



UK Research and Innovation

ISCF Transforming Foundation Industries Network Plus Call

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Intent to Submit closing date: 16:00 on 8 June 2020

Full proposal closing date: 16:00 on 1 July 2020

Funding Available: The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) is awarding up to £2M for one Network Plus grant of which approximately 50% should be allocated to a flexible fund to commission small grants.

How to apply: Applicants should provide their intention to submit via SmartSurvey followed by a full proposal as described in the call document.

Assessment Process: Full proposals will undergo a postal peer review with a right to reply followed by an interview with a generalist review panel, resulting in a rank ordered list.

Key Dates: Applications will be assessed via a two stage process. Proposals shall undergo postal peer review followed by an interview panel.

Activity	Date
Call Open	06 May 2020
Intent to submit – Smart Survey	08 June 2020
Full proposal deadline	01 July 2020
Interview Panel	September 2020
Funding decision	October 2020
Fixed grant start date	01 January 2021

Additional information: Funding for the Transforming Foundation Industries Network Plus will be provided through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF). Therefore, there are additional grant conditions and expectations as part of the funding which are fully detailed in this document.

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and Innovation**

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Related themes: Physical sciences, Engineering, Manufacturing

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Summary

The ISCF Transforming Foundation Industries Challenge will be investing up to £2m in a Network Plus which will be delivered by EPSRC on behalf of UKRI. The aim of this challenge is to enable the foundation industries (made of six separate sectors: metal, glass, ceramics, paper, cement and bulk chemicals) to work together to address their common challenges of competitiveness and sustainability. The programme will enable transformational change by these industries in how materials are sourced and processed, and the types of products manufactured, making them competitive and helping the UK achieve its ambitious Net Zero targets.

This Network Plus investment will provide a new cross-sector and multi-disciplinary community for the 'ISCF Transforming Foundation Industries' programme that work together to address common challenges and accelerate the development and adoption of new technologies and business models within the Foundation Industries. The investment will draw on a wide range of expertise, knowledge and experience across business and research stakeholders.

The Network Plus will provide leadership across the sectors and organise networking activities such as workshops, events and communications, to build sustained engagement and collaboration. We expect the successful network grant to play a strategic role in bringing together relevant participants that cross disciplinary boundaries and stakeholder groups (particularly those from business and industry). In addition, the leadership and management team will also administer a devolved budget for small projects, encouraging applications from both within and beyond the network membership.

It is expected that the network will work collaboratively with existing UKRI investments specifically linking with other Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) and Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) network activities.

The process to fund the Network Plus will be through an Intention to Submit submission by 16:00 on 08 June 2020 via Smart Survey, followed by full proposal submitted to EPSRC through the Research Councils' Joint electronic System (Je-S) before 16:00 on 01 July 2020. Proposals will undergo postal peer review and then be assessed at an interview panel, to be held in September 2020.

Background

The Transforming Foundation Industries Challenge, funded through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) will transform the UK's foundation industries (composed of the metal, glass, ceramics, paper, cement and bulk chemicals sectors) to make them internationally competitive, secure more jobs throughout the UK, and grow the sector by 2024. The Foundation Industries produce 75% of all the materials in our economy and are vital for the UK's manufacturing and construction industries. Together, the Foundation Industries are worth £52Bn to the UK economy and produce 28 million tonnes of materials per year, accounting for circa 10% of the UK total CO₂ emissions.

The Transforming Foundation Industries programme will enable transformational change by these industries in how materials are sourced and processed, and the types of products manufactured, making them competitive and helping the UK achieve its ambitious Net Zero targets. Consumption of raw materials and energy use lead to significant operating costs and environmental impact: they operate in an internationally competitive landscape with long investment cycles, and the benefits from innovation are not shared through the supply chain, reducing incentive to invest. There is, however, an opportunity to address the challenges facing these critical sectors in collaboration, and therefore multiply the benefit of innovation across the sectors.

From initial sector engagements and workshops, many areas of common technical challenge have been identified, the five most pressing are: minimising process energy consumption through retrofit, developing improved recycling technologies, finding new processes to radically change product offering, better process control and exploring industrial symbiosis. This Challenge will enable the six sectors to work together to transfer mature solutions from one sector to another.

