



**Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council**

Quick Reference

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

Digital Economy Sustainable Digital Society

Call Type: Invitation for Proposals

Compulsory Intent to Submit Closing Date: 03 September 2020 at 16:00

Full Proposal Closing Date: 01 October 2020 at 16:00

Funding Available: Up to £5 million (at 80% FEC) to fund around six awards.

How to Apply: Intent to Submit via SmartSurvey, followed by submission of a full proposal in Je-S.

Assessment Process: Intents to Submit and corresponding full proposals received and deemed to be within the aim and scope of the call will undergo postal peer review, followed by prioritisation at a panel (if reviews are sufficiently supportive), resulting in a rank-ordered list.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Call launches and opens in Je-S	30 July 2020
Compulsory Intent to Submit closing date	03 September 2020 at 16:00
Full proposals closing date	01 October 2020 at 16:00
Prioritisation panel	To be confirmed
Funding decision	By 31 March 2020

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Digital Economy Sustainable Digital Society

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Compulsory Intent to Submit Closing Date: 03 September 2020 at 16:00

Full Proposal Closing Date: 01 October 2020 at 16:00

Related Themes: Digital Economy

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Summary

The Digital Economy Theme, led by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) in close collaboration with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Innovate UK, is investing up to £5 million (at 80% FEC) of EPSRC funding to support around six sociotechnical, interdisciplinary, co-created, novel research projects that explore user-focused, transformational digital technologies and services to achieve a Sustainable Digital Society. The Digital Economy Theme welcomes multi-disciplinary research that spans the whole of the remit of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), however the research must be at least 50% within EPSRC's remit to qualify for funding.

This call focuses on environmental sustainability. It is recognised that social and economic sustainability are interconnected with environmental sustainability, therefore exploration of these aspects of sustainability is acceptable and welcomed, provided environmental sustainability is the primary focus.

In addition to research projects addressing key research challenges within the Sustainable Digital Society space, we expect projects to consider how to undertake the research itself in an environmentally sustainable manner by adopting research and innovation practices that seek to protect/enhance the environment as far as possible. Please note that carbon offsetting is not considered to be a direct research cost and will not be funded on grants. This is a pilot for EPSRC, and we are interested in finding out what can be achieved within grants to promote environmentally sustainable research practices, whilst still ensuring high quality research outcomes.

There is a compulsory Intent to Submit for this call to enable EPSRC to assess demand. Applicants must complete the online Intent to Submit SmartSurvey form by **16:00 on 03 September 2020** to be eligible for the call; the form can be found on the call webpage (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/digital-economy-sustainable-digital-society/>). SmartSurvey is sometimes blocked by privacy browser plug-ins – you will need to enable scripts from SmartSurvey.co.uk to view the form. Applicants will be required to provide Investigator details and a 250-word summary of the intended proposal. We will not publish any information submitted through this stage; it is for internal use only. On successful submission of an Intent to Submit, you will receive an email from Digital Economy SmartSurvey (digitaleconomy@epsrc.ukri.org) to confirm that this has been received by EPSRC. This will include a copy of your submission attached as a PDF document for your records. Please check that this email has not been stopped by any spam filters. We will not be providing feedback on all Intent to Submit submissions received – we will only provide feedback in exceptional circumstances and if resources allow. Therefore, please continue your full proposal application in accordance with the deadline for full proposals of Thursday 01 October 2020 at 16:00. We will only accept full proposal submissions from Principal Investigators who have submitted an Intent to Submit. Applicants will not be held to the details of the Intent to Submit in the full proposal (aside from the details of the Principal Investigator). Co-Investigators, researchers and project partners can be added to a full proposal, even if they were not included at the Intent to Submit stage. **However, applicants must ensure that any single Investigator appears on only one proposal, either as a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator.**

Full proposals received must be at least 50% within EPSRC's remit and deemed to be within the aim and scope of the call to undergo postal peer review, followed by prioritisation at a panel (if reviews are sufficiently supportive), resulting in a rank-ordered list. Full proposals received that are not at least 50% within EPSRC's remit and/or are not deemed to be within the aim and scope of the call will be rejected prior to postal peer review.

Background

The Digital Economy Theme seeks to rapidly realise the transformational impact of digital technologies and services on aspects of community life, cultural experiences, future society, and the economy. It strives to bring together researchers in disciplines such as ICT, mathematical sciences, engineering,

physical and life sciences, social sciences, economics, arts and humanities, with stakeholders in different application domains to create digital technologies, platforms and solutions that are designed with and for users of the digital technology.

