description of the project TRL/MRL level *(insert additional lines in the middle of the table if needed)*

TRL & MRL guidance link

System, sub-system, or technology element	TRL/MRL	Start readiness revel	Please explain why you have assigned this starting level.	Target end readiness level	Please explain why you have assigned this planned level.	Current readiness level

Technology Segments

Please provide an approximate breakdown of what proportion of the funding will be used for each technology segment

	% Funding	
Energy storage and energy management		
Fuel Cells		
Electric Machines and Power Electronics		
Thermal Propulsion Systems		
Lightweight Vehicle & Powertrain Structure		
Electronic and electrical architecture inc. supporting software		
Intelligent Mobility		"Other" description
Other		
Total	0%	This must equal 100%

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Lifecycle CO2e Measures

Collaborate Applicant Guidance

July 2026

Why change to lifecycle CO_2e?

We want to help you…

- …put together the strongest application
- and identify the most appropriate information to include
- …capture as many benefits from your project as possible in the simplest way
  - The previous system works for technology that encourages fleet shifts
  - It's clunky for others *E.g. supply chain improvements, production and manufacturing focus, re-use and re-manufacture opportunities.*
  - CO_2e enables non carbon greenhouse gas emissions to be tracked and reduced

This new process enables you to capture lifecycle CO_2e benefits <u>if applicable to your project.</u>

Change is necessary to keep as greenhouse gas reductions a part of APC Competitions.
This widens the benefit capture to include lifecycle impacts, including non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gases (CO2e).

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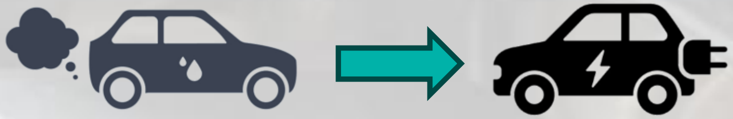
In-use CO2: APC 1-26 (previous method)

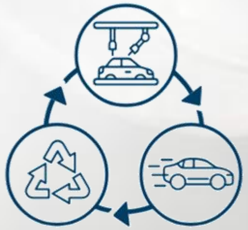
- Applicants required to provide:
  - A comparator vehicle(s) or benchmark
  - A new vehicle with funded technology
  - % impact of this technology from the project (assumption based)
- This calculates a CO2 tailpipe reduction based on the fleet size / volume assumption
- Workarounds have been possible for significant lifecycle impacts (e.g. recycled material, aluminium production, etc)
- *This becomes more challenging:*
  - *ZEV mandate will reduce tailpipe emissions from new light- and heavy-duty vehicles*
  - *It's difficult to articulate the improvement for a 2nd generation ZEV.*

Lifecycle CO2e - DRIVE35 options:

- Provide "best in class"* comparator vehicles to deliver fleet CO2 Tailpipe savings.



- Simplify the process by providing lookup data for lifecycle CO2e* reduction potential from roadmap data.
  - *Key assumptions:*
    - *UK manufactured vehicle with UK energy mix and time-averaged emissions*
    - *Battery material sourced from Asia, manufactured in UK*



- Supply own lifecycle carbon data where available

APC and DBT have designed a process to be as simple as possible to provide lifecycle emissions for the purpose of project appraisal and monitoring.

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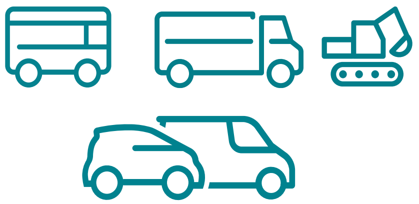
Sections 1,2,5,6

Identify vehicle type and powertrain

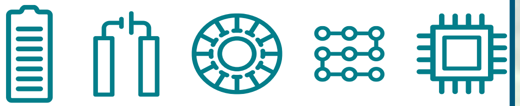
- Customise vehicle by mass, usage, and battery size to scale potential savings.
- Provide comparator vehicles if technology results in tailpipe CO_2e savings from a fleet switch.



Section 3

Select lifecycle stage and technology

- This looks up a potential technology CO_2e reduction from work commissioned with Ricardo in 2025.
- Indicate % of the 2040 potential CO_2e savings

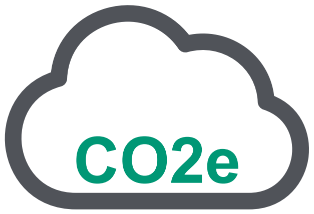


and/or

Section 4

Provide own lifecycle CO_2e calculations

- If available (with justification)
- Specifically for material sourcing switches, reuse, increased recycled content, or for other cases not covered by the lookup tables.



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Lifecycle Stages and example technologies

Non-exhaustive list

Glider Production

- Steel blend
- Aluminium blend
- Seat system lightweighting
- Cockpit lightweighting
- Advanced manufacturing
- Composite structures

Powertrain Production

- Cell energy density
- Engine downsizing
- Solid state cells
- Modelling & optimisation
- Reduced rare earth elements
- Simplification

In-Use

- Advanced cooling
- Improved energy recovery
- Lightweighting
- Improved cell energy density
- Sustainable fuels
- Aerodynamic/ tyres efficiency

End-of-life

- Design for disassembly
- Methods of segregation
- Demagnetisation

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

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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, CO_2 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

1. Written application	• **Explain and justify why grant funding is necessary, why this amount. 50% grant intensity is the maximum, less is better.** • Explain project benefits. • Explain risks and mitigation.
2. Value for Money Excel Workbook	• Quantify benefits, include evidence. • Ensure you provide evidence and methodology in the corresponding written application questions
3. Appendix	Further evidence to justify your claims
4. Responses to feedback	• Information, clarification and evidence following written economic feedback. • If the requested evidence cannot be provided, answer the question explaining why that is the case.

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. • Justify the % contribution of the project to CO2 savings provided. • Explain methodology behind figures provided in the workbook. • 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:** • Detailed guidance on how to fill out the form is in the guidance tabs. • Evidence behind any of your own values used. • Vehicles that will use the technology. • Provide sales forecast

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

From your written application, particularly Question 18, 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

