Quick Reference

Please note that you must read the full Call document for guidance before submitting your proposal.

Nuclear Energy University Programs (NEUP)
US/UK Collaborative Funding Opportunity

Call type: Collaborative research

Closing date: 14 September 2016 - submission of US pre-applications
15 February 2017 final close - submission of full applications to US Department of Energy (DoE)

How to apply: Pre-application followed by submission of full application.

Assessment Process: All peer review will be managed by the DoE, resulting in a rank ordered list, where EPSRC will fund down the list up to a value of £1.5 M.

Key Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Full Proposals</td>
<td>15 February 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding decision expected</td>
<td>~ June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant start date expected</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional information:

All applications must be made with a leading US partner following the NEUP guidance.

Contacts:
Louise Anderson (louise.anderson@epsrc.ac.uk)
Nuclear Energy University Programs (NEUP)  
US/UK Collaborative Funding Opportunity

**Call type:** Collaborative research

**Closing dates:**
- 14 September 2016 - submission of US pre-applications
- 15 February 2017 (final close) - submission of full applications to US Department of Energy (DoE)

**Related themes:** Energy, Engineering, LWEC, Manufacturing the future, Physical sciences

**Summary**

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Nuclear Energy created Nuclear Energy University Programs (NEUP) in 2009 to consolidate its university support under one programme. The RCUK Energy Programme (EPSRC), led by EPSRC, would like to encourage the participation of UK researchers in this programme. In particular the EPSRC will support the UK component of proposals including US/UK collaboration in only the following areas from Appendix A of the US call document:

- **Radioisotope Retention in Graphite and Graphitic Materials** (RC-2)
- **Materials Ageing and Degradation** (RC-5)
- **Reactor Safety Technologies** (RC-7)
- **Materials Recovery** (FC-1.2)
  - Advanced Waste forms (FC-1.3) including; Waste forms development-Thermodynamics of waste glasses and melts (FC-1.3a), Fuel Processing Off-Gas Managemento- Tritium separations technology (FC-1.3b), Fuel processing Off-Gas management- Rb interaction with container materials (FC-1.3c).
  - Advanced Fuels (FC-2) including; Reactor pool side non-destructive characterization techniques for advanced fuel concepts (FC-2.1) and Extreme performance metal alloy cladding for fast reactors (FC-2.2), critical heat flux for accident tolerant fuels (FC-2.3).
  - Used Nuclear fuel disposition: Disposal (FC-4).
- **Nuclear Energy Advanced modelling and simulation** (NEAMS-1) including only; NEAMS 1.1 (Atomistic and mesoscale modelling and simulation of nuclear fuels, cladding and reactor structural materials),
NEAMS 1.2 (Macroscale fuel performance), NEAMS 1.4 (Thermal Hydraulics) and NEAMS 1.5 (Structural Mechanics).

Please follow this link for an introduction to the NEUP: www.neup.gov

Further information on closing dates and the NEUP instructions can be found here: https://neup.inl.gov/Lists/Headlines/AnnouncementDispForm.aspx?ID=136

Proposals should be submitted by the US partner according to NEUP processes. The RCUK Energy Programme will ultimately fund proposals based on the NEUP’s funding recommendations.

UK applicants should:

1. Engage closely with their US partners when preparing the proposal (this is a US process and US partners understand how best to prepare the bid);

2. Contact the EPSRC lead to highlight the intention to submit a proposal (this will ensure that EPSRC is aware of the likely demand through this call and are able to offer advice where required on the application process). Any full proposal submitted to the NEUP will require a letter of support from EPSRC confirming our intention to support the UK component if successful through peer review. Please note we require 3 days’ notice to prepare this letter of support.

3. If invited to the full proposal stage applicants will need to include in the documentation a Je-S form and Justification of Resources for the UK elements, these will be submitted through Je-S under the name “UK-US Nuclear Energy University Program 2017”. Deadline is 15 February 2017.