In 2020, the Digital Economy Theme developed five new priority areas, which are at the heart of Digital Economy Theme research. One of these priority areas, “Sustainable Digital Society”, is the focus of this call. This call focuses on environmental sustainability. It is recognised that social and economic sustainability are interconnected with environmental sustainability, therefore exploration of these aspects of sustainability is acceptable and welcomed, provided environmental sustainability is the primary focus. To help set the context for this call, the full description of the Sustainable Digital Society priority area is as follows:

“Climate change and other anthropogenic impacts on the environment are a persistent and growing threat worldwide. Whilst digital technologies have potential to bring about social, economic and cultural benefits, increasingly, they are associated with growing ecological burdens and social divisions. This sociotechnical priority focuses on the use of digital technologies to address anthropogenic environmental impacts and improve environmental sustainability, whilst considering the ongoing impacts associated with the creation and use of the digital technologies themselves, to ultimately create a Sustainable Digital Society.

This priority encompasses not only the development of new technologies, but new digitally inspired business models, processes and policies (within the public, private and third sectors), focusing on environmental and social impacts, as well as economic benefits. New forms of governance and new types of supply chain will be needed to enable organisations and societies globally to implement new and more sustainable processes, whilst ensuring all members of society have agency with regards to sustainability.

An ambitious outcome would be for digital technologies to enable a re-imagining of the current organisation of global societies into alternative, more sustainable arrangements in all aspects of everyday life, and to empower the public as a force for positive change across the public, private and third sectors. To ensure that research undertaken creates a more sustainable future, it must be situated in deep understanding of how social and digital actors come together. Research in this area will, therefore, require an interdisciplinary and global approach, combining technical research with research across the social sciences, environmental sciences, business, humanities and the arts.

The coming together of academia, industry, the public, charities and policymakers, as well as international collaboration, is key to creating a Sustainable Digital Society. This priority is linked to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). Applicants should demonstrate evidence of their consideration of the environmental impacts of their research activities, and how these impacts will be mitigated.”

In June 2020 the Digital Economy Theme held a virtual workshop, “Identifying Challenges for a Sustainable Digital Society”, involving a cross-disciplinary selection of academic and non-academic stakeholders, which aimed to identify future research challenges that should be addressed in the Sustainable Digital Society space. More information about the virtual workshop, which was

facilitated online using the Well Sorted, Zoom and Mural tools, can be found at this link, alongside outputs from the virtual workshop:
<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/virtual-workshop-identifying-challenges-for-a-sustainable-digital-society/>

For more information on the Digital Economy Theme mission, priorities, funding and investments, see our website:
<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/digitaleconomy/>

Aim and Scope

In this call, we seek to support sociotechnical, interdisciplinary, co-created, novel research projects that explore user-focused, transformational digital technologies and services that address the Sustainable Digital Society priority area **in at least one of the three specified Research Challenge Areas detailed below**. Projects should also consider how to undertake the research itself in an environmentally sustainable manner by adopting research and innovation practices that seek to protect/enhance the environment as far as possible, to address the **Sustainable Research Requirement** detailed below. Work in this area requires an interdisciplinary approach, for example, across a number of technological, environmental, economic, social, legal and behavioural disciplines.

The Digital Economy Theme aims to fund sociotechnical research integrating engineering and physical sciences components with non-engineering and physical sciences components (such as social, economic and environmental science), where the components are developed and explored together. As an example, this might involve the development and deployment of digital technologies/services for a specific social/economic/environmental context, exploration of their social/economic/environmental consequences and impact, and subsequently feeding back the findings into the digital technologies/services to iterate their development. There is an emphasis on the inclusion of interdisciplinary teams with the appropriate research expertise to identify and implement the research, and co-creation with potential users in defining and exploring the research problems, as well as the research being undertaken in a responsible manner. Therefore, it is expected that:

- Proposals will be co-created by interdisciplinary research teams, in which collaborations are synergistic (addressing problems that could not otherwise be addressed via independent disciplinary approaches) and symbiotic (engaging, enriching and enhancing the capabilities and expertise of all contributors). Applicants are encouraged to be creative in their ways of working and the involvement of different groups of individuals and organisations.
- Applicants will engage with research users in the conception and implementation of the proposed projects (for example, with industrial partners, policymakers, citizens, third sector organisations, etc.). Where applicable, projects should consider differential use and access to digital technologies.
- Applicants should consider Responsible Innovation (please see the "Responsible Innovation" section of the call document for the full description) throughout the research project, and include, for example,

details of anticipatory work and stakeholder inclusion plans in the proposal.

