



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

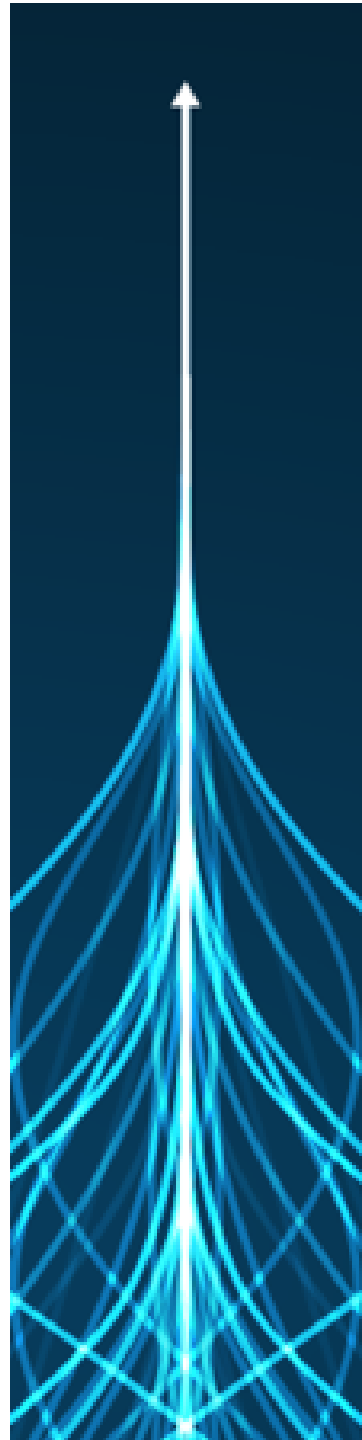
Prosperity Partnerships

Fostering business and academic research collaboration



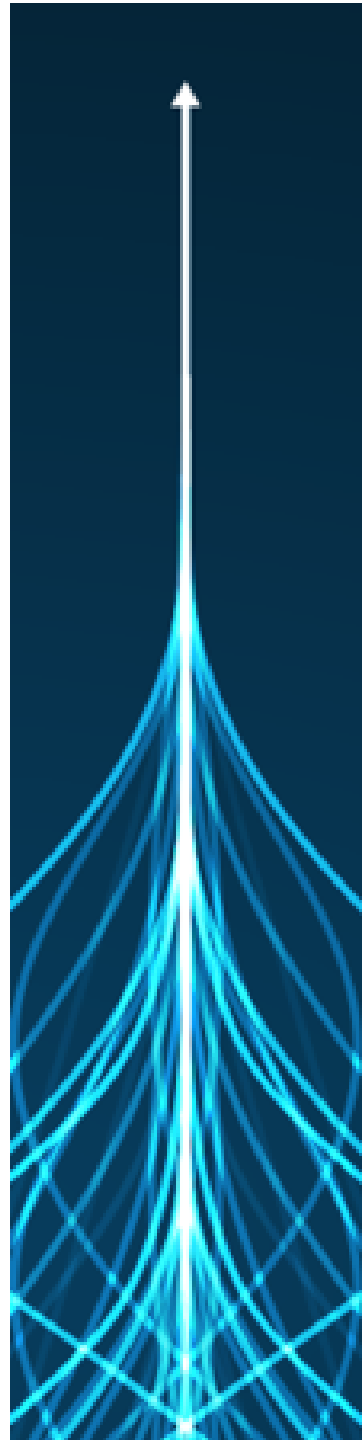
Prosperity Partnerships: Early-stage collaborations

