



Funding Landscape

April 2022

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

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.

Introduction to the April 2022 Review

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

The major piece of news relates to Innovate UK's SMART competition and funding line.

The latest SMART competition is open, which provides the opportunity to bid on any innovation with significant impact and growth potential. This is a very competitive call and success is dependent upon demonstrating the world-leading potential of your proposal; **a very high quality bid is essential.**

We can support you in your bid journey and work with you to gain the best possible chance of success.

The application form has been streamlined, with the scored questions reduced from ten to six. There is now much more focus on the game-changing nature of the innovation and the prospects of commercialisation swiftly after project end. It is expected that potential customers have been identified.

Revised questions expect to see clarity on the innovation, clear justification for public money, market potential, the benefits that are expected from your development, project delivery, and value for money.

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

Funding Landscape



Contents and High Level Summary

page Title

6. Innovate UK : Smart April 2022: closing 27 July 2022 (11:00).

Major changes to the application.

7. Innovate UK : Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: Industry-led R&D: closes 25th May 2022

Medical devices and biosciences.

8. BBSRC: Business and Academia Prosperity Partnership: outline submissions deadline 8th September 2022

Opportunity for Industrial/Academic collaboration in a wide range of biotech applications.

9. Innovate UK : Fisheries and Seafood Scheme: open call until 31 December 2022.

Aquaculture and marine applications.

• Innovate UK and EUREKA: other competitions:

(a) Circular economy; (b) EUREKA sustainability call; (c) Farming Innovation Programme.

7. Innovate UK, DEFRA and BEIS: Clean Energy Competitions

Several clean energy-related calls and funds covering bio-tech and greenhouse gas reduction.

8. Innovation Support Competitions (1) and (2) – various sources:

(a) Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC); (b) DASA ChemBio; (c) UK-South Korea collaboration; (d) KTP; (e) Health Technology Regulatory and Innovation Programme; (f) Innovation Loans Future Economy competition.

• NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i PDA, competition 24:

Stage 1 closes 10 May 2022; stage 2 opens 9 Aug. 2022

• NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i Challenge, competition 14: stage 2 closes 1st June 2022.

Stage 2 open to stage 1 applicants.

• NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i FAST

Pilot programme for rapid demonstrations of innovative ideas.

• Merck 2022 Research Grants

Improved health and environment themes.

(continued on next page)

Funding Landscape



Contents and High Level Summary (continued):

page Title

18. Research Councils : Other competitions (1)

(a) EPSRC; (b) BBRSC; (c) Research England Development (RED) Fund; (d) HEIF.

19. Research Councils : Other competitions (2)

UKRI, NERC, and EPSRC Calls.

- **MedTech Navigator Innovation Grants: - now closed.**

Further calls may open up in 2022.

- **Horizon Europe: Update and latest information – April 2022**

Very few calls now open from 2021-22 programme, information about forthcoming 2023-24 programme.

Innovate UK : Smart April 2022

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1159/overview>

Scope of Call:

- Game changing, innovative, ambitious, ready for commercialisation rapidly after project end.
- Strong business and delivery plan showing great market opportunity and good value for your business and the economy

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

Available funding: total £25 m

- Project durations between 6 & 18 months, total costs between £100k - £500k; Durations 19 to 36 months, total costs £100k - £2m.

Eligibility:

- UK registered business or RTO.
- RTOs must partner, academics cannot lead.

Dates: closes: 27 July 2022 (11:00)

- Project start: by 1 Jan 2023 (latest), end by 31 December 2025

Key Considerations:

- Must be led by UK business of any size.
- Project must include at least one micro or SME.
- 6 – 18 month projects may be single SME, or a collaboration led by business (large or SME).
- Larger projects must be collaborative. Non-grant claiming partners' costs are included in total eligible project costs.

- Subcontractors permitted, but must be UK-based, justified and appropriate.

- Must demonstrate intention to commercially exploit project result(s).