This call is a strategic intervention, aimed at building activities in the Sustainable Digital Society priority area. It is a targeted approach that is not intended to cover the entire scope of the Sustainable Digital Society priority area. This call focuses on environmental sustainability. It is recognised that social and economic sustainability are interconnected with environmental sustainability, therefore exploration of these aspects of sustainability is acceptable and welcomed, provided environmental sustainability is the primary focus. Proposals submitted through this call must address real world research problems in **at least one** of the following three **Research Challenge Areas**:

1. Embedding environmental sustainability throughout digital technologies and services, taking into account technology/service design and end use, and the social, economic and/or policy context.
2. Digital technologies and services to facilitate behaviour change at all levels of society, leading to decision-making that promotes environmental sustainability at scale.
3. Digital technologies and services to enable one or more of the following:
 - A circular economy;
 - Environmentally sustainable supply chains;
 - An environmentally sustainable built environment;
 - Environmentally sustainable organisational processes within the public, private and/or third sectors.

In addition to addressing **at least one** of the three specified **Research Challenge Areas** detailed above, proposals should consider all of the following aspects to address the **Sustainable Research Requirement**:

- Projects should consider how to undertake the research itself in an environmentally sustainable manner by adopting research and innovation practices that seek to protect/enhance the environment as far as possible. Please note that carbon offsetting is not considered to be a direct research cost and will not be funded on grants. Applicants are asked to consider the following questions to address this requirement:
 - What actions will be taken to reduce the potential environmental harm of the project and reduce carbon emissions? (e.g. energy monitoring and efficiency considerations, renewable energy deployment, innovation to minimise waste, travel considerations, equipment considerations, etc.)
 - How will the project enhance or directly benefit the environment? (e.g. through improved environmental sustainability of supply chains, through development of new scientific techniques, etc.)
 - Which of the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) will this project principally contribute to and why?

- How will environmental impact (positive and negative) be monitored and reported, both in terms of research outcomes and research practices, throughout the lifetime of the project?

We encourage applications that are adventurous and ambitious, in which the balance of risk against potential outcomes has been carefully considered.

Proposals that are not at least 50% within EPSRC's remit and/or are not deemed to be within the aim and scope of the call will be rejected. Likewise, proposals which do not sufficiently incorporate an interdisciplinary approach, for example, across a number of technological, environmental, economic, social, legal or behavioural disciplines, will be rejected. Types of project that would **not** be eligible for this call are:

- Research solely addressing the technological aspects of a digital technology/service, even if the digital technology/service is relevant to environmental sustainability (e.g. research which solely investigates technological aspects of self-powered computing technologies).
- Research solely addressing the environmental impacts of a digital technology/service, without development of the digital technology/service itself (e.g. research which solely establishes the carbon footprint of a distributed ledger technology).
- Research utilising a digital technology/service as a means-to-an-end tool for conducting environmental sciences research (e.g. research into environmental sensor technology for monitoring of the atmosphere).

For more information about EPSRC's portfolio and strategies, see our website: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/>

For more information about EPSRC's remit: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/remit/>

For more information about the UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy, see the UKRI website: <https://www.ukri.org/files/ukri-sustainability-strategy/>

Funding Available

There is up to £5 million (at 80% FEC) of EPSRC funding available to support around six sociotechnical, interdisciplinary, co-created, novel research projects that explore user-focused, transformational digital technologies and services that address the Sustainable Digital Society priority area in **at least one** of the three specified **Research Challenge Areas**. Projects should also consider how to undertake the research itself in an environmentally sustainable manner by adopting research and innovation practices that seek to protect/enhance the environment as far as possible, to address the **Sustainable Research Requirement**.

Projects may be of any length – please request the amount of time you feel is necessary to achieve the objectives of the proposed research and justify this within the Justification of Resources.

Please note that carbon offsetting is not considered to be a direct research cost and will not be funded on grants.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long-term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent. EPSRC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice and funding policy. We are committed to supporting the research community, offering a range of flexible options which allow applicants to design a package that fits their research goals, career and personal circumstances. 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, or need flexible working arrangements.