Welcome to the webinar



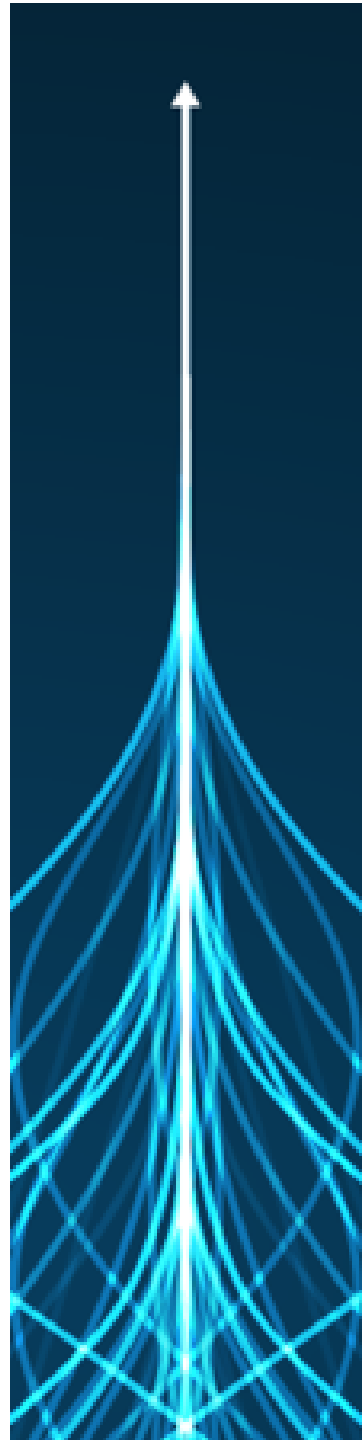
This presentation will cover

- Introduction to the Prosperity Partnerships scheme
- Key features of the Prosperity Partnerships – Early-stage collaborations (PPESC) opportunity
- How the Early-stage collaborations strand of Prosperity Partnerships differs from the main flagship strand
- Timelines and decision-making process
- Cash contributions



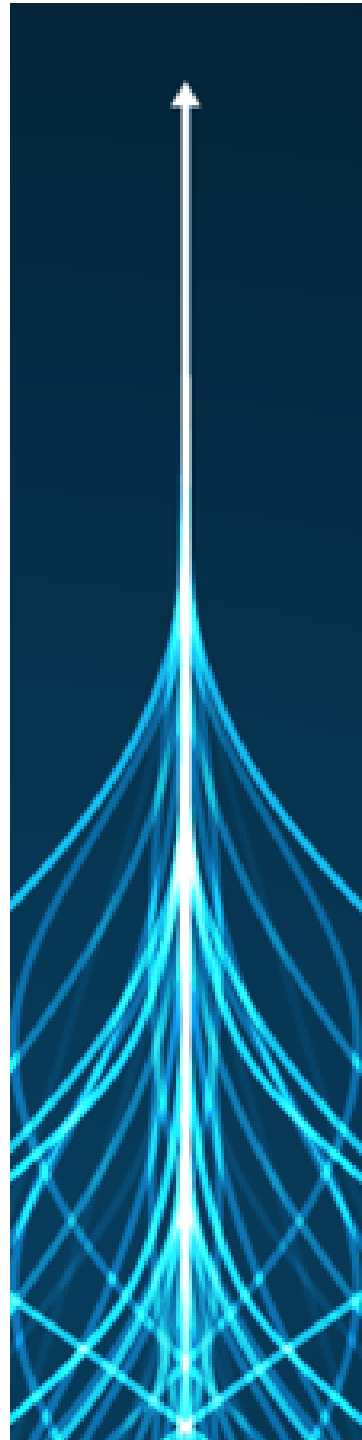
Prosperity Partnerships – A History

- EPSRC strategic relationships with business – focus on building partnerships and co-investing in discovery science and engineering
- We worked closely with business partners to understand their needs and priorities in working with the academic base
- Developed original Prosperity Partnership concept to address those needs, as well as our own goals to increase business involvement, engagement and investment in the EPS research base



