

## **Towards Grand Challenges Call Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1) Is there an explicit limit on the number of bids that a single University can be involved in?**

- There is no limit to the number of bids a university can be involved in, however, an organisation can only lead one proposal per challenge area. This is to ensure that the bid has institutional buy in.

### **2) What is the relevance of International Development in the call?**

- We have identified the relevance of international development research, especially within the clean water for all area. This can provide the context for some important and challenging research questions. It is important that demonstrable benefit to the UK is clearly articulated in any such research.

### **3) What is the role of LWEC funding?**

- LWEC is a funding partner in the clean water for all area. The scope of this area reflects the interests of both the Engineering and LWEC themes. Both themes will be involved in the peer review process

### **4) Can you say more on balancing vision and tangibility, given that the area descriptions are very broad?**

- EPSRC has deliberately not over-specified the areas. Instead an opportunity-space has been described in each challenge area, with input from the research community. EPSRC encourages ambitious and visionary proposals which identify milestones along the way to achieving that vision. Reviewers and panel members will be briefed to expect a breadth of approaches in response to the call

### **5) What are the prospects for follow on funding or stage-gating?**

- There is no current plans for follow on funding or formal stage-gating. However EPSRC will work with the engineering and broader research communities to make the case for increased and long-term funding for research. The Grand Challenges exercise will be used as evidence to support this aim and to inform thinking in EPSRC's new Delivery Plan.

### **6) How will the programme be evaluated: evaluation will be conducted at the individual project level at the first instance?**

- A mid-term review will take place where progress against methodological milestones as well as community building will be assessed. More generally, with a number of Grand Challenge exercise at different stages of maturity across

EPSRC there is an opportunity to learn lessons and assess outputs across a range of areas.

#### **7) How will peer reviewers be briefed?**

- EPSRC will ensure that postal reviewers and panel members are appropriately briefed, including bespoke briefing pertaining to the Grand Challenges exercise. It is very important that applicants to the call nominate peer reviewers who are not conflicted with their proposal, which can include consideration of international and industrial nominations.

#### **8) What industrial role does EPSRC envisage?**

- The level and extent of industrial engagement will depend on the nature of the proposed research. EPSRC does not have a specific model in mind. However we do encourage connectivity and encourage applicants to think creatively about the use of the available resources e.g. to partner with other organisations such as catapults, policy makers etc. where to so do enhances the programme of research

#### **9) What approach does EPSRC have to multidisciplinary?**

- All of the Grand Challenges identified require engineering leadership within a multidisciplinary context. EPSRC encourages engagement across disciplines within and beyond EPS to address the challenges. Excellence in research is the primary criterion of assessment.

#### **10) What are EPSRC's expectations in the PVC letters of support?**

- The letters of support must indicate the track record of the institutions on the challenge areas and demonstrate how engineering research will be adaptive to these challenges. It is important that the letter is bespoke and not generic.

#### **11) Why is EPSRC making details of the EOIs public?**

- EPSRC will make the titles, lead institution and contact details of all EOIs received publicly available. The decision has been made to do this in the spirit of transparency and to enable the opportunity for discussions to take place between applicant groups. Connectivity is an important aspect of this call.

#### **12) How does the Future Cities Challenge relate to the Catapult in this area?**

- EPSRC would like to support engineering research in this important area at early TRLs. If appropriate consortia can develop a relationship with the catapults and other industrial partners to help accelerate impact from the investment.