UKRI stakeholder events focusing on place

**Containing information on UKRI Strength in Places Wave 2**

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Part 1: Welcome

Part 2: Aims and objectives of the UK Research and Innovation Strength in Places Fund (SIPF)

Part 3: Guidance on applying to the UK Research and Innovation Strength in Places Fund (SIPF)

Open Q&A

Finish - SIPF Team available

Close
Part 1: Introduction to UK Research and Innovation; and our role in the Industrial Strategy
UK Research and Innovation, launched in April 2018, has a £7 billion budget over 3 years and works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

www.ukri.org
What do we do?

- £7 billion
- Developing skilled people
- Commercialisation of new products and services
- Major research facilities
- Public engagement
- Research Centres and innovation campuses
- Activities to support innovation.
- Fundamental world leading research
In the 2016 Autumn Statement £4.7bn of additional funding for R&D, was announced over the period 2017/18 to 2020/21 with a rising profile as part of the Industrial Strategy. This increase in funding, if baselined at an additional £2bn per annum, is likely to halt the decline in R&D investment as a percentage of GDP (around 1.7% in 2016).

The Government has set an ambition for the UK to become the most innovative country in the world, committing as part of the Industrial Strategy to raise investment in R&D to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.
Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive UKRI, to the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology March 2019

“The 2.4% itself is not the end—it is the means to the end. The end is growth and productivity. The industrial strategy sets out the different elements that are necessary as part of that. Clearly, talent and people are an extremely important part of that. Place is important as well. There is a whole array of different things that need to be achieved.”
How UKRI supports the Industrial Strategy

UKRI is working with the UK government to develop a roadmap for reaching the 2.4% target. This will include:

• supporting regions/nations of the UK to build on their strengths, while continuing our world-leading excellence in research and innovation.

• improving the evidence base for capacity and gaps – including feedback and insight from research organisations, and business and wider community

• priority-shaping by working together with partners across the UK – universities, businesses, charities, research, innovation, and enterprise organisations, public sector bodies
UKRI and the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

• UKRI administers The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), as part of government’s Industrial Strategy, the long-term plan to raise productivity and earning power in the UK.

• Challenge areas shortlisted for future support include: accelerating detection of disease, commercialising quantum, digital security by design, driving the electric revolution, future flight, industrial decarbonisation, manufacturing made smarter, sustainable plastic packaging and transforming foundation industries.
UKRI also received additional funding up until 2020/21 to administer:

**Autumn Statement 2016:**
- £250m for actions including 1,000 PhD placements and additional early and mid-career fellowships
- £100m to attract the brightest minds to the UK

**Industrial Strategy White Paper:**
- £300m for world class talent including new cohorts of PhDs, fellowships and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) delivered by UKRI

This funding aims to support areas aligned with the Industrial Strategy through collaboration and encouraging the flow of people between industry and academia. We will continue the valuable collaborative work with Europe and the international community.
SIPF is also part of the Industrial Strategy as outlined in the November 2017 Industrial Strategy White Paper. SIPF is a strategic pathfinder programme, supporting collaborative programmes based on research and innovation excellence in places right across the UK.

So far £236m has been allocated to UKRI for SIPF to support collaborative programmes based on research and innovation excellence in places right across the UK. This will be used for waves 1 and 2 of SIPF.
Part 2

Aims and Objectives: the Strength in Places Fund
SIPF is a competitive fund for collaborative bids led by research organisations or businesses, with consortia including both business and research organisations, and strong engagement from local leadership partners. The specific objectives of SIPF are:

- Funded activities contribute towards significant, relative regional economic growth.
- Excellent research and high-quality innovation is completed, or underway as a result of funded proposals.
- Collaborations between local businesses, research organisations and local leadership are enhanced as a result of the funded proposals.
- The evidence base around the impact of locally targeted R&D spending in the UK is improved.
• Investment will be focused primarily on the basis of specific ‘economic geographies’, and on the distinctive technology supply chain or sector to be driven in that locality.

• We define the ‘economic geography’ as being at the realistic local scale for the cluster being supported and not necessarily constrained by local authority boundaries.

• Consortia are expected to self-determine the spatial geography that projects will focus on.

• In all bids, we expect all partners will be located within the self-defined area. Including where bids go across or cover multiple local authority or devolved areas.
• It is not a pre-requisite for applicants to have previously completed an Science and Innovation Audit (SIA) and the SIPF is not a follow on fund for SIA support. However, we see SIA data as part of the evidence that consortia may draw upon, dependent on the economic geography making the bid.

• The evidence presented within a bid will vary by the economic geography making the bid and the activities proposed, but applicants should make their case using what they consider to be the most compelling evidence, depending on the activities to be supported. This may include – but is not limited to – demonstrating alignment with local economic growth strategies throughout the UK, (including smart specialisation strategies; and city deals).
  o The new Local Industrial Strategies in England will map out specific opportunities, challenges and priorities across the foundations of productivity (including ideas), and will inform LEP’s approach to any future local growth funding.
• The fund is open to any sector, area of technology, or research discipline where a local business need can be demonstrated.

• Bids can be led by either a business or research organisation, but consortia must include both research and business partners.

• Each consortium must have a single lead that will be responsible to UKRI for accountability and administration of funds.