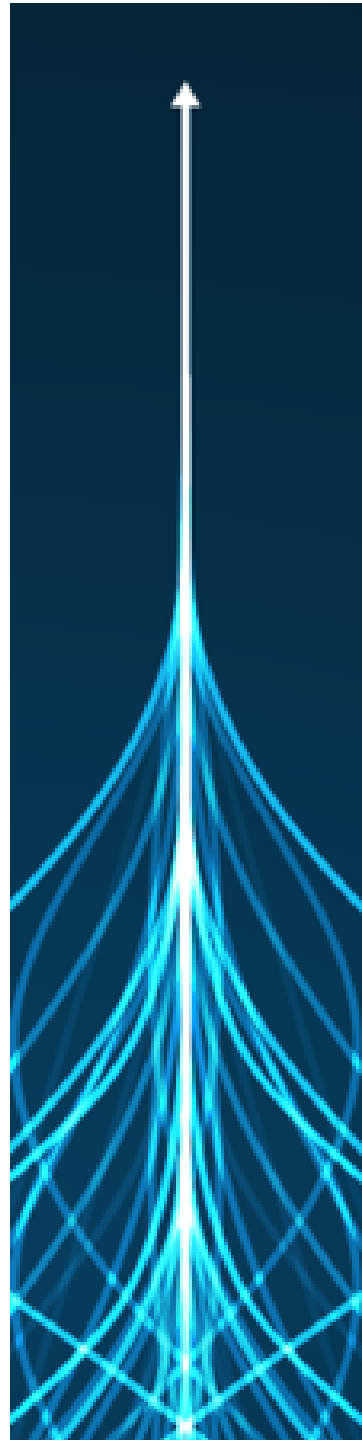
Prosperity Partnerships Scheme

- Main features of the Prosperity Partnerships Scheme are:
- Supports business-led, co-created, co-delivered, research that arises from an industrial need, with the work being co-delivered between the business and academic partners.
- To support excellent, world-leading fundamental research which has clear benefit to the businesses involved, resulting in accelerated impact arising from the new knowledge, innovations, or technologies.



Where now and where next

- Since 2017, EPSRC has developed a portfolio of 66 large-scale projects co-created with business, with £190m from EPSRC securing £230m of business co-investment. This includes our most recent round, the outcomes of which we will be announcing soon
- Demand remains very high, lots of interest from partners whose relationships are at an earlier stage
- Pitched to EPSRC Council to develop an initiative to support **earlier stage collaborations** with a view to enabling those collaborations to grow and mature – and become the academic/business strategic relationships of the future



Prosperity Partnerships – two strands

Flagship PP scheme

- Since 2017
- For business-academic partnerships with an established track-record of collaboration
- Large amounts of UKRI funding (no maximum)
- Longer-term projects (commonly 5 years)
- Long decision-making process (~12 months)

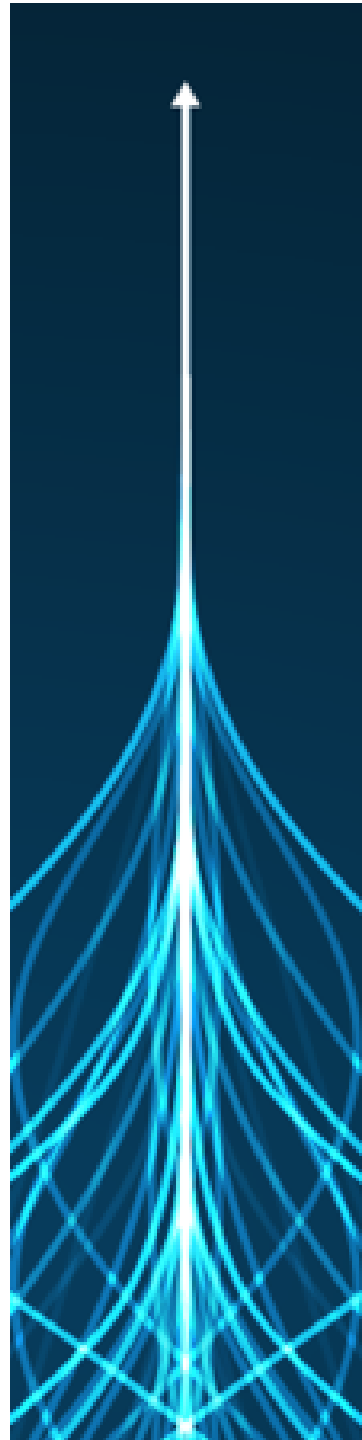
PP: early-stage collaborations

- Piloted 2023
- For business-academic partnerships with a shorter track-record of collaboration
- Smaller amounts of UKRI funding (£250k to £750k)
- Shorter-term projects (up to 3 years)
- Short decision-making process (~6 months)



