

# **EPSRC Quantum Technology Research Hubs: outline stage**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document**

### **Funding Amount:**

The funding can be from **£15 to £19.5 million (80% full economic cost)** per QT Research Hub. This value includes indexation costs.

**Duration:** The duration of the funding will be for **up to 60 months**.

### **Start Date:**

The latest start date will be the **1 December 2024**. The start date will be agreed with EPSRC after the outline stage and details will be included in the invited full proposal guidance.

### **Eligibility:**

To apply you must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding.

**Deadline for applying:** Outline stage-**4pm on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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## Background to the Call

EPSRC as part of the National Quantum Technology Programme (NQTP) started a process to develop the funding opportunity for Quantum Technologies (QT) Research Hubs from 2024 to 2029 in January 2022. This was to ensure the momentum and capabilities developed by the phase 1 and phase 2 of Quantum Technologies Research Hubs was not lost, and the community were able to plan for the 5 years from 2024 to 2029.

EPSRC held roundtables and workshops with the academic community to develop the funding opportunity scope as well as consulting with academic, industry, NQTP partners and the Strategic Advisory Board from July to November 2022.

EPSRC is a key partner within the NQTP and shares the ambition to maintain the UK's reputation as an excellent place to do research. For further information on the Quantum Technologies research themes please follow the link: [Quantum technologies theme – UKRI](#). This funding opportunity is related to [EPSRC strategic delivery plan 2022 to 2025 – UKRI](#) where quantum technologies is a priority area.

This funding opportunity is open to applications from existing and new Quantum Technologies Research Hubs.

## What is the NQTP?

The NQTP was established in 2014 to make the UK a global leader in the development and commercialisation of quantum technologies, which is set to transform the global society and economy. Find out more information about the [National Quantum Technologies Programme \(NQTP\)](#).

The strategic intent also further sets out the following specific objectives in relation to maintaining the UK's excellence in research and technology:

- ✓ Continue to build on existing excellence to strengthen our global position in research,
- ✓ Build the skills pipeline and open-up new opportunities for technological convergence, enabling work across disciplines to unlock innovation as an enabling technology we will develop new quantum tools and opportunities for wider science applications.

# Aim of the Call

This EPSRC investment aims to support up to 5 Quantum Technologies Research Hubs. Quantum Technologies Research Hubs will act as UK centers of excellence in cutting edge quantum technologies research with the aim of building a wider technology and innovation ecosystem.

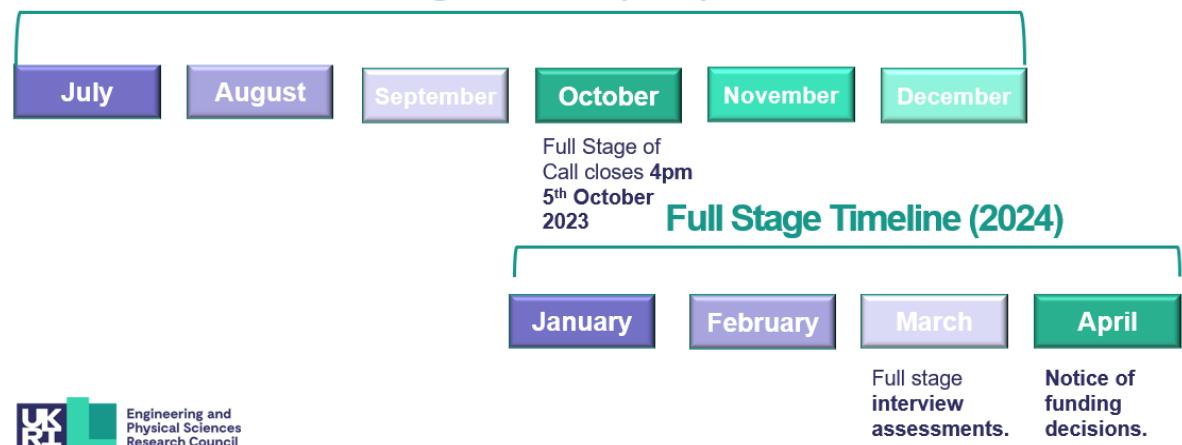
- ✓ The Quantum Technology Research Hubs will be expected to act as **UK centres of excellence in cutting edge quantum technologies research.**
- ✓ They will bring together **teams of multi-disciplinary academic researchers;** thereby developing the next generation of quantum technology researchers, academic leaders, and entrepreneurs.
- ✓ They will act as a focus for industry, government, and other stakeholder involvement in QT research, **supporting a vibrant technology innovation ecosystem and fostering links with appropriate quantum, infrastructure, and fabrication facilities.**

# Call Timeline

## Outline Stage Timeline (2023)



## Full Stage Timeline (2023)



# Who Can Apply?

Standard EPSRC eligibility rules apply. For further details on EPSRC eligibility please follow the link: [Check if you're eligible for funding – EPSRC – UKRI](#).