- Funding level is function of research activity (feasibility, industrial, experimental) and organisation size.

- Research partners max. 30% total costs.

- Highly competitive; high score needed for success.**

- Revised** application form + EDI, additional financial considerations (e.g. for UID).

General Recommendations:

- Note that the conditions of SMART have been updated for this call – bids must be cutting-edge, commercially savvy with clear financial management and strong team.

- Resourcing beyond the end of the project must** be evident.

- Commercial exploitation path must** be evident for all business partners.

- Strong project management must** be evident in the application.

- Preference is given to projects with potential for growth in global markets.

- There is a focus on identified customers and users to show value & potential of solution.

- Identify if the project is feasibility, or industrial research (shorter, but higher funding levels), or experimental development (larger, but lower funding %).

- NB.** Min. project size is £100k.

- For some applicants, more specific technology calls may be more appropriate.

Innovate UK : Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: Industry-led R&D

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1107/overview>

Scope of Call:

•Addresses: biosciences, advanced therapies, diagnostics, digital health, precision medicine

•**Aim:** to support the development of innovative solutions to health and healthcare challenges, including experimental evaluation, in vitro and in vivo models, prototyping and trials to demonstrate clinical utility and effectiveness

Available funding: total £15 m

•Project durations between 6 & 36 months, total costs between £150 k - £4 m.

Eligibility:

•UK micro or SME can lead.
•Any size UK business or RTO can partner.

Dates: closes: 25 May 2022 (11:00)

•Project start: by 1 Dec. 2022 (latest), end by 30 Nov 2025

Key Considerations:

•Must be led by UK micro or SME business
•Minimum of 50% of total eligible costs must be incurred by SME(s)
•Up to 50% of total eligible costs can be shared by the RTOs in the project

Project can include:

- Experimental evaluation of proof of concept.
- Explore possible production mechanisms
- Demonstration of clinical utility and effectiveness.

• Single stage application with interview.

• Biomedical Catalyst now incorporates the Health Technology Catalyst and will support digital health projects.

- Looking in particular for projects focused on:
 - Biosciences
 - Advanced therapies or diagnostics
 - Independent living and wellbeing
 - Precision medicine
 - Preclinical tech & drug target discovery

General Recommendations:

•The project needs to show that the work done will support further development of products.

•The product must be an innovative solution to a defined health or healthcare challenge.

•Should show how the outcome of the project would lead to better patient outcomes

•Need to identify if the project is industrial research or experimental development (larger, but lower funding %).

•Overseas subcontracting must be justified (e.g. for clinical trials outside the UK) and UK contractors approached should be listed, along with the rationale for why they could not do the work.

•All subcontractor costs must be justified (including for UK subcontractors).

BBSRC Business and Academia Prosperity Partnership

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/bbsrc-business-and-academia-prosperity-partnership/>

Scope of Call:

- Funding to support established research partnerships between business and academic institutions.
- Aims to increase UK national prosperity by increased R&D and subsequent product, service or technology development.

Funding:

- Total fund of £11M. Notional £200k FTDA bid per project.
- 80% FEC (100% for talent training) which must be matched by commercially generated cash from the business lead.
- Projects of up to 5 years considered.

Dates:

- Outline Submissions deadline **8th Sept 2022**
- Interview panels October 2022.
- Full proposals deadline **February 2023.**

Key Considerations:

- Bids must be led by the business lead, but submission of documentation is by the academic partner through JeS.
- Multiple business partners can collaborate and can share matched funding contribution.
- Projects should consider how they might:
 - Deliver new or improved services.
 - Drive efficiencies or cost reductions.
 - Enable expansion to new sectors or markets.
 - Jointly author high-impact publications.
- R&I should be focused on bioscience and biotechnology (at least 50%).
- Other research areas can be included, and other Research Councils may also contribute to the funding.

