

FUNDING INNOVATION FOR NET ZERO

IN THIS EDITION

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The Hydrogen and Advanced Technologies branch in the Department for the Economy has created this regular newsletter to keep you informed of any relevant external funding opportunities available. Our focus is funding which promotes clean energy and a low carbon economy. We hope you find this helpful and if you have any feedback on the newsletter, please contact us at:
HydrogenAdvancedTechnologiesBranch@economy-ni.gov.uk



Edition 7
August 2023

Disclaimer: In this newsletter we are referencing publicly available information, we acknowledge that it may not be exhaustive. We advise all interested parties to engage with funding bodies in the first instance directly at the earliest opportunity. DfE accepts no liability for discrepancies in dissemination. Funding opportunities detailed do not represent DfE endorsement or involvement in any way.



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New this Issue:

Innovate NI | Innovation Recognition Programme

Innovate NI provides advice, guidance and signposting to Northern Ireland businesses to help turn their products, processes and services into a reality.

The Innovate Recognition programme has four distinct elements:

- **Innovation Assessment** – This is a diagnostic tool that helps you find out how innovative your business is. You can repeat the Innovation Assessment as your idea develops to ensure your recognition level is accurate.
- **The Innovation Framework** – Bring your idea from concept to market through our four-step process: Ideation, Selection, Development, and Commercialisation.
- **Innovation Recognition Levels** – Success deserves recognition. On completion of each step in the innovation framework, you will receive either Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum status to show your commitment to innovation.
- **Innovation Management Standards** – By following and implementing this structured process, your business will be more competitive, profitable, and resilient.

Innovate NI has a wealth of experience in supporting all types of businesses across Northern Ireland.

Our support may include:

- Direct innovation advice and guidance from an innovation specialist.
- Signposting to sources of innovation-led funding.
- Exclusive access to innovation workshops, webinars & case studies.
- Continued support and mentoring throughout your innovation journey.
- Advice on applying for innovation-related support.
- Recognition from the Department for the Economy.

To avail of our support, you will need to complete the innovation assessment. The information you provide will help us to identify the key activities you need to carry out against the four steps of our Innovation Framework.



More information can be found at:
[Innovate NI website](#)






New this Issue:

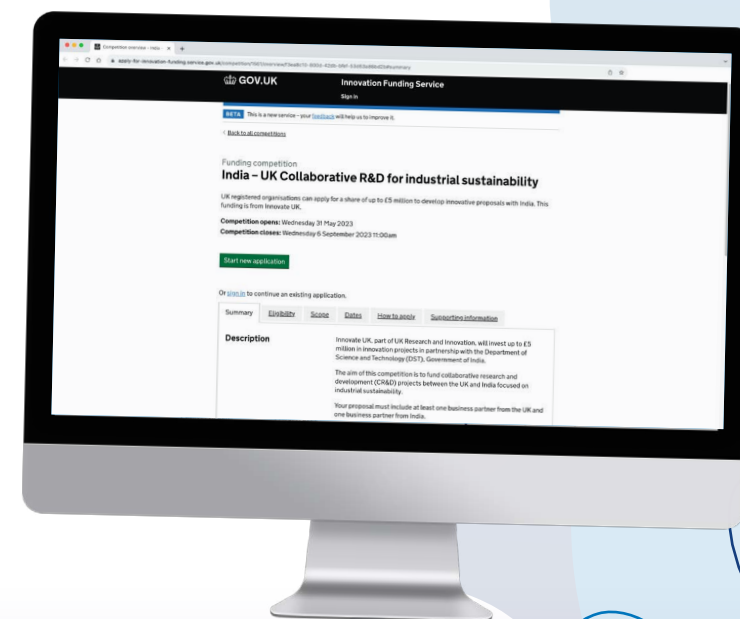
India – UK Collaborative R&D for Industrial Sustainability

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £5 million to develop innovative proposals with India. The aim of this competition is to fund collaborative research and development (CR&D) projects between the UK and India focused on industrial sustainability.

Your project must focus on one of these two themes:

- Sustainable materials and manufacturing for transforming foundation industries; in particular glass, paper, cements, ceramics, chemicals and metals.
- Power electronics, machines, and drives.

-  **Organisation:** Innovate UK
-  **Total Fund:** £5,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 31st May 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 6th September 2023 @ 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - India – UK Collaborative R&D for industrial sustainability - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-innovation-funding-service)



New this Issue:

Knowledge Transfer Partnership

We are looking for partnerships that help businesses to innovate, develop, grow and become more productive by employing academic expertise that they do not have in-house.


Your project can focus on any type of innovation in any sector but it must aim to deliver results that your business would not otherwise be able to deliver.

Key features of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) are that:


- They are open to businesses, not-for-profit organisations, research organisations and graduates to work on an innovation project.
- Partnerships can last between 12 and 36 months.

- Funding is provided to support the total cost of the project – businesses provide around one-third to half of the project costs depending on their sizes.

 **Organisation:** Innovate UK

 **Total Fund:** Project costs vary greatly but typically a small or medium sized business might expect to contribute £35,000 a year and a large company in excess of £50,000.

