



Funding Landscape

December 2021

For further information, including advice, guidance and support on bidding into competitions, please contact us:

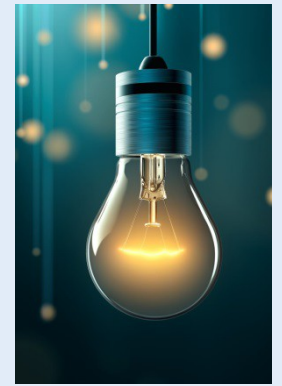
enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

Our Service



- Black Kite® is a Technology Business Consultancy, with staff (and associates) who are Innovation Management Specialists.
- We are bid management experts, with experience of writing and assessing bids for many organisations across many different disciplines.
- Organisations of all shapes and sizes (across different technology sectors and market domains) rely upon us to help them prepare compelling bids, and to avoid the pitfalls into which many bidders fall.
- We critically review bids prepared by our clients (new bids, or ones that they may have submitted unsuccessfully in the past) to help them improve and gain future funding.
- We can work with you to identify and target funding opportunities that will work for your innovation and your organisation.
- Visit our website at <https://www.black-kite.co.uk> for more details.

Funding Opportunities Highlighted in this Edition:



Contents of this Review:

- Introduction to this review
- Innovate UK: what you need to know.

• Innovate UK and other Competitions:

- *SMART* (Innovate UK)
- *Industrial*
- *Health*
- *Net-Zero*
- *Defence & Security*
- *KTN-iX*
- *Other opportunities*

- **Horizon Europe Update**
- **Research Councils**
- **Useful Publications**

How Black Kite® can help you to prepare a successful bid:

Black Kite® are specialists in bid management. We have experience of writing and assessing bids for many organisations across many different disciplines. We can work with you to identify and target funding opportunities, help you to prepare a compelling bid, or critically review a bid to improve its likelihood of success.

Introduction to the December Review:

The following pages give a summary of the current funding landscape. *Black Kite® can work with you to identify a call that suits you, and help you to submit a successful bid.*

COP-26 has come and gone, winter is definitely here, and with it further nervousness about the impact of the latest COVID variant on our health, economy and sanity. Despite the mixed outcomes of COP-26, the UK Government is still very much pushing for the UK to lead the world in green technology, and to develop our economy through innovation and technology. The publication of the Innovate UK Plan for Action, launched by Innovate UK CEO Indro Mukarjee in November (see link in publications section) introduces a four-year plan for investment in UK expertise and capacity. There are not so many open calls at the moment, but we anticipate that there will be a number of interesting competitions opening in the first half of 2022 in health, green tech and environment. We will keep track of the opportunities through our horizon scanning, which will include a range of funding bodies and research council grants where they are directly relevant to industrial collaboration and participation.

The latest SMART competition is open, which provides the opportunity to bid on any innovation with significant impact and growth potential. This is a very competitive call and success is dependent upon being able to demonstrate the world-leading potential of your proposal; **a very high quality bid is essential**. We can support you in your bid journey and work with you to gain the best possible chance of success.

There are a number of defence and security opportunities open for businesses with relevant technology. They don't need to be traditional defence companies, and DASA and the MoD are specifically interested in new entrants with technology or products that could be applicable to improving security. There is also a challenge coming from KTN-iX looking for software innovations to improve ship-borne security.

Horizon Europe clusters are open for bids into a range of innovation areas that we have highlighted, with useful links to more information. The competitions are open throughout 2022, although, due to the nature of the Horizon collaborations, early engagement is important. We can provide help and support in navigating the complex Horizon Europe environment.

We have added to our page of links useful publications, which we hope you find useful as a source of more detailed and interesting information.

