



Funding Landscape

June 2021

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

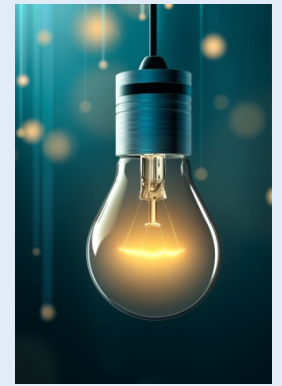
enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

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



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• **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 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.

Innovate UK Competitions:

What you need to know

If you are thinking of bidding into an Innovate UK funding competition, Black Kite® can work with you to 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. Not surprisingly, 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 Quantum Technologies calls; 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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Introduction to the June 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.

Competitions at the moment are focused around two key topics – environment and healthcare. The two are not entirely unrelated and the impact of environment on health and well-being is of much interest; generally speaking these are the two topics of most political, and social interest.

Environmental funding is driven by the UK's drive to lead the world in the response to climate change and, in particular, the upcoming COP-26 in Glasgow later this year (November 2021). We are seeing a high interest in hydrogen generation, management and distribution as well as electrification, where efficiency improvements will further improve energy use. Other climate opportunities are in decarbonisation and sequestration. There are competitions from Innovate UK and a Green Technology initiative launched by BEIS highlighted in this month's survey.

On the medical and health front, there are several sources of funding for medical diagnostics and manufacturing, along with the good news that there is a **new Biomedical Catalyst** competition opening shortly; this year's themes focus on medical technologies, child health and antimicrobial resistance.

Although mostly focused on UK funding, directed at supporting UK industrial competitiveness, we also track European funding in the Horizon Europe programme. The UK is now admitted as a full third-country member of the programme, which means that UK companies can join the majority of the Horizon Europe competitions as project partners or leaders. Competitions are being announced this year, and there are opportunities to join large projects, although competition is fierce and the application process is more onerous than for UK funding competitions. As in the UK, the open calls in Horizon Europe are centred around medical technologies and energy harvesting; other areas such as computing, cyber security, space, health and creative industries will be opening later in the year.

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Innovate UK Competitions - *Energy*

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

There are a number of 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 put together compelling and well-presented bids for grant funding and investment to help them move towards success in the emerging post-COVID world.

- **Driving the Electric Revolution: Supply Chains for Net Zero : total £22m; closes: 30 June 2021.**

- **Aim:** to facilitate the UK's niche and volume supply chain and manufacturing capability growth in power electronics, machines and drives
- Projects must show an exploitable & demonstrable benefit to a UK PEMD supply chain, enabling improvements in productivity, capacity, efficiency
- Must be business-led and collaborative; costs £500k - £5m; 18-36 month duration
- Further information at : <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/861/overview#summary>

- **IETF deployment of energy efficiency technologies, Spring 2021 : total £40 m; closes: 14 July 2021.**

- Onsite deployment of technologies to improve the energy efficiency of an industrial process or processes.
- Grant request > £100 k - £14 m; 12 - 24 month projects.
- Aimed at businesses that use energy or produce direct emissions. Briefing event 8 June 2021:
- <https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/729141a4-ed9c-4bcc-af8c-99cafe93f921/summary>
- <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/842/overview#eligibility>

- **IETF energy efficiency and decarbonisation studies, Spring 2021 : total £40 m (combined with the IETF deployment competition above).**

- Feasibility and engineering studies to enable investment decisions in energy efficiency and deep decarbonisation solutions.
- UK business led with or without collaborators. Targeted to a single manufacturing site or data centre.
- Feasibility project costs >= £30 k, up to 12 months; Engineering studies >= £50 k, up to to 24 months.
- Aimed at businesses that use energy or produce direct emissions as a result of their industrial processes.
- **Closes: 14 July 2021.** Briefing event 8 June 2021 : <https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/729141a4-ed9c-4bcc-af8c-99cafe93f921/summary>

- **SBRI Competition: Fusion Industry Challenges: closes 30th June 2021**

- Bid for a share of £2M to develop solutions that accelerate fusion power plant design and reduce their fuel requirements
- Phase 1 of a 2 phase programme for small businesses – only successful applicants in phase 1 can apply for phase 2
- Project costs £50k - £250k – procurement programme. <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/925/overview#summary>

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

There is an opportunity for pitching at COP-26, along with calls around hydrogen supply and improving electrification and the supply chain. The ISCF sustainable plastic packaging competition is still open. There will continue to be competitions for funding around a range of environmental challenges over the next year or two. Black Kite® will keep you up-to-date, 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.

