



**STFC External Innovations
Webinar:**

**Early Stage Research and
Development Scheme will
begin shortly.**

Thank you for joining us

STFC External Innovations Programme

Early Stage Research and Development Scheme 21 June 2022

Dr Jason Green

Associate Director External Innovations



Landscape

UK
Government
strategy

UKRI
Strategy

Innovate UK
Strategy

STFC
Strategy



STFC External Innovations Programme

Follow on Fund – proof of concept



Innovation Partnership - commercialisation



CLASP – Challenge Led



Programme review
simplified and refreshed

Challenge-Led calls led by
Horizons Programme

STFC External Innovations Programme

Early Stage Research and Development

To fund research and development with a focus on technology development in the PPAN community from [technology readiness level](#) (TRL) 1-5 in partnership with industry as appropriate.

Late Stage Commercialisation

To fund commercialisation (TRL 5-7/8) developed from STFC PPAN funded research in partnership with industry as appropriate.

More detail to follow about this as we are still developing the scheme – aiming to launch in Autumn 2022

TRL

Technology readiness levels (TRL) are a type of measurement system used to assess the maturity level of a particular technology. A technology project is evaluated against the parameters for each technology level and can then be assigned a TRL rating based on the projects progress.

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The TRL levels and definitions are as follows:

- **TRL 1:** basic principles observed and reported
- **TRL 2:** technology concept or application formulated
- **TRL 3:** analytical and experimental critical function or characteristic proof-of-concept
- **TRL 4:** technology basic validation in a laboratory environment
- **TRL 5:** technology basic validation in a relevant environment
- **TRL 6:** technology model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment
- **TRL 7:** technology prototype demonstration in an operational environment
- **TRL 8:** actual technology completed and qualified through test and demonstration
- **TRL 9:** actual technology qualified through successful mission operations

Early Stage Research and Development TRL 1-5

Late Stage Commercialisation TRL 5-7/8



STFC External Innovations Programme

Early Stage Research and Development Scheme 21 June 2022

Dr Wendy Carr

Senior Programme Manager External Innovations

STFC – Early Stage Research and Development Scheme

What is the early stage research and development scheme and what are its aims?

Who can apply?

What can I apply for?

Equipment

What is the timeline?

How to apply

How will the applications be assessed?

Resubmission rules.

Successful applications.

Contact details and next steps.

STFC – Early Stage Research and Development Scheme

What is the early stage research and development scheme?

The Early Stage Research and Development scheme is one of two new knowledge exchange schemes offered by STFC to support the PPAN community

Schemes are designed to fund projects from initial research and development through to commercialisation

The PPAN community is defined as particle physics, particle astrophysics, astronomy, nuclear physics, accelerator physics, solar and planetary science, and computing that underpins these areas

STFC – Early Stage Research and Development Scheme

What are the schemes aims?

Main aim is to support technology development addressing current and future challenges facing the PPAN community. This includes technologies or ideas originating from the core STFC funded areas of particle physics, particle astrophysics, astronomy, nuclear physics, accelerator physics, solar and planetary science, and computing that underpins these areas.

Secondary aim of the scheme is to further develop, where appropriate, the outputs of the R&D from the scheme during the lifetime of the awards to enable future funded work with business

STFC – Early Stage Research and Development Scheme

Who can apply?

Proposals for projects must clearly demonstrate that the science, technology, and expertise is aimed at the STFC core PPAN Science Programme.

CERN, UKSA, ESO or ESRF and STFC facilities and laboratories are eligible if they fulfil this criteria.

Applications will be assessed by the STFC External Innovations office staff for eligibility following submission and returned at this early stage if they do not fulfil the requirements. These will be viewed as an office return, not as a panel rejection.

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What can I apply for?

The scheme provides funding for a maximum of £200,000 a year fEC for three years and additional funding for equipment.

Year three of the award will be dependent on a light touch stage gate assessment. It is expected that most of the development work will take place in year three.

The scheme will therefore operate on a 2 plus 1-year funding model to retain flexibility.

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Equipment

There is a limited budget for Capital/Equipment in these schemes.

Applicants must contact the office to discuss their request before applying.

All equipment above £10,000 will be funded at 50%.

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What is the timeline?