General Recommendations:

- The collaboration should be in existence and demonstrable.
- Benefits to regional economy should be emphasised, such as in economic growth, skills development or job creation/retention.
- Bid should show how the work will stimulate innovation aimed at tackling major UK and World challenges.
- Should show how the business/research relationship is to be evolved as a result of the project.
- There are restrictions on what are 'eligible cash contributions' from the business partner, which must be commercially generated.
- Multi-disciplinary projects are encouraged, but the bioscience / biotech component must constitute at least 50% of the work.
- Bidders should show that both business and academic partners will contribute to the research and innovation proposed..

Innovate UK : Fisheries and Seafood Scheme

<https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/fisheries-and-seafood-scheme/>

Scope of Call:

Provides financial support for projects in England in the aquaculture sectors and that enhance and protect the marine environment.

Aim:

Supports sustainable growth in the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors and projects that enhance the marine environment.

Available funding: £unspecified

Project: £1k - £150k; dependent on application.
Grant: 80% fleet, 75% public, 30% SME.

Eligibility:

UK business, public body, university/RTO, individual.
Collaboration: possible.

Dates:

open: **rolling deadline, 8 week turnaround, registration closes 31 December 2022**

Key Considerations

- There are a range of application areas, each with separate conditions:
 - Protecting marine environment
 - Supporting coastal communities
 - Reform of stock and quota management
 - Developing industry infrastructure for sustainable growth
- Separate guidance for each activity in the scheme, check online for information including budgets and dates.
- An Expression of Interest (EoI) can be submitted to check eligibility of a project before it is formally submitted.
- Funded by DEFRA.

General Recommendations:

- Not all areas of the scheme are open at the same time, so need to check what is relevant and eligible.
- If the MMO consider the applicant could afford to pay for the project without additional funding the application will be rejected, therefore ensure that funding is essential to achieve the objective.
- The bid must include a description of the targets and benefits anticipated, against which the performance will be evaluated.
- The scheme covers a wide range of applicants that could be an individual or business or university, so there is a wide range of opportunity available.

Innovate UK and EUREKA: Other competitions

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

- **Circular economy Investment Fund: open call – no closing date; £18 m grant funding to SMEs.**
 - **Aim:** supports SMEs and third sector organisations based in Scotland that are able to deliver carbon savings and business growth. Focuses on: built environment; Food Systems; Bioeconomy; Energy Infrastructure; heat and energy; waste.
 - **Eligibility:** Lead must be a micro or SME business or third sector organisation based in Scotland. Collaborations are encouraged, although large businesses or public sector bodies are not eligible for funding. Initial outline proposal invited.
 - **Costs and Duration:** two funding strands: costs £50k - £100k (strand 1) and £100 k - £1 m (strand 2). Subject to State Aid rules (part of ERDF).
 - **Key Dates:** open call with no close date.
 - **Further information:** <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy/investment-fund>
- **EUREKA Clusters Sustainability Call.**
 - **Aim:** collaborative research projects between UK and organisations from other participating Eureka Eurostars member countries. Invites innovative RD&I project ideas to make industry more sustainable.
 - **Eligibility:** Must include at least two independent industrial partners from at least two Eurostars countries. Specific conditions are in place for the size and R&D commitment of the UK partner. Should show technical and economic/societal benefits to be achieved.
 - **Costs and Duration:** €5-20M per project, UK limits may apply. Duration up to 36 months.
 - **Key Dates:** Outline submission deadline 2nd May 2022, full project submission 30th September 2022.
 - **Further information:** <https://eureka-clusters.eu/sustainability.html>
- **Farming Innovation Programme – large R&D Partnership Projects**
 - **Aim:** Addresses post-farmgate challenges or opportunities to improve productivity, sustainability and environmental aims (i.e. net zero).
 - **Eligibility:** must be UK business of any size and must collaborate with other organisations, including SME **AND** grant claiming academic or RTO.
 - **Costs and Duration:** total cost £3-5M, duration up to 48 months, with a minimum of 50% of grant claimed by farmers, growers or foresters
 - **Key Dates:** call closes 29th June 2022 @ 11:00 am
 - **Further information:** <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1123/overview>