 **Closing Date:** No closing date

 **More information can be found at:** [Knowledge Transfer Partnership – UKRI](#)



New this Issue:


Knowledge Asset Grant Fund: Extend, Expand, Explore Autumn 2023

The Knowledge Asset Grant Fund is run by the Government Office for Technology Transfer (GOTT) and funded by the Department for Science Innovation and Technology (DSIT). The programme has £15 million of funding available from 2021 to March 2025.

The aim of this competition is to support the identification and development of public sector knowledge assets, including repurposing, commercialisation or expanded use.


This competition is split into three strands:


- Explore – for projects up to £25,000.
- Expand – for projects between £25,001 to £100,000.
- Extend – for projects between £100,001 to £250,000 (this strand).

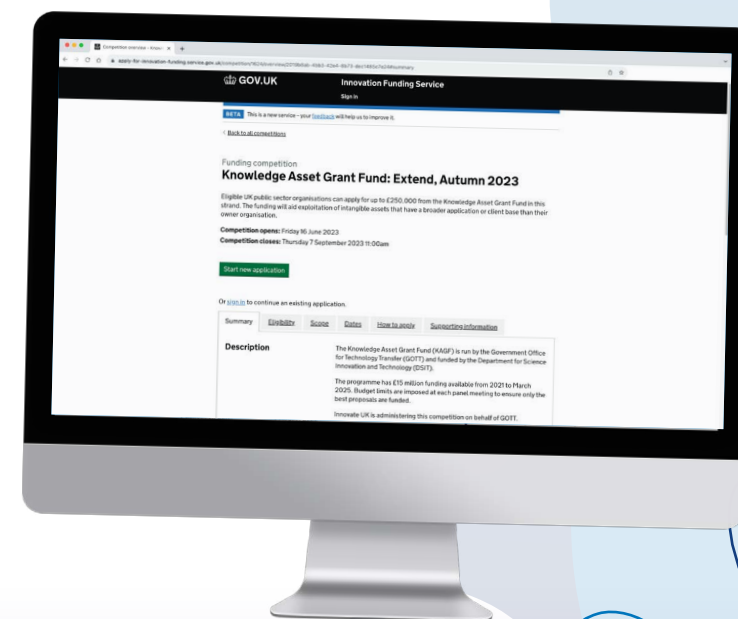
 **Organisation:** Government Office for Technology Transfer, Department for Science Innovation and Technology

 **Total Fund:** £15,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 16th June 2023

 **Closing Date:** 7th September 2023 @ 11am

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Knowledge Asset Grant Fund: Extend, Autumn 2023 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)





New this Issue:

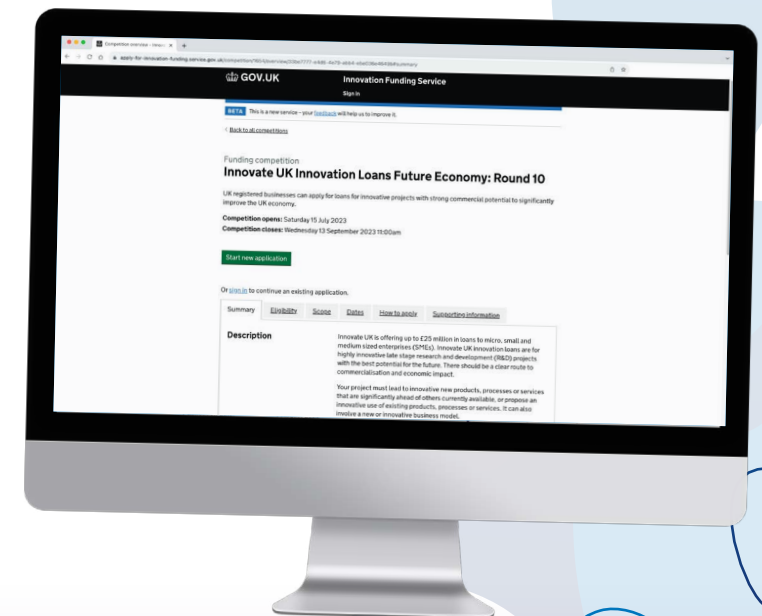
Innovate UK Innovation Loans Future Economy: Round 10

Your idea must lead to innovative new products, processes or services that are significantly ahead of others currently available or propose an innovative use of existing products, processes or services. It can also involve a new or innovative business model.

Net Zero themes include:

- Energy.
- Impact of industrial processes and use of materials.
- Agriculture and food and other sources of emissions.
- Capital intensity.