Call opens on 20th July

Mandatory for anyone applying to the call to make the STFC office aware on or before **8th August 2022**

Call closes on 19th September 2022 at 4pm

Peer Review meeting November 2022

Call outcome announced November 2022

All Projects must start on or before 12th December

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How to apply

All applications should be made *via* the Joint Electronic submission (Je-S) platform

Je-S pro forma

Seven-page case for support (Mandatory)

One-page Gantt chart (Recommended)

Two-page Data management plan (Mandatory)

Letter of Support from Technology Transfer Office (Recommended if industry is supporting the application)

Project Partner Letter of Support from each Project Partner (Mandatory if partners are present)

Letter(s) of Support from organisations interested in the project (Recommended)

Covering Letter (Optional. Please note, cover letters will not be seen by external reviewers/the panel)

Other (Optional. Please note, any document uploaded under “other” will not be seen by external reviewers or the panel)

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How will the applications be assessed?

Eligibility - by STFC office

Peer Review and Panel - assessment of the proposals

Panel Assessment – panel membership shared once the call is closed

Assessment criteria

- Scientific and Technical Excellence
- Leadership planning and project management
- Strategic Value within the STFC Programme
- Social and Economic Benefit

STFC – Early Stage Research and Development Scheme

Assessment criteria

- Scientific and Technical Excellence

The proposal should be feasible from a technical standpoint and build on strong underpinning quality science.

Where possible the applicant should indicate the developing technology in terms of international and UK benchmarking.

The proposed project must include a programme of excellent technical development.

The proposal should build on solid and well-thought-out technical evidence.

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Assessment criteria

- Leadership planning and project management

Capability of the project team and partner organisations on being able to deliver on the project.

Capability of the project team to deliver the project milestones, manage resources and risk.

Capability of the team to engage with industry.

The extent to which the team have considered the next steps in the development of the project after the lifetime of this award.

The extent that environment in which the project is being delivered is supportive of the research and development of technology.

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Assessment criteria

- Strategic Value within the STFC Programme

The extent to which the resources requested, relative to the anticipated outputs, represent an appropriate investment of STFC funds (value for money).

Degree of support from Project partners both during research and after funding.

The added value the proposed research may have on the PPAN community.

Consideration of the future of the project after this funding.

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Assessment criteria

- Social and Economic Benefit

The benefit/impact the proposed research may have on the wider scientific community outside of the PPAN community.

The extent to which the outputs of the proposed work show direct potential for economic and societal benefit to the UK.

The extent to which responsible research and ethics have been considered.

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Resubmission rules

Unsuccessful applications cannot be submitted again for at least 12 months after submission. Feedback will be given on all applications, and all decisions made by all panel members are final.

Proposals invited for resubmission may do so to the next call provided all concerns are addressed. Please note that resubmission requires an entirely new submission to Je-S and will be given a new reference number. It is NOT connected to the previous application and therefore must contain a new Je-S pro forma, Case for Support etc.

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Successful applications and the 2 +1 year review

Grants are awarded under the [terms and conditions](#) of UKRI. Please see [UKRI privacy note](#) for more details

The three-year award will undergo a light touch review towards the end of the second year to assess the progression made towards the project's objectives and if the project has reached a stage to warrant further development e.g. moving between TRL.

Assessment of the final year of the award will be subject to approval by peer review.

STFC – Early Stage Research and Development Scheme

Contact details and next steps

[Contact - Wendy.carr@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:Wendy.carr@stfc.ac.uk)

Next steps – Call is open on 20 July please check the funding finder for call details

After it opens please email – KEGroup@stfc.ac.uk to let us know you would like to apply and provide details of the PI name, area of PPAN you will be working in and the title of the application.

Mandatory for anyone applying to the call to make the STFC office aware on or before **8th August 2022**

In return I will send a copy of the call guidance to help you apply for the call.

Finally..

STFC Early Technology Development Capital Funding

- This early technology development call will provide capital funding to support the development of basic technologies, that build upon STFC's [core capabilities and core programme](#), in areas such as sensors, imaging and detector development but also emerging and transformative technologies such as AI, Quantum etc.
- This funding call is an opportunity for existing STFC projects to request up to £400k of capital funding for equipment purchases and technology development. Applicants can also request up to £5k of resource funding to support commissioning related activities.
- Applicants are allowed to request a maximum of 5 items of equipment.
- The maximum award available for each successful proposal will be £405k. The total budget available for this call is expected to be approximately £2M.
- Successful grants **must start before 1st December 2022 and end by 31st March 2023**. The end date is fixed.

email: STFCHorizons@stfc.ac.uk



Event	Date	Time GMT
Call open date	15 July 2022	09:00
Submission deadline	22 September 2022	16:00
Panel Meeting Date	Mid October 2022	
Outcomes Announced	November 2022	
Start of successful projects	01 December 2022	
End of successful project	31 March 2023	

Thank you