Innovate UK : Clean energy competitions

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

- **DEFRA: Farming futures R&D Fund – EoI submission closes 18 May 2022**
 - **Aim:** to transform farming productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience whilst moving the sector towards net zero.
 - **Eligibility:** Lead must be a UK registered business (any size) carrying out an eligible energy intensive business. Sub-contracted collaborators can be any business, academic or RTO. Funded by BEIS as a grant scheme. Two-stage competition – EoI & full-stage; only successful EoI applicants can apply to full stage competition.
 - **Costs and Duration: Feasibility:** £3M - £6M, up to 48 months.
 - **Key Dates:** closes 18th May 2022
 - **Further information:** <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1124/overview>
- **BEIS: Net Zero Innovation Portfolio: £1Bn Fund**
 - This Portfolio provides funding to accelerate the commercialisation of low-carbon technologies, systems and business models in power, buildings and industry – ten priority areas are identified. It will help enable the UK to end its contribution to climate change.
 - Competitions launched throughout 2022; further competitions may appear, and can be found through the individual competition pages at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/net-zero-innovation-portfolio>
- **Clean Growth Fund (CGF)**
 - The CGF invests in the most promising and ambitious companies to provide commercialisation expertise and access to markets.
 - Looking for any company with a clear and significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gases.
 - Provides business support to sectors: power, buildings, transport, industry and waste.
 - First round investment £500 k - £3 m <https://www.cleangrowthfund.com/key-info-for-entrepreneurs/>
- **Industrial Hydrogen Accelerator Programme**
 - Funding for projects that can demonstrate end-to-end industrial fuel switching to hydrogen.
 - Will cover full technology chain from hydrogen generation and delivery infrastructure through to industrial end-use.
 - Will comprise grant-funded demonstration projects and SBRI feasibility projects of up to £400k.
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-hydrogen-accelerator-programme>

Various Funding Sources: Innovation Support competitions (1)

- **Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC): Spin Out Support Programme – NOW CLOSED Future calls in 2022**
- **Aim:** Offers support to HEI costs for spin-out projects focusing on innovative applications of biotechnology and addressing a real market need or commercial opportunity.
- **Eligibility:** Project must include at least one of IBioIC's HEI partners and demonstrate an economic, societal and/or reputational benefit to Scotland. Must have potential to lead to larger scale funding, e.g. from Innovate UK or private investment.
- **Costs and Duration:** up to £20k towards costs (must be max of 33% of total costs). Duration < 12 months.
- **Key Dates:** closed 3rd March 2022. Information on future calls available via projects@ibioic.com
- **Further information:** <https://www.ibioic.com/funding-calls-database/spin-out-funding>

- **DASA: Catch the ChemBio SCENT! Up to £1m.**
- A Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) competition looking for proposals for novel technologies for screening, collecting and exploiting ChemBio materials, addressing the challenges associated with screening for and the preservation of sample/evidence and the attribution of hazardous chemical and biological materials. Phase 1 is closed, but larger phase 2 competition is expected to open during 2022.
- Application to Phase 2 is not dependent on participation in phase 1.
- Jointly funded by UK MoD and US DoD. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-the-chembio-scent>

- **Innovate UK: UK-South Korea Collaborative R&D**
- **Aim:** funding of business-led innovative, collaborative R&D focused on industrial research between UK and South Korea leading to new product, industrial process or service. High market potential must be evident. Sectors of particular interest include manufacturing and materials, Artificial Intelligence (AI), clean energy, battery technologies hydrogen mobility technologies and future vehicles.
- **Eligibility:** Lead must be a UK registered business and collaborate with a separate South Korean registered business. At least one UK SME must be included.
- **Costs and Duration:** Feasibility - £350k maximum grant, duration 24-36 months.
- **Key Dates:** closes 6th July 2022 @ 11:00
- **Further information:** <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1100/overview#summary>

