



Funding Landscape

September 2021

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

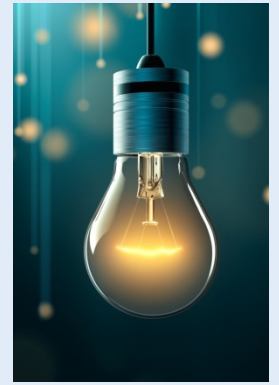
enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

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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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 or other 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. During the past year these have been focused on health and a COVID-19 response, but now the emphasis has shifted towards environmental issues, particularly achieving net-zero. There are also a range of health calls, defence and security and support for the manufacturing industries. The KTN-iX challenge programme has produced a number of interesting environmental challenges from its sponsors.

Some programmes are ongoing opportunities for higher-risk innovative ideas to gain initial funding and commercial traction, such as the **SMART** programme; the latest round has just opened. Other support funding initiatives, such as **SBRI** (Small Business Research Initiative) and **ISCF** (the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund) sponsor projects on specific identified application areas.

Gaining funding through these calls is **always** highly competitive, and only the 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, 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 September Review:

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

Now that summer is officially over and autumn is upon us, there are a number of interesting competitions opening up or being notified in advance for opening soon. The environment remains a strong driver, and particularly funding for innovative products that will both help to get us closer to net zero and deliver jobs and prosperity for the UK. We highlight some other areas of interest, not all from Innovate UK, although bidding into other programmes such as the KTN-iX challenges, lottery funding or DASA all require a well-structured bid and good understanding of the process.

Support for the manufacturing sector and foundation industries is quite prominent at present and is likely to remain so as the Government seeks to re-energise the economy following the impact of COVID. This is linked to innovations for the low-carbon economy, and the Government has a stated aim of making the UK a world leader in carbon-reduction technology; innovative ways of replacing fossil fuel usage will always find a place in funding competitions, including of course the **SMART** competition, which has just re-opened for the next round of bids.

We also highlight several defence opportunities. DASA are looking beyond traditional defence suppliers for small businesses with innovations in development that could be of benefit to the armed forces. This seems to cover both hardware and cyber-security related software, and would be of interest to SMEs and collaborating researchers from academia.

Horizon Europe is gathering pace, and we highlight three clusters of competitions that are open now, and provide opportunities to bid through to late 2022.

For the first time we include links to useful, recent publications. These can be valuable sources of information on what is becoming of interest for future competitions, ranging from health to manufacturing and net-zero. We hope there is something in this review for everyone!

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Opportunities in Environment:

Climate Challenge Cup

Aim: This is a new international competition to support transformative civic research partnerships between research bodies, civic organisations and local communities to combat climate change. It will culminate in an award ceremony at COP26 in November. There are two categories – achieving net zero and climate change adaptation.

Eligibility: Open to existing partnerships between research organisations, civic authorities and local communities in the UK and the US.

Costs and Duration: winning projects will have the opportunity to showcase their project at COP26

Key Dates: challenge opens 23rd August, closes 24th September at 17:00

Further Information: FAQs available at: <https://www.climatechallengecup.com/how-to-enter/frequently-asked-questions>

Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Business-led R&D

Aim: To establish the UK as a leading innovator and deliver dramatic reduction in plastic waste entering the environment by 2025. The project would be a mix of industrial research and experimental development leading to a proof of principle demonstrator. 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

Eligibility: Lead must be a UK business of any size, collaborators can be business, academic institution, charity, NFT, PSO or RTO

Costs and Duration: Available funding: £7m, Project costs £200k - £4m; 12 – 36 month projects.

Key Dates: closes 8th September at 11:00am

Further Information: online briefing available via competition call at:

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/934/overview#summary>

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: Lead applicants must be licenced energy network operators, but other businesses or researchers can join as subcontractor third-party innovators.