-  **Organisation:** Innovate UK
-  **Total Fund:** £25,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 15th July 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 13th September 2023 @ 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Innovate UK Innovation Loans Future Economy: Round 10 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.innovateuk.com/competition-overview-innovate-uk-innovation-loans-future-economy-round-10-innovation-funding-service-apply-for-innovation-funding-service.gov.uk)



New this Issue:






APC24: Industrialising Net-Zero Automotive Technology

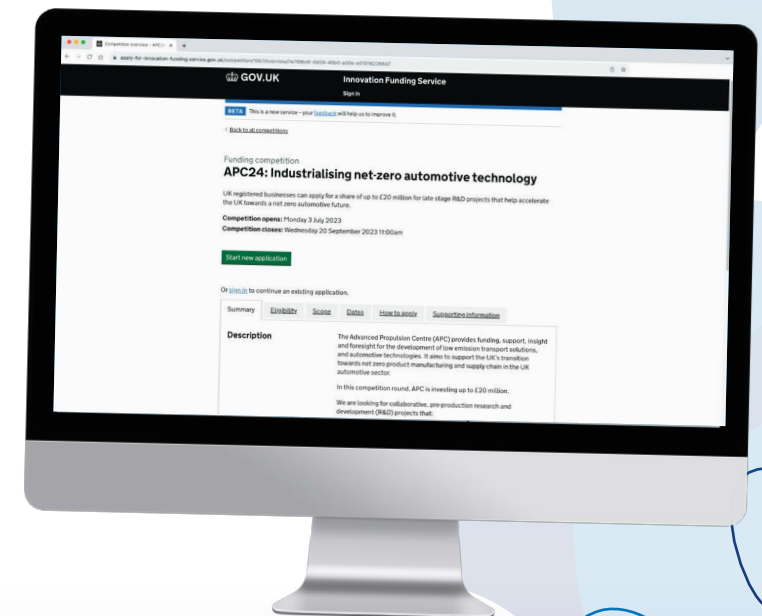
The Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) provides funding, support, insight and foresight for the development of low emission transport solutions, and automotive technologies. It aims to support the UK's transition towards net zero product manufacturing and supply chain in the UK automotive sector.

In this competition round, APC is investing up to £20 million.

We are looking for collaborative, pre-production research and development (R&D) projects that:

- Support the UK's long-term vision and underpin capabilities by securing long term R&D investment.
- Achieve through the associated supply chain, the design, build, test and manufacture of net-zero carbon emission vehicles.

-  **Organisation:** Advanced Propulsion Centre
-  **Total Fund:** £20,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 3rd July 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 20th September 2023 @ 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - APC24: Industrialising net-zero automotive technology - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)








New this Issue:

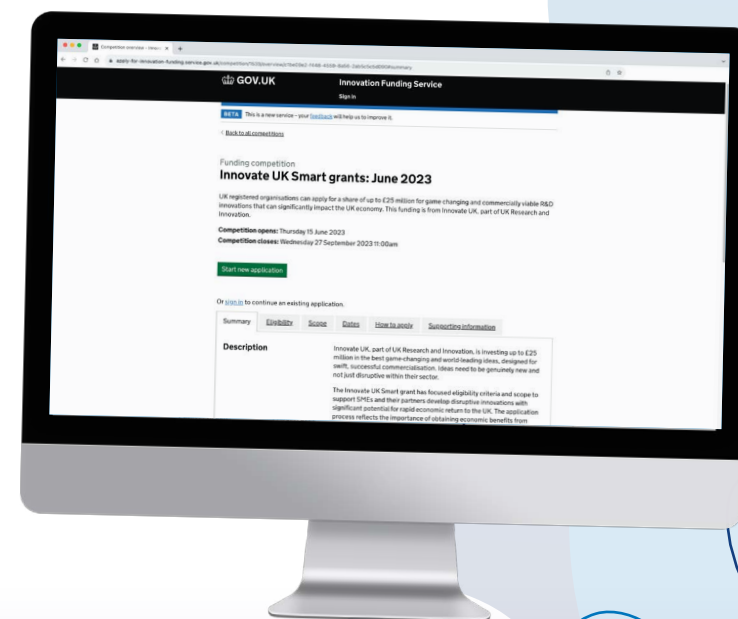
Innovate UK Smart Grants: June 2023

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is investing up to £25 million in the best game-changing and world-leading ideas, designed for swift, successful commercialisation. Ideas need to be genuinely new and not just disruptive within their sector.

Proposals must be business focused, with deliverable, realistic, adequately resourced plans to achieve return on investment, growth and market share following project completion.

Applications can come from any area of technology and be applied to any part of the economy, such as, but not exclusively, net zero, the arts, design and media.

-  **Organisation:** Innovate UK
-  **Total Fund:** £25,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 15th June 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 27th September 2023 @ 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Innovate UK Smart grants: June 2023 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-innovation-funding-service)