Various Funding Sources: Innovation Support competitions (2)

- **UKRI: Knowledge transfer partnerships (KTP): five rounds for 2022 to 2023: round 2 closes 15 June.**
 - Standard KTP scheme. Comprehensive application process.
 - Typically project costs are expected to be £75 k per annum, part of this expected to be funded by the business partner; 12 – 36 month projects.
 - Technology and Management KTPs possible.
 - Opens: 14 February 2022; **R2 closes: 15 Jun 2022.** R3 closes: 14 Sept 2022. R4 closes 16 November 2022.
 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/knowledge-transfer-partnerships-what-they-are-and-how-to-apply>
- **Innovate UK: Health Technology Regulatory and Innovation Programme : £7 m fund**
 - Supported by the CPI (part of High-Value Manufacturing Catapult) and the Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI).
 - **Aim:** This initiative is to help HealthTech SMEs to navigate regulatory processes, as the MHRA is consulting on future regulation of medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics. MDR and IVDR are changing for supplying into the EU.
 - **Dates:** open: 14th Feb 2022; **closed early on 31st March 2022 due to high demand. Retained here in case it re-opens later in the year.**
 - **Funding:** Up to £30,000 (100%) is available per SME to spend with UK, European or global regulatory affairs providers in activities such as global submission support and preparation, technical road mapping, and guidance on regulatory standards.
 - **Application:** straight-forward, web-based application form: five key questions
 - Project to be completed before 19 Aug. 2022.
 - To apply: <https://www.uk-cpi.com/funding-opportunities/healthtech-programme/>
 - contact email: healthtechprogramme@uk-cpi.com
- **Innovate UK: Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition Round 2**
 - **Aim:** Offers loans to help businesses overcome barriers to their innovations becoming a successful commercial reality.
 - **Dates:** **closes 11th May 2022 @ 11:00 am.** Two more rounds are planned closing May and July 2022.
 - **Funding:** Loan of between £100k and £2M
 - **Information:** <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1145/overview#summary>

NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i PDA (Product Development Awards): Competition 24
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/invention-for-innovation.htm>

Scope of Call:

Medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and tier 3a digital health technologies.

Aim: Support translational R&D of medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and high-impact patient-focused digital health technologies for NHS use.

Available funding: total £unspecified

Project costs: no upper funding limit; duration: 24 (min) to 36 (max) months.

Grant: 100%;

Eligibility:

Lead: SME, NHS provider or HEI.

Must be collaborative between any two eligible organisation types, maximum 7 co-applicants

Dates:

Competition 24: Stage 1 open: 23 Mar 2022, **closes 10 May 2022**

Stage 2: open: 9 Aug 2022, close 28 Sept 2022 (13:00)

Key Considerations

- 2022 competition calls announced.
- Project lead applicant must be an SME, NHS provider or HEI based in England.
 - Up to seven co-collaborators allowed.
 - A designated PPI (Patient and Public Involvement) lead must be identified.
- The inclusion of public co-applicants is beneficial, if justified.
- Proof-of-Concept (PoC) must have been shown.
- Research proposals may address any disease or health area where there is an unmet need.
- Involvement of patients / service users is expected.
- Two stage application:
 - EoI (stage 1)
 - Project-focused business plan (stage 2).

General Recommendations:

- Early stage research or discovery is not fundable under this competition, and experimental data should be given to support the case for further development.
- A commercial strategy must be given taking into account all aspects including regulatory pathway, IP and health economics.
- A plan for future adoption into the NHS must be presented.
- Project could be a feasibility study for application of tech from sector outside health.
- Two stage programme: stage 1 applicants will be shortlisted and, if successful, invited to submit a stage 2 application. Stage 2 assessed and interviewed by a selection committee.
- Eight criteria will be assessed.

NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i Challenge: Challenge 14
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/invention-for-innovation-challenge-14/30416>

Scope of Call:

Medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and tier 3a digital health technologies.

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

Available funding: total £unspecified

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

Eligibility:

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

Dates:

Competition 14: closes 1st June 2022.

Key Considerations

- Project lead applicant must be based in England.
 - Collaborators/subcontractors from elsewhere can be included if justified.
- Collaborators must include NHS Trust or other health provider. Additional collaborators may be included.
- Technologies must have demonstrated safety and efficacy and have obtained, or be in process of obtaining, CE marking.
- Timeline for project should be based on need. Up to five years can be considered if a strong case is made.
- Applications must be made through the Research Management System, link on NIHR website.

General Recommendations:

- This competition is to support the introduction of technologies that have been clinically evaluated, but not demonstrated in a healthcare setting.
- Any disruptive medical device or in vitro diagnostic tool with clear and demonstrable benefit for NHS patients.
- A research plan must be included showing involvement of patients/service users, carers, the public and any other key stakeholders.
- Expected **impact** of the research must be clearly shown.
- Two stage programme: stage 1 applicants will be shortlisted and, if successful, invited to submit a stage 2 application. Stage 2 assessed and interviewed by a selection committee.

NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i FAST
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/invention-for-innovation-challenge-14/30416>

Scope of Call:

Support of rapid turn-around life sciences innovation to test ideas

Aim: Provide a quick yes/no answer or 'fail fast' moment for innovation projects, reducing complexity of project applications.

Available funding: total £unspecified

Project costs: £15-50k: 3-6 month.
Grant: 100%, 90% paid up-front.

Eligibility:

Lead: England based SME, NHS providers, HEIs, other RTOs Collaboration with NIHR infrastructure is encouraged. Large companies and corporations are not eligible

Dates:

Rolling programme, now open as a pilot.

Key Considerations

- Project lead applicant must be based in England. Single applicants only.
- Collaboration with NHS trust or other health provider is encouraged but not mandatory.
- Projects must start within 4 weeks of award.
- Commercialisation potential is not a requirement, but is beneficial.
- Only one FAST award can be held, and there is no re-submission allowed.
- The funding is intended to answer a specific question, and is not a full project.
- Ultimate innovation investigation must fall within the remit of the i4i Programme.
- An NIHR commercialisation agreement will be required.
- Applications must be made through the Research Management System (RMS), link on NIHR website.

General Recommendations:

- This is a new scheme, and is worth considering as a mechanism to fund a rapid test of a health-related idea.
- Will fund development of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics or other digital health technologies.
- Will not fund work on animals, cosmetic products, training, impact studies and other described activities.
- Assessment is against potential to address unmet patient needs, strength and feasibility of the project and potential impacts, and these should be clearly described in the application.
- Subcontractors can be used to provide necessary resources, but must be justified and must be within the funding cap.
- Application is a single stage pass/fail process.

Merck 2022 Research Grants

<https://www.merckgroup.com/en/research/open-innovation/research-grants.html>

Scope of Call:

- Grants available to scientists in all career stages who are affiliated with any research-based institution, university or company.
- Grants offered to stimulate innovative research in challenging areas of future importance.

Funding:

- Grants of €100k – 500k (depending on topic) per year for up to three years, with the option of an extension.
- Can apply for more than one grant, or more than one focus topic
- Initial non-confidential application; successful ones invited to submit full proposal.

Dates:

- Submission deadline **31st August 2022**
- Deep-dive workshops November 2022

Key Considerations:

- Topic areas of interest 2022 are:
 - Drug Discovery
 - AI for predictive diagnostics & therapeutic target discovery
 - Chemistry in the cloud
 - Innovation within green chemistry
 - Sustainability in healthcare R&D
- The research topics are looking for new technologies and approaches that will apply to new and emerging challenges in the health and environment sector.
- Details of the expectations under each of the topics of interest are given on the linked web-page.
- Knowledge of the commercial expectations of Merck will be important.

