



# Funding Landscape

July 2021

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

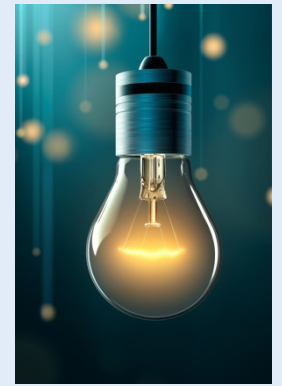
[enquiries@black-kite.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

# Our Service



- Black Kite® Ltd. 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 previously unsuccessful) to help them improve and gain future funding.
- We will work with you to identify and target funding opportunities that work for your innovation and organisation.
- This document identifies technology grant-funding opportunities.
- Visit our website at <https://www.black-kite.co.uk> for more details.

# Funding Opportunities Highlighted



## Contents of this Review:

### • **Innovate UK Competitions:**

- *Energy*
- *Environment*
- *Health*
- *Other Opportunities*

### • **Horizon Europe Update**

### • **Research Councils**

### **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 help you to identify and target funding opportunities, support you to prepare a compelling bid, and critically review bids to improve their likelihood of success.*

# Innovate UK Competitions:

## *What you need to know*

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

Innovate UK run competitive calls for challenges 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; the emphasis is now shifting towards environmental issues and achieving net-zero.

Some programmes are ongoing opportunities for higher-risk innovative ideas to get initial funding and traction, such as the SMART programme and the BioMedical Catalyst call; 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 very best bids are 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; 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:  
[enquiries@black-kite.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

# Introduction to the July Review:

**This is a summary of the funding landscape in mid-2021. Black Kite® can work with you to identify a call that suits you, and help you to submit a successful bid.**

Current funding competitions are focused around energy, environment and healthcare. These topics remain of most political, and social, interest. As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic, health-related issues beyond infection control are back on the agenda, with the impact of an **ageing society** emerging as one key topic. The provision and distribution of **energy** is also high on the agenda, alongside the **environmental challenges** and opportunities that that entails.

We believe funding for environmentally-related development will remain high on the Government's agenda at least until COP-26 later this year, with a range of aspects, especially around transport and carbon reduction/sequestration being at the forefront. Smart and autonomous vehicles, energy storage solutions and charging networks are also in the current mix, and are expected to remain key challenges over the next few years. Funding is coming from BEIS and the Department for Transport as well as from Innovate UK.

The new Biomedical Catalyst Competition is now open, with a focus on disease prevention, management of health conditions, diagnosis of disease or tailored treatments. Technology-based diagnostic techniques and support are still present, along with new calls related to stroke rehabilitation and a range of actions around healthy ageing challenges that have been identified as themes in the 'Healthy Ageing Challenge Framework' published by the Centre for Ageing Better in support of the £98M ISCF fund from the UK Government.

Although we focus more on UK funding, directed at supporting UK industrial competitiveness, we also track European funding in the Horizon Europe programme. As a full third-country member of the programme, UK companies can join the majority of the Horizon Europe competitions as project partners or leaders. Some competitions are now open for submissions, and there are opportunities to join large projects, although competition is fierce and the application process is more onerous than for UK funding competitions. Our summary page shows that the open calls in Horizon Europe are centred around health technologies, environment and climate change; other areas such as computing, cyber security, space, health, and creative industries will be opening later in the year.

To find out more, discuss a bid management or project management enquiry, contact us at [enquiries@black-kite.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

# Innovate UK Competitions - *Energy*

## Are you looking for support to develop your ideas and innovations in energy efficiency technologies?

There are several competitions looking towards the UK's commitment to net zero in 2040. The next few pages review the opportunities in energy delivery, environment and health. These competitions are built on the desire to create a revolution in UK competitiveness on the world stage in low carbon and net zero capability, to improve the nation's health and to enhance the natural environment. At Black Kite® we continue to support businesses and research teams create compelling and well-presented bids for grant funding and investment to help them move towards success in the emerging post-COVID world.