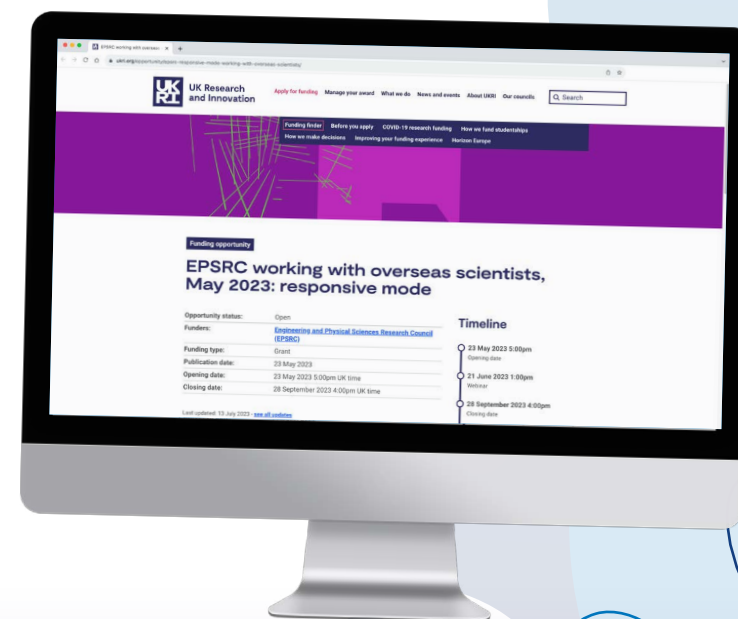
New this Issue:

EPSRC Working with Overseas Scientists, May 2023: Responsive Mode

Working with overseas scientists grants continue to be available for researchers at eligible research organisations. You can work with researchers in Ireland, Luxembourg, Brazil, and the US. The fields you can work in will depend on who you want to work with. You must submit an expression of interest before your full application.

EPSRC works with partners in the UK and abroad to help researchers and research organisations get maximum value from international collaborations and opportunities. The aim is to reduce current barriers to working internationally by allowing researchers to submit a single collaborative application with a joint funding decision, informed by a single lead agency review.

-  **Funding Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
-  **Maximum award:** Unlimited
-  **Opening Date:** 23rd May 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 28th September 2023 @ 4pm
-  **More information can be found at:** [EPSRC working with overseas scientists, May 2023: responsive mode – UKRI](#)



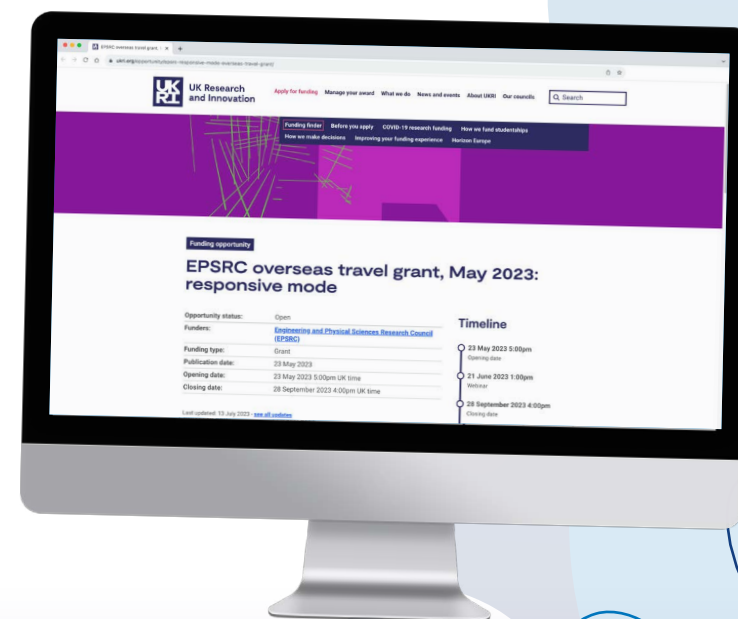
New this Issue:

EPSRC Overseas Travel Grant, May 2023: Responsive Mode

You can apply for an overseas travel grant in any area within the remit of EPSRC. You must be based at an eligible UK research organisation. Overseas travel grants (OTGs) provide funding for visits overseas to learn new techniques, or form and develop collaborations. We will award 80% of the full economic cost (FEC) of the project.

You can apply for an overseas travel grant in any field of research relevant to our remit. We support high quality research in energy and decarbonisation.

-  **Funding Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
-  **Maximum award:** Grant
-  **Opening Date:** 23rd May 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 28th September 2023 @ 4pm
-  **More information can be found at:** [EPSRC overseas travel grant, May 2023: responsive mode – UKRI](#)




New this Issue:

EPSRC Standard Research Grant, May 2023: Responsive Mode

Standard research grants are available for researchers at eligible research organisations. There is no limit on the value of the grant or length of the project. You should ask for what is needed to deliver the proposed programme of research.


Through EPSRC standard research grants we fund a wide range of projects, from small, short-term grants to multi-million-pound research projects including:


- High-risk or high-return research embracing new concepts or techniques.
- Feasibility studies.
- Instrument development.
- Project-specific equipment.
- Collaborative projects that cross different disciplines.

