



Funding Landscape

September 2020

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

please contact us:

enquiries@black-kite.co.uk

Funding Landscape

Innovate UK : Biomedical Catalyst 2020: R1, early & late stage awards

Scope of Call:

(a) Disease prevention & management; (b) earlier & better detection & diagnosis; (c) tailored treatments.

Aim: create data package to test product, or conduct evaluation in a relevant setting.

Available funding: Total £30 m.

£250k - £4m (project costs) / 12 - 36 months.
Grant: 70% (micro or small); 60% (medium).

Eligibility:

Lead: UK SME or **RTO**

Work conducted in UK; Exploit in / from UK.
Any UK organisation can partner, including **academics**.

Dates:

Opens: 27/07/2020; Closes: 7 Oct (11:00)
Project start: 1 Mar 2021; end: 29 Feb 2024
Online briefing: 1pm, 4 Aug 2020
(<https://ukri.zoom.us/j/97944431454>)

Key Considerations

- If RTO led, must collaborate with SME.
- One application / lead; can collaborate on two others.
- Large companies cannot claim grant.
- Non UK subcontractors need justification ten days in advance of application.
- One resubmissions allowed.
- Testing is broad: feasibility studies to lab evaluation to product development to phase 2 clinical trials.
- Focus:** development of innovative solution (product, process) for a health challenge.
- Likely to be a competitive call.
- EDI (exclusion, diversity, inclusion) survey.

Innovate UK : Designing sustainable plastic solutions

Scope of Call:

Human-centred design projects to reduce environmental harm of plastics.

Aim: Reduce persistent plastic waste from landfill or entering the environment altogether.

Design: includes all necessary disciplines to develop a design specification.

Available funding: total £800 k

Project costs: £20k to £80k; 3 - 6 months.
Grant: 50% (large); 60% (med.); 70% (small)

Eligibility:

Lead: UK business.

HEIs and RTOs can partner.

Dates:

Open: 3 Jun 2020; close: 16 Sep 2020 (noon)
online briefing : <https://youtu.be/DMsY7IEC5bY>
Project start: 1 Jan 2021; end 30 Jun 2021.

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/631/overview#summary>

Key Considerations

- Up to 70% subcontracting allowed.
 - includes EEA businesses.
- One application / lead; can collaborate on two others.
- Six marked questions for application.
- Projects will be showcased at a KTN exhibition.
- Must involve hands-on customer / user research to inform and test novel ideas.
- Deliver a well-informed and viable design concept for an innovative product, service or business model.

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 of any size.
- Project must include at least one micro or SME.
- Must demonstrate the intention to commercially exploit project result.
- Subcontractors permitted, no specified limit but must be justified and appropriate.
- Up to two resubmissions allowed.
- Research partners max. 30% total costs.
- Funding level function of project type (feasibility. industrial research, etc.).
- Highly competitive.
- Standard application form, additional financial considerations (e.g. for UiD).
- Other key requirements for a successful bid.

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Innovate UK : IETF Industrial Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Studies

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/607/overview#summary>

Scope of Call:

- Feasibility studies investigating technologies to improve energy efficiency or reduce greenhouse gas emissions of an industrial process.

•Funding:

- Feasibility Study must be >£60k, research organisation at least 10% of costs.

•Collaboration:

- Must be led by a UK business manufacturing site; can include multiple projects per site.
- Collaboration with RTO or academic institution is allowed.

Dates:

- Open: 20 July 2020; **close: 28 Oct 2020**

Key Considerations:

- Subcontract from UK or non-UK allowed.
- Commercial business must operate at a manufacturing site (SIC 10 – 33) or a data centre (SIC 63110).
- UK industrial business with a plant and a desire to reduce environmental pollution. Likely, but not necessarily, a large manufacturing plant.
- The study needs to consider all aspects and benefits of the approach, including economic analysis.
- Feasibility study should establish whether technology is technically and commercially viable.

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 **18 Sept. 2020**

Key Considerations:

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

Merck 2020 Research Grants

<https://www.merckgroup.com/en/research/open-innovation/2>

Scope of Call:

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

•Funding:

- Grants of €100k – 500k per year for up to three years.
- Collaborations between institutions allowed.

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.

Agri-tech catalyst round 10: agriculture and food systems

- Create positive impact on poverty in African countries through: crop and livestock, including aquaculture, non-food uses of crops, challenges in food processing, distribution or storage, improving availability of safe, healthy and nutritious foods
- Early, mid and late stage projects, must be collaborative. 12-18 month projects, costs between £100k-£500k
- Opens 20/07/2020; close 21/10/2020 <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/659/overview#dates>

ISCF Transforming foundation industries: Building a resilient recovery : £8 m.

- Support fast recovery and growth from Covid-19, must focus on resource or energy efficiency.
- Project cost: £100k to £1m; 3 to 12 months, start by 1 April 2021. Standard 10 questions.
- Opens: 3/08/2020; close: 4 Nov (11:00); different briefings 17 and 27 July 2020: <https://vimeo.com/439268893>; <https://vimeo.com/440607090>

EUREKA GlobalStars Singapore CRD – R 2: £1m. Opens 17/06/2020; close: 15 Oct (11:00)

- Include partner from Singapore and a named Eureka nation.
- Application to demonstrate same areas as a SMART application (game changing etc.), market-driven in **any** technological area, with a civilian purpose. Up to £350k grant; HEI's up to 30%.

EUREKA GlobalStars Japan: £1 m. Opens: 8/06/2020, close: 10 Sep (noon).

- With Japan, develop new, innovative product, process or service, involving technological risk.
- Include partner from Singapore and a named Eureka nation.
- UK costs: £100k - £1m; up to 24 months; start 1 Mar 2021. HEI's allowed up to 30%.
- Application to demonstrate same areas as a SMART application (game changing etc.), market-driven in **any** technological area, with a civilian purpose.

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):

Quality-related research (QR) funding – excl. GCRF	1,629
Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF)	230
Strategic Priorities Fund	29
National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF, allocated as QR)	107
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.

Not obvious whether the fund is currently open.

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.

Currently closed, and no plans at present for a future round of funding.

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).

Currently not open; future round not yet confirmed.

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/>

Research England Development (RED) Fund:

Ongoing application & approval process.

Panel dates: Oct 2020 then 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](https://re.ukri.org/funding/our-funds-overview/research-eng/)

[://re.ukri.org/funding/our-funds-overview/research-eng/](https://re.ukri.org/funding/our-funds-overview/research-eng/)



Black Kite® Ltd. has been working with Innovate UK (and, prior to that, the Technology Strategy Board). We are able to support organisations to access and manage grant funding.

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