General Recommendations:

- Knowledge, competence, access to facilities and innovative ideas will support a bid.
- Connection to, or collaboration with, a clinical or healthcare provider will add credibility and knowledge of the user.
- Innovative thinking, bringing technologies applied to non-health sectors into the health domain will be of interest.
- Applications will be scored on the criteria of: innovativeness; commercial potential; path forward after 3 years; probability of success; team strength; strategic fit.
- Successful applicants will be invited to a 'deep dive' workshop with Merck KGaA in Darmstadt, costs paid by Merck.
- Purpose: jointly optimise the submitted proposals.

Research Councils : Other competitions (1)

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/> and <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/>

• **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/>

• **BBSRC standard research grant:**

- Funding of up to £2 m for up to five years for biotechnology research projects in plants, microbes, animals and tools / technology.
- There are several priority areas listed. Working with partners is encouraged.
- Industrial partners are encouraged through industrial partnership awards, contribution of at least 10% of FEC or collaborative at 50% industry funding. Next application deadlines for assessment: 27th April 2022, 28th September 2022.
- Open, **no closing date:** <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/bbsrc-standard-research-grant/>

• **Research England Development (RED) Fund:**

- Collaboration between higher education providers and industry/business partners to increase effectiveness of research for societal benefit.
- Quality Related Research (QER) funding in the form of block grant. Contribution expected from collaborating business.
- Panel dates for 2022: 19th July 2022, 18th October 2022, and 9 December 2022.
- Open, **no closing date:** <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/research-england-development-fund/>

• **Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) : £230 million** (Partners involved are Research England, Office for Students)

- This fund supports a broad range of knowledge-based interactions between HEPs (higher education providers) and the wider world which might result in economic and societal benefit to the UK.
- There is a review ongoing at present, with an update document available here for information:
 - <https://www.ukri.org/publications/review-of-ke-funding-stakeholder-engagement-and-evidence-summary/>
- Open now, **no closing date** <https://re.ukri.org/knowledge-exchange/the-higher-education-innovation-fund-heif/>

Research Councils : Other competitions (2)

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/> and <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/>

- **EPSRC: Manufacturing the future**
 - Support for engineering and physical sciences research looking at key challenges facing manufacturing in the UK.
 - Includes chemistry and materials.
 - Up to £2 m.
 - Open now, **no closing date** <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/manufacturing-the-future/>
- **UKRI-SBE lead agency opportunity**
 - Collaborations between UK and US researchers in any discipline including biotech.
 - Submission of EoI to NSF and UKRI for consideration.
 - Maximum award £1 m, currently open, **no closing date** <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-sbe-lead-agency-opportunity/>
- **NERC Understanding changes in quality of UK freshwaters**
 - Funding to investigate how pollutants interact within rivers and ecosystems, including the development of tools to monitor and measure pollution. Collaboration with stakeholders essential.
 - Grants awarded to eligible HEIs and Research Organisations. Partner stakeholders from policy, regulatory or industry expected
 - Award up to £2M for up to 4 year project, intent to submit notification by: **27th May 2022** @ 16:00, close date for proposals 28th July 2022.
 - <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/nerc-large-grant-to-tackle-big-environmental-science-questions/>
- **EPSRC: Manufacturing the future**
 - Looking for researchers in engineering, physical sciences, information and communications technologies and mathematical sciences who want to apply their expertise to manufacturing challenges. Collaborations with other researchers and industry are encouraged.
 - Grants awarded to eligible UK based employees at an eligible HEI or Research Organisation. Up to £3 m available per quarter.
 - Max Award £2M, Open now, **no closing date**: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/manufacturing-the-future/>
- **UK-South Korea Collaborative R&D**
 - Funding for a game changing or disruptive innovative idea leading to new products, processes or services, with evidence based plan to deliver significant economic impact and ROI.
 - Open to a UK business of any size collaborating with a South Korean business. Must involve a UK registered micro or SME.
 - Project must focus on one or more of: advanced manufacturing materials, AI or clean energy.
 - Grant up to £350k, 24-36 month project. Closing date **6th July 2022**.
 - <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1100/overview#summary>

MedTech Navigator Innovation Grants - now closed; further calls may open in 2022.