Costs and Duration: Total fund £450M 2021-26, phase 1 'discovery projects' up to £150k, duration 2 months, follow-on Alpha projects up to £500k duration 6 months

Key Dates: opens: 31st August, closes: 17th November 2021 @ 11:00, Online briefing 7th September 10:30

Further Information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1011/overview#eligibility>

Audience of the Future – Design Foundations 2

Aim: to support early-stage projects to generate ideas that meet customer needs in living, working and performance spaces using established human-centred design principles on the themes of; designing for net zero; design for build back better; design for cross sector immersive projects. Solutions proposed must be based on the creative industries.

Eligibility: UK micro or SME, or collaboration including at least one UK SME

Costs and Duration: costs between £25k and £50k, duration 2-3 months. Subcontractors allowed

Key Dates: opens 23rd August, closes 29th September. Briefing event 1st September

Further Information: available at: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1001/overview#summary>

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Opportunities in Health (1):

Biomedical catalyst 2021: early and late stage awards

Aim: Supports the development of a product or process that is an innovative solution to a defined health or care challenge. Enables businesses to create a data package to support further development of their products, including experimental evaluation, prototyping, clinical trials etc. Particular targets are child health technologies and biomedical innovations that combat the threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Eligibility: Lead must be a UK registered micro or SME, can collaborate with any UK business or research organisation

Costs and Duration: eligible costs between £250k and £4M, duration 12-36 months

Key Dates: closes 26th August (closes soon)

Further Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/biomedical-catalyst-2021-early-and-late-stage-awards/>

NIHR: Artificial Intelligence Funding: Competition 3:

Aim: This competition provides £140M over 4 years to accelerate the testing and evaluation of AI technologies that meet the strategic aims of the NHS, from initial feasibility to evaluation within clinical pathways.

Eligibility: SME, HEI, NHS or social care organisation or service provider, charity or LA

Costs and Duration: cost uncapped, but must be justified, duration 12-36 months

Key Dates: Submission deadline 7th September 2021 at 13:00 for phases 2, 3 & 4

Further Information: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/ai-award.htm>

NIHR: Artificial Intelligence for Multiple Long-Term Conditions (AIM)

Aim: This is a programme of research to spearhead the use of artificial intelligence methods to develop insights for the identification and subsequent prevention of multiple long-term conditions (multi-morbidity) or MLTC-M. Looking for identifying clusters of disease, etc.

Eligibility: This is a wave-2 call for current development award holders to facilitate research collaborations, allowing them to on-board new disciplines. Award is only open to current Development Award holders.

Costs and Duration: £2.5-4M for up to 30 months

Key Dates: deadline for submissions 5th October 2021 at 13:00

Further Information: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/artificial-intelligence-for-multiple-long-term-conditions-aim/25110>

NIHR: Invention for Innovation – Connect Call 5

Aim: to help SMEs reach the next stage in the development pathway to apply for further funding. Main target is SMEs developing medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and Tier C digital health technologies with direct patient benefits.

Eligibility: Any SME engaged in developments described above. Two stage application process, stage 1 EoI, stage 2 Business Plan submission and 3 minute video pitch

Costs and Duration: £50-150k for projects 6-12 months duration

Key Dates: deadline for applications 14th September 2021 at 13:00

Further Information: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/invention-for-innovation-connect-call-5/28395>

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Opportunities in Health (2):

SBRI: Healthy Ageing Social Ventures industrial research

Aim: Funds organisations to deliver social impact and address one or more of the themes of the Healthy Ageing Challenge Framework. For this strand you will need a clear route to market in line with one of the healthy ageing themes and an existing lead customer in addition to demonstrating clear social or environmental impact.

Eligibility: Contracts awarded to a single entity that can be an organisation of any size with a stated commitment to social outcomes. Other organisations can join as subcontractors

Costs and Duration: This is a procurement contract, costs from £50k-150k (including VAT), duration up to 24 months

Key Dates: closes 15th September at 11:00am

Further Information: recorded briefing available online via <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/sbri-healthy-ageing-social-ventures-industrial-research/>

SBRI: Healthy Ageing Social Ventures feasibility studies

Aim: Funds organisations to deliver social impact and address one or more of the themes of the Healthy Ageing Challenge Framework. For this strand you will need to demonstrate the technical, development and market feasibility of the proposed innovation, and have a clearly identified lead customer.