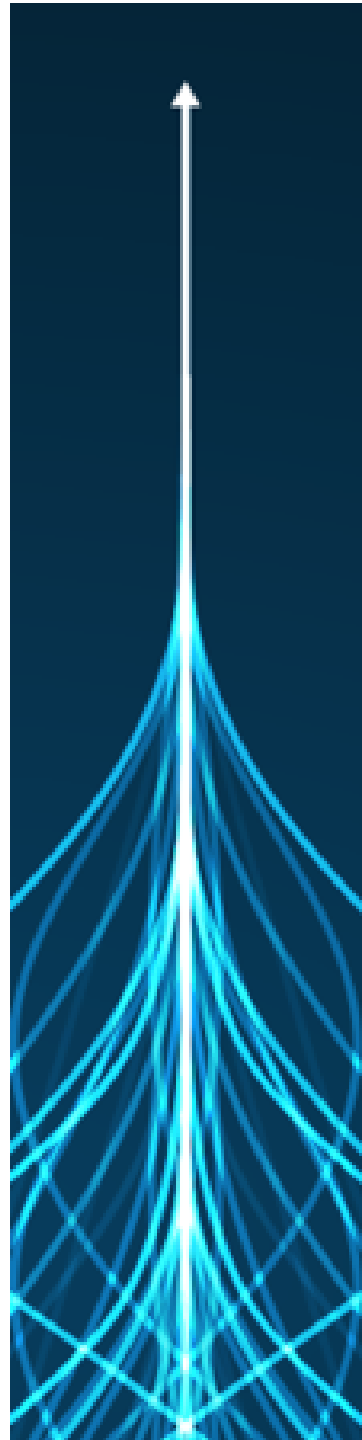
PPESC: key features

- Projects must be business-led, co-created and co-delivered by an emerging academic-business partnership
- Will address research areas and challenges based on EPSRC's latest strategic delivery plan
- Aimed at supporting ambitious early-stage research collaborations between business and academic institutions.



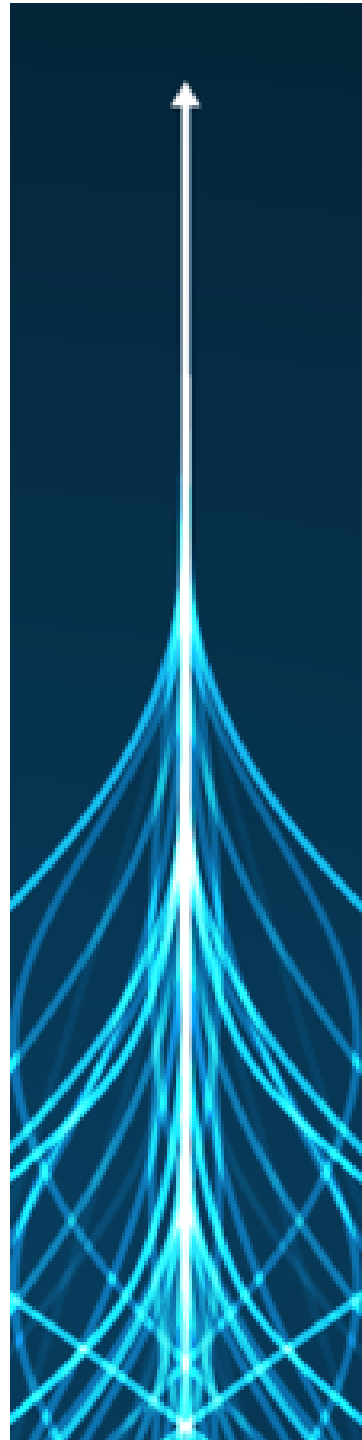
What do we mean by early-stage research collaborations?