Peer review is central to EPSRC funding decisions, we require expert advice and robust decision-making processes for all EPSRC funding initiatives. We are committed to ensuring that fairness is fully reflected in all our funding processes by advancing policy which supports equality, diversity and inclusion. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

Responsible Innovation

EPSRC is fully committed to developing and promoting Responsible Innovation. Research has the ability to not only produce understanding, knowledge and value, but also unintended consequences, questions, ethical dilemmas and, at times, unexpected social transformations. We recognise that we have a duty of care to promote approaches to Responsible Innovation that will initiate ongoing reflection about the potential ethical and societal implications of the research that we sponsor, and to encourage our research community to do likewise.

Responsible Innovation creates spaces and processes to explore innovation and its consequences in an open, inclusive and timely way, going beyond consideration of ethics, public engagement, risk and regulation. Innovation is a collective responsibility, where funders, researchers, interested and affected parties, including the public, all have an important role to play. Applicants are expected to work within the EPSRC Framework for Responsible Innovation given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

Applicants should consider Responsible Innovation throughout the research project, and include, for example, details of anticipatory work and stakeholder inclusion plans in the proposal.

Guidance on Journal-Based Metrics

As part of our commitment to support the recommendations and principles set out by the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA; <https://sfдора.org/read/>), UKRI reviewers and panel members are advised not to use journal-based metrics, such as journal impact factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an Investigator's contributions, or to make funding decisions.

The content of a paper is more important than publication metrics, or the identity of the journal, in which it was published, especially for early-stage researchers. Reviewers and panel members are encouraged to consider the value and impact of all research outputs (including datasets, software, inventions, patents,

preprints, other commercial activities, etc.) in addition to research publications. We advise our reviewers and panel members to consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

Equipment

Equipment over £10,000 in value (inc. VAT) is not available through this call. Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000 inc. VAT) 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

To encourage full and committed engagement in the proposed work, applicants must ensure that:

- The online Intent to Submit SmartSurvey form is completed and submitted by 16:00 on 03 September 2020; the form can be found on the call webpage (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/digital-economy-sustainable-digital-society/>). Please refer to the “Intent to Submit Form” section below for more details.
- Any single Investigator appears on only one proposal, either as a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator.
- Proposals include Investigator and researcher time from more than one discipline.
- Proposals include **at least one** fully engaged potential user of the research.

Please ensure sufficient time to create Je-S accounts for Investigators who do not currently have one.

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

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

How to Apply

Intent to Submit Form

There is a compulsory Intent to Submit for this call to enable EPSRC to assess demand. Applicants must complete the online Intent to Submit SmartSurvey form by 16:00 on 03 September 2020 to be eligible for the call; the form can be found on the call webpage (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/digital-economy-sustainable-digital-society/>). SmartSurvey is sometimes blocked by privacy

browser plug-ins – you will need to enable scripts from SmartSurvey.co.uk to view the form. Applicants will be required to provide Investigator details and a 250-word summary of the intended proposal. We will not publish any information submitted through this stage; it is for internal use only. On successful submission of an Intent to Submit, you will receive an email from Digital Economy SmartSurvey (digitaleconomy@epsrc.ukri.org) to confirm that this has been received by EPSRC. This will include a copy of your submission attached as a PDF document for your records. Please check that this email has not been stopped by any spam filters. We will not be providing feedback on all Intent to Submit submissions received – we will only provide feedback in exceptional circumstances and if resources allow. Therefore, please continue your full proposal application in accordance with the deadline for full proposals of Thursday 01 October 2020 at 16:00. We will only accept full proposal submissions from Principal Investigators who have submitted an Intent to Submit. Applicants will not be held to the details of the Intent to Submit in the full proposal (aside from the details of the Principal Investigator). Co-Investigators, researchers and project partners can be added to a full proposal, even if they were not included at the Intent to Submit stage. **However, applicants must ensure that any single Investigator appears on only one proposal, either as a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator.**

Submitting an Application

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'
- Create new document
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard'
- On the Project Details page, you should select the 'Digital Economy Sustainable Digital Society 2020/21' 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. EPSRC must receive your application by 16:00 on 01 October 2020.

