1. **Am I eligible to receive funding from this call?**

This call is being managed by EPSRC on behalf of the RCUK Digital Economy Theme, and the other Research Councils involved (AHRC and ESRC). For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide: [https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/](https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/). As this call is a targeted funding opportunity provided by EPSRC, higher education institutions, and some research council institutes and independent research organisations are eligible to apply. A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at: [http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/)

2. **What is the deadline for submitting an Outline proposal?**

You must submit your proposal by 2nd August 2016 at 16:00.

Note that clicking ‘submit document’ on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation’s administration, not to EPSRC. Please allow sufficient time for your organisation’s submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date. EPSRC must receive your application by 16:00 on 2nd August 2016.

3. **How do we ensure that our proposal is anonymous?**

Applicants must be extremely careful not to give away their identity or institution in any part of the application **except the requisite fields in the Je-S form**. These fields at the top of the Je-S form will only be used for EPSRC’s purposes (so that we know who you are!) and will be redacted prior to being seen by assessment panels. Please do not give away your identity anywhere else, i.e. in the “summary”, “impact summary” and “objectives” sections of the Je-S form, or the case for support. Please do not include your academic publication or research track record in the application, nor your institutions, nor any references that may reveal your identity, or identity of any team members.

4. **How what do we mean by ‘interdisciplinary’?**

This call aims to support projects where the technical and social elements of the technology are considered holistically. As such, we will ask the assessment panels to look at the disciplinary balance in your team. The specific disciplines involved will depend on the project. As this is a call run by EPSRC, we would expect to see representation from, for example, computer or mathematical sciences. Additionally (but **not exhaustively**), research
projects may require expertise in for example, law, economics, design, participatory methods and others.

The proposals must be anonymous at the Outline stage, therefore you cannot give away your identity by being too specific about your backgrounds (and please do not include any references), but please do describe the disciplines and expertise of those involved.

5. **What do we mean by ‘creative’?**

By ‘creative’, we mean innovative and adventurous projects that look at lesser explored applications of distributed ledger technologies, based on transformative research grounded in technology, social sciences and any other relevant disciplines.

6. **How do we define users?**

We take a broad interpretation of users to include any potential beneficiary of your research including but not limited to businesses, 3rd sector organisations, practitioners, government and citizens.

7. **How many ‘user’ partners should I involve in my project?**

This is a call for feasibility studies, therefore we would not expect to see a large number of project partners on these proposals. We expect you to co-create your projects with research users from the outset, in other words academics and users should work closely together to define the direction of research across the entire duration of a research project. It is worth considering what a manageable number of partners would be here.

8. **How can user partners be involved?**

Partners can be involved as ‘project partners’, contributing either ‘in kind’ (for example by estimating a cost for their time contribution) or cash. Alternatively, subcontractors are allowed where there is a lack of appropriate expertise in eligible institutions. The grant is paid to the UK Research Organisation who may sub-contract to the service provider e.g. in industry or overseas in accordance with their own financial regulations relating to tendering/purchasing. Sub-contractor costs will be funded at the standard 80% FEC.

Please note: later on, at the **full** proposal stage, any sub-contracting costs will need to be listed under Directly Incurred Costs with appropriate justification in terms of requirement for the research proposed in the Case for Support and/or Justification of Resources documents.

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1. [http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/funding/collaborationthroughgrants/](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/funding/collaborationthroughgrants/)
2. [https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/NonStaffResources/OtherDirectlyIncurredCosts.htm](https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/NonStaffResources/OtherDirectlyIncurredCosts.htm)
Guidance on collaboration agreements and managing intellectual property, including EPSRC requirements, links to Lamber model collaboration agreements and information about sub-contractor agreements for company-funded research can be found here.

9. Should proposals anonymise project partners as well?

No.

The peer review panel will need to make an assessment based on what the project partner, or sub-contractor, is bringing to the research project and whether that is appropriate. Therefore, applicants do not need to anonymise the names and organisations of Project Partners (or of partners you plan to sub-contract). These partners can be named both in the Je-S form and the case for support.

Please note: Letters from project partner are not required at the Outline proposal stage, and if submitted in error, they will not be sent to the Outline assessment panel. These will only be required if you are asked to submit a full proposal at stage 2.

10. Is it a requirement of the call to involve LRF and/or the D&S agencies?

No. These partners are mentioned in the call document to allow you an easier line of communication with them, should you wish to get in touch with them about mutually interesting projects. It is not a requirement that you involve these particular partners – please involve whichever user partner(s) you deem appropriate for your project.

11. How close does the costing have to be to the final proposal?

The costs requested in the full proposal should be within +/-10% of the total estimated in the Outline proposal.

3 https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/managing/collabagreements/