To find out more, discuss a bid management or project management enquiry, contact us at enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

Innovate UK Competitions:

What you need to know

If you are thinking of bidding into an Innovate UK or other funding competition, Black Kite® can help you to submit a successful bid:

Innovate UK run competitive calls for challenges that they have identified, often based on initiatives coming from Government or Government departments. During the past year these have been focused on health and a COVID-19 response, but during the run-up to COP-26 and in the aftermath, the emphasis has shifted towards environmental issues and ways of achieving net-zero. There are rather more competitions related to materials and industry, coming from a desire to support the 'greening' of industrial processes and promote the UK as a leader in green technologies. Now that the Bio Catalyst competition has closed, there are less health related competitions, although we expect there to be more programmes coming out in 2022.

The SMART programme is still open, which is an opportunity for higher-risk innovative ideas to get initial funding and traction, there are also other support funding initiatives, such as SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) and ISCF (the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund) that sponsor projects on specific identified application areas.

Gaining funding through these calls is **always** highly competitive, and only the best bids will be successful. Whilst we cannot guarantee success, Black Kite® have decades of experience working with small and large businesses and with academia in collaborative R&D environments. We can support you at any stage, or all stages, of putting together a grant and project bid.

It is essential that project ideas are presented clearly and in a form that will resonate with bid reviewers and assessors. Black Kite® can help you structure and present your research ideas and innovations clearly, concisely and convincingly. We can perform technology reviews, identify research partners and critically review your bid before submission. Successful innovation bids must show commercial potential, and we can help you or your investors to understand and quantify the business potential and risks of your innovative propositions, including through targeted technology market studies.

The following pages identify opportunities that are currently open for funding from Innovate UK and other sponsors.

To find out more, discuss a bid management or project management enquiry, contact us at:
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Opportunities: SMART Competition

The SMART Competition is an opportunity to bid for funding for an innovation in any technology area, and in consequence is a highly competitive call, where only the very best bids have a chance of success. The application form has ten questions, covering innovation, approach, capability, impact, exploitation intentions, planning and costs. Every section needs to be thought through and presented clearly and convincingly.

Black Kite® have long experience of SMART programmes and bids, and can offer you support for planning, preparation and QA of bids. Contact us if you would like support in preparing a bid to SMART.

SMART October 2021: total £25 m; closes 5th January 2022 (11:00)

Aim: To support *any* innovation with significant potential for growth or scale-up, taking customer and user needs into account.

Addresses any technological area – must be game changing, innovative, ambitious, ready for commercialisation soon after project end.

Must present a strong business and delivery plan.

Essentials: A commercial exploitation plan **must** be evident for **all** business partners and must be convincingly presented.

Time to market is important.

A strong and competent management approach and capability must be presented clearly.

Proven relevance to an identified customer base is essential.

These calls are **highly competitive**, and high scores in all aspects are essential for success.

Eligibility: Must be UK Business-led and must include at least one micro or SME.

A single SME may undertake a short (6-18 month) project, a large project must be collaborative.

Projects can be feasibility, industrial research (shorter but higher funding levels) or experimental development (larger, but lower funding percentage).

Costs and duration: 6-18 month projects £100k - £500k, 19-36 month projects £100k - £2m.

Key dates: This competition closes 5th January 2022 11:00am.

Further information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1035/overview>

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Opportunities - Industrial:

EUREKA GlobalStars Taiwan Digital Industrial Collaboration Closes: 15 December 2021. closing soon

Aim: to identify collaborators and collaboration projects between UK and Taiwanese businesses. Looking for high market potential projects developing innovative products, tech-based applications or tech-based services.

Eligibility: 50% co-investment must be in place. A UK lead business or UK partner can claim funding. Must be collaborative with at least one other independent partner from a EUREKA or Globalstars participating country.

Costs and Duration: up to £300k grant, duration 3-24 months

Key Dates: closes 15th December 2021 @16:00

Further information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1000/overview#scope>

Made Smarter Innovation: Sustainable Smart Factory: Closes: 26 January 2022.

Aim: to develop digital innovations to improve the sustainability of manufacturing processes, resulting in either reduced material or reduced energy consumption. Strand 1: data centric, strand 2: data support of resource or energy efficiency improvements.