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/applicationprocess/>), which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

Guidance on Writing an Application

As well as the Je-S form, the following documents must be submitted:

- Case for Support (mandatory), up to nine pages in total (**please note this is one page longer than a standard EPSRC proposal**), to include:
 - Two pages for a track record, which should detail the relevant expertise that each Investigator will bring to the research. Please note the eligibility requirement that proposals must include Investigator and researcher time from more than one discipline.
 - Six pages for a description of the proposed research and how this fits the aim and scope of the call, related to **at least one** of the three specified **Research Challenge Areas 1, 2 or 3**, and how the research has been co-created by interdisciplinary research teams, engages with research users, and considers Responsible Innovation, including, for example, details of anticipatory work and stakeholder inclusion plans.
 - One page detailing how the proposal addresses the **Sustainable Research Requirement**. Projects should consider how to undertake the research itself in an environmentally sustainable manner by adopting research and innovation practices that seek to protect/enhance the environment as far as possible. Please note that carbon offsetting is not considered to be a direct research cost and will not be funded on grants. Applicants are asked to consider the following questions to address this requirement:
 - What actions will be taken to reduce the potential environmental harm of the project and reduce carbon emissions? (e.g. energy monitoring and efficiency considerations, renewable energy deployment, innovation to minimise waste, travel considerations, equipment considerations, etc.)
 - How will the project enhance or directly benefit the environment? (e.g. through improved environmental sustainability of supply chains, through development of new scientific techniques, etc.)
 - Which of the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) will this project principally contribute to and why?
 - How will environmental impact (positive and negative) be monitored and reported, both in terms of research outcomes and research practices, throughout the lifetime of the project?
- Workplan (mandatory), up to one page in total, to include:
 - A diagrammatic workplan such as a Gantt chart.
- Justification of Resources (mandatory), up to two pages in total, to include:
 - A narrative description of the need for all resources requested. This includes any relevant costs related to the requirement for the project to consider how to undertake the research itself in an environmentally sustainable manner by adopting research and innovation practices that seek to protect/enhance the environment

as far as possible. Please note that carbon offsetting is not considered to be a direct research cost and will not be funded on grants.

- CVs (only mandatory for named researchers, visiting researchers, and researcher Co-Investigators), up to two pages in total per CV. Please **do not** submit CVs for Principal or Co-Investigators.
- Project Partner Letters of Support (mandatory for project partners named on the proposal).
- Letters of Support (optional and only in exceptional circumstances; a maximum of three letters of support can be submitted where an organisation cannot be considered a project partner, e.g. if they are aligned to the host organisation).
- Proposal Cover Letter (optional, and not seen by reviewers or panel members).

Applicants should use the "Ethical Information" section on the Je-S form to demonstrate to 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.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

Full proposals received, having first submitted an Intent to Submit, and deemed to be within the aim and scope of the call, will undergo postal peer review, followed by prioritisation at a panel (if reviews are sufficiently supportive),

resulting in a rank-ordered list. The assessment criteria detailed below will be used for all stages of the assessment process.

Stage 1: Postal Peer Review

Proposals will be reviewed by standard postal peer review. If a proposal receives sufficiently supportive reviewers' comments, it will go forward to stage 2 of the assessment process.

Stage 2: Prioritisation Process

If the reviews are sufficiently supportive, the proposal will be assessed and ranked by a panel based on the reviewers' comments and the applicant response, using the assessment criteria provided below. The panel will consist of cross-disciplinary researchers and will include relevant experts and users from across the digital economy space.

In the event of this call being substantially oversubscribed, EPSRC reserve the right to modify the assessment process.

Please find more information about this standard assessment process at this webpage: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/overview/>.

Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria will be used to assess proposals submitted to this call.

- Call Specific Criteria (Secondary Major)
 - The extent to which the proposal meets the additional assessment criteria specified in this call document:
 - Addresses **at least one** of the three specified **Research Challenge Areas 1, 2 or 3**;
 - Co-created by interdisciplinary research teams, in which collaborations are synergistic (addressing problems that could not be otherwise addressed via independent disciplinary approaches) and symbiotic (engaging, enriching and enhancing the capabilities and expertise of all contributors);
 - Engages with research users in the conception and implementation of the proposed project (for example, with industrial partners, policymakers, citizens, third sector organisations, etc.). Where applicable, projects should consider differential use and access to digital technologies;
 - Considers Responsible Innovation (please see the "Responsible Innovation" section of the call document for the full description) throughout the research project, and includes, for example, details of anticipatory work and stakeholder inclusion plans in the proposal;
 - Addresses the **Sustainable Research Requirement**, by considering how to undertake the research itself in an environmentally sustainable manner by adopting research

and innovation practices that seek to protect/enhance the environment as far as possible. Please note that carbon offsetting is not considered to be a direct research cost and will not be funded on grants. To address this requirement, applicants were asked the following questions:

