

Frontier Engineering Progression Grants: FAQs

Applicant Team

- *What does a strong team look like?*

This is one of the assessment criteria and the reviewers will be asked to comment on this, however the nature of what makes an appropriate team will differ from centre to centre. We would have expected the team to have evolved over the lifetime of the original grant and it would be worth explaining or mitigating any impacts or risks this poses to the centre as well as highlighting any benefits this has had for the centre of the development of staff within the centre.

When thinking about the track record of the team be sure to highlight this in the context of the centre, for example; it may be that the team contains well established individuals who are leading in the field in their own right or it may be that team members are earlier on in their careers but have developed their skills and experience within the existing centre to take on more senior roles and are therefore well placed to take the centre into the next phase. Track record does not specially focus on seniority of individuals but the appropriateness of the team as a whole, and the leadership qualities of the PI/Director (regardless of career stage or experience), to ensure that the centre is a success.

- *Does the PI need to be the PVC as before?*

No, the PI on the Progression Grants doesn't have to be the PVC. The amount of time requested from the PI should be appropriate to manage the running of the centre and be fully justified in the proposal.

Management

- *What management and advisory structures are EPSRC expecting to see in these proposals?*

The Management plans for the Progression Grant will be assessed by reviewers. It is up to the applicant team to propose an effective structure that provides the advice and oversight necessary to get the maximum value from the award. This will depend on the nature of what is proposed in the centre; e.g. whether there needs to be robust scientific advice on the direction of the ongoing research programme or perhaps innovation related expertise is required to support the centre in enhancing the impact of the centre's research. The structure needs to be relevant for the centre and appropriately justified in the proposal.

Resources

- *What should the balance be between research and people?*

The Progression Grant funding is designed to provide flexible support for the 'core' team that is needed for the centre to deliver its vision and realise impacts from the initial award. We would not expect to see requests for projects that could be supported through normal standard mode routes. However more risky avenues or feasibility type activities could be supported through these awards. In general these awards should be people focused, with approximately 2/3 of the total funding allocated to investigators, other staff and their associated costs.

Funding

- *What information is required in the funding table as part of the Case for Support?*

This is an opportunity for the applicant team to demonstrate how they are currently working towards creating a sustainable centre, including other avenues of support or opportunities that have been leveraged by the existing centre. Part of the aim of this activity is to provide core support for the centres so that they can maximise on the impacts of the original award and have the core team in place to follow up on other opportunities to develop the activities of the centre for the longer term.

Host Institution Support/ Cover Letters

- *Should the proposals include a Host Institutional Letter of Support?*

We have not asked for this for these proposals as we are not placing an emphasis on these being 'institutional awards' in the same way as the initial centres. If you want to specifically mention the support offered by the host (or other) institutions then you should do this in your National Importance section or else-where in the Case for Support. It is important to note that a standard Cover Letter won't be seen by the reviewers.

Peer Review Process

- *Are the centres in competition with each other?*

These Progression Grants are invited opportunities for the existing Frontier Engineering Centres and these will be ranked on a separate list at the standard mode panel. They will also be tensioned across the standard mode list to ensure that the overall quality is competitive.