Eligibility: Must be led by a UK business and must involve collaboration with other UK organisations. Both manufacturing and digital technology must be included.

Costs and Duration: project costs £1M-£8M, duration 12-24 months

Key Dates: closes 26th January 2022 @11:00am

Further information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1063/overview#scope>

Sustainable Smart Manufacturing Competition: closes 26th January 2022

Aim: A new £20M competition is being developed by Innovate UK on the theme of digitisation for energy and resource savings. To be launched at a briefing on the 9th November 2021. Two strands – Digital innovation with manufacturing data (1) and Digital innovation in manufacturing processes (2)

Eligibility: to cover all sectors of manufacturing and sizes of business, must involve a single or multiple factory(s) and carry out all work in the UK. Must involve at least one SME.

Costs and Duration: project costs between £1M and £8M, 50% funding strand 1, 40% funding strand 2, duration 12-24 months

Key Dates: Launch event 9th November 2021, closes 26th January 2022, interviews March 2022

Further Information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1063/overview#summary/>

Driving the Electric Revolution – PEMD Skills Hub: closes 15th December 2021 – closes soon

Aim: Will fund a single project up to £1M to create a Power Electronic, Machines and Drives (PEMD) skills hub to support the creation of world leading supply chains and expertise for PEMD in the UK. It must be accessible to those already in PEMD and those looking to develop expertise, and must operate for at least 10 years..

Eligibility: Can be led by a UK business of any size, collaboration allowable but not mandatory.

Costs and Duration: Up to £1M for 36 months to establish hub.

Key Dates: closes 15th December 2021

Further Information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1065/overview>

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Opportunities - Health:

Biomedical Catalyst 2021 Round 2: Feasibility & Primer Awards – now closed, retained for information

Aim: development of a product or process that is an innovative solution to a health and care challenge. Examples include disease prevention and proactive management of health and chronic conditions; earlier and better detection and diagnosis of disease; tailored treatments to either change underlying disease or lead to potential cures. Two strands – feasibility award to explore and evaluate commercial potential and primer award for conducting a technical evaluation of an idea through to proof of concept

Eligibility: Lead or single applicant: UK registered micro or SME; collaboration with any business or research organisation

Costs and Duration: between 3 and 24 months duration, costs £50k - £1M

Key Dates: Opens 18th October 2021, closes 1st December 2021 @ 11:00 am – **now closed**; further calls may come in 2022

Further Information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1028/overview#eligibility>

NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i Challenge: Competition 13

Aim: To support market-ready innovation by addressing the gap between clinical evaluation and adoption through funding assessment in real-world settings

Eligibility: Lead: England based SME, NHS providers, HEIs Must be collaborative and include an NHS provider (up to 7 co-applicants)

Costs and Duration: Project costs: £No upper limit: Up to 3 years. Grant: 100%

Key Dates: Stage 1 open: 4th November 2021, **closes 12 January 2022, Stage 2:** open: 23 March 2022, closes 11 May 2022

Further Information: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/invention-for-innovation.htm>

UKRI: Early Ideas to improve the delivery of nucleic acid therapeutics

Aim: Looking to support a consortium to tackle the barriers to safe and effective delivery of Nucleic Acid Therapies through the development of novel technologies, platforms and resources. Initial requirement is an Expression of Interest. Open to academic organisations, SMEs, other research establishments. Projects must be collaborative.

Grant funding up to £6M, duration up to 3 years. **closes 6th January 2022.**

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/early-ideas-to-improve-the-delivery-of-nucleic-acid-therapeutics/>

EPSRC: Healthcare technologies investigator-led grant

For researchers in engineering, physical sciences, ICT and mathematical sciences wanting to apply their research to health challenges

Collaboration with healthcare professional, industry and other relevant partners is strongly encouraged

Project size ranges from small short-term grants to multi-million-pound research programmes. No limit on grant or length of project

Open now, **closes 31st March 2022.** NB no pre-registration required.

