CoSTAR
A National R&D Infrastructure for the Screen and Performance Sectors

COMPETITION BRIEFING EVENT
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Agenda

1 The rationale for CoSTAR
• What is CoSTAR? Why do this now?
• What is the opportunity and why do we think this is an innovation Infrastructure?
• CoSTAR now and in the future.

2. Competition Briefing. Lots 1&2
• The rules, the regulations, the timelines
• What we’re asking for - and what we’re not
• The partnership and capabilities you’ll have to evidence

3. Q & A
The CoSTAR team

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We work with the government to invest over £7 billion a year in research and innovation by partnering with academia and industry to make the impossible, possible. Through the UK’s nine leading academic and industrial funding councils, we create knowledge with impact.
1. The Rationale for CoSTAR

What

Advanced Media Production
• Technology is transforming the way we make things
• Today’s ‘Virtual Production’ is just the start
• UK is globally competitive now
• How to underpin the future?

Creative R&D
• Applied Research for the Creative Industries
• Audience of the Future and Creative Clusters Programme have proved industry/HEI partnerships deliver impact at scale

Infrastructure
• Long term persistent facilities and network
• A first for the creative Industries
• Developing next generation technologies as well as solutions
Why?

Convergence
• Not theory but practice
• XR, Realtime, visualisation, performance tech
• Increasingly skills and roles
• AI and ML impacts to come

Screen and Performance
• Happening now; coherent ‘stack’
• UK strengths in core CIs
• Engages others e.g. fashion, advertising

Potential for future UK CI growth
• Democratisation – from hi-end to mass market
• Niches for new Createch firms
• Private sector investment
Why UK?

9 Tier One VP Stages in US, 4 of which in LA

12 Tier One Virtual Productions Stages in UK
10 in London +SE

3 in Canada
2 in Germany
1 in Australia
1 in Japan

DIT Virtual Production
How the UK is setting the global standard 2022
Why Now?

Post Covid Acceleration

- Pandemic accelerated adoption
- Tipped scales on business cases
- Elements of hype curve but will continue

Wave of investment

- Wave of production and facilities investment
- R&D infrastructure invests in next wave
- Underpins case for UK as location for innovation

From VP to Metaverse

- Not all about linear screen outputs
- Future capabilities for metaverse not current technologies
- Infrastructure facilities for R&D working on +3-5 yr horizon
- As well as 1-3yr solutions.
An innovation infrastructure

- To enable R&D activities that will:
  - Grow companies and create new ones
  - Commercialise new processes
  - Exploit IP
  - Innovation-lead business growth as part of the infrastructure
Delivery objectives

• To underpin the long-term competitiveness of the UK screen and performance sector

• by providing a highly capable R&D infrastructure that enables researchers, companies and institutions across the UK to access to the facilities, capabilities and insight necessary

• to ensure that they can conduct world class R&D in the application of current and future waves of advanced computing technologies

• to transform the means of production across the screen, performance and allied sectors of the Creative Industries
Delivery Partnerships

Research Organisations
• ROs, RTOs and IROs

Industry
• Co-siting with industry to ensure ongoing exchange
• Critical to Business Case

Local/Regional Economy
• LAS/CA/LEPs, Development Agencies, City Deals
• Tie into local economy; amplify CRD impacts

Users
• Industry, production SMEs, CreaTech & technology companies, Research Groups, Studios
Co-Investment

CoSTAR Business Case

• Sets a minimum co-investment for each call
• £15.7m Lot 1; £4.5m Lot 2

ISCF programmes

• Identified 4 types of co-investment
  • Initial
  • Additional
  • Aligned
  • Follow on
• Raised £215m : 420% leverage
• Minimum = initial CoSTAR co-investment. Tell us how far you can go.
Governance, Management, Sustainability
Where?

- We have no settled view on the where the elements of the CoSTAR Infrastructure should be placed. However…
  - we are mindful of the uneven economic geography of the UK Creative Industries
  - we are commissioning a national infrastructure that must provide for access for all

- So we want to know:
  - How can you contribute to a network?
  - What long term impacts you can deliver locally and nationally?
  - How this might support, build or accelerate new or existing screen business clusters?
Landscape Survey

• BOP and CRAIC at Loughborough University
• To create a baseline of VP/Advanced Media Production late 2022
• No part of the CoSTAR assessment
• We hope to make results available to applicants before submission
• Please contribute – whether you apply or not

bit.ly/3h1GWCQ
2. Competition Briefing
Current funding call - £63.6m

- **Lot 1:** National Lab
- **Lot 2:** Up to 3 Network Labs

Later funding call – tbc c£9m

- **Lot 3:** Data insight and foresight unit
Lot 1: CoSTAR National Lab

£51.1m grant; min £15.7m co-investment

- Lab capabilities, TRLs 3-6, applied research
- Co-sited with industry, not with HEI
- Delivered on behalf of the network:
  - Pilots / Demonstrator Programme
  - KE, Enterprise and Commercialisation Programme

Expectations:
- Probably a new build
- Must have a local economic development partner
- Will become focus/heart of a business cluster, seeding long term development
Lot 2: CoSTAR Network Labs

£12.5m grant; min £4.5m co-investment

• Up to 3 Labs
• Lab capabilities, TRLs 6-9, near-market research and innovation
• Could serve a specific geographic or sectoral group
• Co-sited with industry, not with HEI

Expectations:
• Upgrade or extension of an existing facility
• Must have a local economic development partner
• Will become focus/heart of a business cluster
• Propose and contribute to programmes with the National Lab
1. **Eligibility**

- Lead organisation in any bid must be an RO, RTO or IRO
- Partnership must include at least one industry hosting partner and one local economic development partner or similar
- These are Core Partners, other core partners can be industry or RO/RTO/IRO
- Max 5 Core Partners in total
- Lead bidder must have backing of the head of their organisation
2. Bidding

- An organisation can **lead** on:
  - 1 bid for The National Lab
  - Bids for 1, 2 or 3 Network Labs
  - But won’t be allowed to operate both National and Network Labs

- An organisation can **partner** on:
  - 2 bids for the National Lab
  - 3 bids for Network Labs
Timeline

- **Call period**: opened 11 October 2022, closes 4pm 2 February 2023

- **Assessment Period**: February / March 2023

- **Preferred Bidders Announced**: 31 March 2023

- **Final Business Case, pre-award preparation**: April - July 2023

- **Grant Award**: August 2023 for 6 years
Assessment: criteria and weighting

Strategic fit, suitability to host and vision: 30%
Can you do it? Have you got the skills, partners and vision to meet the spec?

Deliverability and value for money: 25%
Can you actually do it? Is your plan feasible, robust and credible?

Contribution to UK Creative Innovation: 25%
What impact will you have, locally, regionally or nationally? Where is the additionality, including co-investment?

Contribution to environmental sustainability: 10%

Contribution to equality, diversity and inclusion in the sector: 10%
Your submission

Apply via Je-S

• Costs are at 100% FEC

Attachments

• To help you structure your proposal and focus on the assessment criteria
  • Case for Support - why?
  • Delivery Plan - how?
  • Management Plan - how organised and run?
  • Core Partner Statements - more than standard Letters of Support
  • Risk Register - **real** risks and how you’ll fix them
  • EDI and Sustainability targets
Three last things…

1. **Timeline**
   - 4pm, 2 February 2023. No exceptions!

2. **Co-investment**
   - Call invitation sets out minimum co-investment figures
   - Evidence from clusters is that we can / should expect more
   - This is part of the assessment criteria

3. **Communications**
   - Briefing Events, rolling FAQ, additional online events tbc
   - costar@ahrc.ukri.org