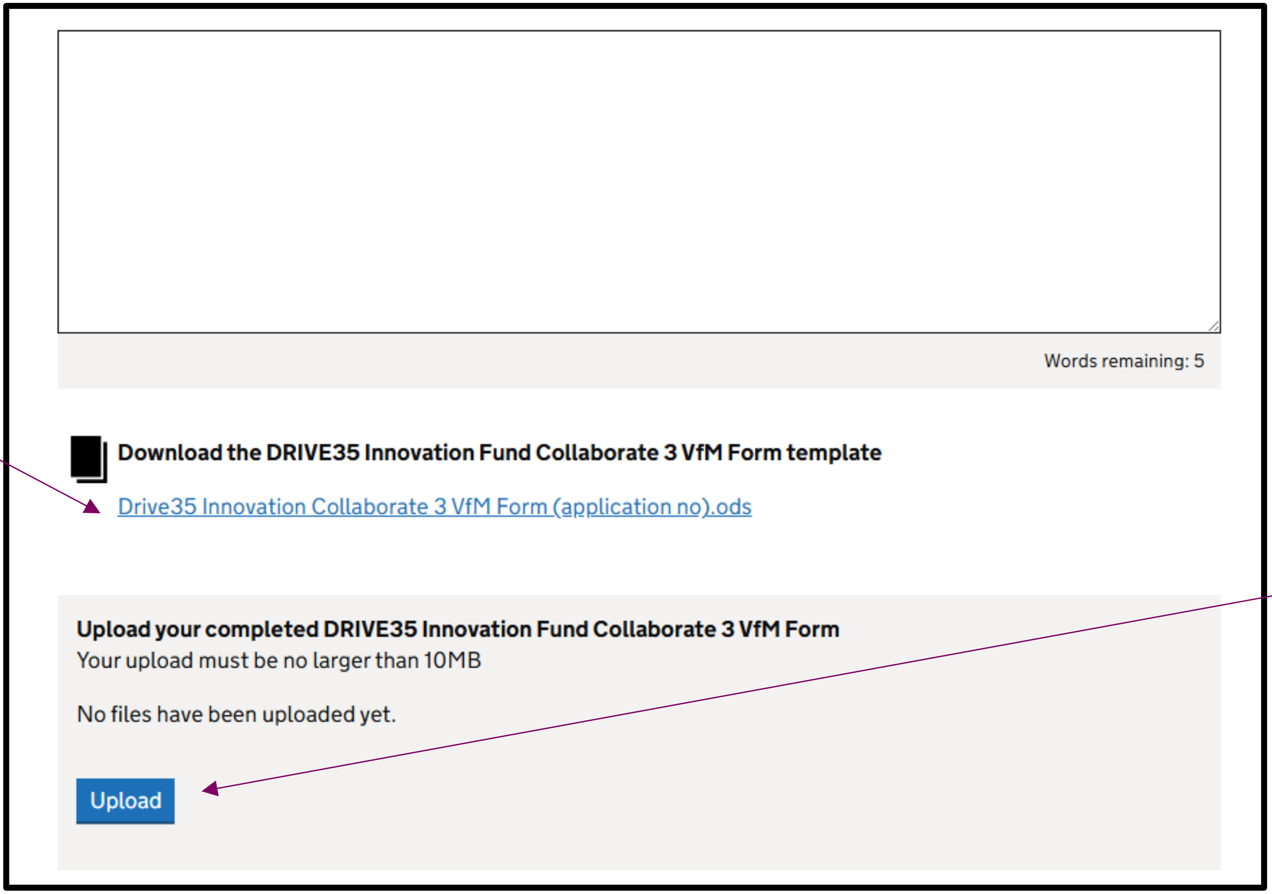
3. Understand how to fill in the VfM workbook

Accessing the VFM workbook

Download your Value for money (VfM) worksheet from Q17

Upload your completed worksheet

Question 17. Value for Money (VfM) workbook


Words remaining: 5

Download the DRIVE35 Innovation Fund Collaborate 3 VfM Form template

Drive35 Innovation Collaborate 3 VfM Form (application no).ods

Upload your completed DRIVE35 Innovation Fund Collaborate 3 VfM Form

Your upload must be no larger than 10MB

No files have been uploaded yet.

Upload

How to complete the VfM workbook

- **New Requirement:**
  - The form has been updated to provide data on lifecycle CO_2 impacts.
- **Read the Guidance:**
  - Check the guidance tabs in the workbook for instructions.
- **Consistency:**
  - Make sure all figures in the workbook match those in your written application, especially:
    - The total government grant requested
    - The company-funded expenditure
- **Salary Entries:**
  - Enter only the actual salary paid to each employee.
  - Do not include extra costs like employer National Insurance, pensions, private health insurance, or other employer expenses.
- **Job Entries:**
  - If jobs created or safeguarded during the project continue into future years, only count the associated Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) once per year.
  - Ensure you do not double-count jobs across the project jobs and post-project jobs tables.

→ Download workbook from Question 16 in the written application
→ When complete, upload the workbook as an appendix to Question 16.

Questions

- Any questions: e-mail me:
    - dave.roberts@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Department for
Business & Trade

Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

Your project must:

- have a total grant funding request of between **£2.5 million and £20 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
- be in line with at least one of the three scope themes
- achieve **TRL 7-8** or **MRL 6-7** by completion, based on published Automotive Technology and Manufacturing Readiness Levels
- last between **18** and **36** months
- start from **1 May 2027**

Innovate UK

Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

Lead organisation:

To lead a 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)

More information on the different types of organisation can be found in our Funding rules.

UKRI Innovate UK

Eligibility Criteria – Collaboration

For this competition, your project must be collaborative.

In all collaborative projects there must be:

- at least two grant claiming partners
- evidence of an effective collaboration

(*This means one partner must not account for more than 70% of the eligible costs and you must include rationale for the collaboration and describe the structure in the application.)*

For example:

If the total project costs are **£1,000,000** the maximum costs that can be accounted for by any partner is **£700,000**

Innovate UK

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)

Innovate UK

Eligibility Criteria – Partners/Subcontractors

Non-funded partners
Your project can include organisations who do not claim any funding for their work on the project. Their costs will be covered from their own resources. These can include UK, EU and other non-UK organisations. Non-UK partners are permitted to carry out project work from within their home countries and exploit the results outside the UK.

Where non-funded partners have been invited to the application on IFS, their costs will count towards the total eligible project costs.

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.