As well as the technical/engineering challenges faced in changing production practices, reducing carbon and energy usage, and developing new products, there are socio-economic areas that need an understanding across the Foundation Industries. These include understanding the role of the sectors in the circular economy, how to stimulate and manage innovation throughout the supply chain and the behaviour changes required to reduce energy usage and waste. Underpinning many of these is expertise in the adoption of new processes and the need to understand the different cultures within the six different sectors. Further work is also needed to assess and develop the agenda for equality, diversity and inclusion across the six sectors. This would help the Foundation Industries harness all the available talent to drive the innovation and acceptance of change needed to improve sustainability and competitiveness.

The ISCF challenge will be delivered through five different programme strands:

1. Establishment of additional foundation industries pilot scale facility capacity
2. CR&D programmes and phased demonstrators
3. New approaches to sustainable foundation industries
4. Establishing the foundation industries as a sector
5. Providing late stage finance

Call Scope

The Network Plus will contribute to achieving the aims of Workstream 4 by developing both academic and industrial leadership across the Foundation Industries to identify the key research challenges, opportunities and priorities across the sectors. We expect the successful network grant to play a strategic role in bringing together relevant participants that cross sector and disciplinary boundaries and includes a wide range of stakeholders (particularly those from

business, industry and policy). Applications should consider the cross-cutting themes when developing their core activities and also set out a clear strategy and vision for the network with defined objectives, detailing how it addresses the scope of the broader Challenge.

The Network Plus will undertake three core activities:

- Engagement and networking

The successful Network plus will have a strong emphasis on knowledge transfer between the sectors, including activities to better understand the barriers to implementation of new innovations in an industrial setting. Engagement with business, the private sector and policy makers will be a central part of the network's ethos and activity; it is expected that a significant level of the funding should be dedicated to boosting engagement across the sectors. Applicants are encouraged to develop their own innovative methods for engagement across the sectors and should detail their vision for the involvement and collaboration of the different stakeholder groups in the proposal. The application should be able to articulate how they intend to recruit a diverse membership for the network from across the sectors and discipline areas.

- Provide community leadership

The Network plus will be tasked with further developing an identity for the Foundation Industries and providing leadership for the sector. It should be innovative in the kinds of user engagement, communications and knowledge exchange/impact generation activities undertaken to achieve this goal. Applicants and broader leadership team are expected to have a breadth of expertise that is commensurate with the complexity of this space. The Network Plus will also be expected to represent the community at collaborative activities organised by the wider Transforming Foundation Industries Challenge and other UKRI investments.

- Commissioning of small grants through a flexible fund

The network should include a substantial flexible fund for small projects that can be used for organising activities open to the whole research community throughout the period of the grant. The funding should be structured to provide support for all career stages, with a particular emphasis on Early Career Researchers. By the end of the grant, we would expect that the Network Plus has funded a portfolio of projects that covers the breadth of the remit and sectors, and industry match funding should be encouraged where relevant. The Network Plus should aim to fund 20 projects throughout the lifetime of the grant and should articulate in the application their aims and strategy for distribution of the flexible fund including proposed funding calls, timelines, governance and assessment criteria. It is expected that the Network Plus-funded small grant activities will provide an opportunity for applications from researchers outside of the successful network to participate, thereby drawing more researchers into the network community.

Applications are expected to take an open and inclusive approach and to grow and evolve over the lifetime of the grant. We strongly encourage inter-organisational proposals and also encourage strong partnerships with non-HEI organisations such as business and industry, NGOs or public sector organisations

through the inclusion of Project Partners in the application. We would also encourage Applicants to evidence broad community support for the Network Plus application through the provision of Letters of Support. To facilitate this, the limit of 3 Letters of Support has been removed, and multiple letters can be submitted within a single document.

The Network Plus should outline a commitment to working collaboratively, and to identify and exploit potential opportunities to work with other existing UKRI investments, where appropriate, to maximise impact. A plan for investment engagement should be included in the application. Other investments include but are not limited to:

- ISCF Industrial Decarbonisation Research and Innovation Centre
- ISCF Transforming Construction Network Plus
- UKRI National Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Research Programme
- EPSRC Future Manufacturing Research Hubs

As with all ISCF activities, the UKRI team will have an active investment management relationship with this Network Plus. The ISCF challenge director will have the right to terminate activities that are not delivering on objectives.

Activities under the ISCF Transforming Foundation Industries challenge will be evaluated at the challenge level - all the grants funded under ISCF Transforming Foundation Industries will be evaluated as a whole.