## Please note:

- You may only submit **1 outline proposal as a principal investigator.**
- **You can be a co-Investigator on more than 1 outline submission.**
- Research organisations can be part of more than one outline submissions.
- Only one Je-S (Joint Electronic Submission System) (Joint Electronic Submission System) form to be submitted by the lead organisation for each outline.
- If you are leading an outline submission, we would appreciate if you could get in touch with our team ([quantumtechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:quantumtechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org))
- Studentships are not eligible on the Hub call.

## Eligibility Questions

**Q). Will my application at the outline stage count towards EPSRC's repeatedly unsuccessful applicants' policy?**

*Submissions to the outline stage of this funding opportunity will not count towards the UKRI [Repeatedly unsuccessful applicants policy – UKRI](#).*

**Q). Is there an upper limit to the number of applications that project partners or institutes can partner on?**

*There will not be a limit on the number of applications that project partners or eligible institutions can partner on.*

**Q). Can a single institution be funded to lead more than one Research Hub?**

*You may only submit one outline proposal as a principal investigator. You can be a co-investigator on more than one outline submission. Only one application form should be submitted per bid.*

**Q). Does the Director have to be a professor?**

*The director does not have to be a professor to apply for this position. For the position of a Hub director applicants must be able to show that they are internationally respected and will be supported by a multidisciplinary leadership team. Applicants are advised to highlight previous experience of leading large-scale research and technology programmes and/or examples of strategic research leadership. Additionally, applicants can provide details of relevant past collaborative work with entrepreneurs, industry, and international research groups.*

**Q). Could Research Hubs be given a DTP type allocation to help co-fund PhD studentships?**

*There will not be a specific Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) allocation for Hubs. The Lead Higher Education Institute (HEI) will receive a DTP which the Hub funding will have contributed to. The HEI can support studentship funding for students associated with the Hubs. Students cannot be funded via the Hub funding.*

**Q). Can organisations that are not research organisations sub-contract to be part of a consortium, for example, organisations with specialised skills in technology transfer?**

*Sub-contractors can be included. Please ensure that at full stage ensure that all anticipated costs should be fully documented/invoiced and available to EPSRC if required.*

# Call Scope

The QT Research Hubs will be expected to act as **UK centers of excellence in cutting edge quantum technologies research**. They will bring together teams of **multidisciplinary academic researchers**; thereby developing the **next generation of quantum technology researchers, academic leaders, and entrepreneurs**.

They will act as a focus for **industry, government, and other stakeholder involvement** in QT research, supporting a **vibrant technology innovation ecosystem** and **fostering links with appropriate quantum, infrastructure, and fabrication facilities**.

## What are the Scope Areas for the Call?

The aim of this call is to fund a portfolio of QT Research Hubs that cover the following scope areas.

1. **Quantum networks for distributed entanglement**
2. **Quantum computing research to improve quantum computing performance**
3. **Engineering quantum technology devices and components for sensing, imaging, positioning, and timing.**

We intend that we make at **least 1 award in each of these areas**. Applications will need to **address the majority of the scope** bullet points to ensure that the vision in that area can be realised with the funding available. Applications may **cover more than 1 call scope area**.