Eligibility: Contracts awarded to a single entity that can be an organisation of any size with a stated commitment to social outcomes. Other organisations can join as subcontractors

Costs and Duration: This is a procurement contract, costs up to £50k (including VAT), duration up to 12 months

Key Dates: closes 15th September 11:00am

Further Information: recorded briefing available online via: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/956/overview#summary>

SBRI: Digital Regulatory Navigation Platform (Health Products)

Aim: to support proof of concept projects to develop an intuitive medical device digital regulatory navigation tool. Projects will need to demonstrate the principle of such an intuitive digital platform, deliver a PoC tool and provide users with access to support structures relevant to their R&D. This is phase 1 of a potentially 2-phase competition.

Eligibility: Lead must be a UK organisation, can work with other organisations as subcontractors

Costs and Duration: Competition value £3M funding up to 5 projects, Procurement contract, £250k-£1M (including VAT), duration up to 5 months

Key Dates: opens 23rd August, closes 20th September at 11:00am, briefing event 25th August

Further Information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/993/overview#summary>

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Opportunities in Telecom & Digital Media:

Fibre in Water: Improving access to advanced broadband and mobile services via drinking water mains

Aim: the development and build of pilots to facilitate connecting the hardest to reach parts of the UK with advanced fixed and mobile telecoms services and reduce water leakage from potable water pipes. Collaborative working with departments, regulators and agencies is essential. This competition encompasses a feasibility study and pilot.

Eligibility: Open to consortia of two or more businesses, public sector, third sector or research participants. An RTO can lead if appropriate

Costs and Duration: up to £4M, may be one project or shared between projects, duration up to 27 months

Key Dates: application deadline 4th October

Further Information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fibre-in-water-improving-access-to-advanced-broadband-and-mobile-services-via-drinking-water-mains>

-Briefing event available at:

<https://ktn-uk.org/events/improving-access-to-advanced-broadband-and-mobile-services-via-drinking-water-mains-fibre-in-water-online-briefing-event/>

Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator – Pilot Phase

Aim: To address the challenges in deployment of rolling out wireless networks, including 5G, where publicly owned infrastructure assets are used to support advanced wireless connectivity

Eligibility: The process will engage with industry and public sector stakeholders

Costs and Duration: To be presented at the planned briefing event

Key Dates: Briefing event on 15th September (limited entry)

Further Information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/digital-connectivity-infrastructure-accelerator>

Opportunities in Heritage:

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/>

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Opportunities in Manufacturing:

OIP4NWE Vouchers

Aim: A new initiative from the Open Innovation Programme, this is a fund to provide innovation support to SME's across North-West Europe to mature photonic integrated circuit (PIC) based products. The voucher covers design verification in line with the IOP4NWE pilot line and manufacturing of PICs

Eligibility: UK SMEs are eligible. They should have a PIC design and prototype ready at TRL4 or greater and a business case for scale-up.

Costs and Duration: vouchers have a maximum value of €50k and require a 20% contribution from the SME

Key Dates: applications accepted until 30th September

Further Information: full details at: <https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/oip4nwe-open-innovation-photonics-pilot-for-nwe/#tab-5>

Transforming Foundation Industries: Small CR&D Competition:

Aim: To encourage companies wishing to undertake smaller projects to apply for Innovate grant funding. Projects must focus on resource or energy efficiency in the foundation industries and must come from foundation industries or their immediate supply chains

Eligibility: Stream 1 must be led by an SME, collaboration not necessary. Stream 2 can be led by any size company but must be collaborative and must include an SME partner.

Costs and Duration: Stream 1 £25k-75k, stream 2 £75k-250k, duration 3-12 months

Key Dates: closes 29th September

Further Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/iscf-transforming-foundation-industry-small-scale-rd-two-strands/>

Driving the Electric Revolution – Building Talent for the Future:

Aim: Investing in projects to fill gaps in skill, talent and training by developing future talent pipelines across power electronics, machines and drives (PEMD) industry. This funding allows you to produce and generate ideas and material for outreach, engagement and learning purposes.

