

Quick Reference

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

Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund – Transforming Construction: Research Leadership

Call type: Expressions of Interest

Closing date for EoI: 16:00 on 17 September 2018

Funding Available: Up to £8 million (UK Research and Innovation contribution) is available to support between six and 10 awards, each of 36 month duration, as part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund for Transforming Construction.

This call is led by EPSRC on behalf of UK Research and Innovation, as such the remit includes areas relevant to the challenge beyond engineering and the physical sciences.

This call seeks to develop community leaders to lead a group that will undertake creative user-inspired research and develop innovative solutions directly relevant to the Transforming Construction Challenge.

The awards aim to support challenging research programmes offering award holders the opportunity to build and develop a group of talented individuals around them in order to pursue their research vision within the context of the TC challenge.

Principal investigators must dedicate at least a minimum level of 50% full time equivalent (FTE) to this award.

Awards are expected to include relevant (non-academic) industry or other users as project partners, with a view to seeking direct contributions as part of the commitment to the collaboration and project.

Projects will have a fixed start date and there will be no slippage of funding between financial years.

How to apply: Expression of interest followed by full proposals by invitation.

In order to manage demand, Expressions of Interest are limited to two submissions per host institution. Institutions may be involved in other submissions via co-investigators.

Assessment Process: Expressions of Interest will be assessed by a panel; full proposals will go direct to an interview panel.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Deadline for EoIs	16:00 17 September 2018
Eoi sift panel	w/c 24 September 2018
Deadline for full proposals	End October 2018
Interview panel	w/c 19 November 2018
Funding decision	December 2019
Grant start date	1 January 2019

Please note that dates may be subject to change. The short timeline is as a result of spending requirements. UK Research and Innovation will mandate a specific spend profile across the duration of the programme. All projects must be able to undertake spend as of 1 January 2019.

Additional information:

This call is part of the Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF). This is not a standard EPSRC call and the remit is unique.

The ISCF Transforming Construction Challenge will appoint a Challenge Director and establish an overarching governance structure. All awards made will need to comply with the overarching ISCF evaluation framework and will be subject to a higher level of monitoring and reporting than a standard EPSRC grant.

The successful applicants will be required to collaborate with the other ISCF Transforming Construction activities, for example by becoming a member of the Network Plus led by ESRC. <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/iscf-transforming-construction-network-plus/>

Additional grant conditions will be applied to address the requirements relating to ISCF funding.

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Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund – Transforming Construction: Research Leadership

Call type: Expressions of Interest

Closing date: 17 September 2018

**Related EPSRC themes: Digital economy, Energy, Engineering, ICT,
Manufacturing the Future, Research infrastructure**

ESRC priorities: Housing, Climate Change

Innovate UK interests: Smart Infrastructure; Construction

Summary

The Transforming Construction Challenge, supported through the UK Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), will seek to revolutionise the way the UK designs, constructs and operates buildings by realising the potential for the integration of advanced offsite manufacturing with state-of-the-art digital design; the Challenge aims to realise the potential for Active Buildings powered by integrated energy generation and storage technologies.

The focus is how buildings can be manufactured, designed and managed through-life using digital technology and how buildings can generate power to meet their own requirements contributing to a sustainable energy mix.

The technical objectives of the Transforming Construction Challenge are:

- Increased adoption of digital manufacturing approaches and active energy technologies in new construction projects (increase in pre-manufactured value).
- Increase in productivity of construction projects (target: 15% over current methods).
- Scalable approaches for faster delivery and greater certainty of construction projects (target: 50% inception to completion from 2010 baseline).
- Develop active (energy) building components based on the product platforms and reduce cost of delivery of active buildings to be nearer standard market cost.
- Reduction in cost of construction and whole-life cost of built assets (target 33% over 2010 baseline).
- Improved whole-life value of built assets (user performance), including reduction in carbon intensity (50% target).