### 1. Quantum networks for distributed entanglement

This would cover the areas of quantum communication, computing and sensing and include underpinning technology in control systems, and integration. Broad research topics to be addressed include:

- Quantum networks at different scales
- Scaling quantum communications
- Distributed quantum computing
- Quantum safe communications



## 2. Quantum computing research to improve quantum computing performance

Investments in this area would work in collaboration with the National Quantum Computing Centre. Broad research topics to be addressed include:

- **Hardware development (qubit performance, noise sources, calibration, and control – platform specific and cross platform protocols to be explored)**
- **Error mitigation and error correction**
- Benchmarking, verification, theory, and standards
- Development and execution of **applications for noisy intermediate scale quantum platforms and fault tolerant platforms**
- Community building through multi-disciplinary science networks for example **integration of high-performance computing and quantum computing**



## 3. Engineering quantum technology devices and components for sensing, imaging, positioning, and timing

Broad research topics to be addressed include:

- **quantum systems integration**
- **scale up and manufacturability**
- **integrated optics**
- **hybrid systems**
- **working with application domains to understand how to achieve the full potential of quantum components and devices**

EPSRC anticipates funding more than 1 QT Research Hub in this area, with no single investment expected to cover its full breadth. Any application should demonstrate a good coverage of the area.

## Call Remit Questions

**Q). What opportunities exist within this call for those working on materials of interest such as superconductors, 2D materials and materials exhibiting Topological spin structures to participate?**

*Relevant underpinning and enabling science for the scope areas for example materials and components can be included within the Hub bids. Hub applications will be expected to address at least one of the scope areas described. Applications will need to address the majority of the scope bullet points to ensure that the vision in that area can be realised with the funding available.*

# Expectations

## What are the Expectations of the Hubs?

In addition, all QT Research Hubs will each be expected to:

- ✓ **Act as a UK centre of excellence**, able to harness existing strengths from across the research landscape, through consortia that bring together researchers and research translators in relevant areas such as engineering, information and communications technology, computer science, mathematical sciences, and physics
- ✓ **Focus on challenges associated with translation of quantum technology to application areas**, addressing the scope areas identified above
- ✓ **Include relevant underpinning and enabling science** for the scope areas for example materials and components
- ✓ **Offer visionary leadership**, with the ability to **collaborate with the other QT Research Hubs and the wider community** to champion the area and the UK QT community
- ✓ Have **significant engagement with industry and other stakeholders**, as this is essential to continue to contribute to the development of a quantum technologies industry base in the UK. This includes developing an interface that allows easy engagement for industry and user communities
- ✓ Deliver its programme of work in a responsible fashion according to best practice in **Responsible Research and Innovation**
- ✓ **Integrate with other relevant UK, UKRI and National Quantum Technologies Programme (NQTP)**
  - If you are looking to apply to the EPSRC Research Hub Call, please go to the **National Quantum Computing Centre website** ([National Quantum Computing Centre - UKRI NQCC](#)) for details on the current workstreams and services which they are able to provide.
  - If you are looking to apply to the **Quantum computing research to improve quantum computing performance scope** area, at the outline stage of the EPSRC Research Hub Call, please look to address how your research both aligns and complements the work being carried out by the NQCC (please see separate NQCC PowerPoint slides on the Opportunities Funding page for further details).
- ✓ **Responsible innovation** you are expected to work within the [EPSRC framework for responsible innovation](#).
- ✓ **International collaboration** applicants planning to include international collaborators on their proposal should visit Trusted Research for sensitive and personal information. Applicants planning to include international collaborators on their proposal should visit Trusted Research for [guidance on getting the most out of international collaboration whilst protecting intellectual property, sensitive research and personal information](#).

## What are the expectations of the Leadership Team?

The director and members of the leadership team are expected to take a leading role in national policy and debate in relation to quantum technology research, innovation, and exploitation. In this context, the director and leadership team are expected to support and contribute to our strategies and coordination as requested by us and participate in the work of the UK NQTP as requested.

## What involvement is expected with the National Quantum Computing Centre (NQCC)?

### **Outline-Stage Proposals:**

If you are looking to apply to the EPSRC Research Hub Call, please go to the National Quantum Computing Centre website ([National Quantum Computing Centre - UKRI NQCC](#)) for an overview of the board remit of the NQCC. For further details on the work of the technical research teams please follow the link: [Research Teams - UKRI NQCC](#).

If you are looking to apply to the Quantum computing research to improve quantum computing performance scope area, at the outline stage of the EPSRC Research Hub Call, please look to address how your research both aligns and complements the work being carried out by the NQCC.

### **Full-Stage Proposals:**

If proposals are invited to full stage, there will be an expectation that applicants consider how they can utilise the NQCC services and facilities for their proposal.

Specifically for the Quantum computing research to improve quantum computing performance scope area, applicants will be needed to contact the NQCC directly to develop their full stage proposal.