UK partners are encouraged to include other UK stakeholders in their proposal as appropriate.

Background

The RCUK Energy Programme is keen to ensure that UK nuclear researchers are able to engage in international research programmes in order to showcase UK expertise, while accessing complimentary knowledge, skills and facilities and developing new routes to impact. The US is one of the world leaders in nuclear R&D and this is an excellent opportunity to build on the many links that already exist between UK and US researchers. The US Department of Energy’s Office of Nuclear Energy created the Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP) in 2009 to consolidate its university support under one programme. NEUP funds nuclear energy research and equipment upgrades at US colleges and universities, and provides student educational support. NEUP plays a key role in helping the Department of Energy accomplish its mission of leading the nation's investment in the development and exploration of advanced nuclear science and technology. As stated in its Nuclear Energy Roadmap, the Department promotes nuclear energy as a resource capable of meeting the nation’s energy, environmental and national security needs by resolving technical, cost, safety, security and proliferation resistance through research, development and demonstration. Many of the research challenges facing the continued safe deployment and development of civil nuclear power are common between the UK and the US. Collaboration in the NEUP call allows our respective research communities to
build on each one another’s' capabilities and address these more efficiently and effectively.

Full details for the US solicitation area are available by following this link to the NEUP website:

https://neup.inl.gov/SiteAssets/FY_2017_Documents/FY17_CINR_FOA_Amendment_1.pdf

UK applicants should discuss the call remit with their US partners.

For more information about EPSRC’s nuclear portfolio and strategies, see our website (https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/ourportfolio/researchareas/nuclearfission/).

**Funding available**

The RCUK Energy Programme has up to £1.5M available to fund the UK elements of the successful projects, whereby we expect to fund 3-4 projects.

**Equipment**

Where possible, researchers are asked to make use of existing facilities and equipment, including those hosted at other universities. If equipment is needed as part of the research proposal, applicants must follow EPSRC’s rules for requesting equipment over £10,000 in value. Individual items of equipment between £10,000 and £400,000 can be included on proposals for this call if the equipment is essential to the proposed research and if no appropriate alternative provision can be accessed but research organisations will be expected to make a contribution to the cost. Given that capital provision has been reduced by about 50%, contributions of this order of 50% of the full cost of the equipment will be expected. Additional justification of the requirement for individual items of equipment between £10,000 and £400,000, and details of the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment must be provided in the justification of resources (https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/preparing/writing/jor/)

For any items or combined assets with a value above £138,000 (including VAT) a two-page Equipment Business Case must also be included in the proposal documentation.

For more information on equipment funding and guidance on how to prepare an Equipment Business Case, please see: http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/ourportfolio/themes/researchinfrastructure/subthemes/equipment/

**Eligibility**

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/)

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 here:
Submitting an application

Pre-applications should be submitted by the US partner to the DoE following their procedures by 14 September 2016. Full applications should be submitted by the US partner to the DoE by 15 February 2017, whereby UK applicants will need to include their letter of support from EPSRC. All joint US/UK proposals should be submitted through the US who will manage the process and carry out the peer review as detailed in their call document.

Before submitting as part of a US/UK full proposal, UK applicants should contact the EPSRC lead to discuss their intent to apply. EPSRC will then provide a letter of support which will need to be included in the full proposal submitted through the NEUP.

Full proposals should be submitted by the lead US partner in accordance with the NEUP’s processes. The proposal should include a description of the full research programme including the UK component. US costs should be highlighted as per their normal process. UK costs should be calculated as normal through the UK university processes and entered onto a Je-S submission form (as detailed in section 1 below). All sections of the Je-S form need to be filled in and submitted through Je-S with a Justification of Resources also included as detailed in section 2 below.

The Je-S proposal form and Justification of Resources should be included in the full proposal submitted through NEUP. Please also submit this formally through Je-S as outlined below under the name “UK-US Nuclear Energy University Program 2017” by the closing date 15 February 2017.