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/healthcare-technologies-investigator-led-grant/>

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Opportunities – net-zero:

BEIS: Net Zero Innovation Portfolio: £1Bn Fund

The Net Zero Innovation Portfolio provides funding for low-carbon technologies and systems to accelerate the commercialisation of low-carbon technology systems and business models in power, buildings and industry, and will help enable the UK to end its contribution to climate change.

Competitions will be launching throughout 2021, with opportunities to apply offered through the individual competition pages at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/net-zero-innovation-portfolio>

Clean Growth Fund

The Clean Growth Fund (CGF) invests in the most promising and ambitious companies to provide commercialisation expertise and access to markets. Looking for any company with a clear and significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gases.

Provides business support to sectors: power, buildings, transport, industry and waste.

First round investment £500 k - £3 m <https://www.cleangrowthfund.com/key-info-for-entrepreneurs/>

OFGEM Strategic Innovation Fund:

Aim: OFGEM and Innovate UK working together to accelerate the transition to net zero. Seeks to shape the future of the gas and electricity networks through innovation. Four challenges in Discovery phase: whole system integration; data and digitalisation; zero emission transport; heat.

Eligibility: For previous competitions, lead applicants needed to be licenced energy network operators, but other businesses or researchers could join as subcontractor third-party innovators. Conditions for future challenges under this fund are not yet available

Costs and Duration: Total fund £450M 2021-26. The conditions for future challenges not yet announced.

Key Dates: there are no calls open at present, but further calls are likely to open during 2022

Further Information: <https://www.ukri.org/news/global-collaboration-to-open-opportunities-for-energy-innovators/>

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (DEFRA): closes 31st December 2022

Aim: Financial assistance for projects that support sustainable growth in the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors, and enhance the marine environment

Brief Description: Funds projects that deliver world-class science and innovation, support coastal communities, protect the marine environment, develop industry infrastructure and promote a sustainable aquaculture sector

Eligibility: Available to applicants whose business and/or vessels are registered in England, engaged in the commercial/recreational sea fishing, aquaculture or processing business. Could also be a university or research institute, local authority/public body or new entrant to the sector.

Costs and duration: 50% matched funding for micro & small applicants, total eligible costs dependent upon type of project

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fisheries-and-seafood-scheme>

Industrial Fuel Switching competition – feasibility: closes 31st January 2022 @ 3:00pm

Aim: to support partnerships between developers of efficient technologies and industrial companies willing to trial innovations on-site. Targets novel technologies at TRL5-8, or use of established technologies in a novel way

Eligibility: Project should comprise industrial partner to demonstrate technology at their site and a technology developer. Other partners (RTOs, universities, specialists, consultants) can be included

Costs and Duration: grant funding £150k-£1M at 40%-60% eligible costs, duration up to 2 years

Key Dates: closes 31st January 2022 @ 3:00pm

Further Information: introduction to competition and link to launch briefing event: <https://programmes.carbontrust.com/ieea/overview/>

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Opportunities – Defence & Security:

Defence Innovation Loans Competition

Aim: support innovative defence solutions currently at TRL-6 and in development by an SME looking to apply product for the armed forces in any technology area applied to Army end users. Two tracks of £5M are available

Eligibility: UK SMEs working singly. Must be intending to exploit results in the UK or overseas and be able and suitable to take on a loan.

Costs and Duration: this is a loan of between £250k and £1.6M at 7.4% pa (3.7% deferred), available for projects up to 2 years duration, with possible 2 year extension. Repayable over 5 years.