Eligibility: Lead must be a UK business of any size, research organisation, charity or PSO. Collaborators can be business, academic institution, charity, NFT, PSO or RTO

Costs and Duration: £250k fund, project costs £10k-25k, duration 3 months

Key Dates: closes 15th September at 11:00am

Further Information: briefing available at: <https://vimeo.com/585781652/41a44ff298>, more detail at:

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/969/overview>

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Opportunities in Automotive & Transport:

APC 19: developing automotive technologies and growing capability

Aim: Advanced Propulsion Centre investing in collaborative, pre-production R&D projects that support the UK's long term capabilities through the supply chain in design, build and manufacture of zero carbon tailpipe emission vehicles

Eligibility: UK registered business, involve at least one SME and include vehicle manufacturer or tier 1 supplier in consortium (max 6 partners)

Costs and duration: share of £25M, costs of £5M-£40M, duration between 18 and 24 months

Key dates: Competition opens 9th August, closes 6th October.

Further information: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/990/overview>

Future Flight Challenge Competition phase III competition

Aim: £125M programme to advance the next generation of aviation solutions

Eligibility: yet to be published

Costs and duration: details yet to be published

Key dates: Competition 3 opens 6th September. Online briefing 14th September at 14:00. Showcase platform launched for partner search, deadline for submitting requests 27th August, platform available for search after this date.

Further information: <https://ktn-uk.org/events/future-flight-phase-iii-competition-briefing/> - KTN have launched a showcase platform for partner search <https://www-eur.cvent.com/c/abstracts/dc41f165-0ac2-4251-a086-4c7439c7a8b1> Deadline for submitting partner requests 27th August, available thereafter for searching for partnership opportunities

Opportunities in Energy:

EuropeWave's innovative wave energy tender

Aim: A wave energy technology programme running from 2021 to 2015 bringing together national, regional and EU funding for pre-commercial procurement programme for wave energy system development. A three-stage process down selecting after each stage for progression to next stage, so involvement in stage 1 essential for continued funding.

Eligibility: companies or consortia involved in development of wave energy converters (WECs)

Costs and Duration: pre-commercial procurement (PCP) total value €16.3M, phase 1 duration 18 months

Key Dates: closes 30th September. Recorded briefing available via portal

Further Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/europewaves-innovative-wave-energy-tender-now-open/>

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Opportunities in Defence and 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 20th October 2021, then 5th January 2022, 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: current cycle closes 20th October, second cycle closes 5th January 2022

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

CW ITP – Call for ETA and Disruptor Project Proposals

Aim: To identify the key technology trends, capability improvements and potential disruptors that will define Generation After Next missiles and timely concepts.

Eligibility: Collaboration of SME and Academic institutions from the UK and France alongside Global Defence Industry. Registration with CW/ITP is necessary to bid

Costs and Duration: total budget €13M pa

Key Dates: Disruptor project proposals deadline 3rd September, ETA & Dynamic project ROM cost proposals deadline 1st October

Further Information: available through <https://cwitp.com/>

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: current cycle closes 20th October, second cycle closes 5th January 2022

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

Digital Security by Design Competition:

- A new competition will be opening in October, further information available soon (or contact us)

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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 29th 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 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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Opportunities in KTN-iX:

KTN-iX is an initiative managed by the Knowledge Transfer Network team partnered with Innovate UK that provides opportunities for businesses to become directly linked to, or collaborate with, key stakeholders in industries who are seeking innovative solutions to their specific challenges. It is open to established UK based businesses, start-ups, SMEs or individual entrepreneurs; depending on the challenge, projects normally last between 3-12 months. We list currently open challenges and their sponsors, 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 EQUANS:

EQUANS, part of the ENGIE Group, seeks SME's with innovative industrial decarbonisation solutions that are interested in corporate, strategic investment. The challenges on this page have been posed by them through the KTN-iX initiative:

KTN-iX challenge: Industrial Decarbonisation Solutions:

Through this iX challenge, EQUANS is looking for disruptive tools that will support the end to end process from identifying, appraising and developing net zero opportunities through to deploying and monitoring these net zero initiatives in action.

