

Horizon Scanning – Funding

December 2020

For further information, including advice, guidance and support on bidding into competitions, please contact us: enquiries@black-kite.co.uk



Summary of opportunities featured in this edition:

- 3. Innovate UK : COVID-19 Funding: closing: 09 Dec 2020 (11:00).
 - Closes shortly, but further rounds or extensions may arise.
- 4. IUK: UK and Canada biomanufacturing innovations in cell & gene therapies; closes: 23 Dec.2020.
 - SMEs working in partnership with National Research Council of Canada.
- 5. NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i Product Development Awards: closing 12 Jan 2021.
 - Relevant for any business looking to sell into the UK health market.
- 6. IUK: SMEs transforming food production: series A investor partnership (ISCF); closes 13 Jan 2021.
 - Partnership with investors (VCs).
- 7. STFC : Challenge Led Applied Systems Programme, 2021: Healthcare & Energy; closes 14 Jan 2021.
 - STFC funded researcher, past or present, needed; aim is to commercialise STFC-funded research.
- 8. Innovate UK : Smart November 2020; Opens: 02 Dec 2020, closing 20 Jan 2021 (11:00).
 - Broad range of themes and applications
- Innovate UK : ISCF Future Plastic Packaging Solutions; closing 20 Jan 2021.
 - Opportunities for new ideas around packaging.
- MedTech Navigator Innovation Grants; early 2021 (maybe).
 - Relevant to companies operating in the health sector
- 3. Merck 2020 Research Grants; opening January 2021.
 - Current main target is pandemic preparedness.
- 4. UKRI : Research England (RE)
 - Background information on the UKRI council funding of HEIs for research and Knowledge Exchange.
- 5. Innovate UK : Other competitions
 - Other open calls from Innovate UK.
- 6. Research Councils : Other competitions
 - Opportunities for academic researchers or those working with them.
- Other competitions
 - A selection of interesting competitions from various sources, now open

Innovate UK : COVID-19 Funding

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/get-funding-for-ideas-that-address-covid-19/?elqTrackId=960F05CC3EAE6BE1EA6DE59D3C9C7845&elq=6d95fc391aed4af2886f82c9f440c84d&elqa

Scope of Call:

•Supports the manufacture and/or wide scale adoption of an intervention with significant potential.

•Gathers critical data and resources quickly for future research use.

Aim: New research or innovation with potential to deliver significant contribution to understanding of and response to C-19 pandemic and its impacts **Relevance**: supports manufacture and/or wide scale adoption of an intervention with significant potential **Available funding: not given**

Project costs: not given – 'appropriate' Grant: via Research Council or Innovate UK Eligibility:

Lead: UK business or RTO if partnered with at least 2 businesses.

Dates:

close: 09 Dec 2020 (Innovate) 15 Dec (RC)

NB: Closing date may be extended.

Ke	v Co	nsid	era	tions

Project of up to 18 months duration.
Shouldn't duplicate a project already underway.

Resubmissions or previous bids not allowed.
Some exclusions: specific mitigations for existing institutions and long term research.
Business lead applies through IFS, academic lead or collaborator through JeS.

•Can be used to switch funding from existing project to COVID-relevant activity – applies to business, RTO or academic.

•Can be led by business or RTO, not academic •International Co-Investigators allowed.

•Closing date may be extended.

•More information from <u>CV19researchinnovation@ukri.org</u>

General Recommendations:

•Prospective bidders should check the list of existing projects to ensure originality at: https://www.ukri.org/find-covid-19-research-and-innov

•A list of current priority areas is at: https://www.ukri.org/find-covid-19-research-and-innov

•Should consider first whether it is appropriate to repurpose an existing funded project before submitting something new.

•Focus on addressing an urgent need that can be met within the timescale of the project.

•Proposals relevant to COVID-19 submitted post-deadline should add "CV-19" at start of grant title.

•Urgent proposals after 15th December can still submit by emailing

CV19researchinnovation@ukri.org



Innovate UK: UK and Canada biomanufacturing innovations in cell and gene therapies https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/751/overview#summary

Kev Considerations:

Scope of Call:

•Partnership with National Research Council of Canada (NRC); aimed at SMEs.

Aim:

•Support improvements in biomanufacturing for cost effective gene and cell-based therapies.