## Call Expectations Questions

**Q). How can outline proposals comment on working with other Hubs when these will be undetermined? Even at full proposal stage, unless the list of consortia invited to submit full proposals is made available to all, then how can working with other Hubs be addressed?**

*Outline proposals should provide details of relevant past collaborative work with institutions or organisations, entrepreneurs, industry, and international research groups. Furthermore, this could include a track record in public engagement, promoting best practice of equality, diversity, and inclusion, and advocating for Quantum Technology in the wider community.*  
*Outline proposals should provide details of relevant past collaborative*

**Q). Could you clarify expectations re director's and leadership team's time?**

*Each QT Research Hub will require a minimum of a Full Time Effort (FTE) in each of the following roles:*

- *Hub manager*
- *Communications manager*
- *Business development manager*

*The call is open for the Research Hubs to decide on how individual members of the Leadership Team allocate their time, provided that a total of 0.2 Full Time Effort (FTE) is spent across the Leadership Team responsible research and innovation, equality, diversity and inclusion, succession planning and development of future research leaders.*

## Industrial Partnership Questions

**Q). Industry finds it very beneficial to contribute match to Innovate UK industry (IUK)-led projects, as they get strong financial leverage this way. Currently, the next stage of new IUK QT funding and projects is uncertain. What level of expectation do EPSRC have for industry to contribute to Phase 3 Hubs, given industry are waiting for an update on the next stage of IUK QT activity?**

*We will be looking to industrial partner to provide collaborative efforts, either through cash or in-kind leverage to the proposals.*

**Q). What would be the best way to include academic research on the business and the economic implications of the process for technology management and commercialisation of quantum technologies within the hubs?**

*This would be dependent on the project and would be the decision of the Hub to deem if it is appropriate to include this.*

**Q). Many large businesses have introduced new ethics and governance stages to approving Letters of Support, this means that it can take much longer for a letter to be signed off and so letters must be requested earlier on in the process. This can lead to letters reading as a little more generic, since the project may have evolved since the request was submitted - will this be considered at the full stage?**

*We are not expecting Letter of Support (LoS) at the outline stage as we appreciate that it takes time for companies to produce them.*

**Q). More information on how EPSRC envisages Phase 3 Hubs linking to industry would be helpful, and the commitments EPSRC would expect from named industry partners to Hubs... Therefore, it appears that some current routes for Hubs linking to industry, that have demonstrated significant success with tech transfer, will not be available for Phase 3. I think any additional information on envisaged mechanisms/resources for tech transfer would be welcomed.**

*The Hub can request funding for technology transfer and engagement activities with Industry. The Hub can partner on translational research project with Industry with the Hub funding paying the academic part of the collaborative research costs. For other opportunities applicants will need to contact Quantum Technology staff at Innovate UK (IUK).*

**Q). Will industry letters of support require figures for cash and in-kind contributions?**

*No Letters of Support from project partners are required at the Outline stage, however this will be expected at the full stage for both values cash and/or in-kind contributions.*

**Q). What will be the expectations in terms of spin outs and other KPIs?**

*Impact and the funds to be leveraged as appropriate for the Hub. The Hub management team alongside the Hub Advisory Board and EPSRC to develop and finalise their output targets for example Key Performance Indicators (KPI's).*

## Available Funding

### What is the total funding available for each Research Hub?

Research funding is available to support **up to 5 QT Research Hubs** with a significant budget. The funding can be from **£15 million to £19.5 million (80% full economic cost) per QT Research Hub**. The duration of the funding will be for up to 60 months.

Proposals should focus on the research Programme with some flexibility to take advantage of opportunities for new partnerships or changes in how the area develops. Bids should not include a ringfenced budget for new partnerships as the community will be expected to take advantage of other funding opportunities EPSRC provides.

### What is the total funding available for equipment?

Although this is not a funding opportunity designed for significant capital expenditure, equipment over £10,000 in value (including VAT (Value Added Tax)) and **up to £400,000** is available through this funding opportunity.

Additional justification of the requirement for individual items of equipment between £10,000 and £400,000, and details of the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment, must be provided in the justification of resources.

For any items or combined assets with a value above £138,000 (including VAT) a 2-page equipment business case must also be included at the invited full proposal stage.

Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000) should be in the 'Directly Incurred – Other Costs' heading.

[EPSRC approach to equipment funding](#).