This call is being run by EPSRC on behalf of UK Research & Innovation Councils, however, it should be noted that PIs and Co-Is from all disciplines supported by UKRI are welcomed and encouraged to apply. For more information about UKRI's portfolio and strategies, see our website: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/delivery-plans/>

Funding available

The Transforming Foundation Industries ISCF is awarding up to £2M (at 80% FEC) for one Network Plus grant of which approximately 50% should be allocated to the flexible fund. We will apply indexation to a grant before an offer letter is produced therefore the total EPSRC contribution requested (including any justified exceptions costs paid at 100%) must not exceed £1.97M to allow for the inclusion of these indexation costs. Applicants are advised to speak to their research office for support in completing their resource costings.

The awards will be made for 36 months duration.

Funding requested as part of this call may include:

- Investigators' salaries- the Principal Investigator (PI) and up to three Co-Investigators (Co-Is) can request funds to cover their salary costs for the time spent on setting up and leading the Network Plus.
- Travel and subsistence - Travel and subsistence enabling members of the Network Plus to meet together to exchange ideas and expertise. This may include visits by or to experts overseas. This may also include travel and

subsistence costs to support secondments. Where possible collaborators should meet their own travel costs.

- Administrative support – A sufficient level of administrative support should be requested to help in the co-ordination and management of the Network Plus and ensure smooth running of the Network Plus. Reasonable costs for monitoring and dissemination of the Network Plus output can also be included.
- Organisation of Activities - Funding can be requested for costs involved in running activities such as networking events, expert working groups, debates, online discussion forums, lectures, seminars, problem solving workshops etc. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about the range of activities that could support the delivery of the Network Plus goals.
- Research- This should include a budget for a flexible fund that can be allocated to researchers within and beyond the network including at other universities.

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 develop and promote 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/>).

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://sfdora.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 peer 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 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 this call, standard UKRI eligibility rules apply relating to the status of the organisation and the employment status of individuals applying. Investigators from all disciplines supported by UKRI are welcomed and encouraged to apply.

Please ensure sufficient time to create Je-S accounts for Investigators who do not currently have one. Any proposal that is incomplete, or does not meet the eligibility criteria of this call for proposals, will be office rejected and will not be considered.

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/>

Unsuccessful proposals from this call are not subject to the EPSRC repeatedly unsuccessful applicants policy (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/resubpol/rua/>).

How to apply

Intent to Submit – Smart Survey

Please complete the Smart Survey by 08 June 2020 at 16:00 to submit your intent for a proposal. The information in the Notification of Intent to submit will not form part of the peer review process, but shall help allow us to plan the future stages of the call.

Submitting a full 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'
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard'
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'ISCF Transforming Foundation Industries Network Plus' 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 July 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

The following documents should be submitted at the full proposal stage:

- Je-S application form
- Case for Support (up to 8 pages)
- Justification of Resources (2 pages)
- Work Plan (1 page)
- Project Partner Letter(s) of Support (optional, no page limit)
- CVs (optional)
- Letter of Support (optional, no page limit)

- Cover Letter (optional, no page limit)

Further details on what should be included in each document are described:

Case for Support (up to 8 sides of A4)

- Track record of the applicants (2 pages) – details of the PI and Co-Is as well as the initial proposed Network Plus membership.
- The research scope and the benefits of the proposed Network Plus, detailing how the Network Plus will provide community leadership and develop an identity for the Foundation Industries.
- Plans for engagement – details of how multidisciplinary and cross-sector engagement, including with industry and policymakers, will be encouraged and monitored. Links to other relevant UKRI investments.
- Planned activities of the network - including examples of some of the events planned for the first 12-18 months of the network, and type and frequency of events for the remainder of the Network Plus.
- Dissemination plans – including how the Network Plus outcomes will be disseminated and how the Network Plus activity may be sustained after the lifetime of the grant.
- Flexible fund – how the flexible fund will be managed and delivered, including application processes, cross sectoral and multidisciplinary approach, EDI issues and monitoring plans for successful small grants over the lifetime of their awards and beyond.
- Plans for managing the network, including details of project management, governance, managing relationships within and beyond the Network Plus.
- Articulation of how the Network Plus will contribute to the ISCF Transforming Foundation Industries Challenge objectives and broader societal needs.

Please ensure that all assessment criteria, as outlined in the section below, are covered within your case of support.

Justification of the Resources requested (up to 2 sides of A4)

This document must present a full justification for all resources being requested, and demonstrate value for money and cost-effectiveness.

Work Plan (up to 1 side of A4)

This document should include details of the programme to be delivered including timescales.

Letters of Support (no page limit)

Letters that show significant support for the proposal and a clear intention to engage with the Network. It is strongly advised to seek letters from across the sectors. The limit of 3 Letters of Support has been removed, and multiple letters

can be submitted within a single document to allow Applicants to evidence broad community support.