Key Dates: Next competition **closes 5th January 2022, then 2nd March 2022**

Further Information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/competition-defence-innovation-loans/competition-document-defence-innovation-loan#how-to-apply>

Helping the military shrink its cyber attack surface

Aim: To develop self-defending cyber security systems for military operational platforms and technologies. DASA are looking for self-defending, self-recovering concepts and military systems resilient to cyber attack. Proposals with TRL4-7 will be funded

Eligibility: any UK business or research organisation

Costs and Duration: DASA will fund projects of less than 6 months up to £150k, 6-12 months up to £300k

Key Dates: first cycle closed 20th October, second cycle **closes 5th January 2022**

Further Information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autonomous-resilient-cyber-defence-intelligent-agents>

Autonomous Resilient Cyber Defence – Intelligent Agents

Aim: Acceleration of the next generation hardware and software technologies to phase out cyber vulnerabilities within current computer networks and reduce cyber attacks on MOD systems and platforms. Proposals with TRL4-7 will be funded

Eligibility: any UK business or research organisation

Costs and Duration: DASA will fund projects up to £300k for a 9 month contract

Key Dates: first cycle closed 20th October, second cycle **closes 5th January 2022**

Further Information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/helping-the-military-shrink-its-cyber-attack-surface>

DASA: Catch the ChemBio SCENT!

Aim: This is a Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) competition looking for proposals for novel technologies for screening, collecting and exploiting ChemBio materials, addressing the challenges associated with screening for and the preservation of sample/evidence and the attribution of hazardous chemical and biological materials.

Costs: Proposals requesting up to £100k will be considered in phase 1, with a second phase planned to further develop promising solutions

Further Information: Jointly funded by UK MoD and US DoD. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-the-chembio-scent>

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Opportunities in KTN-iX:

KTN iX is an initiative managed by the Knowledge Transfer Network team partnered with Innovate UK that aims to provide opportunities for businesses from other sectors to become directly linked to, or collaborate with, key stakeholders in industries who are seeking innovative solutions to specific challenges they face. It is open to established UK based businesses, start-ups, SMEs or individual entrepreneurs, and depending on the challenge projects normally last for 3-12 months. The currently open challenges and their sponsors are listed in the following pages, together with links to more details. More information about KTN-iX is available via <https://www.ktninnovationexchange.co.uk/Challenges>
Contact us at **Black Kite®** if you would like support in preparing a bid to KTN-iX or following up on one of these opportunities.

Challenges posed by Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Sponsored Challenges:

Cardiff Capital Region are looking for innovative deployment technology to enable zero emission council fleets. The challenges on this page posed by them through the KTN-iX initiative cover challenges around aspects of supporting councils to reduce their fleet CO2 emissions to zero. One of these challenges remains open for another few days:

KTN-iX challenge: Optimising vehicles and charging infrastructure for council fleet to transition to EVs

A modelling and analysis solution is required to analyse and optimise approaches to council vehicle usage patterns and charging requirements. The solution should allow various scenarios to be run and be able to identify comparable CO2 emissions and costs. There is an opportunity to extend the solution to use by other local authorities.

Closes: 15th December 2021, with pitch to CCR end January 2022

Information: <https://www.ktninnovationexchange.co.uk/Challenges/Single/122>

Other Challenges:

Challenge posed by Bae Systems Surface Ships:

Sponsored by BAe Systems Surface Ships, this call is looking for innovative solutions to enhance and enrich the Maritime Mission Systems marketplace. Any appropriate solutions that can be deployed in a warship environment will be invited to participate in a codeathon on a warship.

Closes: 28th January 2022, codeathon event 11th May 2022

Information: https://www.ktninnovationexchange.co.uk/challenges/118/technology_and_solutions_to_enhance_the_capab

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Other competitions and funding opportunities

UKRI: Knowledge transfer partnerships (KTP): 2021 to 2022, round 5 closes 02 February 2022

The KTP scheme allows a UK registered business or not-for-profit to partner with a UK HEI, RTO or Catapult to bring new skills or thinking into the business. Any kind of project can be supported that helps the business with a real need and fits their strategic aims. Researchers linked through this scheme can augment a business' R&D and may subsequently be recruited as employees

Typically project costs are expected to be £75 k per annum, part of this expected to be funded by the business partner; 12 – 36 month projects.

Technology and Management KTPs possible.