This call seeks to develop community leaders to lead a group that will undertake creative user-inspired research and develop innovative solutions directly relevant to the Transforming Construction Challenge.

Up to £8 million (UK Research and Innovation contribution) is available to support between 6 and 10 awards, each of 36 month duration, as part of ISCF Transforming Construction.

This call is led by EPSRC on behalf of UK Research and Innovation, as such the remit includes areas relevant to the challenge beyond engineering and the physical sciences.

Previous experience of managing programmes of research and teams of researchers is essential for all principal investigators. Inherent to ISCF funded awards is a requirement to engage industry and other users of the research, so PIs should have experience of working with users of their research. Furthermore PIs will need experience of managing projects on a restricted timescale and spend profile, as well as being prepared to operate within a wider monitoring and evaluation framework overseen by the Transforming Construction Challenge Director.

Principal investigators must have a permanent academic post at an eligible UK organisation, or a post that extends beyond the duration of this award. Reflecting the additional demands of these awards **principal investigators must cost their proposal with a minimum of 50% (FTE) of their time.**

UK Research and Innovation considers these awards to be particularly suitable for mid-career researchers. Applicants considering preparing a fellowship application (UK Research and Innovation or other funders) should not consider this to be an alternative award.

Co-investigators (Co-I's) are permitted within this call, and encouraged for interdisciplinary proposals or where a Co-I would provide specific technical expertise that is essential to the project.

In order to manage demand, Expressions of Interest (EoI) are limited to two submissions per host institution. Institutions may be involved in other submissions via Co-I's.

Awards are expected to include relevant (non-academic) industry or other users as project partners. Full proposals will therefore require a statement of support from each partner organisation which should, wherever possible, specify cash (or other direct) contributions alongside any in-kind contributions. Letters offering general support for a project without any specific contribution will not be accepted; the level and nature of contributions from partners assessed by peer review. All awards are expected to have long term plans to maximise engagement with stakeholders beyond their standard collaborators.

Projects will have a fixed start date of the 1 January 2019; there will be no slippage of funding between financial years. (Financial years for UKRI are April to March).

The awards aim to support challenging research programmes over a 36 month duration offering award holders the opportunity to build and develop a group of talented individuals around them in order to pursue their research vision within the context of the Transforming Construction challenge. These awards place emphasis on:

- Visionary individuals who show a high level of creativity and ambition in their ideas by proposing high quality, innovative research to contribute to the technical objectives of the Transforming Construction Challenge.
- Supporting individuals to lead, inspire and develop their research group.
- Collaborating closely with industry and other users relevant to the Transforming Construction Challenge in order to create a pathway to application.
- Ability and experience of managing research projects and teams under a strict financial/time schedule, incorporating appropriate management of risk.

Full proposals are not expected to include the detailed programme of research as typifies, for example, most fellowship schemes (including EPSRC fellowships); the focus should be equally on the applicant's vision and creativity articulating how they will connect and translate outputs into the Transforming Construction challenge.

Please note that opportunities to apply for smaller, shorter duration awards will be available via calls issued by the Network Plus, so proposals less than 36 months duration are not within the scope of this call.

Background

The Transforming Construction challenge aims to eliminate the productivity gap in construction and pave a faster route to building safer, healthier and more affordable places to live and learn that use dramatically less energy. To achieve this the programme will invest £170 million over four years to transform the construction sector to a digitally-driven, design for manufacture and assembly approach to buildings that enables higher quality, faster delivery and more ready integration of Active components and technologies.

This ISCF challenge brings together the construction, manufacturing, energy and digital sectors to tackle the three main elements of the lifecycle costs of buildings: *designing and managing buildings* (through digitally-enabled performance management), *constructing quality buildings* (through an offsite manufacturing approach) and *powering buildings* (through embedded Active technologies and improved quality of build).

