

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 submission of US pre-applications: 19:00 (EST - US time) 11 October 2018 - Closing date submission of pre-applications to US Department of Energy (DoE)

Closing date submission of full US applications: 19:00 (EST - US time) 12 February 2019 - Closing date submission of full-applications to US Department of Energy (DoE)

Closing date submission of full UK applications: 12 noon (UK time) 13 February 2019 - Closing date submission of full-applications to Je-S

Funding Available: The UKRI Energy Programme will fund down the list up to the value of £2 million.

How to apply: Pre-application to DoE followed by submission of full applications to DoE and Je-S.

Assessment Process: The NEUP call is an exception to our (UKRI EPSRC) peer review principles. Up to and including the US review panel the UK component of UK-US collaborative projects will be assessed through the NEUP peer review process by the DoE.

Due to the DoE leading the call, their peer review process up to and including the US review panel there will be no separate peer review carried out by EPSRC.

However, should the volume of successful UK proposals exceed the funding available from UKRI EPSRC a UK ratification panel will convene ultimately producing a rank ordered list based on the US definition of quality (see Assessment Process) and the US postal peer review returns.

In line with standard US processes, there will not be a Right to Reply (PI response).

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
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Submission deadline of US pre-applications	19:00 (EST – US time) 11 October 2018
Submission deadline of full US applications to DoE	19:00 (EST – US time) 12 February 2019
Submission deadline of full UK applications to Je-S	12 noon (UK time) 13 February 2019
DoE expert panel	May 2019
EPSRC ratification panel	June/July 2019
Funding decision expected	2019
Grant start date expected	2019

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

Contacts:

- Jasmine Cain (jasmine.cain@epsrc.ukri.org)

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

Call type: Collaborative Research

Closing date submission of US pre-applications: 7pm (EST - US time) 11 October 2018 - Closing date submission of pre-applications to US Department of Energy (DoE)

Closing date submission of full US applications: 7pm (EST – US time) 12 February 2019 - Closing date submission of full-applications to US Department of Energy (DoE)

Closing date submission of full UK applications: 12 noon (UK time) 13 February 2019 - Closing date submission of full-applications to Je-S

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

Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy created Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP) in 2009 to consolidate its university support under one programme. The UKRI Energy Programme, 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:

- **Innovative New Nickel Alloys for Molten Salt Reactor Structural Applications** (RC-1)
- **Liquid Metal-Cooled Fast Reactor Technology Development and Demonstration to Support Development** (RC-3)
- **Experimental Validation of High Temperature Gas Reactor (HTGR)** (RC-5)
- **Special Purpose Reactors R&D** (RC-11)
- **Materials Recovery** (FC-1.2)

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

Please follow this link for a draft of the NEUP workscope:
https://neup.inl.gov/SiteAssets/FY19_%20Documents/FY19_CINR_Workscopes_Update_8_28_19.pdf

Further information on closing dates and the NEUP instructions will be provided ASAP within an updated version of this call document post 13 August 2018.

Proposals should be submitted by the US partner according to NEUP processes. The UKRI 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 NEUP 2019"**. Closing date submission of full-applications to Je-S **12 noon (UK time) 13 February 2019**.

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

Background

The UKRI Energy Programme wants 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 a world leader in nuclear research and development and this is an excellent opportunity to build on the links that already exist between UK and US researchers. The US Department of Energy's Office (DoE) of Nuclear Energy created the Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP) in 2009 to consolidate its university support under one programme of expertise. Thus, the Nuclear Energy University Program funds nuclear energy research and equipment upgrades at US colleges and universities, and provides student educational support. The Nuclear Energy University Program 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 it is stated in the Nuclear Energy Roadmap, the DOE promotes nuclear energy as a resource capable of meeting the nation's energy, environmental and national security needs by resolving technical, cost, safety, and security, proliferation resistance through research, development and demonstration. In collaboration with the Nuclear Energy University Program we're allowing our respective research communities in the UK and US to build on one another's capabilities and address the research challenges facing the continued safe deployment and development of civil nuclear power between the UK and the US in a co-operative, efficient and effective way.

Full details for the US solicitation area are available by following this link to the [NEUP website](#).

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://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/researchareas/nuclearfission/>).

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Funding available

The UKRI Energy Programme will fund down the list up to the value of £2M.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent and the Research Councils have together developed the ambitious UKRI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>

In line with the UKRI Diversity Principles, EPSRC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice. 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 welcomes 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 our Equality and Diversity webpages <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

Equipment

Equipment over £10,000 in value (inc. vat) is not available through this call. Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000) should be in the Directly Incurred - Other Costs heading.

