Quick Reference

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

UK Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme

Phase 7

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date: 16:00 on 15 July 2020

Funding Available: Up to £1m to fund two research projects

How to apply: Single-stage submission for full proposals

Assessment Process: Component proposals from Japan-based researchers will be assessed by interview panel in Japan. Those successful from the Japan interview will be assessed by a joint UK Japan expert panel.

Key Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je-S opens for Full Proposals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional information: This call is run in collaboration with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). EPSRC funding available through this call supports UK-based researchers only, with Japan-based researchers applying for funding from MEXT for their component of the research project.

Contacts: Elizabeth Bent – elizabeth.bent@epsrc.ukri.org, Edward Jones – edward.jones@epsrc.ukri.org, EPSRC Energy Team – EnergyTeam@epsrc.ukri.org, Je-S Helpdesk – JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org [Please restrict to one A4 side only]

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Summary

EPSRC, in collaboration with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Sport, Culture and Technology (MEXT) and the Nuclear Safety Research Association (NSRA), seek collaborative research applications with UK and Japan-based principal investigators in the removal of fuel debris and environmental safety around reactor core decommissioning of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), and Sellafield’s decommissioning challenges. EPSRC will fund the UK-based research and MEXT will fund the Japan-based research components. This call represents the seventh phase of the UK-Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme and it is for small projects of approximately 30 months duration, with a fixed end date of 31 March 2023.

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Background

This collaboration is a result from negotiations between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), EPSRC and MEXT in Japan. These negotiations culminated at a meeting at the FCO in October 2013 where it was agreed that a joint collaborative programme of research should be initiated, and initial subject areas were set.

This call seeks to support two projects covering key research challenges to accelerate and advance nuclear science including decommissioning relevant to Fukushima and Sellafield.

Proposals are expected to address issues of material characterisation, waste management and storage, remote technology and robotics, sensor technology and digital technology. This call is not open to research proposals on new fuels and new reactors.

It is desirable that applications will complement existing research projects funded under previous phases of the UK Japan Civil Nuclear Energy programme.

- UK Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme Phase 1: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-1SDBZN&RankingListId=1-1SDC0B
- UK Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme Phase 2: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-2ZR6Q6&RankingListId=1-2ZR6RG
- UK Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme Phase 3: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-2ZR6Q6&RankingListId=1-2ZR6RG
- UK-Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme Phase 4: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-4TKIV1&RankingListId=1-4TKIV9
- UK-Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme Phase 5: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-622833&RankingListId=1-62284Z
- UK-Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme Phase 6: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-7KTJR2&RankingListId=1-7LAJ29

This is a joint call between EPSRC and MEXT. Thus all applications are expected to be collaborative between UK-based researchers and Japan-based researchers.

The UK partner should submit their proposal part to EPSRC, and the Japan partner should submit their part to JAEA/CLADS. Information related to the JAEA/CLADS call can be found here:

https://www.kenkyu.jp/nuclear/application/index.html

Please note the following differences to a standard application:

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• The projects are to be of fixed duration, with a fixed start date in November 2020 and a fixed end date of 31 March 2023. This fixed timeline is set to accommodate Japan’s funding cycle.

• The call will have a closing time of 16:00 on 15 July 2020. Please note that this closing time in Japan may vary so please plan your joint submissions accordingly.

• The case for support is permitted to be 10 pages to match the allowed limit in Japan.

• In addition, the application should include a two page outline of the project describing both the UK and Japan-based components. This outline will be assessed by JAEA/CLADS during the interview stage (to be held in Japan, for Japan-based researchers only), which is described in the assessment section.

• The case for support submitted to EPSRC should match that submitted to JAEA/CLADS, in-so-far as this is possible, given the difference in language, and describe the work being done in both Japan and the UK.

• Applicants should note that they should request only the travel and subsistence cost for the UK part of the project. The Japanese partners should request any funds they need from MEXT.

• Additional grant conditions will apply and are described below.

For more information about EPSRC’s portfolio and strategies, see our website: https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/
https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/researchareas/nuclearfission/

**Funding available**

This call is run jointly by EPSRC and MEXT, with EPSRC funding the UK-based component of the research project, and MEXT funding the Japan-based one.

EPSRC Funding available for this call is up to £1m and it is to support the UK component of two research projects.

**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.

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by advancing policy which supports equality, diversity and inclusion. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages [https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/](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/](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/](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 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/](https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/)

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Eligibility
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

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’
- Document type ‘Standard Proposal’
- Scheme ‘Standard’
- On the Project Details page you should select the ‘UK Japan Civil Nuclear Research Programme Phase 7’ 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 15 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
Proposals should follow the standard EPSRC proposal structure and include the following documents:

- **Case for support** (up to ten sides A4), including
  - A track record (up to two sides of A4) detailing the relevant expertise that the investigator/team will bring to the research programme.
  - A description of the proposed research (up to eight sides of A4). This should include a National Importance Statement

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• **Work Plan** (one side of A4).