Available funding:

•£128k over 24 months (max.) 75% grant. •Start by 1 may 2021.

Eligibility: Lead: any organisation except HEI. Collaborators: any, inc. HEIs.

Dates:

Opens: 26/10/2020; **Closes: 23 Dec. (11:00)** Online briefing: 03/11/2020 Interviews will take place.

•Work area:	
 Process improvement for adeno- 	
associated virus (AAV) based gene	
therapy.	
Deploy process applytical	

 Deploy process analytical technologies to perfusion-enabled lentiviral vector manufacturing.

Must establish a partnership with a named research team at NRC Canada.
KTN briefings: NRC will explain the type of projects being looked for.
KTN wil make information on these sessions available.
Show evidence of established relationship.
NRC partner costs are not part of your project costs.

•Total grant funding limited to £96k. •Standard grant rates.

General Recommendations:

•Work is expected to be exploited from or in UK and in Canada.

•Note cost limits: £8k max for Capital; overheads capped at 10%.

•Fundamental research projects are excluded.

•Standard ten questions.

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

Scope of Call:

Medical devices and in vitro diagnostics.

Aim: Translational R&D of medical devices for NHS use, addressing any disease or health area where there is a clear unmet clinical need.

Available funding: total £unspecified Project costs: £unspecified; 3 – 5 years. Grant: 100%; 80% (HEI.)

Eligibility: Lead: SME, NHS Trust, HEI. Must include NHS Trust or NHS service provider At least two organisations involved.

Dates: PDA21: closes 09 Dec 2020 Challenge Awards Call 11 closes 12 Jan 2021

Key Considerations

Projects can be led by an SME, an HEI or NHS provider.
Minimum of two organisations must be involved.
At least one collaborator from NHS.

Research proposals may address any disease or healthcare area.
Technologies must already have demonstrated safety & efficacy.
Proof of concept must exist already.

•Two-stage application process.

•Lead applicants must be based in England

•Project durations: 24 months (min.) and 36 months (max.)

General Recommendations:

•This competition is for projects that have already demonstrated proof of concept. Early stage research is not fundable.

•Any existing medical device for which further prototyping and development is needed can be funded

•Of particular interest is techniques or technologies from a different industry sector applied to the healthcare setting.

•A plan for adoption into the NHS is necessary, therefore partnering with an NHS trust or provider is essential.

•A commercial strategy showing how the product or technique will be taken to market is needed, that shows appreciation of the regulatory pathways for healthcare products.

Innovate UK: SMEs transforming food production: series A investor partnership (ISCF) https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/771/overview

STFC: Challenge Led Applied Systems Programme; CLASP 2021: Healthcare and Energy

 Scope of Call: Themed call to apply STFC funded research/technology to help address societal challenge areas in healthcare and low-carbon energy. Sectors and Market Alignment: Key areas : healthcare and energy Dates: Call for EoI opens 10 Nov 2020; closes: 14 Jan 2021 	 Key Considerations: Applicant, in collaboration with STFC, proposes project supporting STFC research in moving forward to higher TRL. Industrial partners cannot receive funding directly from the scheme and are expected to contribute support in kind. Programme has potential to create new relationships between STFC and commercial organisations. 	 General Recommendations: This programme is intended to be a route to commercialise STFC technology/research. It is looking to support de-risking of R&D for industry through technology demonstrators, raising TRL from 3 up towards commercialisation Should address current market needs, working closely with end users and engaging with appropriate industrial partners
	 Collaboration: Must be in collaboration with a lead applicant currently or previously funded through the STFC programme. Lead organisation must be HEI, RCI or IRO. 	

Innovate UK : Smart November 2020

https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/762/overview

Scope of Call:

Any technological area. Game changing, innovative, ambitious, ready for commercialisation soon after project end. Strong business and delivery plan. **Aim:** Any innovation with significant potential for growth or scale-up, taking customer and user needs into account.

Available funding: total £25 m

For project durations between 6 & 18 months, total costs between $\pounds 25k - \pounds 500k$; project duration 19 to 36 months, total costs $\pounds 25k - \pounds 2m$. For costs up to $\pounds 3m$, seek approval ten days before deadline. Projects can be feasibility, industrial research or experimental development.