- **Longer Duration Energy Storage Demonstration Competition: total £68 m; Registration closes: 23 July 2021, full proposal 13<sup>th</sup> August.**
  - Accelerate commercialisation of innovative longer duration energy storage projects through to demonstration.
  - Grant request > £150 k - £1m; Two streams, details dependent upon stream (demonstration or prototype).
  - UK businesses or academic, RTOs can apply. Briefing event held on 17 June 2021:
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/longer-duration-energy-storage-demonstration-competition-apply-for-stream-1-pre-commercial-demonstrator-grants>
- **CCAV – Advancing safely to full vehicle automation: total £1.5 m; closes: 28 July 2021.**
  - Supporting collaborative projects, up to three will be funded. Development of technologies to enable safe use of fully automated vehicles
  - Grant request > £25,000 - £1m; 3 – 6 month projects.
  - Funding from the Department for Transport and the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles:
  - <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/949/overview>
- **ATF EoI, Round 12: total £1Bn; closes: 21 July 2021 for EoI stage [now closed, but useful for background]**
  - Capital centric investment projects to help industrialise and transform the electrified automotive supply chain in the UK.
  - Grant request and duration aligned to expectations of automotive transformation fund; Capital investment or R&D plus capital.
  - <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/949/overview>
- **The KTN (Knowledge Transfer Network) has run webinars on energy & resource efficiency related to Innovate UK competitions:**
  - A recording of the recent Chemistry and Medicines Manufacturing webinar can be found here:
  - <https://ktn-uk.org/events/accelerating-net-zero-series-energy-resource-efficiency-for-chemistry-and-medicines-manufacturing/>

**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](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

## Supporting environmental improvement is a key driver for UK innovation investment.

The ISCF sustainable plastic packaging competition is still open, with an extended close date in September. There other open competitions in the environmental space, and we expect there will continue to be competitions for funding around a range of environmental challenges over the next year or two. Black Kite® can help you to clarify your ideas and focus your grant bids. We can provide confidential market and technology analysis to improve your chances of success in what is sure to be a very competitive space.

- **ISCF Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging: Business Led R&D : total £40 m; closes: 8th September 2021 11:00am.**
  - **Aim:** To establish the UK as a leading innovator and deliver dramatic reduction in plastic waste entering the environment by 2025.
  - Projects must make plastics packaging supply chain more circular, and must explain how the UK's plastic packaging system's overall environmental impact is reduced.
  - The project would be a mix of industrial research and experimental development leading to a proof of principle demonstrator.
  - **Available funding:** £7m, Project costs £200k - £4m; 12 – 36 month projects.
  - Looking to establish R&D projects which are business-led – further information at:
    - <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/934/overview#eligibility>
- **Net Zero Innovation Portfolio : total £40 m; closes: 8th September 2021 11:00am.**
  - **Aim:** Funding to accelerate the commercialisation of low-carbon technologies systems and business models in power, buildings and industry
  - Projects must make plastics packaging supply chain more circular, and must explain how the UK's plastic packaging system's overall environmental impact is reduced.
  - The project would be a mix of industrial research and experimental development leading to a proof of principle demonstrator.
  - **Available funding:** £7m, Project costs £200k - £4m; 12 – 36 month projects.
  - Looking to establish R&D projects which are business-led – further information at:
    - <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/934/overview#eligibility>
- **Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Innovation 2.0: total £19.5 m; registration by: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, closes 29th August 2021**
  - **Aim:** Funding from BEIS to support deployment of advanced carbon capture, usage and storage technologies within the UK
  - Two lots – mid stage CCUS innovation (pilots) and late stage innovation demonstrations of intermediate scale or greater (100tn CO2 per day)
  - **Available funding:** Project costs Lot 1: up to £1m; Lot 2: up to £5m, 9 month projects.
  - further information at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ccus-innovation-20-competition>
- **Note: Online event: Smart local energy systems: unlocking net zero**
  - To be held on 19-22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021
  - <https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/94a71e78-45a2-4358-b89e-b48fde4e7fce/summary>

**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](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

# Innovate UK Competitions: *Health-related opportunities*

## Grant funding is available from a number of sources for supporting health applications:

Grant funding calls are open for businesses, research organisations and clinical health providers from Innovate UK and other research and innovation support. The next round of the Biomedical Catalyst is now open, but it is worth looking at the opportunities for collaboration that exist. Black Kite® will keep you up-to-date with opportunities as they arise, and can help you to clarify your ideas and focus your grant bids. We can provide confidential market and technology analysis to improve your chances of success in what is sure to be a very competitive space.