Opens: 06/07/2021, **Closes:** 30/09/2021

Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ktn-ix-challenge-industrial-decarbonisation-solutions/>

KTN-iX challenge: Solutions to Decarbonise Heat

Through this iX challenge, EQUANS is looking for innovations that address typical heat decarbonisation challenge pain points as well as those that validate the provenance of low carbon fuels and allow heat networks to integrate with other energy systems.

Opens: 06/07/2021, **Closes:** 30/09/2021

Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ktn-ix-challenge-solutions-to-decarbonise-heat/>

KTN-iX challenge: Solutions for Smarter & Greener Places

Through this iX challenge, EQUANS is looking for innovations across energy, mobility and infrastructure that enable smarter and greener places. Alongside technical innovations, EQUANS is interested in educational tools that help to promote behavioural change in communities, supporting democratisation in achieving decarbonisation.

Opens: 06/07/2021, **Closes:** 30/09/2021

Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ktn-ix-challenge-solutions-for-smarter-greener-places/>

KTN-iX challenge: Digital Tools for the Built Environment

Through this iX challenge, EQUANS is looking for innovations across energy, mobility and infrastructure that enable smarter and greener places. Alongside technical innovations, EQUANS is interested in educational tools that help to promote behavioural change in communities, supporting democratisation in achieving decarbonisation.

Opens: 06/07/2021, **Closes:** 30/09/2021

Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ktn-ix-challenge-digital-tools-for-the-built-environment/>

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Opportunities in KTN-iX:

Other challenges in the KTN-iX current portfolio:

KTN-iX challenge: Heat recovery and reuse within the food manufacturing process

This iX competition, delivered by the Knowledge Transfer Network, is supporting Lewis Pies to identify solutions to innovation challenges. This current challenge relates to the need to reduce the energy demand and cost associated with producing pies and pasties at their Swansea site, particularly relating to capturing and reusing the heat produced by the chillers, freezers and ovens onsite.

Opens: 30/07/2021, **Closes:** 10/09/2021

Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ktn-ix-challenge-heat-recovery-and-reuse-within-the-food-manufacturing-process/>

KTN-iX challenge: Energy efficient air compressors for food manufacturing

This iX competition, delivered by the Knowledge Transfer Network, is supporting Lewis Pies to identify solutions to innovation challenges. This current challenge relates to the need to reduce the energy demand and cost associated with producing pies and pasties at their Swansea site, particularly relating to the air compressors used to drive the manufacturing equipment

Opens: 30/07/2021, **Closes:** 10/09/2021

Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ktn-ix-challenge-energy-efficient-air-compressors-for-food-manufacturing/>

KTN-iX challenge: Upcycling Protective Plastics from Offshore Wind Farms

This iX challenge competition, delivered by KTN, is supporting Ørsted to identify innovative approaches for dealing with a significant and immediate challenge arising from a waste stream. The business(es) with the most promising solution(s), as selected by the challenge owner, may be given a commercial opportunity to deliver their solution and receive support from KTN and the wider Innovate UK network.

Opens: 12/07/2021, **Closes:** 15/10/2021

Information: <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ktn-ix-challenge-upcycling-protective-plastics-from-offshore-wind-farms/>

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Horizon Europe: Update

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

Over the past 35 years that the Framework Programme has been running, the UK has traditionally been a very strong player in European Collaborative projects. **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 programme's grand focus is to boost EU competitiveness and growth. Following agreements reached post-Brexit, the UK will continue to play a significant role.

Black Kite® has **decades of** experience of European collaboration that it 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.

Being Realistic:

- 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>
- 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-September-2021, 21-April-2022, 06-September-2022
- <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/horizon-europe-work-programme-2021-2022-health-cluster-1/>
- **Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society** – education, ageing society, green technology in culture, post-pandemic governance, big data
- Closing dates in September 2021 and 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
- Closing dates in September, October, November 2021 and February, November 2022
- <https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/horizon-europe-work-programme-2021-2022-civil-security-for-society-cluster-3/>

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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. These are some current examples. 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 14th June 2021, closes 8th 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/>

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Useful & Interesting Recent Publications

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

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.

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

Available here: <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 KTN on behalf of Innovate UK and is **available here:**

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

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/>

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>

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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**