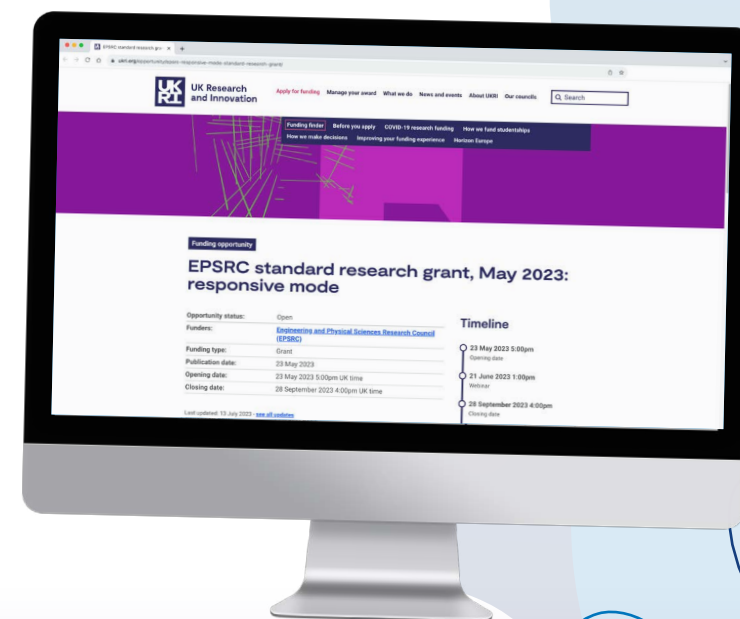
 **Funding Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

 **Total Fund:** Unlimited

 **Opening Date:** 23rd May 2023

 **Closing Date:** 28th September 2023 @ 4pm

 **More information can be found at:** [EPSRC standard research grant, May 2023: responsive mode – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/funding/epsrc-standard-research-grant-may-2023-responsive-mode)



New this Issue:

EPSRC Network Grant, May 2023: Responsive Mode

Network grants aim to develop new interdisciplinary research communities and topics by supporting interaction between researchers and relevant science, technology and industrial groups.

This could be by:

- Transfer of experimental techniques, models and scientific insights.
- Promotion of mobility between academe, universities and industry.

We expect networks to lead to new collaborative multidisciplinary research proposals in areas we support. Some may develop into virtual centres of excellence.



Funding Organisation: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



Total Fund: Unlimited



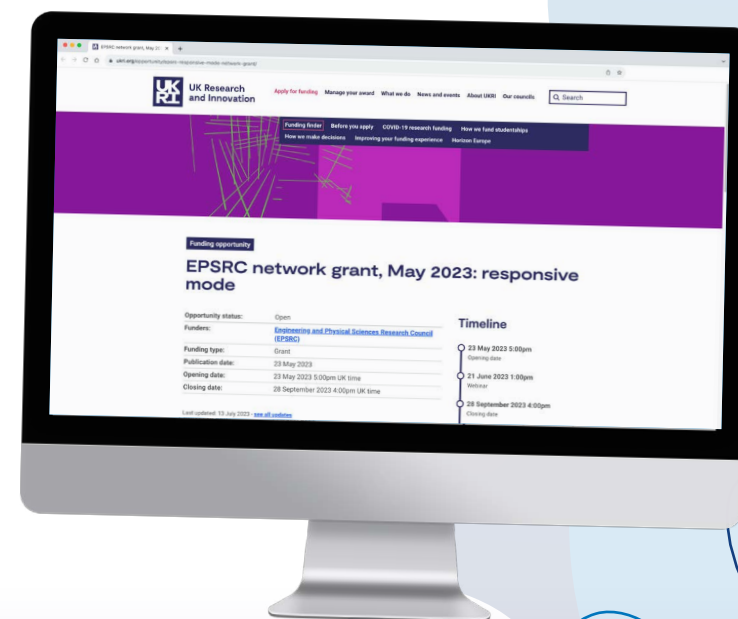
Opening Date: 23rd May 2023



Closing Date: 28th September 2023 @ 4pm



More information can be found at: [EPSRC network grant, May 2023: responsive mode – UKRI](#)



New this Issue:

EPSRC New Investigator Award, May 2023: Responsive Mode

New investigator awards are for researchers at eligible research organisations. We encourage:

- Projects with a single, clear research vision.
- The identification of career development opportunities for new investigators.

The aim of the new investigator awards is to support researchers to develop their own research vision and establish a new research group to explore that vision. New investigator awards should have a single research vision with clearly defined objectives and outcomes. Complex, multi-faceted research projects with many objectives are not appropriate to the new investigator award.