Innovate UK

Eligibility Criteria – Number of applications

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

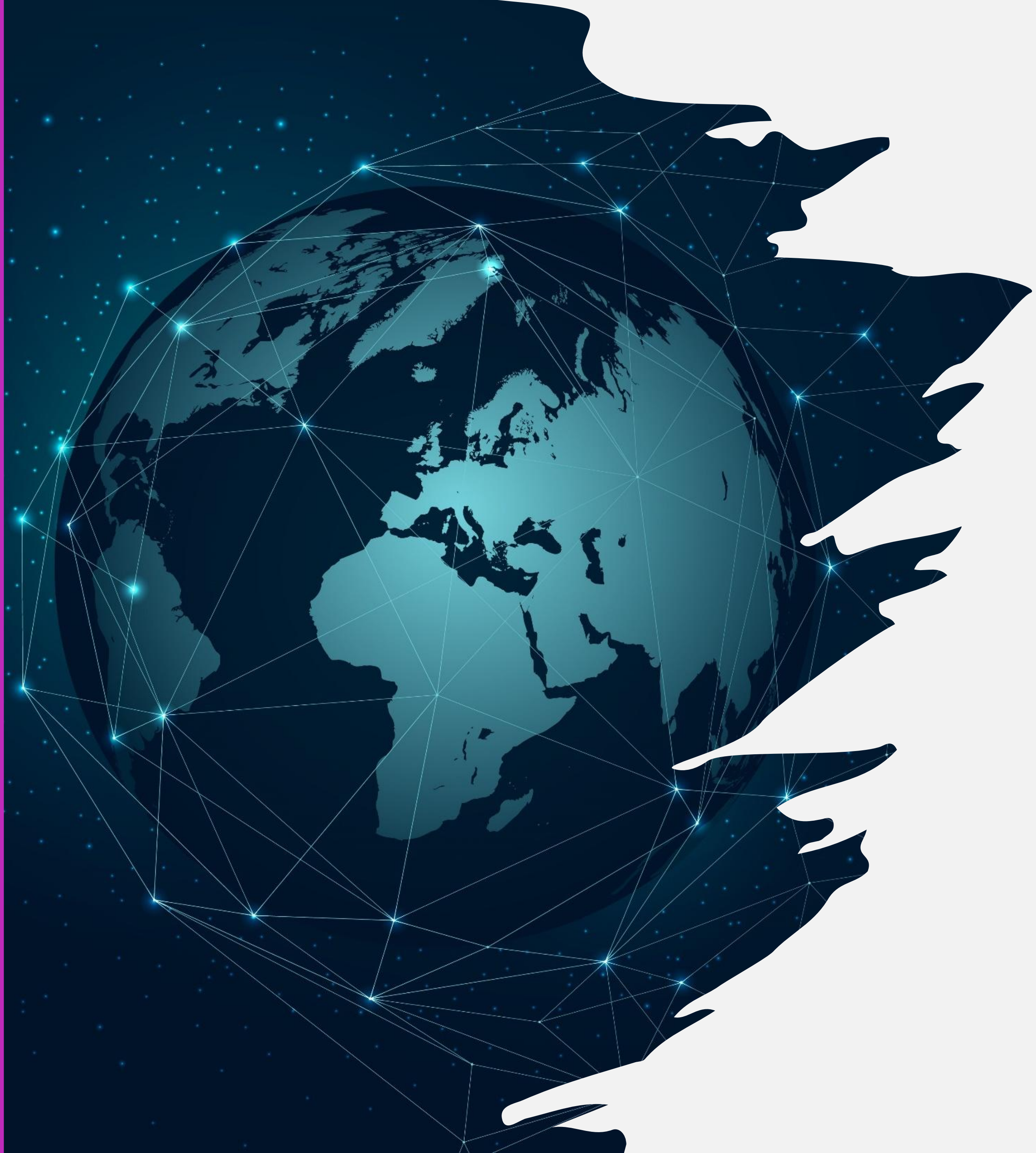
Successful applicants will be asked to confirm they have the capacity to run multiple projects simultaneously.

Previously submitted applications

This competition **does** allow you to submit a previously submitted application.

Previously submitted application	Not a Previously submitted application
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). If you have previously submitted an application that reached our assessment stage, you can re-apply once more with the same proposal.	A brand-new application, project or idea that you have not previously submitted into an Innovate UK competition. or A previously submitted or ineligible application which: • has been updated based on assessor feedback • <u>and</u> is materially different from the application submitted before • <u>and</u> fits with the scope of this competition

Innovate UK



Innovation Funding Service (IFS)

Creating an account

Select the radio button that aligns with your organisation type to apply as the project lead or partner..

For pre-existing businesses and Research organisations

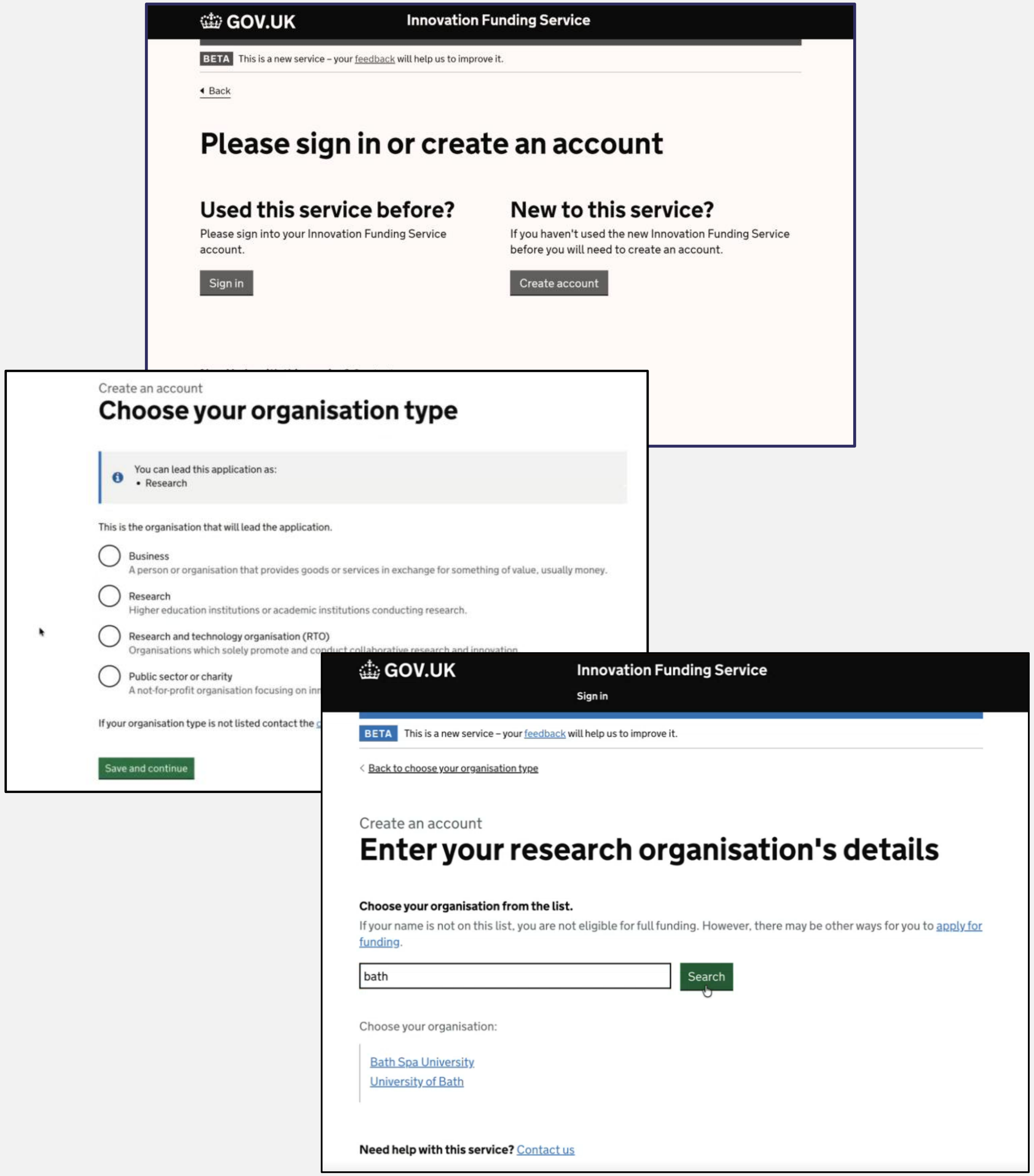
Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

Academic Institutions

Are asked to enter their name and select from the list of organisations presented

If your organisation is yet to be formed

You will need to enter your information manually, should you be successful, you will need to be a registered organisation to receive funding.