### • **Biomedical Catalyst 2021: early and late stage awards: total £18 m; closes 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (11:00)**

- **Aim:** To support UK businesses to develop healthcare products, technologies and processes.
- Can address disease prevention, management of health conditions, diagnosis of disease or tailored treatments.
- Must be led by a micro, small or medium UK Business, collaborators can be SMEs, charities or researchers, large companies can collaborate but cannot claim grant funding.
- Research organisations can share up to 50% of the total project costs; 12-36 month projects £250 k - £4 m.
- <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/922/overview>

### • **National Institute for Health Research: Artificial intelligence funding**

- **Aim:** support of feasibility, development and clinical evaluation of AI technologies in the health and healthcare sector.
- **Eligibility:** SME, NHS or social care organisation or service provider, HEI, charity or local authority. Phases 3&4 open to large enterprises
- **Costs and duration:** research collaborations of £2.5 – 5M up to 36 months. 8 month preparatory development awards of up to £120k also available.
- **Key dates:** Competition 3 opens 29<sup>th</sup> June, **closes 7<sup>th</sup> September**. Online briefing 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- **Further information:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/ai-award.htm>

### • **National Institute for Health Research: Invention for Innovation (I4I)**

- **Aim:** Three schemes available: Product Development (translational R&D) Challenge Awards (real-world assessment of medtech innovation), Connect (supporting SMEs move to next stage of development)
- **Eligibility:** SME, NHS or social care organisation or service provider, HEI
- **Key dates:** Current competitions now closed for stage 1 applications, but further competitions anticipated early 2022
- **Further information:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/invention-for-innovation.htm>

**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](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)



# Innovate UK Competitions: *Health-related opportunities*

## A key area of investment in the health and wellbeing space is in support of an ageing population:

One area of interest in the current funding calls is competitions relating to the impact of an ageing population and innovations to support and promote healthy living and healthy lifestyles. If you have a new or applicable product or early stage development that could benefit from funding, Black Kite® can help you to clarify your ideas and focus your grant bids. We can provide confidential market and technology analysis to improve your chances of success in what is likely to be a competitive but interesting area.

### •**SBRI – Healthy Ageing Social Ventures feasibility studies and Industrial Research: closes 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

- Aim:** To fund organisations to deliver social impact and address one or more of the themes of the healthy ageing framework.
- Eligibility:** Organisation of any size, single or collaboration, committed to providing social benefit. Phase 1 of a possible 2-phase competition
- Costs and duration:** Feasibility strand: costs up to £50k, up to 12 months duration; prototype development £50-150k, up to 24 month duration.
- Key dates:** Competition 3 opens 19<sup>th</sup> July, **closes 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Online briefing 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 14:30
- Further information:** Procurement contract: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/950/overview#summary>

### •**SBRI Healthcare Competition 18: Stroke and Technology: closes 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

- Aim:** Funding of Innovations in the pre-hospital diagnosis and rehabilitation of stroke
- Eligibility:** Open to small and medium size enterprises and organisations from private, public and third sectors
- Key dates:** Launched on 13<sup>th</sup> July, deadline for applications 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021
- Costs and duration:** Phase 1 feasibility up to 6 months, £100k, Phase 2 prototyping follows on from phase 1
- Further information:** <https://sbrihealthcare.co.uk/competition/sbri-healthcare-competition-18-stroke-and-technology/>

### •**The ageing Society Grand Challenge Mission: Investment Accelerator**

- UKRI in partnership with private investors is supporting UK SMEs and Start-Ups looking to develop and take to market innovations addressing the ISCF healthy ageing challenges.
- Application cut-off dates are 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.
- FAQ and briefing available online at: <https://ktn-uk.org/news/the-ageing-society-grand-challenge-mission-investment-accelerator/>