Funding Organisation: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



Total Fund: Unlimited



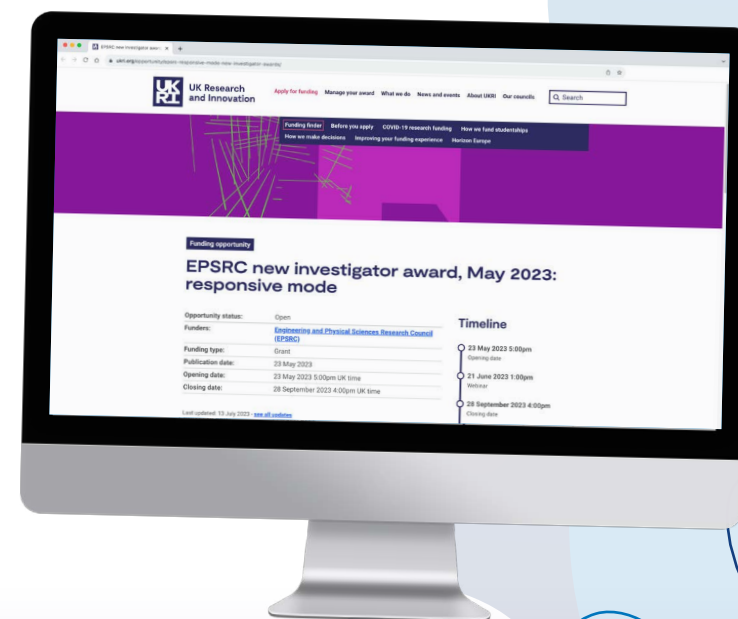
Opening Date: 23rd May 2023



Closing Date: 28th September 2023 @ 4pm



More information can be found at:
[EPSRC new investigator award, May 2023: responsive mode – UKRI](#)



New this Issue:

Modelling UK Supply Chains As Complex Systems For Resilience

A Network Plus is a strategic investment that brings together new or disparate communities from across the research and development system and identifies, prioritises and develops emerging research and knowledge exchange challenges. This Network Plus should focus on the following three key supply chains (and their risks) that are strategically important for the UK:

- Food, for example extreme weather and increased energy costs leading to UK food shortages.
- Critical minerals, for example increased competition for natural resources and a recent shortage of both construction materials and semiconductor chips.
- Fashion, for example reduced petrochemicals availability leading to shortages of synthetic fibres and dyes in the context of rapidly changing consumer demand.


These are just a few examples of potential risks. We would welcome a mapping of risks in each supply chain as part of the work in collaboration with related investments and key stakeholders.

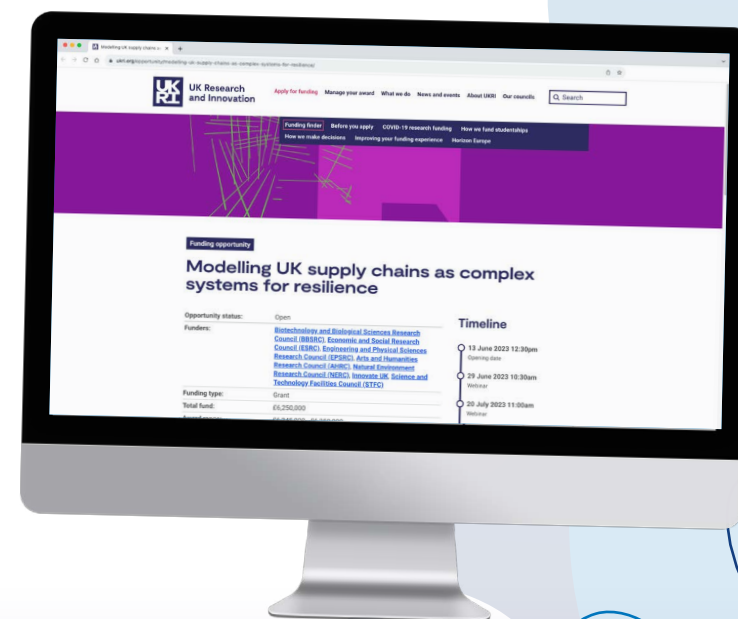
 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

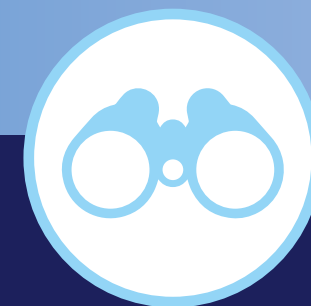
 **Total Fund:** £6,250,000

 **Opening Date:** 13th June 2023

 **Closing Date:** 12th October 2023 @ 4pm

 **More information can be found at:** [Modelling UK supply chains as complex systems for resilience – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/funding-opportunities/modelling-uk-supply-chains-as-complex-systems-for-resilience)





New this Issue:

Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition (CMDc) Round Four

The Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition (CMDc) Round Four is part of a suite of interventions launched by the UK Shipping Office for Reducing Emissions.

The aim of this competition is to fund real world demonstrations, pre-deployment trials and feasibility studies into clean maritime technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This competition is split into 3 strands:

- [Strand 1: Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 4 – Vessel or Infrastructure demonstrations](#)
- [Strand 2: Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 4 – Vessel and Infrastructure combined demonstrations](#)

- [Strand 3: Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 4 – Feasibility studies and pre-deployment trials](#)