There are five elements to the Transforming Construction challenge:

The Core Innovation Hub (CIH)

The CIH will support collaboration across the digital, manufacturing and construction sectors, to develop and commercialise technologies for the construction sector. The hub consortium will enable sector collaboration to develop a digitally driven, manufacturing approach to build assets; improve construction sector productivity; optimise the whole-life performance of those assets. It will lead a programme to develop standards, tools, designs and regulation methods. <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/142/overview>.

The Active Building Centre (ABC)

The ABC will focus on the integration of new and commercially-available solar energy capture, storage and release technologies in buildings, designed and delivered in commercially-led building developments. The ABC should accelerate

and mobilise the UK's world-leading research and innovation capability in Active Buildings, creating the conditions where energy positive buildings are the first choice for new developments. Ultimately this will lead to solutions for the technical and market challenges of applying integrated energy capture, storage and release technologies to buildings and a transformation in the energy system. <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/iscftransformingconstruction/>.

Network Plus

The Network Plus is intended to create a new community linking together other investments made under the ISCF Transforming Construction challenge with the broader research base; businesses across the manufacturing, construction, digital and energy sectors; wider stakeholders such as national and local policy makers; industry bodies and the third sector. The Network Plus will organise networking activities such as workshops, events and communications to build sustained engagement and collaboration across the relevant disciplines and sectors. The Network Plus leadership and management team will also administer a devolved budget for small projects, encouraging applications from both within and beyond the network membership. <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/iscf-transforming-construction-network-plus/>.

Collaborative Research and Development (CR&D) competitions

Led by Innovate UK, CR&D competitions will offer an opportunity for businesses to apply for funding to support programme relevant to the Transforming Construction Challenge. <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/203/overview>.

The remaining element is this call for community leadership which will aid the Challenge in addressing remaining longer-term research challenges. This call aims to support researchers who identify and try to address knowledge gaps arising from the technical objectives.

Applications should not be duplicating activity that will be undertaken within the ABC and CIH and should not include significant elements of networking among the community unless it can be (a) justified in the context of the project and (b) is distinct from the Network Plus activities.

Illustrative examples of gaps identified so far include the following areas, but please note this is not an exhaustive list:

- The organisational cultures and structures, including business models, required to accelerate the sustainable adoption of modern methods of construction
- The link between physical factors in a building and cognitive impact on a building user, including wellbeing
- Supply chain and logistics information modelling and management
- Exploring potential for and barriers to widespread adoption of offsite buildings, particularly in housing and public infrastructure
- Relevant waste minimisation, circular economy approaches and resource security issues

Applicants are strongly encouraged to identify further knowledge gaps to address the Transforming Construction technical challenges listed in the Summary section. Research programmes may be multidisciplinary in order to address a knowledge gap, in which case the principal investigator will be expected to draw together an appropriate multidisciplinary team (via co-investigators and/or

postdoctoral researchers) or describe how different expertise will be engaged. UK Research and Innovation will not fund proposals that do not address the Transforming Construction Technical challenges or duplicates existing funded activity.

Expectations

Principal investigator

Principal investigators must cost their proposal including a minimum of 50% (FTE) of their time.

Stakeholder engagement

The successful applicants will be required to collaborate with the other ISCF Transforming Construction activities, for example by becoming a member of the Network Plus led by ESRC, and in general working within the wider Transforming Construction Challenge.

All awards must include relevant (non-academic) industry or other users as project partners. Wherever possible this should include cash (or other direct) contributions alongside any in-kind contribution; assessing the appropriateness of partners and their contributions will be part of peer review.

Reporting and Monitoring

The ISCF Transforming Construction Challenge will appoint a Challenge Director and establish an overarching governance structure. All awards will need to comply with the overarching ISCF evaluation framework and will be subject to a higher level of monitoring and reporting than a standard EPSRC grant.

There will be a requirement to report against key performance indicators which will be agreed prior to award. This reporting will be quarterly and will feed into annual monitoring & evaluation reports as part of the overall challenge.