## Available Funding Questions

**Q). What level of detail is required on the financial submission for the outline proposal? Are you looking for a high-level breakdown of rough costs or an overall budget based on detailed costings from each partner?**

*We will be looking for high level breakdown of costs at the outline stage. The importance at the outline stage will be to show an overview of predicted costs across the work-packages and to look at the balance in funding requested across the work package portfolio.*

**Q). Given PR, International and specific QT fellowships have been identified as sitting within the £100m total, presumably only four Hubs can be funded if proposals request the maximum of £19.5m. Five Hubs of this size couldn't work.**

*We are working with other National Programme Partners who have interest in supporting the funding of future QT Research Hubs through a range of different ways, including possible co-funding. The mentioned international grants and QT fellowships recently funded are not part of the £100m envelope as they have already commenced. Partnership Resource type funding and further research programmes have a protected funding amount which we can increase if additional funding becomes available.*

**Q). Will a spend profile over their duration be imposed on Phase 3 Hubs? Or will Hubs have flexibility to determine their spend profiles?**

*There will be a standard spend profile over the duration over the 5 years. There will not be front loading of the spend profile as was seen in the previous Phase 1 & Phase 2 of the Hub Call. The Hubs can decide how this spend will be allocated across the years against each of the proposed work packages.*

**Q). You have indicated that this not primarily an equipment calls but nonetheless capital equipment can be included if suitably justified. Is there any guidance on e.g., maximum, or minimum levels of capital equipment spend that EPSRC would expect to see?**

*Although this is not a funding opportunity designed for significant capital expenditure, equipment over £10,000 in value (including VAT) and up to £400,000 is available through this funding opportunity. Additional justification of the requirement for individual items of equipment between £10,000 and £400,000, and details of the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment, must be provided in the justification of resources. For any items or combined assets with a value above £138,000 (including VAT) a 2-page equipment business case must also be included at the invited full proposal stage.*

*To confirm- a total of £400,000.00 at 80% FEC is the limit to the capital costs EPSRC will fund, with 20% being sought through institutional contributions. However, the institutional contribution can be greater than 20% if they are able to and wish to provide greater funding towards capital costs.*

**Q). Please confirm the £400k capital is the EPSRC contribution. Is this included in the Hub total, or additional to the e.g., £19.5m?**

*The equipment funding will be included in the total, so not in addition to the max funding total of £19.5M.*

# How to Apply?

You must apply using the [Joint Electronic Submission \(Je-S\) system](#). You can find advice on completing your application in the [Je-S handbook](#). We recommend you start your application early. Your host organisation will also be able to provide advice and guidance.

## Submitting your application

Before starting an application, you will need to log in or create an account in Je-S. You can save completed details in Je-S at any time and return to continue your application later. After completing the application, you must click 'Submit document' which will send your application to your host organisation's administration.

1. Select 'documents', then 'new document'.
2. Select 'call search'.
3. To find the opportunity, search for: QT Research Hub outline Call.  
This will populate:
  - **Council:** 'EPSRC'
  - **Document type:**  
'Outline Proposal'
  - **Scheme:** 'Outline'
  - **Call/type/mode:** QT Research Hub outline call

## What formatting should I use for my application?

You should attach your documents as PDFs to avoid errors. They should be completed in single-spaced Arial 11 font or similar-sized sans serif typeface. EPSRC will not accept any other attachment types under this opportunity.

## What is the Deadline to submit my application?

EPSRC must receive your outline application by **27 April 2023 4:00pm** UK time. If your outline proposal is successful, and you are invited to submit a full proposal, this application must be received by **5 October 2023 4:00pm** UK time. You will not be able to apply after this time.

Please leave enough time for your proposal to pass through your organisation's Je-S submission route before this date. You should ensure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines that may be in place.

## What attachments will I need to include at the Outline Stage?

Your outline proposal should consist of an application form which includes **all the proposed academic and project partners**.

Ethical information-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.

Attachment	Page Limit	Description
Case for Support	Up to 8 sides of A4	<p>Case for support should include the following information using the headings below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall Vision and Ambition</li> <li>• Track Record</li> <li>• Proposed programme of work</li> <li>• Management plan</li> <li>• Collaboration and user engagement strategy (mention project partners)</li> <li>• Responsible research and innovation (RRI)</li> <li>• Financial costs</li> </ul>
CV for the director	Up to 2 A4 pages	
Justification of Resources	Up to 2 A4 pages	Approximate resource and capital costs will need to be listed <b>(approximate costings across work packages and years).</b>
Proposal cover letter (Optional)	No page limit	This is an optional attachment and will only be seen internally by EPSRC.