- **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>
- **Low Carbon Hydrogen Supply Competition**
 - **Aim:** support innovation in the supply of hydrogen with new technologies for a future hydrogen economy
 - Target is support of development of low-carbon hydrogen use in key industries, such as transport, factories and home heating systems
 - Competition will be in two streams, stream 1 for earlier stage, stream 2 for closer to market demonstration
 - Available funding: £60m, stream 1 feasibility studies £300k, demonstrators following on £6M, stream 2 up to £10M
 - Briefing on 8th June available online. See: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/166-million-cash-injection-for-green-technology-and-60000-uk-jobs?utm_campaign=1942109_Funding%20Opportunity%20%7C%7C%20The%20Hydrogen%20Supply%20%20Competition%20is%20open&utm_medium=er
- **Driving the electric revolution: Supply Chains for Net Zero: closes: 30th June 2021 11:00am**
 - **Aim:** To help the objectives of the Driving the Electric Revolution challenge and support the UK's drive towards net zero by R&D into Power Electronics, Machines and Drives (PEMD)
 - Looking for business-led, supply chain focused innovation projects focused on productivity, capability quality, efficiency
 - **Available funding:** £22M, project costs £500k - £5M, 18-36 month duration
 - <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/861/overview#dates>
- **Tech for Our Planet Challenge Programme: closes 25th June**
 - Aim: showcase for innovators to demonstrate and pitch at COP-26 digital and data technology solutions to tackle important climate challenges
 - Open to SMEs working in environmental issues: in homes, in food, energy consumption, community engagement, green finance, aquatic eco
 - **Further information** at: <https://together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/tech-for-our-planet/>

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Innovate UK Competitions: *Health-related opportunities*

- **Biomedical Catalyst 2021: early and late stage awards: total £18 m; closes 26th 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>
- **Medicines and diagnostics manufacturing transformation fund; closes 30th June 2021 (11:59 pm)**
 - **Aim:** The scheme aims to increase manufacturing capacity in medicines, medical diagnostics and MedTech
 - **Brief Description:** Manufacturers of human medicines, medical diagnostic or other medical technologies can apply for a share of £20 m in capital grant funding to manufacture medicines and diagnostic equipment in the UK.
 - **Eligibility:** Applicants must be a private sector business looking for costs to support manufacturing of specific medical tech in the UK.
 - **Costs and duration:** Eligible costs of at least £8M, with no upper limit, and must be defrayed and claimed within 1 year of award.
 - **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-and-diagnostics-manufacturing-transformation-fund>
- **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 7th July 2021, 1st September 2021, 27th October 2021 and 22nd December 2021.
 - FAQ and briefing available online at: <https://ktn-uk.org/news/the-ageing-society-grand-challenge-mission-investment-accelerator/>
- **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 29th June, **closes 7th September**. Online briefing 17th 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>

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Innovate UK Competitions:

Other opportunities

- **SMART May 2021: total £25 m; closes 25th 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 30th June 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 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>

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Horizon Europe: Update

Are you wondering what is happening with European collaborative projects post-Brexit? Here is Black Kite® Ltd's take on it:

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 €53.8 bn to spend on Global challenges in health, culture, creativity, digital, climate and food, bio-economy, natural resources, agriculture and environment.
- **Latest update:**
 - The participation of the UK as an associate partner in EU programmes is now agreed, which means that UK businesses and research organisations can participate in most, if not all, projects to be funded under the Horizon Europe programme with the same terms of engagement for UK and EU participants.
 - UK organisations can lead projects, UK experts can take part in evaluations and the UK will continue to have a role in defining the work programme, although the UK government's role on the governance committee is limited to contribution - it does not have any voting rights, but proposals from this committee very rarely involve voting.
 - The UK Government recognises the value that involvement in European research programmes has brought in the past, and sees continued involvement in Horizon Europe as complementary to the ongoing Innovate UK initiatives and R&D targets. The promised strategy is not yet published, although a consultation process has been ongoing, with continuing commitments to spending through the new ARIA research agency and support of international scientists in Britain included in the Queen's speech.
- There are a range of open calls in the programme which are principally based on the EU grand vision of tackling global challenges, but with a European perspective. Climate change and global health are the priorities at present, with open calls for projects in medical technology and devices and in energy harvesting and storage technologies as the two most advanced.
- There is also the Digital Europe Programme, which will cover supercomputing, AI, cybersecurity and other digital technologies, with a focus on SME involvement and in support of the green transition. There is an allocated budget of €7.5Bn, although the calls themselves are not yet open.
- The UK can participate in Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) run under the aegis of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT). Further information about the EIT is available at <https://eit.europa.eu>.
- The National Contact Point 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. The list of NCPs, and their sectors, can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk#find-your-uk-national-contact-point-for-advice>
- Black Kite Ltd will continue to monitor and report on the status of European funding calls as they emerge, and can help you spot relevant opportunities for your business or research aspirations.

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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:**

- **No relevant calls open at this time**
- Funding
- Dates

- **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.
- Next round opens 9th May 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, dates to be confirmed
- <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/business-and-academia-prosperity-partnership/>

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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.

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