- Pre-existing collaborative relationship between the academic and industrial partners
- Relationship expected to be between ~1 year and less than 5 years
- Evidence of some collaborative activity, e.g. co-supervision of co-supported studentships, or co-leading a small number of projects
- On the way to becoming an established, trusted, possibly *strategic partnership*



What we mean by strategic partnerships

- Already established between partners that trust each other
- Built on a track record of significant, regular, collaborative research projects which the academic and business partners have developed together
- Clear trajectory for future collaborative work
- May involve the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or collaboration agreement

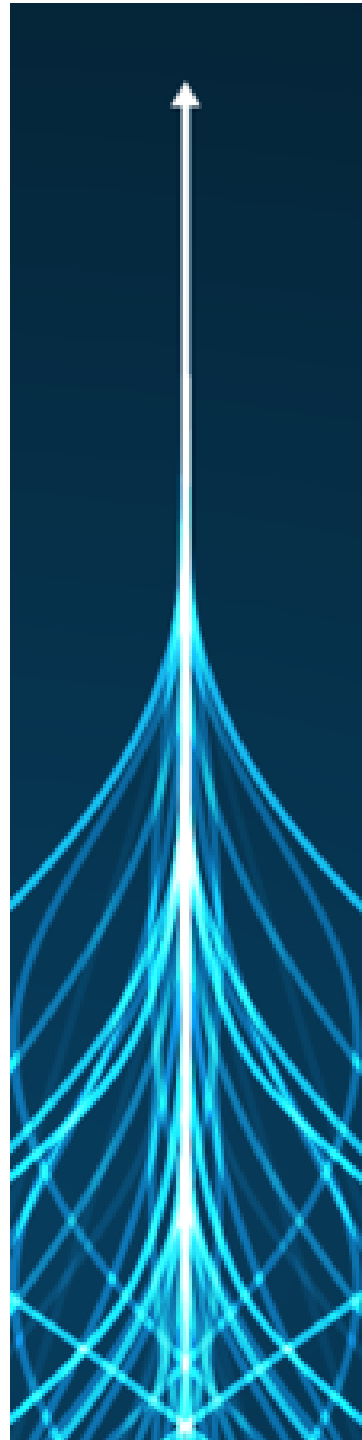


PPESC: partnership suitability

The Prosperity Partnerships: early-stage collaborations opportunity is **not** for partners with an existing strategic partnership

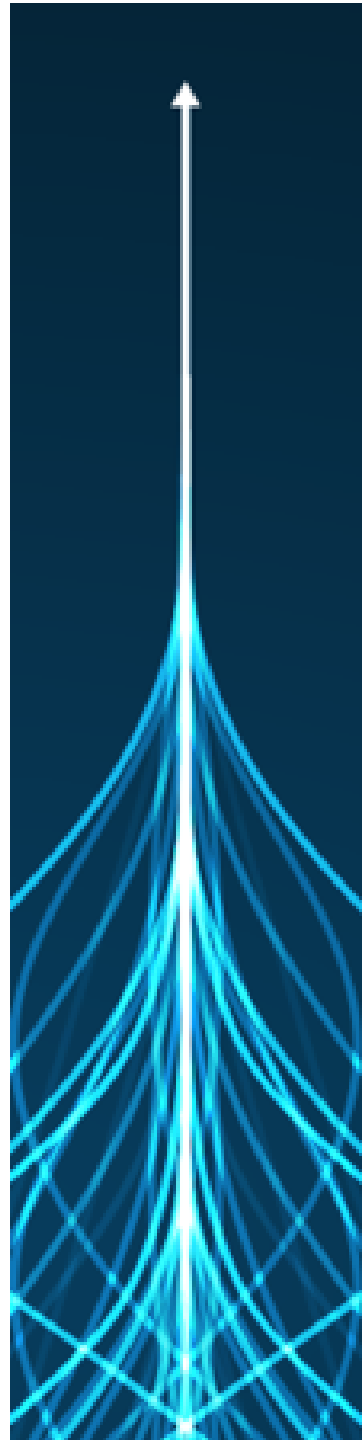
It is **not** for partners with a sustained track record of working together (even if their relationship is not described as “strategic”)

It is **not** for establishing new relationships.