Opens: 06 December 2021; **closes: 02 February 2022.**

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1071/overview#summary>

BEIS: Net Zero Innovation Portfolio: £1Bn Fund

The Net Zero Innovation Portfolio provides funding for low-carbon technologies and systems to accelerate the commercialisation of low-carbon technology systems and business models in power, buildings and industry, and will help enable the UK to end its contribution to climate change.

Competitions will be launching throughout 2021, with opportunities to apply offered through the individual competition pages at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/net-zero-innovation-portfolio>

Research Solutions for UK treescape expansion and resilience

Investigation into how the expansion and resilience of UK treescapes can be improved at different scales, working with at least on stakeholder group or relevant non-academic organisation

Academic led, engaging with a non-academic organisation or business.

maximum grant £625k for up to 2 years, **closes** 14th January 2022

funded by NERC, work with stakeholders: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/research-solutions-for-uk-treescape-expansion-and-resilience/>

National Lottery Grants for Heritage 2021-22

Aim: There is a revised set of priorities for 2021-22 prioritising heritage projects that will boost the local economy, encourage skills development and job creation, support wellbeing, create better places to live, work and visit, and improve the resilience of organisations working in heritage

Eligibility: Open to not-for-profit organisations or private owners of heritage that can demonstrate they are building long-term environmental sustainability into their plans

Costs and Duration: £3k-5k up to 1 year, £10k-250k up to 5 years, £250k-5M up to 5 years with 5-10% matched contribution

Key Dates: rolling deadline until at least April 2022

Further Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/national-lottery-grants-for-heritage-2021-22/>

Horizon Europe : Update – December 2021

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes_en

Are you wondering whether a European collaborative project is for you? Here is Black Kite®'s latest review:

The UK has traditionally been a very strong player in European Collaborative projects over the past 35 years that the Framework Programme has been running. **Horizon Europe** is a seven year programme (2021-2027) with €95.5Bn to spend on Global challenges in health, culture, creativity, digital, climate and food, bio-economy, natural resources, agriculture and environment.

At Black Kite® we have **decades of** experience of European collaboration that we can bring to your bid, whether that be in identifying opportunities, establishing a strong team, identifying key partners, presenting complex technical ideas clearly, structuring a convincing programme of work or performing a critical evaluation of an existing bid.

• Latest Update:

- Although Horizon Europe projects are seen as working alongside, or complementing, Innovate UK funded programmes, the fact remains that Horizon Europe bids are **far more complicated** to assemble with **considerably greater administration costs** than Innovate UK bids.
- Pulling together an international team can be challenging to manage, especially for a small business.
- However, **project scale is greater**, as is the time allowed for bids to be prepared.
- Some calls are more competitive than others, and overall **budgets are higher**.
- Before embarking on an European bid, it makes good sense to take advice on whether the time spent on bidding is likely to prove cost effective.
- During 2021 there was an opportunity to bid for funding under the global cooperation call which aimed to provide UK support for the leading or joining an international collaborative team for a Horizon Europe bid. This call is now closed, but **further calls of this type may open in 2022**.

- The National Contact Point (NCP) network is available to help and guide those wanting to find out more about opportunities and participation, or lead bids into the Horizon Europe programme. There is a list of NCPs and their sectors at:

<https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk#find-your-uk-national-contact-point-for-advice>

- A useful access page for all programmes and calls is: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

• Access to calls:

- **Cluster 1: Health Cluster** – innovative healthcare, digital solutions, tackling disease and staying healthy.
- Various closing dates, 21-April-2022, 06-September-2022.
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/horizon-europe-info-days/cluster-1_en
- **Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society** – education, ageing society, green technology in culture, post-pandemic governance, big data
- Closing date 6th April 2022.
- <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/horizon-europe-work-programme-2021-2022-culture-creativity-and-inclusive-society-cluster-2/>
- **Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society** – Cyber security, space-based infrastructure, resilient infrastructure, security R&I and disaster resilience
- Various closing dates from September 2021 to November 2022
- <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/horizon-europe-work-programme-2021-2022-civil-security-for-society-cluster-3/>
- **Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space** – human-centred and ethical development of digital and industrial technologies, including space, green technologies and circular economy
- Closing date for currently open calls: 30th March 2022
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/horizon-europe-info-days/cluster-4_en
- **European Partnerships:** Joint actions in which the EU, national authorities and/or the private sector jointly commit to support the development and implementation of a programme of research and innovation activities. Planned for the 2023/24 work programme.
- <https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-sec>