Innovate UK

Application Questions (Unscored)

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 2	Animal testing (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 3	Permits and licences (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	International Collaboration (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 5	Export licence (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 6	Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 7	Marketing and communications project lead (not scored)	100 words	No
Question 8	Which theme is applicable to your application (not scored)	200 words	No
Question 9	Funded project context (not scored)	600 words	No

Detailed question guidance available on IFS

Application Questions (Scored)

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 10	Why this project	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 11	Identify the market and your plan to address it	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 12	Benefits of this collaboration	600 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 13	Benefits to the UK Supply Chain	600 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 14	Innovation and technical approach	400 words	No
Question 15	Project management	600 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 16	Risks	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 17	Value for Money (VfM) workbook (not scored but used for VfM assessment)	5 words	Yes – mandatory, spreadsheet
Question 18	Additionality	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 19	Funding model	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 20	Project expenditure	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 21	Jobs	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 22	Sales and emissions	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages

Innovate UK

Detailed question guidance available on IFS

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** to seek a view or get legal advice from your own sources.

UK Strategic Export Controls - overview

UK strategic export controls - GOV.UK

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).

Innovate UK

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.

Q6 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

Innovate UK

Your Project Cost Categories

View our Application Finances Instructional Video

Labour

Overheads

Materials

Capital Usage

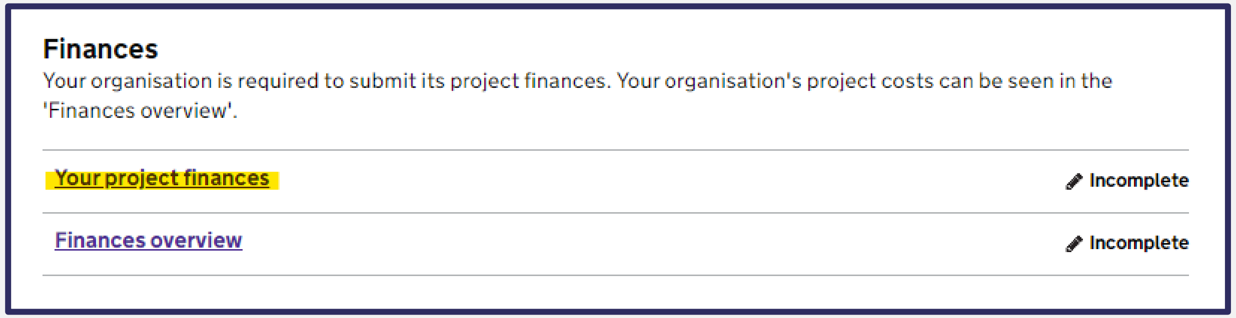
Subcontractors

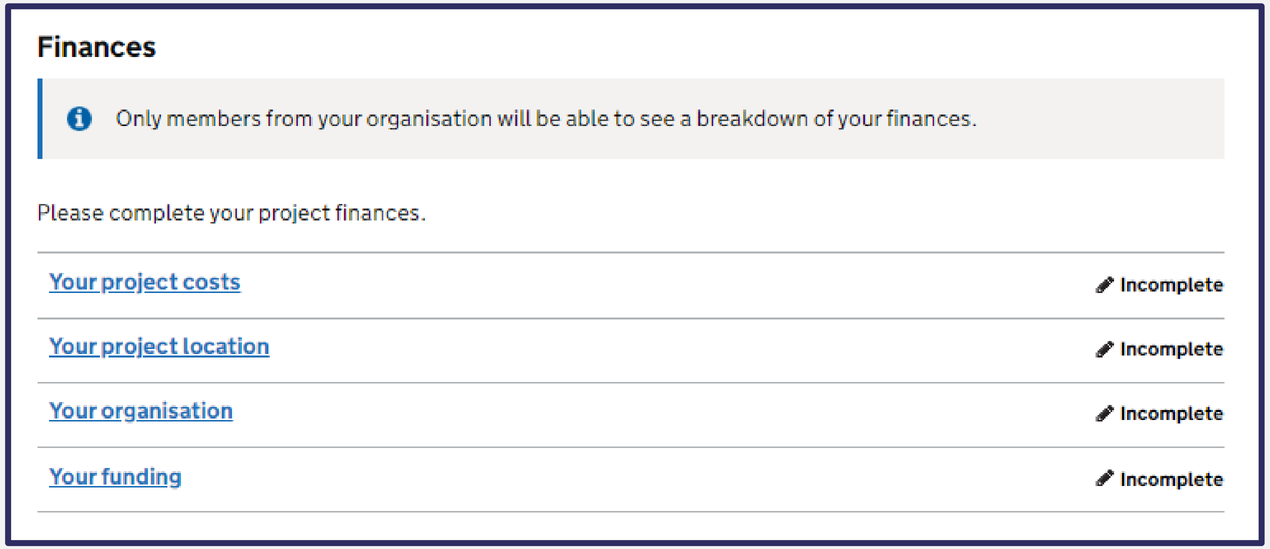
Travel & Subsistence

Other

UKRI Innovate UK

Your project finances





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

Innovate UK

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

If collaborative, the lead must ensure that all partners have marked their finances as complete.

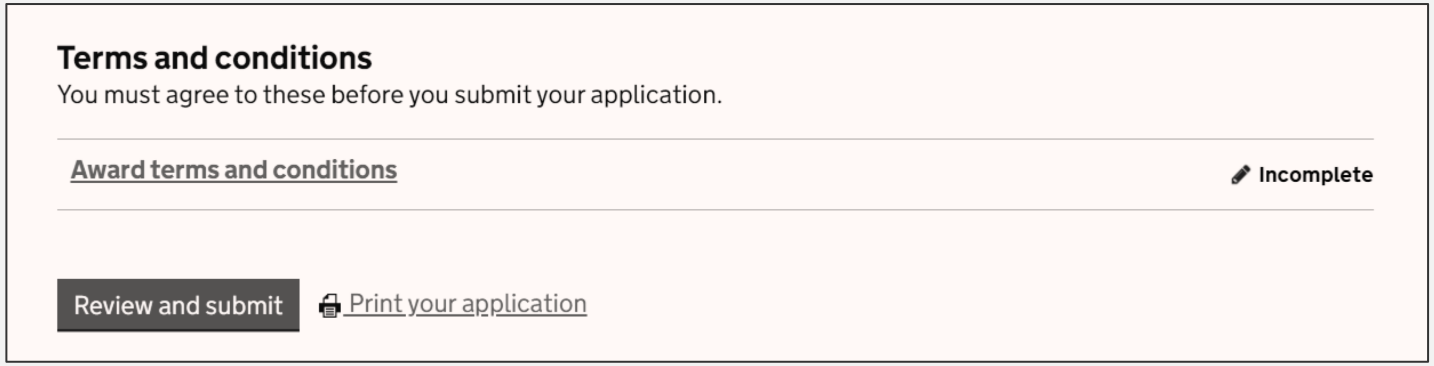
Research organisation participation must be no greater than **30%** of the total project costs.