# What information goes into the Case for Support?

Case for Support Content	Description
<b>Overall vision and ambition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How the scope or scopes will be met resulting in a <b>UK centre of excellence</b>, which creates a <b>major impact in the area</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Track record</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each QT Research Hub must be led by an <b>internationally respected director</b> supported by a multidisciplinary leadership team.</li> <li>Describe the <b>relevant track record</b> of the team.</li> <li>Highlight previous <b>experience of leading large scale research and technology programmes</b> and/or examples of <b>strategic research leadership</b>.</li> <li>Provide details of <b>relevant past collaborative work</b> with entrepreneurs, industry and international research groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed programme of work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the <b>programme of technology research</b> that will be carried out and the <b>work packages</b> within the programme of work.</li> <li>Describe how the work packages have been prioritised to ensure the <b>scope area is met</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Management plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the <b>leadership structure</b> and how the <b>programme of work will be managed</b>.</li> <li>Outline how the <b>technology translation process will be managed</b> as part of the overall management structure.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration and user engagement strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the <b>consortium has engaged with industry</b> and other users of research during the preparation of the proposal.</li> <li>Outline the plans to develop and execute a <b>strategy for engaging with potential users</b> of the research.</li> <li>Project partners will need to be listed with an indication of their commitment. <b>Project partner letters of support will not be accepted at the outline stage</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible research and innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefly outline the approach to <b>responsible research and innovation</b>.</li> <li>Outline any <b>stakeholder and public engagement activities</b> planned, including any partners or professional expertise that may be engaged.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the <b>percentage of time the director and leadership team</b> will be spending on the project on the application form. The combined director and leadership time charged to the grant for delivery of the QT Research Hub should be a minimum of <b>1 full time effort (FTE)</b>.</li> <li>The leadership team will be expected to spend <b>0.2 FTE on responsible research and innovation, equality, diversity and inclusion, succession planning and development of future research leaders</b>.</li> <li>Each QT Research Hub will require a minimum of 1 FTE in each of the following roles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hub manager</b></li> <li><b>Communications manager</b></li> <li><b>Business development manager</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>An estimated level of resource for directly incurred costs should be provided.</li> </ul>

## Proposal Writing Questions

**Q). I understand that you don't need to develop the outline proposal with NQCC and will only be required to work with them directly at full stage. Will EPSRC help facilitating this connection?**

Applicants looking to apply to the EPSRC Research Hub Call, can go to the **National Quantum Computing Centre website** ([National Quantum Computing Centre - UKRI NQCC](#)) for background information on the facilities and services they supply. For further details on the technical research teams please refer to: [Research Teams - UKRI NQCC](#). If applicants are looking to apply to the **Quantum computing research to improve quantum computing performance** scope area, at the outline stage of the EPSRC Research Hub Call, please look to address how your research both aligns and complements the work being carried out by the NQCC. If proposals are invited to full stage, we would ask applicants to contact the NQCC directly to develop their full-stage proposals in collaboration with the NQCC.

**Q). Is it the case that everything from "Overall vision and ambition" up to and including "Financial costs" must be included the CfS document which only spans eight pages?**

This is correct, the Case for Support (CfS) document can be up to 8 A4 pages long. This includes Overall Vision and Ambition, Track record, Proposed Programme of work, Management plan, Collaboration and user engagement strategy, Responsible research and innovation and financial costs. The financial costings will be included on the Je-S application form. We would like to note that at outline stage calls normally have 4 pages, (most live outline calls now have 2 pages) so this has been increased for this call taking into consideration the size and scope of the call.

**Q). The announcement is ambiguous in terms of the requirement for the outline and the invited full proposal. Can you clarify that the only attachment required at this stage is the outline document itself? And if so, is there a template for this document?**

The outline requirements have been stated at this point, the full proposal requirement have not. This is since we do not yet know what adaptations will be required through The Funding Service (TFS) system although we aim to keep it like the phase 2 Quantum Technologies Hub full proposal requirements and those invited to full stage will be informed of the attachments required for a full-stage proposal.