Funding Organisation: Department for Transport



Total Fund: £34,000,000



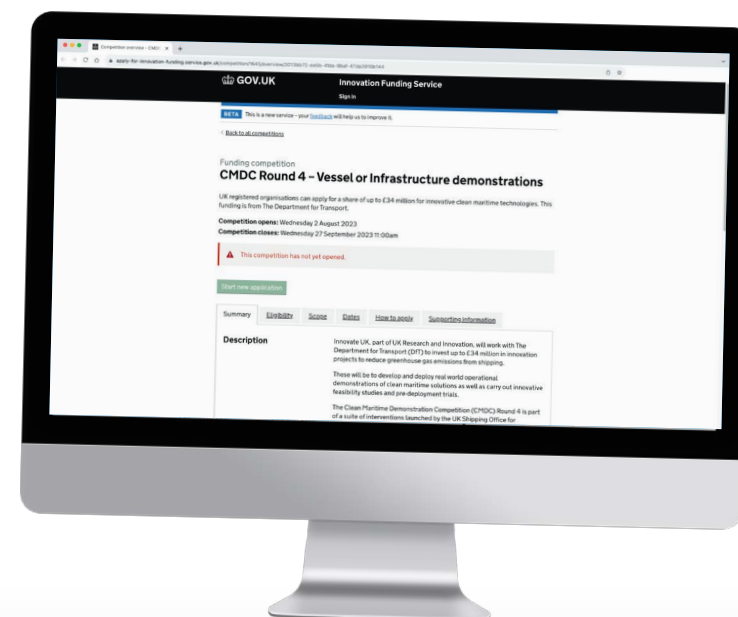
Opening Date: 2nd August 2023

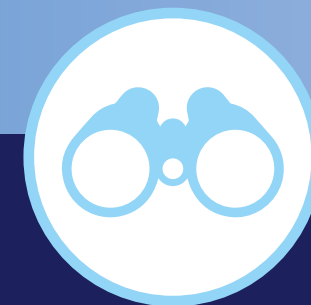


Closing Date: 27th September 2023 @ 11am



More information can be found at: [Competition overview - CMDc Round 4 – Vessel or Infrastructure demonstrations - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)





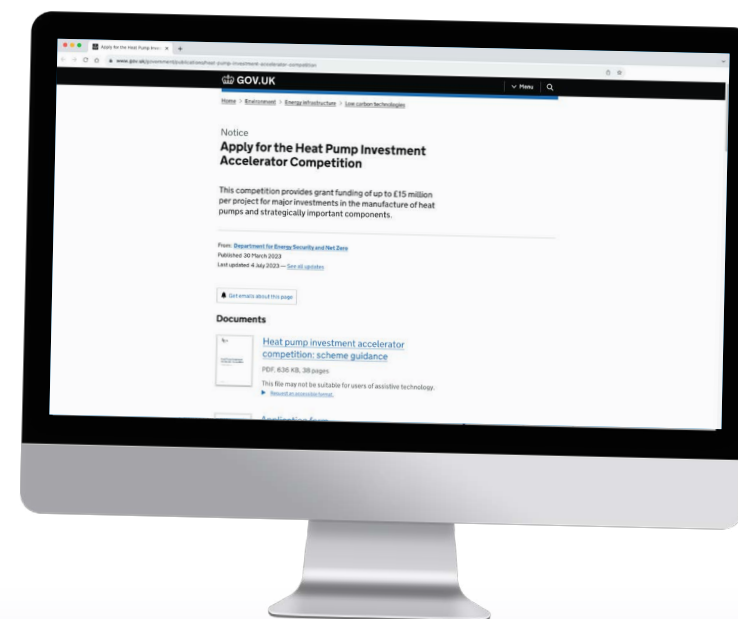
New this Issue:

The Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition (HPIAC)

The Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition (HPIAC), worth up to £30 million in total, aims to bring forward investment in the UK heat pump manufacturing supply chain.

It is open to UK registered businesses (which includes those that may be set up for the purpose of delivering the project in the application), who can apply for grant funding of up to £15 million per project, for major investments in the manufacture of heat pumps and strategically important components.

-  **Funding Organisation:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
-  **Total Fund:** £30,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 4th July 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 4th October 2023 @ 3pm
-  **More information can be found at:** [Apply for the Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-heat-pump-investment-accelerator-competition) (www.gov.uk)



While there is still time...









Network Pluses in Energy to Form Next Generation Supergen Hubs (Expression of Interest)

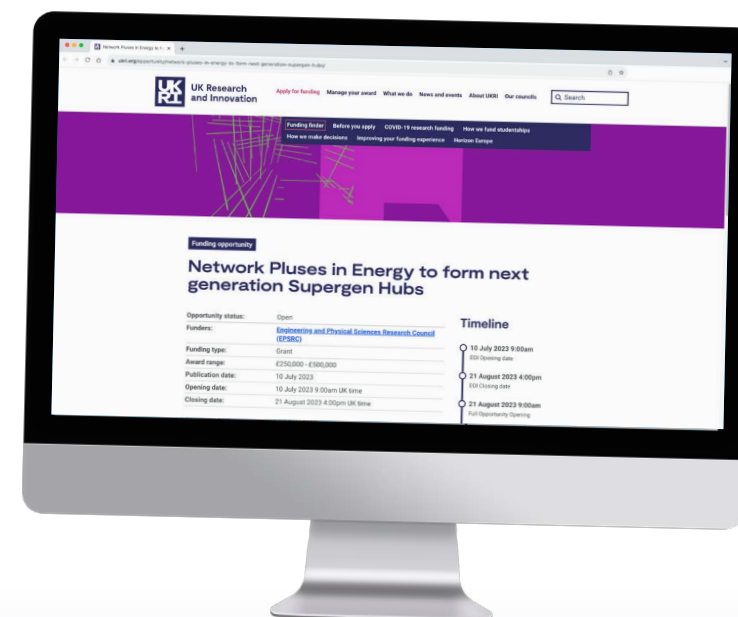
Submit an expression of interest for a Network Plus to discover and develop the next generation of renewable energy technologies.