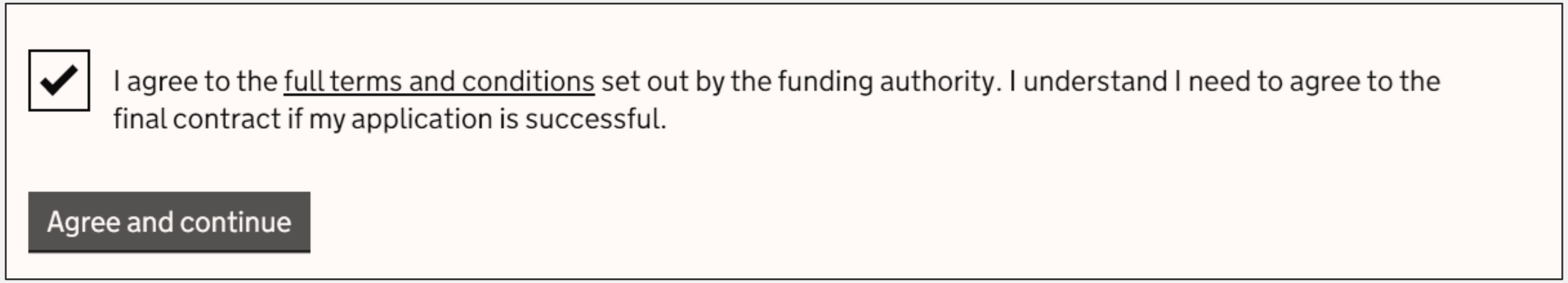
IFS DOES NOT VALIDATE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Innovate UK

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.



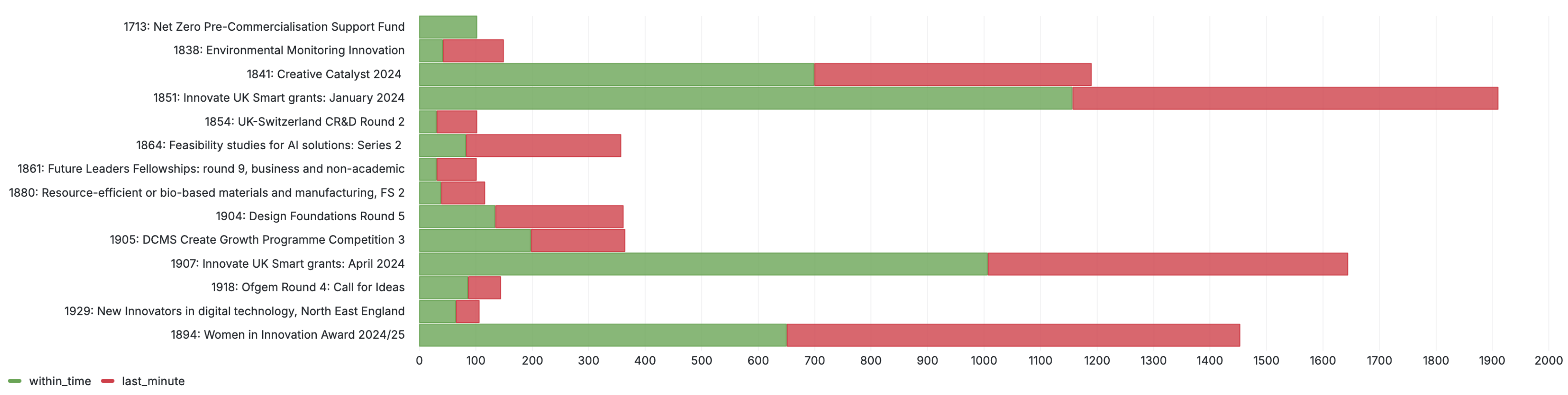


Innovate UK

Submitting your application

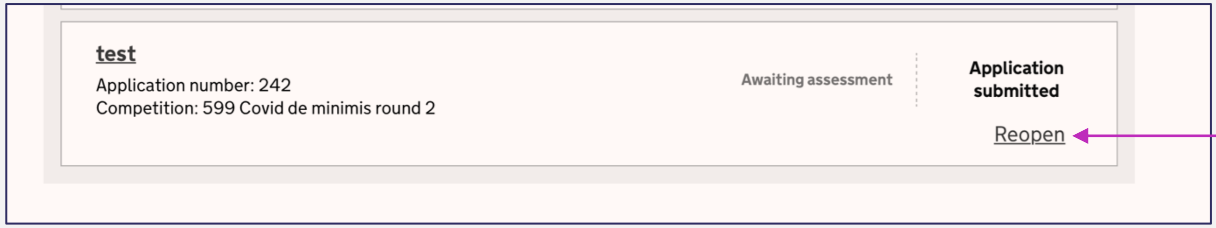
Customer Support can help resolve any issues you might have when submitting **but only if they are contacted before the deadline**.

Once the deadline has passed, your application cannot be submitted.

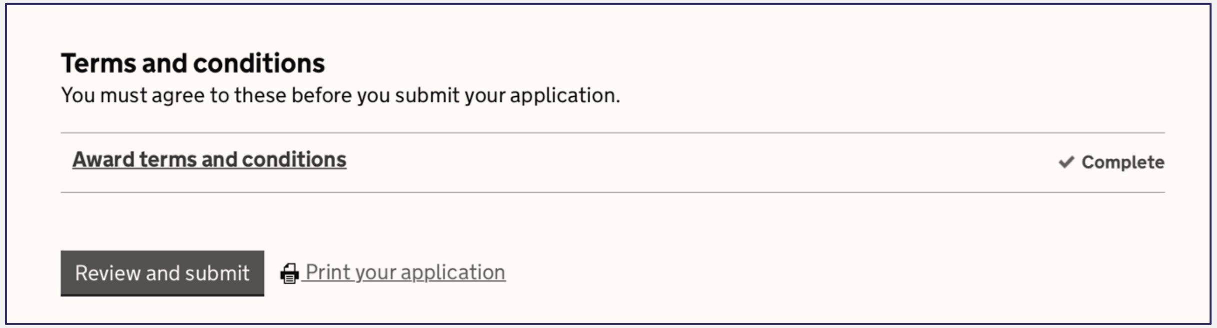


Innovate UK

Editing a submitted application



Reopen by clicking here



Remember to press ‘Submit application’