Financial expectations

All awards will have a fixed start date of 1 January 2019 and applicants must have plans in place to ensure spend can be incurred immediately – this should be discussed with your research office in advance of submission and a clear commitment made by your institution that this can be achieved. Duration is fixed at 36 months for all awards.

Unlike standard grants, there will be no allowance for slippage between financial years and there is a fixed profile (pro-rata) that must be met.

Financial profile for all awards under this call will be (note, financial years run from 1 April to 31 March):

Financial year	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Percentage of award to be spent each year	14%	33%	33%	19%

Host institutions will be required to:

- Manage a process to select the two expressions of interest that will be submitted.

- Ensure that activities can start as soon as possible following the grant offer to support the PI in meeting the published spend profile. This may include ensuring recruitment and other activities are initiated before the formal start date.
- Support the PI to spend at least 50% (FTE) of their time (or the level requested) on this award and the associated activities relating to the wider Transforming Construction Challenge as described in this call.

Funding available

There is up to £8 million (UK Research and Innovation contribution) to support six to 10 awards, each of duration 36 months.

Applications should be prepared in accordance with EPSRC standard guidance: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/preparing/writing/>.

Resources should be requested under FEC and in accordance with standard EPSRC requirements:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/resources/>. The exceptions are:

- The PI must dedicate at least 50% (FTE) of their time to this award.
- **Requests for items of equipment (ie any individual item over £10,000) are not permissible under this call;** applicants are expected to have access to the facilities and equipment they need throughout the award duration.
- The funding profile, duration and start date will be fixed, as described under the financial expectations section.
- All awards must include relevant (non-academic) industry or other users as project partners. Wherever possible this should include cash (or other direct) contributions alongside any in-kind contribution.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long term strength of the UK research base and beyond depends on harnessing all the available talent and the former-RCUK developed the ambitious Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

<https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/action-plan-edi-2016/>.

UKRI expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of the activity supported through this call. We are committed to supporting the research community in the diverse ways a research career can be built with our investments. This includes career breaks, support for people with caring responsibilities, flexible working and alternative working patterns. With this in mind, we welcome applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, need flexible working arrangements or those currently committed to other longer, large existing grants.

Please see the UK Research and Innovation Equality, Diversity and Inclusion webpage <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/> and the EPSRC guidance <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

Equipment

Equipment that is over £10,000 in value (inc. vat) is not available through this call.

Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000) should be included under the Directly Incurred - Other Costs heading.

For more information on equipment funding, please see:

<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/facilities/equipment/>

Eligibility

EPSRC is leading this call on behalf of UK Research and Innovation, therefore the standard EPSRC eligibility of organisations and individuals applies; see the EPSRC Funding Guide: <https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/>

A list of eligible organisations to apply can be found on the UK Research and Innovation site at: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

Expressions of Interest are limited to two submissions per host institution. Institutions may be involved in other submissions where Co-Investigators are included.

Additional eligibility requirements

Principal Investigators will need to demonstrate a track record of delivering complex research programmes to a tight time/financial schedule, managing their own team of researchers, working closely with users and working within a complex wider funding ecosystem. Principal investigators will also need to operate within a wider monitoring and evaluation framework overseen by the Transforming Construction Challenge Director.

Principal investigators must request a minimum of 50% (FTE) of their time on this award. UK Research and Innovation considers these awards to be particularly suited to mid-career researchers. Applicants considering preparing a fellowship application (UK Research and Innovation or other funders) should not consider this to be an alternative award.

Co-investigators are permitted within this call, and encouraged for interdisciplinary proposals or where a Co-I would provide specific technical expertise that is essential to the project.

Applicants must seek leverage from industry and other sources (for example third sector, devolved administrations, local government, local enterprise partnerships) throughout the award. Applicants will also be expected to develop a broader stakeholder management plan focusing on ensuring impact outside the core areas of their project.