Proposals must create coherence in an emerging research area to drive forward research in Sustainable PowER GENEration and supply.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for EPSRC funding.

Proposals must focus on technology areas that already exist with some critical mass.

-  **Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
-  **Award range:** £250,000 - £500,000
-  **Opening Date:** 10th July 2023
-  **Closing Date for EoI:** 21st August 2023 @ 4pm
-  **Closing Date for Full Opportunity:** 9th November 2023 @ 4pm
-  **More information can be found at:** [Network Pluses in Energy to form next generation Supergen Hubs – UKRI](#)



While there is still time...




Research for a Digitally Enabled Circular Economy and Sustainable Digital Technologies

Funding for collaborative research that contributes to the development of a digitally enabled circular economy and more sustainable digital technologies. This can include software, hardware and combined technologies.

Digital technologies offer huge potential to accelerate efforts to increase environmental sustainability and achieve a more circular economy. However, digital technologies themselves have an environmental cost. Therefore, solutions to both improve the sustainability of digital technologies and to enable application of digital technologies to drive towards a more sustainable and circular future are needed.


This funding opportunity is intended to do just that by bringing together academics, industry, and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to collaboratively build solutions that deliver against UK net zero, environmental, and digital futures targets.

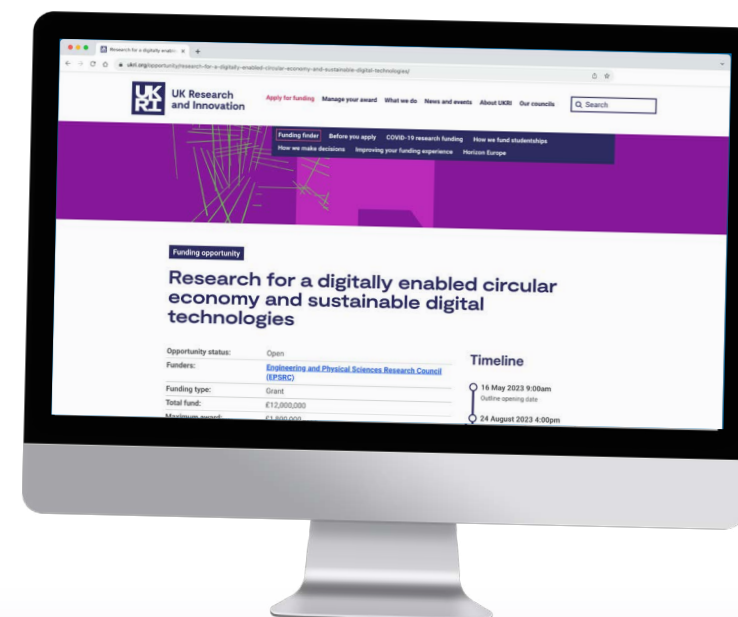
 **Funding Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

 **Total Fund:** £12,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 16th May 2023

 **Closing Date:** 24th August 2023 @ 4pm

 **More information can be found at:**
[Competition overview - Hydrogen storage and distribution supply chain Collaborative R&D - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)





Successful Bids

Catagen – Net Zero Innovation Portfolio

CATAGEN, a net zero innovation company, has been awarded £4.9 million in funding by the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to develop its novel ClimaHtech BIOHGEN Biohydrogen Reactor in Belfast. This award was part of DESNZ’s billion-pound Net Zero Innovation Portfolio. Having already built a prototype and successfully completed feasibility studies in real-world industrial settings, this funding will enable CATAGEN to deliver a full-scale demonstrator by 2025.

The funding will support the creation of high-skilled green jobs in the region. CATAGEN is expected to grow its team by at least 50% over the next two years. Local suppliers and contractors will also benefit from further upskilling as the company expands its headquarters in the historic Titanic Quarter.

Dr Andrew Woods, CEO and Co-Founder of CATAGEN, had this to say: “CATAGEN has been on an amazing journey over the past year, not only has our core business expanded its emissions testing work but we have rapidly innovated five new net zero technologies with the support from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. This funding award allows us to move into our next phase of development for the ClimaHtech BIOHGEN system, recruiting more engineers as we accelerate our journey to clean and decarbonise the air. I’m also pleased to announce that working collaboratively with Joe O’Neill (CEO) and his team at Belfast Harbour, we will site the first BIOHGEN system in the Harbour Estate and grow the size of CATAGEN’s footprint. This provides massive opportunity for the early adoption of low-carbon hydrogen to decarbonise transport or heavy industry at a focal point in Belfast, as part of Belfast Harbour’s Green Port Strategy.”