# How will we Assess your application?

## What is the Assessment Process?

There are 2 stages in the assessment process:

### 1. Outline proposals

The outline proposals will be considered by an expert outline panel. The panel will base its advice on the submitted outline documentation (Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system form, case for support and accompanying attachments).

EPSRC will decide, based on the advice from the outline panel whether proposals are invited to the full stage. All successful outline applicants will be provided with feedback on their outline QT Research Hub bid and invited to submit full proposals, considering the feedback from the outline panel.

### 2. Invited full proposals

#### Postal Peer Review Assessment

Invited full proposals will be sent to independent national and international peer reviewers, including at least 1 nominated by the applicants.

The postal peer reviewers' role will primarily be to comment on the quality of the proposed research. This is to provide quality assurance of the QT Research Hub proposals.

Where the majority of reviews are unsupportive, the proposal will be 'review rejected' at the review stage. The applicant will no longer qualify for the right to reply.

If your application has received enough support from reviewers, it will go forward to the interview panel.

#### Interview Panel Assessment

Prior to the interview panel, usable reviewer comments that were included in the decision process will be sent to you. This gives you the opportunity to correct factual inaccuracies and respond to any queries raised by the reviewers in a principal investigator response document. Feedback will be provided in the form of reviewer comments.

The director and up to 3 others identified on the proposal will be allowed to attend the interview. It is up to the applicants which members of the leadership team attend the interview; there will be a formal presentation by the applicants as part of the interview.

The interview panel will be provided with a copy of the feedback received by each consortium at the outline stage and will expect to see appropriate responses by the applicants to the feedback received.

The interview panel will assess the proposal against the assessment criteria, using reviewers' comments, the principal investigator response and overall performance at interview. Further details will be provided with the invitations to submit full proposals.

## What is the Outline Stage Assessment Criteria?

Assessment Criteria	Description
<b>1. Fit to Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Panel will evaluate the <b>QT Research Hub vision and proposed technology research work programme</b>.</li></ul>
<b>2. Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The panel will evaluate the membership to ensure that there is the correct <b>mixture of disciplines and skills</b> to enable the QT Research Hub to deliver the scope.</li></ul>
<b>3. Ability to deliver the work programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This will include the <b>management structure, the interaction (and proposed interaction) with industry, users and the other QT Research Hubs</b>.</li><li>The panel will look at the <b>resource and capital requests</b> to ensure that the proposal has been appropriately costed and <b>include the resources required to deliver the programme</b>.</li></ul>

## How will the portfolio of the scope areas be balanced?

At both the outline and the invited full proposal stage, the expert panel and the interview panel with additional input as required, will provide advice on the selection of a balanced QT Research Hubs portfolio ensuring coverage of the 3 funding opportunity scope areas from the highest quality proposals. The final funding decisions will be made by EPSRC

## Call Assessment Questions

**Q). If EPSRC deemed two or more proposals were complimentary to one another, are you likely to steer these towards combining into one bid at the full stage?**

*Each proposal will be assessed on their own merits, and we would not be looking to steer proposals together as we appreciate that it is likely that the proposal's work packages will be distinct and separate from one another. However, if the Outline Expert Panel deemed that two proposals were complimentary to one another, the applicants would be able to decide if combining bids would be beneficial at the full stage.*

**Q). How will the expert panel be formed?**

*EPSRC will begin inviting expert panel members within the coming weeks, with consideration of a diversity of panel membership and breadth across the scoping areas. Conflicts of interest will be managed in accordance with our standard policies.*

# How to get in Contact?

## Thinking of applying?

- If you are considering applying for this funding opportunity, please get in touch with the EPSRC Quantum Technologies Team ([QuantumTechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:QuantumTechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org)) to let us know about your interest in leading a consortium.
- We welcome you to get in contact if you have any specific questions and we will arrange a 1:1 meeting with you to discuss further. Please contact the Quantum Technologies Theme mailbox: [QuantumTechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:QuantumTechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org)
- A Frequently Asked Questions document and a copy of this presentation will be available on the NQTP website (<https://uknqt.ukri.org/>) after the webinar w/c 20th February.

## Get help with applying through Je-S

Email: [jeshelp@je-s.ukri.org](mailto:jeshelp@je-s.ukri.org)

Telephone: 01793 444164

Opening times: [Je-S helpdesk opening times](#)