How to apply – expression of interest

Expressions of interest must be submitted through smart survey. The questions applicants will need to address in their Expression of Interest are:

- Applicant details
- Host organisation contact: please provide a contact name, and email address of the appropriate person in your research office who has authorised this

application on behalf of your university (in order to manage demand, Expressions of Interest are limited to two submissions per host institution).

- Project title.
- Please provide the approximate funds that will be requested (UK Research and Innovation contribution, not FEC). Include reference to the commitment of 50% (FTE) Principal Investigator time as outlined in the Call document (please note that awards will last 36 months and the fixed start date is 1 January 2019).
- Please provide a brief track record for the Principal Investigator, to demonstrate fit to the Call. Maximum 500 words.
- Please outline the vision for the project and group, ensuring the novelty of your approach is clear. How will it address the technical objectives of the ISCF Transforming Construction Challenge? Maximum 500 words.
- Please provide a list of the primary research objectives. Maximum 500 words.
- How will this project make a unique contribution among the other investments within the ISCF Transforming Construction Challenge? Maximum 500 words.
- For all Co-Investigators please give: title, first name, last name, organisation, department, email address (as given for Je-S account).
- Please provide a list of intended project partners at this stage, including a point of contact for each (please do not include organisations or individuals without their approval).

The assessment criteria at the expression of interest stage will be a subset of the full criteria:

- **Quality (primary):** Clear, concise research vision for the project and group, set in the context of the Transforming Construction Challenge. Novel, ambitious, timely research challenges directly seeking to address one or more of the technical objectives of the Transforming Construction Challenge. Bringing a creative and adventurous approach, high-risk, high-return; the extent to which the proposal is taking a 'fail fast' approach to ensure significant success within the timeframe.
- **Importance:** Strong awareness of the current research landscape and the broader context surrounding the proposed research vision. Appreciation of the international landscape, how the applicant's vision will contribute towards the UK economy in the context of this ISCF programme. Demonstration of contribution to the health of other disciplines and key societal challenges.
- **Leadership:** Leadership skills of the principal investigator; a long-term vision for developing and inspiring their research group. Evidence of previously managing complex research projects with financial constraints, including approach to risk. Experience of engaging industry and/or users with the aim of attract private sector leverage against public funding. Willingness to operate under a wider governance for the whole challenge including monitoring and evaluation.

- **Impact:** Appropriateness of project partners in the context of the Transforming Construction challenge and their level of commitment to the project. Plans to manage and expand the range of stakeholders engaged throughout the award. Plans for maximising economic, academic and societal impact including management of IP, dissemination of results, knowledge exchange, and public engagement. How policy, standards or regulatory barriers might be addressed.

Submitting an application - full proposal

EPSRC on behalf of UK Research and Innovation will directly invite full proposals for this call to be submitted through the Research Councils Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>), applicants will be notified of the exact closing date.

If invited to full proposal, you should prepare and submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>).

When adding a new proposal, you should select:

- Council 'EPSRC'
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard Research'
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'ISCF Transforming Construction Research Leadership' call.

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.

Guidance on the types of support that may be sought and advice on the completion of the research proposal forms are given on the EPSRC website (<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/>) which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

Guidance on writing an application

Applicants must address all the assessment criteria in their proposal. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will need to prepare the following:

Case for Support (total of 10 pages) consisting of:

Track record (two pages):

- Track record of the principal investigator, tailored to address the requirements of this award.

- Track record of co-investigators, named postdoctoral researchers and (where appropriate) key project partners who have been involved in co-creating the proposal.

Overall Vision:

- A clear and concise articulation of the vision for the project and group; how it addresses the technical objectives of the Transforming Construction Challenge.

Importance:

- Fit to the UK research landscape, in particular other investments within the Transforming Construction Challenge.
- Contribution to the competitiveness of UK industry in the context of this Challenge.
- Contribution to the health of disciplines and key societal challenges.

