



Funding Landscape

October 2020

For further information, including advice and guidance on bidding into competitions,

please contact us:

enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

Automotive Transformation Fund
expression of interest: October 2020

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/769/overview#supporting-information>

Scope of Call:
 Automotive Transformation Fund (improvements to batteries for automotive)
Aim: any development supporting industrialisation of electrified automotive supply
Relevance: includes batteries, fuel cell and recycling.

Available funding: total £1 bn
 Project costs: not given – ‘appropriate’
 Grant: 50% (large); 60% (med.); 70% (small)

Eligibility:
 Lead: UK business.
 HEIs and RTOs can partner.

Dates:
 Open: 19 Oct; close: **11 Nov 2020 (noon)**
 Notification: 23 Dec 2020

Key Considerations

- This is an Expression of Interest (EoI) competition – if successful then invited to apply for full stage competition.
- Must be led by a UK business of any size.
- Can be a sole organisation or collaboration with any business, academic or RTO.
- Subcontractors are allowed.

•Portfolio of projects to be funded, therefore novelty can benefit small bids.
 •A primary application of automotive must be evident.
 •R&D projects and Capital investment as two strands.

•Run under the Automotive Transformation Fund. This is a new programme.

•For queries email: ATF@apcuk.co.uk

Funding Landscape

NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) i4i Product Development Awards

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/>

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:
 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:
 Open: 4 Nov 2020; **close: 12 Jan 2021**
 online briefing : 11 November 2020
 Project start: April 2021

Key Considerations

- Projects can be led by SME, HEI or NHS provider.
- Min. of two organisations must be involved.
- At least one collaborator from NHS.
- Any disease or healthcare area.
- Technologies must already have demonstrated safety & efficacy.
- Proof of concept must exist already.
- Particular interest: techniques or technologies from different industry sector.
- Adoption plan into the NHS is necessary.
- Two-stage application process.
- Lead applicants must be based in England
- Project durations: 24 months (min.) and 36 months (max.)

Innovate UK : Smart
August 2020

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 £25k-£500k; project duration 19 to 36 months, total costs £25k - £2m. For costs >£2 m, seek approval ten days before deadline.

Eligibility:
 Lead must be UK registered business or RTO, project must include at least one SME. RTOs can partner, academic institution cannot lead.

Dates:
 Open: 28 Aug 2020; close: 11:00 25 Nov 2020
 Project start: by 1 May 2021

Key Considerations

- Must be led by UK business, any size.
- Must demonstrate intention to commercially exploit project.
- Subcontractors permitted, no specified limit but must be justified and appropriate.
- Up to two resubmissions allowed.
- Research partners max. 30% total costs.
- Grant funding level is Innovate UK standard rates.
- Always a highly competitive competition.
- Standard application, plus EDI.
- Standard UiD considerations, modified by Covid.

Funding Landscape

Innovate UK : ISCF Future Plastic Packaging Solutions

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/16>

Scope of Call:

Part of the SSPP, Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Programme: (

<https://www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/smart-sustainable-plastics-programme/>

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 must 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.
- Projects not seeking direct commercial output or financial value will 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.
- 12 application questions; particular focus on idea, outcomes, impacts, and delivery.

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.

Available Funding:

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

Dates:

Open call, next deadline **27 November 2020**

Following deadline likely **January 2021**

Key Considerations:

- SME applies for and justifies knowledge collaboration.
- Simple application process with regular awards committee reviews.
- 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.

Merck 2020 Research Grants

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

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:

•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; teaming with a healthcare provider would add credibility.
- Bring existing technology from different sector into this domain e.g., on-chip (in-vitro) diagnostics would be of interest. Innovative thinking, applying technologies from non-health sectors will be of interest.
- Bio-electronics also mentioned.
- Knowledge, competence, access to facilities and innovative ideas will support a bid.
- Time to an outcome is important.

Funding Landscape

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

<https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/stfc-knowledge-exchange>

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.

Collaboration:

•Must be in collaboration with a lead applicant currently or previously funded through the STFC programme.

•Lead organisation must be HEI or equivalent.
•Co-applicants can be from other departments (e.g. chemistry, biotech).

Innovate UK: SMEs transforming food production: series A investor partnership (ISCF)

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/771/overview>

Scope of Call:

Part of ISCF. Grant + VC funding. IUK partnering with investors.

Aim:

Main objective: support SMEs in this tech. area to grow & scale through facilitated private investment.

Develop precision technologies & data driven solutions to realising net zero food production systems by 2040.

Available funding: total £5 m.

£1m to £3m / project.

Dates:

Opens: 04 Nov; **close: 13/01/2021 (11:00)**

Online briefing: 10/11/2020

Bootcamp and investor events.

Heads of term agreement: 3 Jun 2021.

Optional boot camps: 22 Feb.; 19 Mar 2021.

Key Considerations:

•Receive grant funding + investors top up, providing the match funding.

•Experimental development: Small and micros 45% grant; medium 35%.

•Demonstrate potential for growth & scale.

•Project start: 1 Oct 2021; end 31 Mar 2023 (18 months).

•SMEs only.

•Grant is only for the project; Investment is for company (inc. project), growth and scale.

•Investment: equity or convertible loan.

•See ISCF Transforming Food Production Challenge:

•<https://www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-costs/transforming-food-production/>

Innovate UK: UK and Canada bio-manufacturing innovations in cell and gene therapies

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

Scope of Call:

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

Aim:

•Support improvements in bio-manufacturing 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.

Fundamental research excluded.

Dates:

Opens: 26/10/2020; **Closes: 23 Dec. (11:00)**

Online briefing: 03/11/2020

Interviews will take place.

Key Considerations:

•Work area:

- Process improvement for adeno-associated virus (AAV) based gene therapy.
- Deploy process analytical technologies to perfusion-enabled lentiviral vector manufacturing.

•Establish a partnership with a named research team at NRC Canada.

•KTN will make information on briefing sessions available.

•Show evidence of established relationship.

•NRC partner costs are not part of your/UK

•Total grant funding limited to £96k.

•Standard grant rates.

UKRI: Research England (RE) [<https://re.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).

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.

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: 4 Dec 2020.**
- 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.
- <https://re.ukri.org/funding/our-funds-overview/research-eng>

Innovate UK : Other competitions

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

Sort and segregate nuclear waste: phase 1 (SBRI competition)

- Develop autonomous and integrated toolkit to sort & segregate radioactive waste.
- Phase 1 of a 2-phase competition. Phase 1: £60k inc. VAT contracts, up to 10 off.
- Opens: 17/08/2020; closes: 11 Nov (11:00). Standard SBRI application – 5 weighted questions.

•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.

•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.

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

- 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 for 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)



Black Kite® Ltd. has been helping small and large organisations, including universities to access and manage their grant funds.

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

email: enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

www: <https://www.black-kite.co.uk/>