• **Justification of Resources** (up to two sides of A4).

• **Outline of the project** (up to two sides of A4). This should include details for both the UK and the Japan-based components. This should be uploaded as an ‘Additional Document’.

• **CVs** (optional- up to two sides of A4 for any named researchers, visiting researchers and researcher co-investigators, if applicable).

• **Project Partner Letter of Support** (optional- where applicable, no page limit. Uploaded as part of the project partner section on Je-S).

• **Technical assessment for the use of major facilities** (optional- where applicable, no page limit).

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](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/](https://www.epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/)) and the Responsible Innovation Framework ([https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/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/](https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/preparing/)

### Assessment

#### Assessment process

EPSRC reserve the right to reject proposals which are considered to be outside of the Energy remit or the remit of this call without reference to peer review. Proposals will not undergo postal peer review, however pre-panel comments
from panel members will be shared with applicants, and applicants will have an opportunity to make a response to these comments in writing before the panel. Component proposals from Japan-based researchers will be assessed by interview panel in Japan. UK partners may be asked by their Japanese partners to contribute to the Japan interview via teleconference or video conference, but this is not mandatory. There will not be an equivalent interview stage in the UK. Both UK and Japan based applicants will be notified of the outcomes of the interview at this stage.

Successful proposals from this stage will be assessed by a joint UK-Japan expert panel resulting in a rank-ordered list. The panel will make a combined assessment of the proposals against the EPSRC and MEXT assessment. The UK assessment criteria is listed below. Funding decisions will be made following the outcomes of the combined panel, and applicants will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible after the panel meeting.

Assessment criteria

Proposals submitted to this call will be assessed on their fit to the scope of the call, and to the criteria listed below. Please note that EPSRC reserves the right to reject proposals which are considered out of the remit of this call without reference to Peer Review.

Quality

- Research vision, ambition and adventure.
- Distinctiveness from other projects funded in the existing portfolio.
- Appropriateness of proposed methodology.

Importance

- Potential impact of the UK research landscape in cross-disciplinary technology research.
- Appropriate and viable potential user collaborations.
- Plans for dissemination and knowledge exchange with potential beneficiaries of the research.

Ability of the applicant team to deliver the research

- The leadership quality and experience of the PI.
- The track record of the team.
- The balance of skills of the project team.

Resources and management

- Effectiveness of planning and resource management.
- Appropriateness of resources requested.

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Grant additional conditions (GACs)

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:

**GAC 1. Start Date of the Grant**

Notwithstanding GC4, this grant has a fixed start date in November 2020. No slippage to this date will be allowed.

**GAC 2. Fixed Duration of the Grant**

This grant must end on 31 March 2023. Grant extensions may be requested later, as the grant progresses, for the usual conditions: [https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/post-awardguidance/](https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/post-awardguidance/)

**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/](https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/)

**Key dates**

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*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**

**EPSRC contacts:**

- Dr Elizabeth Bent, Portfolio Manager, EPSRC  
  elizabeth.bent@epsrc.ukri.org  
  017934444426

- Mr Edward Jones, Portfolio Manager, EPSRC  
  edward.jones@epsrc.ukri.org  
  07511164817

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EPSRC Energy Team Inbox
EnergyTeam@epsrc.ukri.org

Je-S Helpdesk:

- Email – JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org

Please note that during the current circumstances, a call back can be requested by emailing the Je-S helpdesk.

Applicants are advised to contact their university research office for help and advice on writing their proposal. Please ensure you allow enough time before the closing date for your organisation’s submission process when contacting the research office.

Change log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Bent</td>
<td>March 2020</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Created call document</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Bent</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Changes to contact information, update URLs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Bent</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Change to interview dates for Japanese researchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Je-S attachments Check List

Standard:

All attachments must be completed in single-spaced typescript in Arial 11 or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size, with margins of at least 2cm.

https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/preparing/writing/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment Type</th>
<th>Maximum Page length</th>
<th>Mandatory/Optional</th>
<th>Extra Guidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case for Support</td>
<td>Ten pages</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, and eight A4 sides describing proposed research and its context.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Workplan</td>
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<td>Outline of the project detailing both the UK and Japan Components</td>
<td>Two pages</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Please upload under ‘Additional Document’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVs</td>
<td>Two pages each</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>For named and visiting researchers, and researcher co-investigators only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Partner Letter of Support</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Uploaded as part of the project partner section on Je-S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assessment for the use of major facilities</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Supply where applicable, no page limit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Please ensure you meet requirements for the