**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](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

# Innovate UK Competitions:

## *Other opportunities*

- **SMART May 2021: total £25 m; closes 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (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.
  - 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
  - 6-18 month projects £25k-£500k, 19-36 month projects £25k-£2m.
  - <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/937/overview>
- **Knowledge transfer partnerships (KTP): 2021 to 2022, Round 2**
  - **Aim:** 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
  - **Brief Description:** 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
  - **Eligibility:** Application is made by the knowledge base entity, partnering with a UK business or NFP, which must contribute financially
  - **Costs and duration:** Typical project costs are £75k per year, a proportion of which is paid by the business partner
  - **Key dates:** This competition closes 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 11:00am. There will be further rounds
  - **Further information:** <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/890/overview#summary>
- **Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (DEFRA): closes 31<sup>st</sup> 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>

**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](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

# Horizon Europe: Update

**Are you wondering whether a European collaborative project is for you? Here is Black Kite® Ltd'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. Following agreements reached post-Brexit, the UK will continue to play a significant role. 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.

- **Horizon Europe** is a seven year programme (2021-2027) with €95.5 bn to spend on Global challenges in health, culture, creativity, digital, climate and food, bio-economy, natural resources, agriculture and environment. The grand focus of the programme is to boost competitiveness and growth within the EU. Within the current programme, tackling climate change, with an emphasis on meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, is a priority, along with some health related ones.
- **Latest update:**
  - The UK is now able to join any Horizon Europe competition on an equal footing with European nations, including initiating and leading project bids.
  - 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.
- The National Contact Point (NCP) network is still in place from pre-Brexit days, and NCPs are 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>
- The programme is available online; it is quite a complex document. In summary, there are a number of 'mission areas' centred around health and issues connected with climate change and society. Areas open at present include 'healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters' and 'soil health and food'. Open programmes at present include:
  - Medical Technology and Devices: from lab to patient, now open, closes 22/9/2021;
  - Energy Harvesting and Storage Technologies: now open, closes 22/9/21, and
  - EIC accelerator programmes – various challenges with multiple cut-off dates.
- Within other specific programmes, EU4Health, Digital Europe and creative Europe will open shortly, but no specific calls are open yet. First calls for proposals are anticipated in July or August 2021. Calls with the Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) can be found at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/programme-environment-and-climate-action-life\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/programme-environment-and-climate-action-life_en)
- A useful access page for all programmes and calls is: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

**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](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

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

There are a number of calls from Research Councils that aim to support academic teams to develop their ideas, often through collaboration with industrial partners or sponsors. 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 in one of the funded areas, we can help with that, too.

### • **NERC Highlight:**

- Environmental science topics for round 8 are currently being considered in advance of the next round of funding calls in November 2021
- Funding: up to £4M for project of up to 4 years in length
- Dates: Invitation for ideas has now closed, topics selected to be announced November 2021: <https://nerc.ukri.org/research/>

### • **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 £2M
- Open now, no closing date <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/manufacturing-the-future/>

### • **MRC: Infections and immunity programme**

- Typically grants of £1 m or more for up to 5 years.
- Grants within an academic institution.
- Opened 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021, closes 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/mrc-infections-and-immunity-programme-grant/>

### • **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/>

### • **EPSRC: Discipline-hopping in ICT**

- Relevant for researchers with non-ICT expertise looking to learn ICT research skills and apply them in their home discipline.
- 3-4 month support of salary and T&S at 80% FEC.
- Now open, no closing date <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-discipline-hopping-in-ict/>

### • **EPSRC: business and academia prosperity partnership**

- Funding to support an established research partnership between business and academic institutions – business led
- Grant funded, Total fund £20M, opening date sometime between July and September - details to be confirmed
- <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](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)

**SUPPORT**

**Black Kite<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> at:  
email: [enquiries@black-kite.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@black-kite.co.uk)**