• Bids that are unsuccessful in the first wave will be eligible for resubmission in later waves, provided that feedback supplied has been fully addressed, and the application is declared as a resubmission.
Scope – example of activities, as set out in call documentation

• Increase local capacity to commercialise: *e.g. additional research capacity being required to deliver business outcomes through commercialisation (taking technologies to market, e.g. licensing to existing companies or industry partnerships).*

• Draw in overseas R&D/business investment.

• Revive a legacy industrial base through use of underlying technologies.

• Transferring technologies between industries.

• Improve collaboration between universities/research organisations and SME technology-focused companies in specific geographic clusters.
Out of scope activities

- Investment in new strategic national infrastructure that should be supported through other UKRI programmes, e.g. establishing new Catapult centres, Innovation Knowledge Centres (IKCs) etc.

- Recreating national grand-challenges at a regional level that would risk duplication of programme funding through ISCF and other UKRI programmes.

- Developing outreach programmes to transfer a locality’s expertise to other regions around the UK. All partners are to be located within the self-defined economic geography of the bid.
Outcomes from Wave 1 so far

85 eligible Expressions of Interest were received for Wave 1 from all regions and nations of the UK. They addressed a wide range of business sectors and research topics.

23 proposals are proceeding to full proposal stage and have been awarded up to £50k each to assist the costs of developing their bid. Details of these proposals can be found at https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/strength-in-places-fund/wave-1-seedcorn-funded-proposals/.

Those full stage bids that are successful are expected to commence their projects in early summer 2020. A small number of unsuccessful full stage bids may be invited to resubmit to the full bid stage of Wave 2.
The SIPF Wave 1 EOI assessment panel noted the 3 following points:

1. **Evidence base.** The strongest bids had a robust evidence base

2. **The story.** The panel liked the proposals that had a coherent narrative. Where has this come from? Why is it timely? How will it contribute to growth in the defined area? What effect will it have?

3. **Risk.** The Panel expected to support a portfolio of risk in projects at the seed corn funding stage. e.g. higher risk and lower risk. In some cases, the proposals did not fully set out the risks, or explain how these would be mitigated.
Part 3:
Guidance on applying to the Strength in Places Fund
Part 3: Guidance on applying to SIPF

• Eligible activities: the key distinctive feature of SIPF is that the strongest bids will be those which demonstrate the greatest proportionate economic benefit to its locality; measured by business growth and improved regional productivity.

• The specific funding package of activities will depend on the needs of the consortia and cluster as articulated at EOI and refined at stage 2 of the bid development process.

• Funded activities would be in line with R&D mechanisms currently delivered through UKRI’s councils.
£50k ‘seed corn’ funding will support successful EOI consortia in 2020/21 to further develop full stage bids of between £10 million and £50 million, over 3-5 years. £50 million bids will be exceptional.

- EOI – closing date for applications 9 October 2019;
- EOI Panel meets March 2020
- Full stage - Successful EOIs receive seed corn funding to develop full stage bids from summer 2020;
- 4-8 successful full stage projects announced Summer 2021.
• The panel will apply the published assessment criteria to make an appropriate judgement on the relative strengths of bids, taking into account expert reviews, and analysis provided by UKRI to establish the relative impact of proposals. The analysis provided by UKRI will include evidence which is routinely available to UKRI councils including evidence of comparative research and innovation performance, as well as any relevant insights on capability that might help inform their assessment.

• UKRI will aim to support a balanced portfolio of bids across the UK, following the waves of commissioning awards.
State Aid at EOI stage

• All proposals should be compliant with state-aid rules. For the seedcorn funding stage, all applicants will be eligible to claim up to the maximum of £50k, for those EOI taken forward to full stage.

• Research organisations leading an EOI bid may apply for funding support up to 100% of eligible project costs if the lead (or delivery) organisation involved is a non-profit distributing research organisation.

• It is the responsibility of those developing the proposals to ensure that they will be compliant with State Aid regulations should they be successful.
• At full stage, research organisations within a bid may apply for funding support up to 100% of eligible project costs (if lead organisation is a non-profit distributing research organisation). With these bids, we strongly encourage institution-backed bids, with co-investment demonstrating commitment.

• Businesses receiving funding in the project will need to find the relevant match funding as governed by state aid rules.

• UKRI expects applicants to detail the grant split and contribution from each of the consortium partners, and how they comply with relevant general State Aid regulations.

• We strongly encourage co-investment from consortia partners to demonstrate commitment.
Whether led by a business or a research organisation, the lead organisation must be a legal entity which is eligible to receive funding from UKRI.

Research organisations may be in any of the following groups:

- universities (higher education institutions)
- non-profit research and technology organisations (RTOs) including catapults
- Independent Research Organisations on the UKRI approved list
- public sector research establishments (PSRE)
- research council institutes

Applicants will be required to demonstrate ability and experience in running large-scale research and innovation grant awards.
Approach to SIPF Evaluation

Has the project met its own objectives?

What has the impact been on the target sector/business cluster and research capacity in the chosen economic geography?

Can any wider economic activity in the chosen economic geography be attributed to the SIPF investment?

A triangulation of three elements
How can I apply?

- See call documentation, these presentation slides and FAQs on UKRI website, [https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/strength-in-places-fund/](https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/strength-in-places-fund/)

- Apply via the Innovation Funding Service (IFS) from 3 June 2019 [https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/370/overview](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/370/overview)

- Deadline for EOI applications is **9 October 2019**

- For programme queries please email SIPF@re.ukri.org

- For IFS process queries please email support@innovateuk.ukri.org
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