Are you thinking of bidding into an STFC or UKRI call? Black Kite® Ltd can help you target your bid:

There are several calls from Research Councils that aim to support academic teams to develop their ideas, often through collaboration with industrial partners or sponsors. Some current examples are below. If you are an academic research team looking for industrial partners, we can help you identify the best teaming opportunity, and help you refine your pitch to them. If you are a business looking for a research partner, we can help with that, too.

UKRI: Early Ideas to improve the delivery of nucleic acid therapeutics

Aim: Looking to support a consortium to tackle the barriers to safe and effective delivery of Nucleic Acid Therapies through the development of novel technologies, platforms and resources. Initial requirement is an Expression of Interest. Open to academic organisations, SMEs, other research establishments. Projects must be collaborative.

Grant funding up to £6M, duration up to 3 years. **closes 6th January 2022.**

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/early-ideas-to-improve-the-delivery-of-nucleic-acid-therapeutics/>

EPSRC: Healthcare technologies investigator-led grant

For researchers in engineering, physical sciences, ICT and mathematical sciences wanting to apply their research to health challenges

Collaboration with healthcare professional, industry and other relevant partners is strongly encouraged

Project size ranges from small short-term grants to multi-million-pound research programmes. No limit on grant or length of project

Open now, **closes 31st March 2022.** NB no pre-registration required.

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/healthcare-technologies-investigator-led-grant/>

EPSRC: Manufacturing the future

Support for engineering and physical sciences research looking at key challenges facing manufacturing in the UK.

Includes chemistry and materials.

Up to £2 m.

Open now, **no closing date** <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/manufacturing-the-future/>

UKRI-SBE lead agency opportunity

Collaborations between UK and US researchers in any discipline including biotech.

Submission of EoI to NSF and UKRI for consideration.

Maximum award £1 m, currently open, **no closing date** <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-sbe-lead-agency-opportunity/>

Business and Academia Prosperity Partnership

Aims to support business-led / UK university research partnerships in low TRL programmes to deliver economic, social and cultural prosperity for UK.

Total fund £20 m, 80% university funding, matched by funding from industrial partner.

Closes: 11th January 2022 @ 16:00: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/business-and-academia-prosperity-partnership/>

Black Kite® can help you to prepare a successful bid: Black Kite® are specialists in bid management. We can work with you to identify and target funding opportunities, help you to prepare a compelling bid, or critically review a bid to improve its likelihood of success.

Contact us at: enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

Useful & Interesting Recent Publications

There are a number of publications that have been produced recently that could be of interest to anyone looking at the competition landscape and thinking about future call topics that may arise.

(1)

The publications listed here have been produced by various government organisations to help them understand how technology is developing in various industries and sectors. These publications will influence thinking and planning of future competitions over the next one to two years, and could help to focus minds and R&D activity. If you would like to investigate how your business might respond to the emerging technical landscape, **Black Kite®** can support you through technical review, horizon scanning and business support.

Innovate UK Plan for Action

Launched by Indro Mukarjee, CEO of Innovate UK, on the 19th November describes the plan of action over the next four years to use innovation to drive the UK economic recovery, fulfil net-zero obligation, improve health, improve education and develop the innovators of the future.

Available at: <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-action-plan-for-business-innovation-2021-to-2025/>

Financing Innovation for a Sustainable Future:

A blog from Christian Inglis at Innovate UK discussing finance options, in particular those relating to green technologies and net-zero.