Innovate UK

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

Changes for Academics

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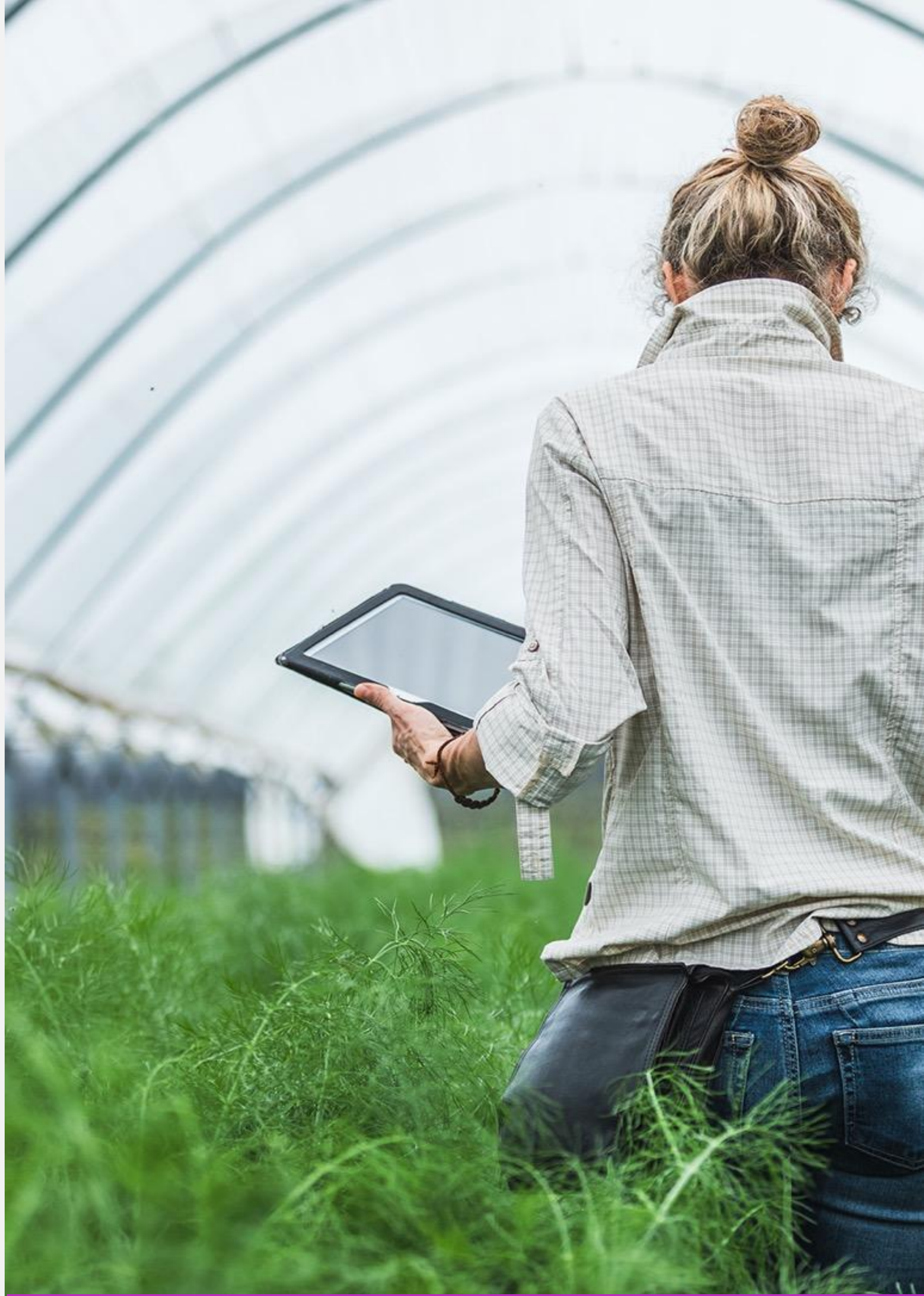
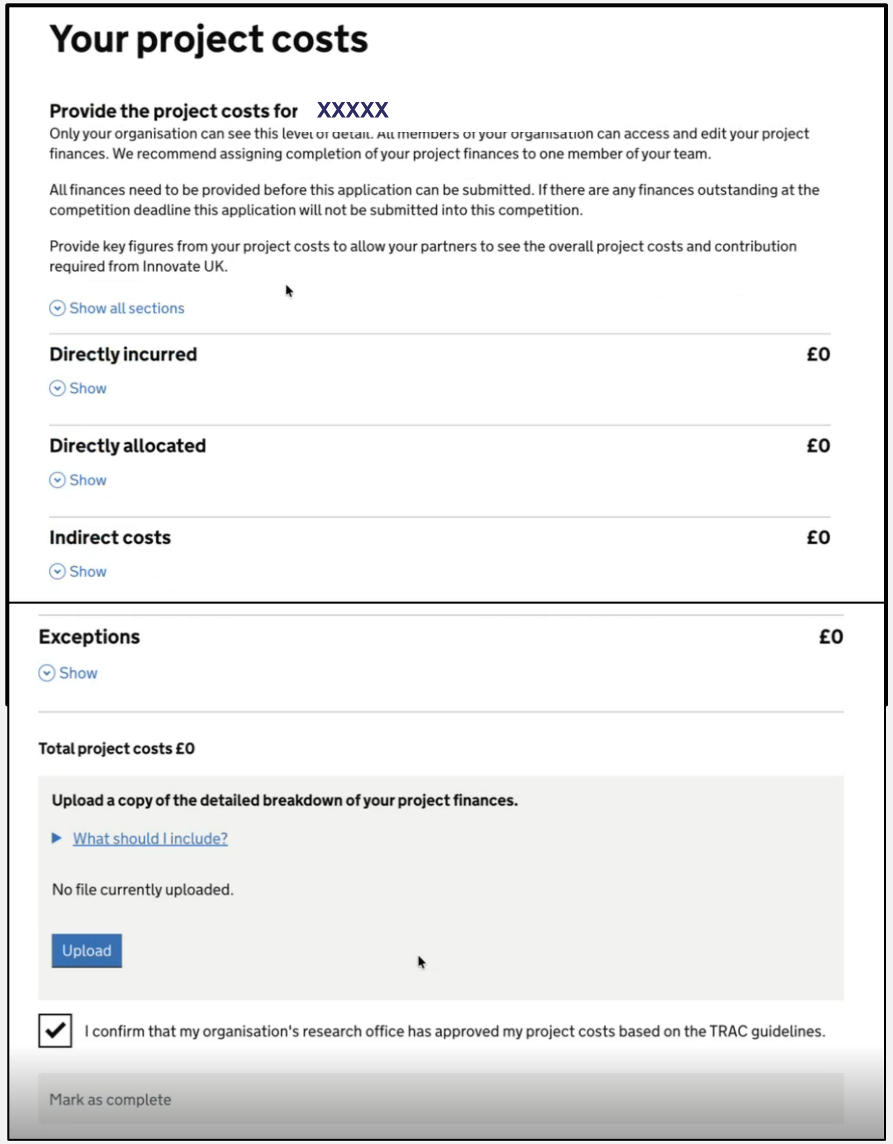


Academic cost categories



Your project costs

Provide the project costs for XXXXX

Only your organisation can see this level of detail. All members of your organisation can access and edit your project finances. We recommend assigning completion of your project finances to one member of your team.

All finances need to be provided before this application can be submitted. If there are any finances outstanding at the competition deadline this application will not be submitted into this competition.

Provide key figures from your project costs to allow your partners to see the overall project costs and contribution required from Innovate UK.

Show all sections

Directly incurred Show	£0
Directly allocated Show	£0
Indirect costs Show	£0
Exceptions Show	£0

Total project costs £0

Upload a copy of the detailed breakdown of your project finances.

What should I include?

No file currently uploaded.

Upload

I confirm that my organisation's research office has approved my project costs based on the TRAC guidelines.