Details of Approach: describing the approach the principal investigator will take to leading and managing the group and project:

- Clear objectives, presented in a bulleted list
- Indicative methodology and approach, highlighting the novelty, timeliness and level of adventure; how success will be achieved in the timeframe
- Approach to Responsible Research and Innovation
- Management of the award, team and risk management.

Workplan (Max one page): This should be a diagrammatic representation of the proposed body of work, with appropriate detail to demonstrate the key components that will be undertaken within the first year.

Pathways to Impact (max two pages), this must address the following:

- Outline plan for stakeholder management focusing on ensuring impact outside the core areas of the project. This should include academic, economic and societal impacts.
- Plans to attract leverage from industry, other users and other sources throughout the award. For example third sector, devolved administrations, local government, local enterprise partnerships.
- Plans to address any appropriate policy, standards and regulatory barriers; plans to maximise impact - managing IP, disseminating results, enabling knowledge exchange and engaging the public, where appropriate.

Justification of Resources (max two pages):

- How the proposed budget will be used to maximum effect and how this represents value for money. Please provide this information and justification in a clear format, with appropriately detailed breakdown of costs.
- Additional funds leveraged through direct contributions from project partners should be summarised, along with plans to maximise the leverage as specified earlier in this call.

Project Partner Statements of Support (max two pages each): Required from all project partners involved in the proposal and listed on the Je-S form. Please note that HEIs eligible for EPSRC funding should not normally be included as project partners.

Letters from project partners should:

- Indicate how the research might contribute to their needs as users, and outline any involvement in the preparation of the proposal as well as the wider Transforming Construction Challenge (where appropriate)
- Detail the level and nature of the cash and in-kind support committed to this project
- Describe their intended involvement throughout the award
- Be dated and on headed paper, making clear the role of the signatory in the user organisation

Host Organisation letter of support (max two pages): A Letter is required from the host University and should be signed by the Pro-VC of Research or equivalent. This should include details of:

- The support and commitment from the University to the applicant within the context of the challenge; support for their career development including, for example, mentoring
- Support for the applicant to ensure their time is released from teaching and admin to focus on the award and related activities
- Alignment to university strengths and long term strategies
- A commitment for the award to start immediately on 1st January 2019, with assurances on the ability to put in place the required recruitment and if necessary proceed at risk.

Applicants should use the Ethical Information section on the Je-S form to demonstrate to peer reviewers that they have fully considered any ethical issues concerning the material they intend to use, the nature and choice, current public perceptions and attitudes towards the subject matter or research area. EPSRC will not fund a project if it believes that there are ethical concerns that have been overlooked or not appropriately accounted for. All relevant parts of the Ethical Information section must be completed. If the research will involve human participation or the use of animals covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 it is recommended that applicants pay particular attention to the guidance highlighted below. EPSRC reserves the right to reject applications prior to peer review if the Ethical Information sections are not completed correctly.

Further guidance on completing the Je-S form can be found at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/EthicalInformation.htm>. Other relevant guidance includes: EPSRC's policy on animal use in research (<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/>) and the Responsible Innovation Framework (<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/framework/>) and the ESRC Framework for Research Ethics. (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics/>)

Please note that on submission to EPSRC **all** non-PDF documents uploaded onto Je-S are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

For advice on writing proposals see:
<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/preparing/>

Assessment

Assessment process

Expressions of Interest will be assessed by an expert panel comprised of academic, industry and user representatives. There will be no postal peer review stage. The EoI panel will assess the submissions against a subset of the assessment criteria.

Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will receive further briefing about the interview requirements and process. There will be no postal peer review of full proposals; they will be sent to an interview panel.

Feedback will only be provided to unsuccessful applicants at the full proposal stage.

If successful, Principal investigators will need to report regularly to the ISCF Transforming Construction Board, evidencing the projects continual contribution relative to the assessment criteria. Further guidance will be provided post-award.