Project Partner Letters of Support (no page limit)

A statement of support must be attached for every project partner identified; only one letter is allowed per organisation. Each letter must be on headed paper, signed, and dated within 6 months of the application date to EPSRC. Project partners must be making a contribution to the proposal which should have an approximate financial value attached to it. The vendor's academic discount should not be included as a contribution. The host organisation cannot be a project partner.

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.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

Please note, there are two application stages in this call. An intention to submit should be completed via the online form on the call page of the EPSRC website by 16:00 on 08 June 2020 followed by the submission of a full proposal by 16:00 on 01 July 2020. The intention to submit will only be used to plan for the future stages of the call and will not form part of the assessment. Applicants who do not complete this form will not be prevented from submitting a full proposal.

The full proposals will then undergo postal peer review with the opportunity for the Applicants to provide a written response. In the case that a high volume of proposals are received, an internal UKRI panel may be convened to determine whether some of the submissions are rejected at the postal peer review stage prior to PI response. This panel would assess the proposals based on the number

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of positive review comments and may reject proposals where the majority of reviews were not positive.

For proposals that are successful through the internal panel, the Applicant team will be invited to interview in September 2020 and assessed by a generalist panel. The interview panel will have the opportunity to interview on all assessment criteria, in addition to assessing the reviewer's comments and the applicants' response. Discussions on the 'Quality' and 'Fit to Scope' assessment criteria will be confined to the points raised through postal peer review. The interview panel will then use the suite of information available (reviews, PI response and interview performance) to make a decision and recommend a single proposal for funding.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

Quality (Primary Criterion)

- (1) The novelty, relationship to the context, timeliness and relevance to identified stakeholders;
- (2) The ambition, adventure, transformative aspects or potential outcomes;
- (3) The suitability of the proposed methodology and the appropriateness of the approach to achieving impact.

Fit to Scope (Primary Criterion)

- (1) Demonstration of how the proposed network shall form an interdisciplinary and cross-sector community that can work together to address common challenges across the Foundation Industries.

Importance (Secondary Major Criterion)

- (1) Demonstration of underpinning or contribution to: health of other disciplines, addressing key societal challenges, current or future economic successes and/or enables future development of emerging industries;
- (2) Meets national needs by establishing/maintaining a unique world leading activity;
- (3) Articulation of how the Network Plus will meet the needs of the UK in the context of this ISCF Challenge.

Applicant and Partnerships (Secondary Criterion)

- (1) Appropriateness of the track record of the applicant(s);
- (2) Balance of skills of the project team, including collaborators.

Resources and Management (Secondary Criterion)

- (1) The effectiveness of the proposed planning and management and whether the requested resources are appropriate and have been fully justified;
- (2) The appropriateness of any resources requested for activities to either increase impact, for public engagement or to support responsible innovation.

Network Vision and Leadership (Secondary Criterion)

(1) Demonstration of a clear vision for the strategic contribution to the programme of work. This should include project delivery, leadership, management of collaborators and staff and mitigation of risks. There should be appropriate experience or plans to lead the network across various aspects of the programme including a clear articulation of how the flexible funding pot shall be managed.

Guidance for reviewers

Reviewers are requested to consider the assessment criteria listed above when considering the strengths and weaknesses of proposals submitted through this call. Please note that the detailed assessment criteria under the main headings differ from typical EPSRC calls – see above for details.

Additional Grant Conditions (AGCs)

Grants will be subject to the standard UK Research and Innovation grant conditions however the following additional grant conditions will be added to this call:

AGC 1: This grant has been funded under the Transforming Foundation Industries Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) and will form part of a consortia of funded projects delivered through Innovate UK and EPSRC. Investigators and researchers associated with this grant are expected to promote the aims and be advocates for the Transforming Foundation Industries ISCF through working both within and beyond the Programme.

AGC 2: Notwithstanding RGC 5.2 Starting Procedures, this grant has a fixed start date of the 1st of January 2021 – no slippage of this date will be permitted. Expenditure may be incurred prior to the start of the grant and be subsequently charged to the grant, provided that it does not precede the date of the offer letter.

AGC 3: In addition to RGC 12.4 Publication and Acknowledgement of Support, the Grant Holder must make reference to ISCF and UKRI funding and include the UKRI logo and relevant branding on all online or printed materials (including press releases, posters, exhibition materials and other publications) related to activities funded by this grant. A dedicated website must be set up within six months of the start of the grant and regularly maintained to provide a resource for engagement with the wider community.