Mark as complete

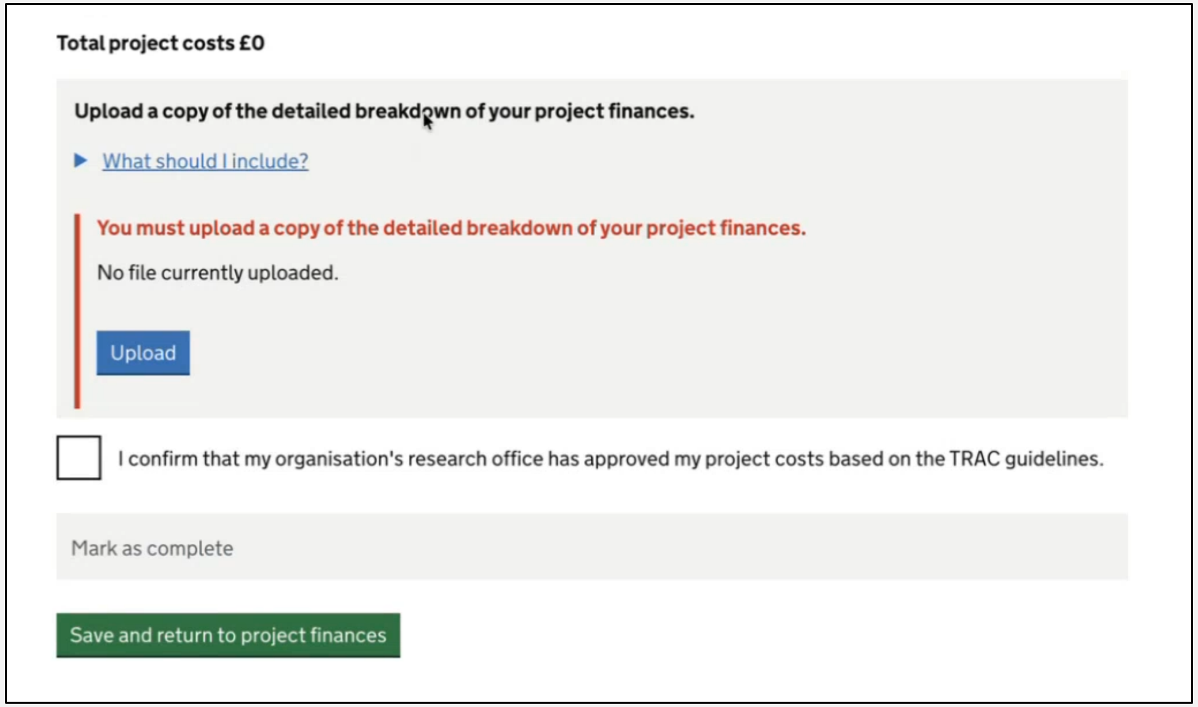
Following TRAC guidelines academic cost are captured under the following categories:

- Directly incurred
- Directly allocated
- Indirect costs
- Exceptions

If your project is successful, Innovate UK will fund an academic partner at 80% of FEC. The remaining 20% is not counted as part of your contribution to your project and **must not** be included in the total project costs.

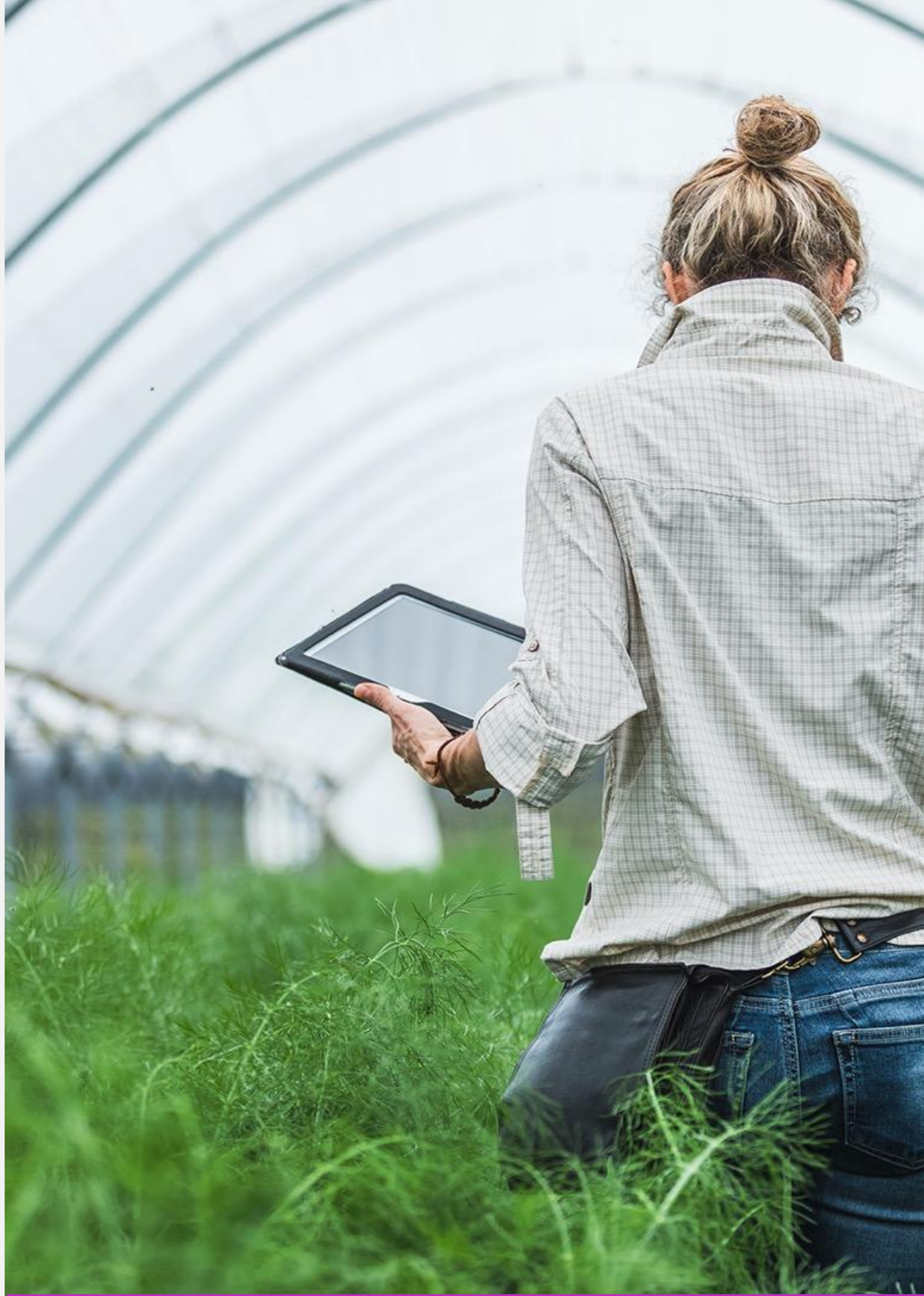
Please note: Costs of PhD students is not eligible for inclusion in research organisation project costs.

Academic cost categories



- A mandatory requirement to upload their detailed costs
- Must be a PDF format
- Approved by their research office

Funding Rules



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You are unable to claim funding if

- you are an **overseas organisation** - your company number begins with **FC**
- your organisation is **setup as a branch** - your company number begins with **BR**
- you are a **collaboration with no formal structure of ownership or control** - your company number begins with **ML**
- you are a **Crown Dependency**:
  - if your company is based in **Jersey** - your company number begins with **JE**
  - if your company is based in **Guernsey**
  - if your company is based in the **Isle of Man**

Innovate UK

Other Innovate UK projects

If you have an **overdue** 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
- please note if you have a live project in progress this does not prohibit you from entering this competition

Innovate UK

Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Regime

On 4th 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.

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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).

Innovate UK

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.