For more information on equipment funding, please see: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>

Eligibility

For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/>

A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

Submitting an application

Pre-application should be submitted by the US partner to the DoE following their procedures by 19:00 (EST - US time) 11 October 2018. If your pre-application is

successful the full US application should be submitted by the US partner to the DoE by 19:00 (EST - US time) 12 February 2019, whereby UK applicants will need to include their letter of support from EPSRC. All joint US/UK proposals should be submitted through the US.

Before submitting as part of a US/UK full proposal, UK applicants should email an encrypted (password protected) document to the EPSRC lead (Jasmine Cain (jasmine.cain@epsrc.ukri.org)) to discuss their intent to apply. The encrypted (password protected) document should include the **UK and US PI's Name(s) and Institution(s)**, the **Title of the Proposal**, and the **Total Cost at 100% FEC and 80% FEC**.

On receipt of this, 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 (see US workscope (this will be provided ASAP within an updated version of this document post 13 August 2018)). 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 under the name of "**UK/US NEUP 2019**" by the closing date **12 noon (UK time) 13 February 2019**.

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 NEUP 2019"

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 **12 noon (UK time) 13 February 2019**.

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://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/>) which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

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 "academic beneficiaries" section of the form.

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. This should be attached as Other.

Submitting this information to EPSRC

The completed documents should be submitted on Je-S by **12 noon (UK time) 13 February 2019**. 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: Jasmine Cain
(jasmine.cain@epsrc.ukri.org)

Guidance on writing an application

- Completed Je-S Form
- Justification of Resources (comprising up to two A4 sides providing a full justification for all the resources you have requested)
- US Proposal (a copy of the US proposal that was submitted to DoE attached as Other)
- Case for Support (comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, and six A4 sides describing proposed research and its context)
- Work Plan (comprising one A4 side with a comprehensive plan for the start of the project and the management strategy)
- Pathways to Impact (comprising up to two A4 sides to describe plans to ensure the US/UK collaboration has an impact in the relevant research and user communities)
- CVs (comprising up to two A4 sides for named and visiting researchers, and researchers co-investigators only)
- Project Partner Letters of Support (no page limits)
- Proposal Cover Letter (no page limits)

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://epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/>) and the Responsible Innovation Framework (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

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://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/preparing/>

Assessment

Assessment process

The NEUP call is an exception to our (UKRI EPSRC) peer review principles. Up to and including the US review panel the UK component of UK-US collaborative projects will be assessed through the NEUP peer review process by the DoE.

Due to the DoE leading the call, their peer review process up to and including the US review panel there will be no separate peer review carried out by EPSRC.

However, should the volume of successful UK proposals exceed the funding available from UKRI EPSRC a UK ratification panel will convene ultimately producing a rank ordered list based on the US definition of quality (see below;) and the US postal peer review returns.

Criterion 2 – Technical Quality of the Proposed R&D Project: DOE will evaluate the overall quality/acceptability of the proposed R&D project. In evaluating this criterion, DOE may consider the (1) merit, feasibility, and realism of the proposed methodology and approach to the project; (2) schedule, including sequence of project tasks, principle milestones, and times for each task; (3) planned assignment of responsibilities; (4) proposed project efficiencies; and (5) technical expertise available to the applicant in carrying out the project.

In line with standard US processes, there will not be a Right to Reply (PI response).

Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria will be the DoE NEUP criteria; this will be provided ASAP within an updated version of this document post 13 August 2018.

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 full US application (as an Additional Document) and 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 not count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/>

Key dates

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Funding decision expected	2019
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Contacts

Jasmine Cain (jasmine.cain@epsrc.ukri.org)

Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Jasmine Cain	16/07/2018	1	N/A
Jasmine Cain	29/08/2018	1.1	Edited work scope areas due to DoE changes to call doc.

Je-S attachments Check List

Standard:

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Justification for Resources	2 pages	M	
Case for Support	8 pages	M	Comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, and six A4 sides describing proposed research and its context.
Pathways to Impact	2 pages	M	
Workplan	1 page	M	
CVs	2 pages each	As Required by EPSRC	For named and visiting researchers, and researcher co-investigators only.
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	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.
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	No page limit	As required, at EPSRC request only	This can be used for a document that does not fit under any of the

			headings above. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.
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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.