<https://www.medtechnavigator.co.uk/funding/>

Scope of Call:

- Innovation grants to facilitate interactions between Med Tech SMEs and Knowledge Providers during product development.
- For example, help to develop or test new or improved products, processes and services.
- Applications assessed on novelty of innovation, clinical need, value for money, strength of team.

Available Funding:

- Up to £7,500 grant (50% of total project cost).

Dates:

Call deadlines now passed, but further calls may come out from this programme during 2022

Key Considerations:

- SME applies for and justifies knowledge collaboration.
- Simple application process with regular awards committee reviews.
- Typical projects include:
 - Help to develop or test new or improved products, processes and services.
 - Access to information and expertise on care pathways and workflows.
 - Tapping into clinical and scientific expertise.
- Applicants from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough areas are priority, but applicants from elsewhere in the UK can apply.

General Recommendations:

- Health stakeholders should be involved in any bid, such as patient groups, clinicians or NHS organisations.
- Teaming with an NHS Trust or medical device manufacturer would be beneficial.
- University medical departments are also regarded as a knowledge provider.
- The currently open call closes on 22 February 2022, projects must conclude by 31st July 2022.
- Knowledge sharing and partner discovery/access can be accessed through the MedTech CONNECT portal:
<https://connect.medtechnavigator.co.uk/>

Horizon Europe : Update – April 2022

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

• Latest Update:

- Although Horizon Europe projects are seen as working alongside, or complementing, Innovate UK funded programmes, the fact remains that Horizon Europe bids are **far more complicated** to assemble with **considerably greater administration costs** than Innovate UK bids.
- Pulling together an international team can be challenging to manage, especially for a small business.
- However, **project scale is greater**, as is the time allowed for bids to be prepared.
- Some calls are more competitive than others, and overall **budgets are higher**.
- Before embarking on an European bid, it makes good sense to take advice on whether the time spent on bidding is likely to prove cost effective.
- The National Contact Point (NCP) network is available to help and guide those wanting to find out more about opportunities and participation, or lead bids into the Horizon Europe programme. There is a list of NCPs and their sectors at:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk#find-your-uk-national-contact-point-for-advice>
- The currently published work programme is for 2021/22, and most of the calls have now closed, with a limited number closing late 2022, of which most are two-stage calls where the first stage has already closed. The next call is expected to be published by October 2022.
- A useful access page for all programmes and calls is: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

• Access to calls:

- The work programme of most interest at the moment is Work Programme 9: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.
- Each call described in WP9 is two-stage project, and the close date given is for the second stage. It may be possible to join an existing collaboration to strengthen a second stage bid, or to assemble a bid drawing on a first stage submission.
- A link to the work programme can be found here:
 - https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-9-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf
- **Page 136:** Topics are: Sustainable Farming; Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture; Transforming food systems for health; sustainability and inclusion – **closes 6th September 2022.**
- **Page 289:** Topics are: novel adaptation strategies at molecular level for bio-based innovation; sustainable biodegradable bio-based plastic; improved photosynthesis mechanisms – **closes 1st September 2022.**
- **Page 433:** Topics are Development of nature therapy for health and well-being – **closes 6th September 2022.**
- Work Programme 4 deals with health, but there are a limited range of open calls in this space in the current work programme, with most of them associated with health management. The link to the WP4 document is here:
 - https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-4-health_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf



Black Kite[®] Ltd. has been working with clients across the technology and innovation sector for many years. We are well placed 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**