Eligibility:

UK registered business or RTO. RTOs can partner, academic institution cannot lead.

Dates:

Open: 02 Dec 2020; closes: 20 Jan 2021(11:00) Project start: by 1 July 2021

Key Considerations:

•Must be led by UK business, of any size.

•Project must include at least one micro or SME.

•Shorter (6-18 month) projects may be single SME, but more likely a collaboration led by business (large or SME).

•Larger projects must be collaborative. Nongrant claiming partners' costs are included in total eligible project costs.

•Collaborations are not necessary, but for small projects, a micro or SME must lead or be a collaborator - HEI's cannot lead.

•Subcontractors permitted, no specified limit but must be justified and appropriate.

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

•Funding level is function of project type (feasibility. industrial research, etc.) and organisation size.

•One resubmission allowed.

•Research partners max. 30% total costs.

•Highly competitive.

•Standard application form + EDI, additional financial considerations (e.g. for UID).

•Expectation of clear significant economic impact potential from an innovative, disruptive new product, with rapid commercialisation potential.

•SMART projects applies to any technology area, with potential to be innovative / disruptive and be ahead of the field.

General Recommendations:

•A commercial exploitation path must be evident for all business partners.

•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.

•Time to market is important.

•Clear project management approach, availability of necessary skills and appreciation of risks and their management is needed, i.e., **strong project management** should be evident in application.

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

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Innovate UK : ISCF Future Plastic Packaging Solutions https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/763/overview

Scope of Call:

Part of the SSPP, Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Programme: (https://www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/smart-sustainable

Smart & sustainable plastic packaging for consumer products. Deliver cleaner growth across supply chains.

Aim: Deliver dramatic reduction in plastic waste entering the environment by 2025

Available funding: total £2 m Project costs: £50k to £150k; 18 months max. Grant: 50% (large); 60% (med.); 70% (small).

Eligibility:

Lead: Business; Charities; NDPB ('quango'); Not-for-Profit. Collaborations allowed.

Dates:

Open: 26 Oct; **close: 20/01/2021 (11:00)** online briefing: 3 Nov. 2020 Project start: 1 Jun 2021; end 30 Nov 2022.

Key Considerations:

•SSPP Challenge aims to establish the UK as a leading innovator.

Projects <u>must</u> make plastics packaging supply chain more circular; deliver the targets of the UK Plastics Pact; embed life cycle thinking and end of life in packaging design and decisions.
Show reduced environmental impact, e.g., reduced emissions, increased/improved recyclability.

•Portfolio of projects to be funded that address the four Plastics PACT targets.

•Projects not seeking direct commercial output or financial value <u>will</u> be funded, i.e., direct or indirect commercial outcomes.

•Cf. & quantify benefits of new approach to the system to be replaced / improved.

•Demonstrate a holistic approach, i.e., impacts to humans, wildlife, environment.

•Collaborators can be a UK registered business, charity, non-government body, not-for-profit or UK based academic institution, research organisation or RTO.

General Recommendations:

•Projects must demonstrate how objectives of the plastics pact are supported, and delivers systemic change.

•Clearly explain reductions in UK plastic packaging system's overall environmental impact.

•Projects with either direct or indirect commercial outcomes will be funded

•Demonstrate contributing to meeting the SSPP Challenge objectives.

•Must be led by a UK registered business of any size

12 application questions; particular focus on idea, outcomes, impacts, and delivery.
Expected to be feasibility or industrial research projects.

MedTech Navigator Innovation Grants

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.

•Health and care market

Available Funding:

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

Dates:

Open call, next deadline likely **early 2021** (not yet confirmed – update when available)

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

General Recommendations:

•Health stakeholders should be involved in any bid, such as patient groups, clinicians or NHS organisations.

•Key stakeholders should be involved with medical product development.

•Teaming with an NHS Trust or medical device manufacturer would be beneficial.

•University medical departments are also regarded as a knowledge provider.

•There are no open calls at present, but this is a 3 year programme, and further calls are expected in 2021.



Merck 2020 Research Grants

https://www.merckgroup.com/en/research/open-innovation/2020-research-grants/research-grant-pandemic-preparedness.html

Scope of Call:

•Within the health sector, the pandemic preparedness topic looks for innovative research into technological means of preparing for and fighting new emerging viral infectious diseases.