Assessment criteria

- **Quality (primary):** Clear, concise research vision for the project and group, set in the context of the Transforming Construction Challenge. Novel, ambitious, timely research challenges directly seeking to address one or more of the technical objectives of the Transforming Construction Challenge. Bringing a creative and adventurous approach, high-risk, high-return; the extent to which the proposal is taking a 'fail fast' approach to ensure significant success within the timeframe.
- **Importance:** Strong awareness of the current research landscape and the broader context surrounding the proposed research vision. Appreciation of the international landscape, how the applicant's vision will contribute towards the UK economy in the context of this ISCF programme. Demonstration of contribution to the health of other disciplines and key societal challenges.
- **Leadership:** Leadership skills of the principal investigator; a long-term vision for developing and inspiring their research group. Evidence of

previously managing complex research projects with financial constraints, including approach to risk. Experience of engaging industry and/or users with the aim of attract private sector leverage against public funding. Willingness to operate under a wider governance for the whole challenge including monitoring and evaluation.

- **Applicant Team:** Appropriateness of the team assembled by the applicant to support delivery of the vision. Does the team have the appropriate skill set?
- **Impact:** Appropriateness of project partners in the context of the Transforming Construction challenge and their level of commitment to the project. Plans to manage and expand the range of stakeholders engaged throughout the award. Plans for maximising economic, academic and societal impact including management of IP, dissemination of results, knowledge exchange, and public engagement. How policy, standards or regulatory barriers might be addressed.
- **Resources and Management:** The extent to which the resources requested are justified. Appropriate management plans given the adventurous nature of the award; enabling creativity with a robust approach to risk management.
- **Responsible Research and Innovation:** Appropriate plans in the context of EPSRC's Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation.
- **Institutional Commitment:** Support from the host organisation and a long-term commitment to the career of the principal investigator and their research group.

Additional grant conditions

Grants will be subject to the standard UK Research and Innovation grant conditions, however additional grant conditions will be added to this call to match with the requirements of ISCF funding.

Awards must:

- Fixed start date on the 1 January 2019, at the latest.
- Match the funding profile set out by EPSRC on behalf of UK Research and Innovation; there cannot be slippage.
- Abide by the overarching governance of the ISCF Transforming Construction challenge, for example providing regular quarterly reports on progress against KPIs agreed with the Challenge Director.
- Engage with the other investments made under the Transforming Construction Challenge.

Additional grant conditions are subject to change.

Moving forward

Full proposals invited to submit 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

Activity	Date*
Deadline for EoIs	16:00 17 September 2018
EoI Panel	w/c 24 September 2018
Deadline for full proposals	End October 2018
Interview Panel	w/c 19 November 2018
Funding decision	December 2018
Grant start date	1 January 2019

*EPSRC aims to adhere to the key dates as published, however there may be exceptions where the interview meeting may have to change due to panel member availability.

Contacts

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- Heather Macklyne (Heather.Macklyne@epsrc.ac.uk)

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Heather Macklyne	15/08/18	0.1	First Version

Appendices (includes Attachment Checklist and Fund Headings)

Je-S attachments Check List

Standard:

Attachment Type	Max page length	Mandatory/ Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	10 pages	M	Comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, and eight A4 sides for the remainder
Pathways to Impact	Two pages	M	
Workplan	One page	M	
Justification for Resources	Two pages	M	
Project Partner Letters of Support	Two pages	As Required by EPSRC	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.
Host Organisation letter	Two pages	M	From host institution only
Equipment Quotes	No page limits	Not required	
Equipment Business Case	Two pages each	Not required	Required for any items or combined assets with a value above the OJEU limit.
Technical assessment	No page limit	Not required	
Proposal Cover Letter	No page limit	Optional	The cover letter can be used to highlight any important information to EPSRC. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.
Other attachment	No page limit	Do not use this attachment type.	Not seen by reviewers or panel members

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.