1. Completed Je-S form

If your proposal is invited to the full proposal stage you will need to generate a Je-S form to submit with your application to DoE to provide details of the UK involvement. Please log in to Je-S and follow these instructions:

- Select Council: EPSRC
- Document Type: Standard Proposal
- Scheme: ‘Standard’
- Call: “UK-US Nuclear Energy University Program 2017”

Please fill in the form as normal. Costings for the UK component of the project should be entered onto the Je-S system and submitted electronically on Je-S. When completing the Je-S form UK applicants are asked to specifically refer to how this proposal addresses UK needs in the “beneficiaries” section of the form. Please note: Proposals will not be going to postal peer review within the UK; all peer review will be completed by the DoE.

2. Justification of resources (JoR)

As with standard EPSRC proposals a justification of resources is needed (up to two sides of A4).
3. Copy of the US proposal

Full details of the US proposal will only be required by EPSRC for those proposals that are successful through NEUP peer review.

Submitting this information to EPSRC

The completed documents (abridged Je-S form and JoR) should be submitted on Je-S by 15 February 2017. However, UK applicants should note that, in line with typical Je-S submission procedures, the UK Principal Investigator must ensure that their institution's Je-S Submitter Pool (e.g. HEI Research or Finance Office) have checked and authorised the costs to be requested from EPSRC as well as checking the proposal to the NEUP call.

For any further questions please contact: Louise Anderson, Nuclear Fission Portfolio Manager, louise.anderson@epsrc.ac.uk

Assessment

Assessment process

At all stages, the UK component of UK-US collaborative projects will be assessed through the NEUP peer review process by the DoE, with UK funding ultimately being provided by EPSRC. There will be no separate peer review carried out by EPSRC.

Assessment criteria

The Assessment criteria will be the DoE NEUP criteria.

Moving forward

Projects which are successful will be invited to submit full paperwork to EPSRC via Je-S. In addition you will be asked to attach the US application/case for support to your UK application before final submission. Details, including the deadline for submission, will be provided to those who are successful at the time.

Submissions to this call will count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at: https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/

Key dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-submission deadline to US DoE</td>
<td>14 September 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full proposal submission to US DoE</td>
<td>15 February 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je-S form and Justification of Resources submitted by UK partner via Je-S</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Contacts
Dr Louise Anderson
Nuclear Fission Portfolio Manager
EPSRC
01793 444 131
louise.anderson@epsrc.ac.uk

Change log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Change</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Louise Anderson</td>
<td>05/09/2016</td>
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Je-S attachments Check List

Standard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment Type</th>
<th>Maximum Page length</th>
<th>Mandatory/Optional</th>
<th>Extra Guidance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justification for Resources</td>
<td>2 pages</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CVs</td>
<td>2 pages each</td>
<td>As Required</td>
<td>For named and visiting researchers, and researcher co-investigators only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Partner Letters of Support</td>
<td>No page limits</td>
<td>As Required</td>
<td>Must be included from all named project partners. Must be on headed paper, and be signed and dated within six months of the proposal submission date.</td>
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<td>Letters of Support</td>
<td>No page limits</td>
<td>As Required</td>
<td>In exceptional circumstances a maximum of three letters can be submitted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attachments</td>
<td>Page limits</td>
<td>Required for...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Quotes</td>
<td>No page limits</td>
<td>As required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Business Case</td>
<td>2 pages each</td>
<td>As required Required for any items or combined assets with a value above the OJEU limit.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical assessment</td>
<td>No page limit</td>
<td>As required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Cover Letter</td>
<td>No page limit</td>
<td>As required The cover letter can be used to highlight any important information to EPSRC. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.</td>
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</table>

Please ensure you adhere to the above attachment requirements when submitting your proposal. Any missing, over length or unnecessary attachments may result in your proposal being rejected.