Funding:

Research Grants of €100k - 500k per year for up to three years, with the option of an extension.
Collaborations between institutions allowed.

Dates:

•Next call to be published in Jan 2021.

Key Considerations:

•Collaboration is not mandated, although teaming with a healthcare provider would add credibility.

•Only academic researchers/institutes will receive the grant

•Bringing existing technology from a different sector into this domain would be of interest.

•Accelerating the development of vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, vector control tools and delivery systems.

•Bio-electronics are of interest.

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.

•Time to an outcome seems important, especially during the current situation, therefore existing approaches that can be repurposed to the health domain will be of interest here.

UKRI: Research England (RE) [https://www.ukri.org/]

General Background:

https://re.ukri.org/funding/our-funds-overview/global-challenges-research-fund/

•New UKRI council funding HEIs for research and KE.

•UK Research Partnership Investment Fund, and HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Fund). •New Funding Finder website https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/

Funding changes:

•Recurrent grant finding for the academic year 2020 – 2021 (£ m):

Accelerated QR	0
National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF, allocated as QR)	107
Recurrent knowledge exchange (HEIF)	230
National facilities and initiatives	40

•Others are unchanged from 2019 - 2020.

•Fund review:

• UK Research Partnership Initiative Fund (UKRPIF):

- Capital funding to research centres and universities; only half the projects allocated.
- Fund not currently open; open dates will be published on the UKRI website.

Research England Development (RED) Fund (see opposite):

• £27 m p.a. for projects that aid development & interaction of the UK's HE and KE activities in line with Government and UKRI priorities.

Research Capital Investment Fund:

- For research groups to maintain or improve physical premises or infrastructure.
- Is allocated annually to HEIs awards normally announced July

• International Investment Initiative (I3) Fund:

- Supports existing international collaborations.
- Closed for submissions in 2019; no future rounds are in place as yet.

• Connecting Capability Fund (CCF):

- Supports partnerships between HE, businesses and investors & some Catapults.
- Only open for follow-on funding for existing CCF wave 1 projects at present.

• Museum, Galleries and Collections Fund:

• University museums, galleries and collections; Ongoing for existing recipients.

Global Challenges Research Fund:

• Research that addresses challenges faced by developing countries. Accessible to HEIs that submitted QR GCRF (ODA compliant) strategies. Commercial - in - Confidence

Expanding Excellence in England (E3) Fund:

•Strategic expansion of research units already deemed excellent.

•Specifically about supporting improvements in UK research capability in line with the Industrial Strategy and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

•Thirteen current projects across diverse areas, from linguistics to space, from plastics to music, from fine print to diabetes, etc..

- Total funds allocated ~£76.1 m
- Average project size ~£5.8 m
- see:

https://re.ukri.org/funding/our-funds-overview/ex

Research England Development (RED) Fund:

•Ongoing application & approval process.

Next Panel date: tbc

•Expectation that applications are prepared in collaboration with RE.

•Possible for industry to partner with an HEI to apply an advanced research technology.

•Eight current projects: ~£22.7 m; avg ~£3 m (excluding low value outlier).

•Straight-forward application process;

alignment to the fund's key priorities should be evident.

•Non-competitive fund; apply any time. •All themes relevant as long as a net public benefit will be delivered; collaboration is welcomed.

Innovate UK : Other competitions

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

•Knowledge transfer partnerships (KTP): 2020 to 2021, round 5

•Standard KTP scheme. Comprehensive application process.

•12 – 36 month projects.

•Technology and Management KTPs possible.

•Opens: 2 Nov 2020; closes: 27 Jan 2021.

•https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/knowledge-transfer-partnerships-oct-dec-2020/

•African agriculture knowledge transfer partnerships (KTP): 2020 to 2021, round 5: £2 m.

Similar to above KTP, except another knowledge base and a business partner registered in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya or S. Africa to be included.
Enhanced application form/process – more questions.
Registration closes 27 Jan 2021
https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/african-agriculture-knowledge-transfer-partnerships-ktp-2020-to-2021-round-5/

•SBRI – removing air pollutants from homes to safeguard health

•Phase 1 or 2 phase competition.