<https://www.ukri.org/blog/financing-innovation-for-a-sustainable-future/>

Applying for European Funding – A perspective by Scientifica Ltd

A helpful blog from Dr Christian Wilms of Scientifica describing his experience of applying for European Funding, with support from KTN and the National Contact Points at Innovate UK

Available at: <https://ktn-uk.org/perspectives/applying-for-european-funding-a-perspective-by-scientifica-ltd/>

Report on UK composites industry, competitiveness and opportunities

Produced by BEIS, I-UK, HVMC and KTN this is a study of the UK market for fibre reinforced polymer composites (FRPs) – it will be used by BEIS to inform future policy making.

Available here: <https://ktn-uk.org/news/new-report-released-on-uk-composites-industry-competitiveness-and-opportunities/>

UK Transport Vision 2050

New publication from Innovate UK setting out changes, challenges and opportunities for the transport sector over the next 30 years. Identified focus areas will underpin the planned investment – travel and transport demand; connectivity; energy vectors; autonomy; business models; infrastructure

Download available here: <https://www.ukri.org/news/innovate-uk-launches-uk-transport-vision-2050/>

Smart Local Energy Systems: unlocking net-zero – recording from KTN on behalf of UKRI

A virtual deep-dive into smart local energy systems. Now available online. An event was held on 19/07/2021, webinar recordings now **available at:**

<https://ktn-uk.org/events/smart-local-energy-systems-unlocking-net-zero/>

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Transforming our world with AI

A document produced by UKRI setting out the cross-disciplinary and cross-sector opportunities to support AI research and innovation in the UK. It seeks to describe UKRI's aspirations to bring together researchers and innovators in this important field. In highlighting the way that AI can be used in revolutionising all aspects of the modern world, this document will inform future funding decisions by UKRI and Innovate UK.

Download available here: <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UKRI-120221-TransformingOurWorldWithAI.pdf>

Health funding map from KTN and the BioIndustry Association

Intended to assist in the navigation of the health funding landscape, it also supports engagement between innovators in this sector and the KTN. This provides a useful access point for the health funding landscape.

Available at: <https://ktn-uk.org/programme/health-funding-map/>

Report on UK Catalysis

This report covers the domestic catalyst market in the UK and reviews opportunities for growth in the UK market and expansion of exports. Prepared by the Knowledge Transfer Network on behalf of Innovate UK.

Available at: <https://ktn-uk.org/news/ktn-launches-new-report-on-uk-catalysis-innovation-opportunities-for-an-enabling-technology/>

Over £200M grant to Rolls-Royce small nuclear reactors

The headline says it all. This joint project follows on from a smaller pilot project with Rolls Royce, and will lead to a lot of opportunities for supply firms and technology firms in the nuclear and related sectors.

Available at: <https://www.ukri.org/news/over-200-million-grant-to-rolls-royce-small-nuclear-reactors/>

Global Research & Innovation in Plastics Sustainability

An online conference to be held on 15th – 17th March 2022. The conference covers a wide range of topics associated with innovation in plastics applied to all sectors, covering also legislation impact. Of particular interest is the Smart Sustainable Packaging Challenge, that will have its own 'mini-conference'

Information and registration available at:

<https://www.ukcpn.co.uk/news/global-research-innovation-in-plastics-sustainability-grips-2022/>

UK manufacturing Diversity & Inclusion Guide

A report that has been produced by the Made Smarter Network, written for manufacturers and technology developers who supply manufacturers and manufacturing. The report discusses the benefits of including a diversity perspective in business decision making.

Available at: <https://www.madesmarter.uk/resources/resource-uk-manufacturing-diversity-inclusion-guide/>

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SUPPORT

Black Kite[®] Ltd. has been working with clients across the technology centre for many years. We are well placed to be able to support organisations to access and manage grant funding.

**For further information, including advice and guidance on bidding into competitions, please contact Black Kite[®] at:
email: enquiries@black-kite.co.uk**