- What actions will be taken to reduce the potential environmental harm of the project and reduce carbon emissions? (e.g. energy monitoring and efficiency considerations, renewable energy deployment, innovation to minimise waste, travel considerations, equipment considerations, etc.)
 - How will the project enhance or directly benefit the environment? (e.g. through improved environmental sustainability of supply chains, through development of new scientific techniques, etc.)
 - Which of the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) will this project principally contribute to and why?
 - How will environmental impact (positive and negative) be monitored and reported, both in terms of research outcomes and research practices, throughout the lifetime of the project?
- Quality of Research (Primary)
 - The degree of research excellence of the proposal, making reference to:
 - The novelty, relationship to the context, timeliness and relevance to identified stakeholders;
 - The ambition, adventure, transformative aspects or potential outcomes;
 - The suitability of the proposed methodology and the appropriateness of the approach to achieving impact.
- National Importance (Secondary Major)
 - The national importance of the research, how the research:
 - Contributes to, or helps maintain the health of other disciplines, contributes to addressing key UK societal challenges and/or contributes to future UK economic success and development of emerging industry(ies);
 - Meets national needs by establishing/maintaining a unique world leading activity;
 - Complements other UK research funded in this area, including any relationship to the EPSRC portfolio.

- Applicant and Partnerships (Secondary)
 - The applicant(s)'s ability to deliver the proposed project, making reference to:
 - Appropriateness of the track record of the applicant(s);
 - Balance of skills of the project team, including collaborators.
- Resources and Management (Secondary)
 - The effectiveness of the proposed planning and management and whether the requested resources are appropriate and have been fully justified, making reference to:
 - Any equipment requested, or the viability of the arrangements described to access equipment needed for this project, and particularly on any university or third-party contribution;
 - Any resources requested for activities to either increase impact, for public engagement, or to support Responsible Innovation.

Feedback

Feedback will consist of reviewers' reports and, if they are sufficiently supportive, the ranking position at the prioritisation panel.

Guidance for Reviewers

Please ensure that the "Call Specific Criteria" assessment criterion detailed on pages 13 and 14 of this call document is commented on in the "Call Specific Criteria" section of the reviewer form.

Information about the EPSRC peer review process and guidance for reviewers can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/>

Guidance for reviewing proposals submitted through standard calls for proposals, such as this call, can be found at:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/formsandguidancenotes/standardcalls/>

Grant Additional Conditions (GACs)

Grants will be subject to the standard UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grant conditions; however, Grant Additional Conditions may be added at time of award.

Moving Forward

Submissions to this call will 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

Activity	Date*
Call launches and opens in Je-S	30 July 2020
Compulsory Intent to Submit closing date	03 September 2020 at 16:00
Full proposals closing date	01 October 2020 at 16:00
Prioritisation panel	To be confirmed
Funding decision	By 31 March 2020

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

Contacts

For help and advice on writing proposals, costing your proposal and the Je-S system, please contact your host organisation's research office.

For help required related to the Je-S system, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk: JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org; +44 (0) 1793 444164 – please refer to the Je-S homepage for telephone line opening hours.

For specific advice about this call, please contact:

- Dr Gemma Adams: gemma.adams@epsrc.ukri.org; +44 (0) 7712 544627
- Dr Sonia Raikova: sonia.raikova@epsrc.ukri.org; +44 (0) 7922 000420
- Digital Economy Theme: digitaleconomy@epsrc.ukri.org

Please allow enough time before the closing date for full proposals for your host organisation's submission process.

Change Log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Gemma Adams	When published	1	N/A

Name	Date	Version	Change
Gemma Adams	30/07/2020	2	Updated "Summary" and "Intent to Submit Form" sections to clarify how confirmation of EPSRC's receipt of the Intent to Submit on SmartSurvey will be communicated to applicants, plus information that we will not be providing feedback on all Intent to Submit submissions received – we will only provide feedback in exceptional circumstances and if resources allow, therefore applicants should continue with their full proposals after submitting the Intent to Submit.

Je-S Attachments Check List

Standard:

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	Nine pages	Mandatory	Please see the "Guidance on Writing an Application" section for full guidance. Note this is one page longer compared to a standard EPSRC proposal.
Workplan	One page	Mandatory	
Justification of Resources	Two pages	Mandatory	
CVs	Two pages each	Only mandatory for named researchers, visiting researchers, and researcher Co-Investigators; please do not submit CVs for the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators	
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	Mandatory for project partners named on the proposal	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.
Letters of Support	No page limits	Optional and only in exceptional circumstances	Where a project partner letter of support cannot be provided; in exceptional circumstances, a maximum of three letters of support can be submitted.
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.

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.