•Single applicant, but subcontracting allowed.

•At least 50% of project must be R&D.

•Target is removal of one or more harmful household pollutants from the air in homes.

•Feasibility study up to £50k in first phase.

•3 month projects.

•Opened 23rd November, closes 13th January 2021 (11:00).

•https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/789/overview

•ATI Programme: R&D funding for smaller business, EoI Autumn 2020

•Industry-led civil aerospace collaborative R&D projects.

•Should address UK Aerospace Technology Strategy "Accelerating Ambition" https://www.ati.org.uk/media/siybi1mm/ati-tech-strategy.pdf

•This phase is an expression of interest, full stage competition opens 01 March 2021.

•Total eligible costs between £300k and £1.5M over 12-36 months.

•Opened 10 November 2020, closes 06 Jan 2021.

•https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/ati-programme-rd-funding-for-smaller-business-expression-of-interest-autumn-2020/

•SBRI - AI supporting early detection and diagnosis in heart failure management: £120k inc. VAT [CLOSED]

•Funded by NHS Scotland.

•Develop a system that can provide accessible, timely and accurate data on heart failure from healthcare information which is routinely collected in primary and secondary care.

•Two phase approach: Ph 1 projects up to total costs of £10k inclusive of VAT; Ph 2 from successful Ph 1 projects.

•Ph 1 – technical feasibility projects; ph 2 – prototype development & evaluation.

•SBRI are contracts; standard SBRI questions.

•Opens: 12 Oct 2020; closes 9 Dec 2020 (11:00)

Research Councils : Other competitions

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

NERC Highlight:

- Research addressing environmental challenges.
- Funding up to £4M over up to 4 years.
- Competition opened 30 November 2020, closes 25 March 2021 https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/nerc-highlight-topics/

• EPSRC: Asthma health technology

- For development of technologies for diagnosis, monitoring and management tools for asthma.
- Potential for detectors of asthma inducing pollutants etc.
- Up to £750k grant funding.
- Opened 20 October 2020, closes 11 February 2021 https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/asthma-health-technology/

• 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 £1M or more for up to 5 years.
- Grants within an academic institution.
- Opened 15 October 2020, closes 13th January 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.
- Submission of EoI to NSF and UKRI for consideration.
- Maximum award £1M, 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

• EPSRC: Healthcare technologies new challenges, Network Plus

- Aimed at researchers addressing technologies to improve healthcare treatment, environments and healthcare systems.
- Covers salaries, T&S, workshops and admin.
- Opened 02 November 202, closes 13 Jan 2021

Other competitions

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

·SBRI: Greenhouse Gas removal technology: Global Health Innovative Technology Fund

•Closes 05 February 2021.

•Design study into development of innovative greenhouse gas removals or technologies

https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/84d44904-0800-4190-89df-7e3e874fe577?_ga=2.13824439.1259114058.1607432282-1292109637

•KTN iX Challenge: environmentally sustainable compounds for hair conditioners

•KTN-iX provides the opportunity to become linked to, or collaborate with, industry stakeholders seeking innovative solutions to a problem. •Three open calls at present:

- · Sustainable compounds for hair conditioners;
- Robotics Platform Generator Bolt Inspection and Tightening (for wind turbines),
- Full Field Condition Monitoring of a Blade Internal Structure (turbine blades).

•Closes 11th December 2020

• More challenges may be announced over time – one to watch at: https://www.ktninnovationexchange.co.uk/Challenges

Horticultural Quality and Food Loss network

- •A new network looking to tackle food waste and improve quality in horticulture and agriculture.
- •Funding opportunities to members for feasibility studies etc.
- •Links academia and industry.
- •Registration closes 15 Jan 2021
 - https://ktn-uk.org/opportunities/horticultural-quality-and-food-loss-network-2020-funding-calls/

Measurement for recovery

•A programme run by NPL providing access to scientists and engineers at NPL to address analysis or measurement issues.

•Must fit within de minimis limitations.

•Closes end December 2020

• https://www.npl.co.uk/measurement-for-recovery?utm_campaign=M4R&utm_source=Affiliates&utm_medium=General&utm_content=Launch

Clean Growth Fund

•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 £500k - £3M

https://www.cleangrowthfund.com/key-info-for-entrepreneurs/



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