AGC 4: EPSRC will nominate a member of UKRI staff (The Project Officer) who will be your primary point of contact. The Project Officer will ensure that the project is being run in accordance with the terms and conditions and in line with

financial due diligence. The Project Officer(s) should have access to all documentation of Governance and Reporting bodies, in so far as it relates to the administration and application of the grant. As funding administrators, all UKRI staff have agreed to maintain the confidentiality required by all parties involved in EPSRC funded research.

AGC 5: Further to RGC 7 Monitoring, this grant is subject to the framework principles of the Transforming Foundation Industries ISCF and will be expected to report progress in association with other grants and governance structures under this scheme where appropriate.

AGC 6: This grant must establish and run an Independent Advisory Board, or equivalent body, to oversee the running of the project and provide advice on the strategic direction and activities of the project. The Terms of Reference and membership of this group (at least 50% independent membership and an independent Chair) should be agreed with the EPSRC. The Project Officer will also be expected to attend and participate in Advisory Board and other appropriate meetings for the duration of the grant.

AGC 7: In addition to RGC 3.4, the Grant Holder is expected to prepare a full equality diversity and inclusion plan for the duration of this grant to demonstrate best practice in equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the lifetime of this funding award. This must be submitted to UKRI within the first 6 months of the grant and reconsidered annually in conjunction with the advisory board.

AGC 8: This grant is supported through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) which is led by a UKRI-appointed ISCF Challenge Director. In accepting this award, the Principal Investigator (PI) acknowledges the need for the Challenge Director to have control over the Challenge and agrees to work with the Challenge Director to ensure that the work supported under this grant contributes to the overall delivery of the Challenge. Whilst the PI is expected to take advice from the Challenge Director to steer the research towards meeting the aims of the Challenge; the PI still retains control of the project funds for the duration of the project with advice from the Management Team and Advisory Board.

AGC 9: Notwithstanding standard grant condition RGC 4.4 the sum awarded under the heading of 'Flexible Funds' can include both directly incurred and directly allocated expenditure. These funds must be reported on the final expenditure statement (FES) as awarded on the Offer Letter and a breakdown of the expenditure must be submitted along with the FES. If a breakdown of this expenditure is not received the Final Expenditure Statements will be returned. Standard grant conditions apply to all other funds awarded on this grant.

AGC 10: Where the Grant Holder is expected to hold a competition to distribute a proportion of funds awarded to a Third Party, this competition will be carried out in accordance with the principles of Peer Review upheld by EPSRC: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/prprinciples/> . Prior agreement on the process stages and assessment criteria must be sought from EPSRC and agreed by the Advisory board in advance. The Grant Holder and any third party recipient must comply with expectations of the use of public money for the purpose of this grant. All expenditure incurred, irrespective of source, must comply with these expectations.

AGC 11: The Project Officer must be informed within three months of the start of the grant, that a collaboration agreement is in place if relevant and has been signed by all partners and/or the progress made.

AGC 12: The Grant Holder must immediately notify the Project Officer(s) of any material accumulation, slippage or variation in expenditure. Financial reporting may be requested by EPSRC on to-date expenditure and forecast grant expenditure on up to a quarterly basis. We reserve the right to re-profile the grant if required. Any deviation from the agreed allocation of funding and profiled costs must be negotiated and approved through written consent by Us, acting on behalf of UKRI ISCF.

AGC 13: Additional financial or non-financial information may be requested outside of the standard annual and quarterly reporting cycle. The grant holder agrees to comply with these requests in a timely manner.

Moving forward

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

Activity	Date*
Call Open	06 May 2020
Intent to Submit – Smart Survey	08 June 2020
Full Proposal Deadline	01 July 2020
Interview Panel	September 2020
Funding Decision	October 2020
Fixed Grant Start Date	01 January 2021

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

Contacts

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Shahidur Chokdar	11 March 2020	1	N/A
Rosanna Greenop	20 April 2020	2	Incorporated comments from Claire Spooner
Rosanna Greenop	29 April 2020	3	Incorporated comments from the ISCF Challenge Team

Appendices

Je-S attachments Check List

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	Eight pages	M	Comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, and six A4 sides describing proposed research and its context.
Workplan	One page	M	
Justification for Resources	Two pages	M	
CVs	Two pages each	As Required (certain roles only)	For named and visiting researchers, and researcher co-investigators only.
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	As Required (for named Project Partners only)	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	Multiple letters can be submitted

			in one attachment.
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.