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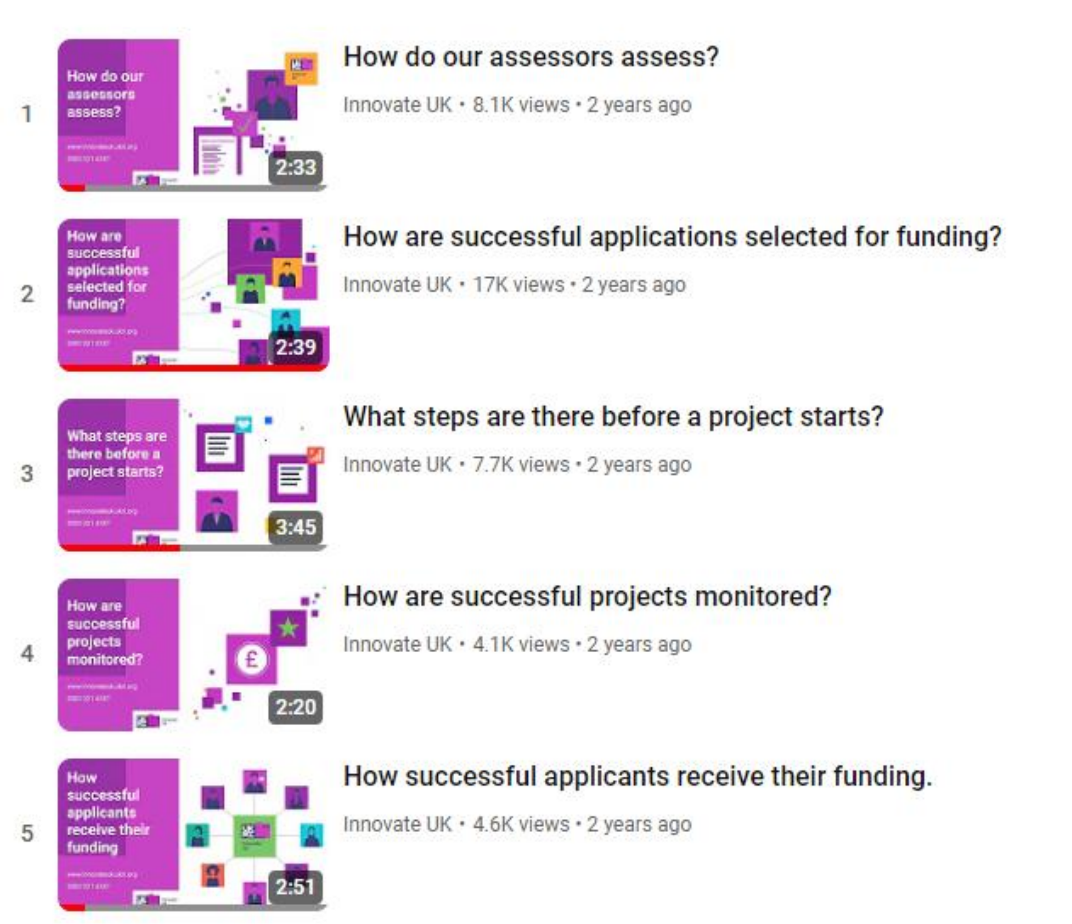
Assessment

Innovate
UK

Assessment

[YouTube Playlist]


1 How do our assessors assess?
Innovate UK • 8.1K views • 2 years ago

2 How are successful applications selected for funding?
Innovate UK • 17K views • 2 years ago

3 What steps are there before a project starts?
Innovate UK • 7.7K views • 2 years ago

4 How are successful projects monitored?
Innovate UK • 4.1K views • 2 years ago

5 How successful applicants receive their funding.
Innovate UK • 4.6K views • 2 years ago

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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.

UKRI Innovate UK

How you get paid

- Grants are claimed and paid out following authorisation, **quarterly** in **arrears**
- Organisations being funded at less than 100% will need to provide evidence that they will have funding available to meet their share of costs
- You can only claim for costs incurred between your project's start and end date
- Grant can only be paid into an approved UK bank account

Innovate UK

Bank account – Guidance

Accepted business bank accounts – subject to change

- Advance Payment Solutions (Part of Cashplus Ltd)
- Allica Bank
- Allied Irish Banks
- Bank of Ireland (UK)
- Bank of Scotland
- Bank of America
- Barclays
- BNP Paribas
- C Hoare & Co
- CAF Bank
- Citi Bank UK
- Clear Bank
- Commerz Bank
- Coutts
- Danske Bank
- Deutsche Bank
- DNB Bank ASA
- Guaranty Trust Bank (UK) Limited
- Handelsbanken Plc
- HSBC
- J.P. Morgan UK
- Lloyds
- Metro Bank
- Mettle
- Mizuho Bank Ltd
- MUFG Bank Ltd
- Monzo
- NatWest
- Nordea
- Revolut
- Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)
- Santander
- Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken Ab (Publ) [SEB]
- Starling
- The Bank of East Asia
- The Co-operative Bank
- Tide Bank
- Triodos Bank
- TSB Bank
- Ulster Bank
- Unity Trust Bank
- Virgin Money
- Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

Additional Support

Innovate
UK

Reasonable adjustments

We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to making our application process accessible to everyone. This includes making reasonable adjustments, for people who have a disability or a long-term condition and face barriers applying to us.

You can contact us at any time to ask for guidance. We recommend you contact us at least 15 working days before this competition's closing date to allow us to put the most suitable support in place. The support we can provide may be limited if you contact us close to the competition deadline.

You can contact Innovate UK by email or call 0300 321 4357. Our phone lines are open from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm UK time, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Innovate UK

Reasonable adjustments – what we need from you

To apply for a reasonable adjustment we will need to collect some information from you, below is the list of what we need:

- Name
- Organisation
- Email address
- Phone number
- Competition you are applying to
- Application number if you've started an application
- Consent to pass info to Innovate UK Business Connect

This information must be given to Innovate UK Customer Support Services, Business Connect are unable to provide support without a referral from CSS

Further information on the process can be found here https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/how-we-help/reasonable-adjustments-service/

Innovate UK

Reasonable adjustments – what we can do

Below is a list of possible adjustments we can make, this list is not exhaustive and not every adjustment will be appropriate for you, adjustments will be made on a case-by-case basis:

- Proofreading
- Clarifying language
- Resources
- Introduction to experts
- Time management
- Note-taking

Innovate UK

Reasonable adjustments – what we can not do

The reasonable adjustments offered are designed to remove barriers to applying, they are not designed to make decisions for you or give you advice on an application. With that in mind, the support we offer does not include the below:

- Providing deadline extensions
- Choosing which competition to apply to
- Developing an idea
- Advising whether your idea is in scope for a competition
- Offering financial advice
- Helping with research

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.

Innovate UK

Q&A

Innovate UK

Contact

ADVANCED PROPULSION CENTRE UK

Advance Propulsion Centre Team

ALEX WOOD

DAN BUNTING

RUBY AKHTAR

STEVE GASSER

info@apcuk.co.uk

InnovateUK Customer Support Services

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

support@iuk.ukri.org

Innovate UK
ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk

Innovate UK Business Connect
iuk.ktn-uk.org