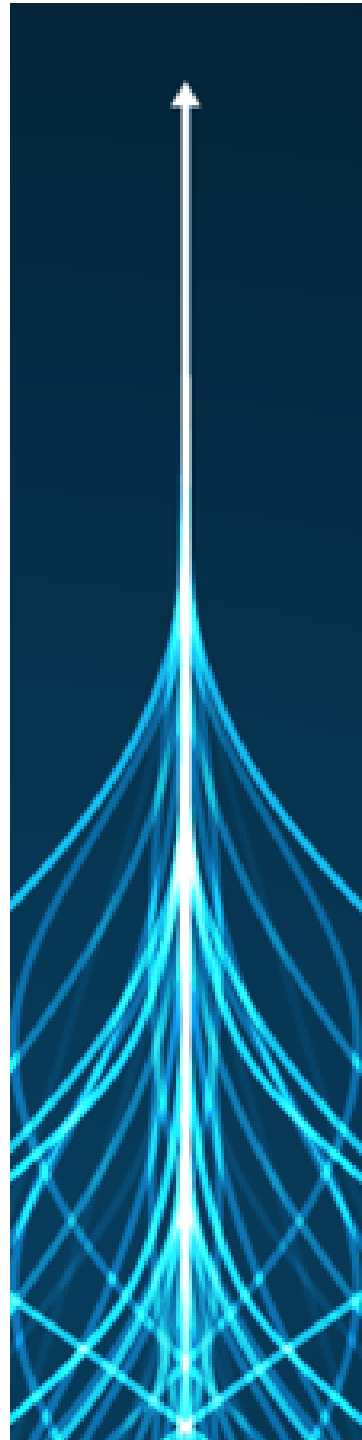
PPESC: other key features

- Grant size between £250k and £750k full economic cost
- Businesses are required to make a cash contribution which is at least equal to the EPSRC funding
- Maximum project funding duration is 3 years
- Faster decision-making process



Timeline and peer review

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Mar 2023 | - call opens |
| 9 May 2023 4.00pm | - call closes |
| 28-29 June 2023 | - expert prioritisation panel |
| 25-27 July 2023 | - interviews |
| September 2023 | - inform applicants of outcome |

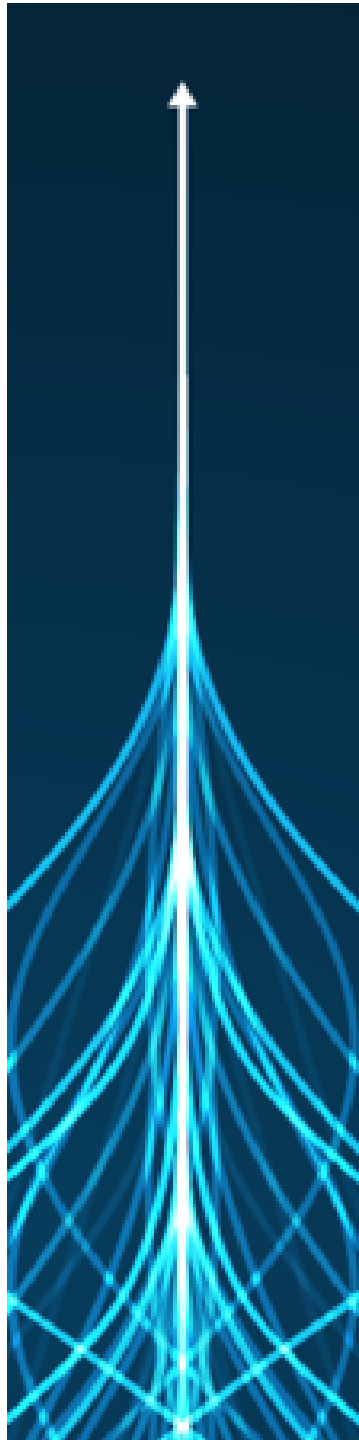


How to apply

- Application must be submitted by the academic lead
- They must be registered on Je-S
- Queries relating to Je-S must go to Je-S helpdesk

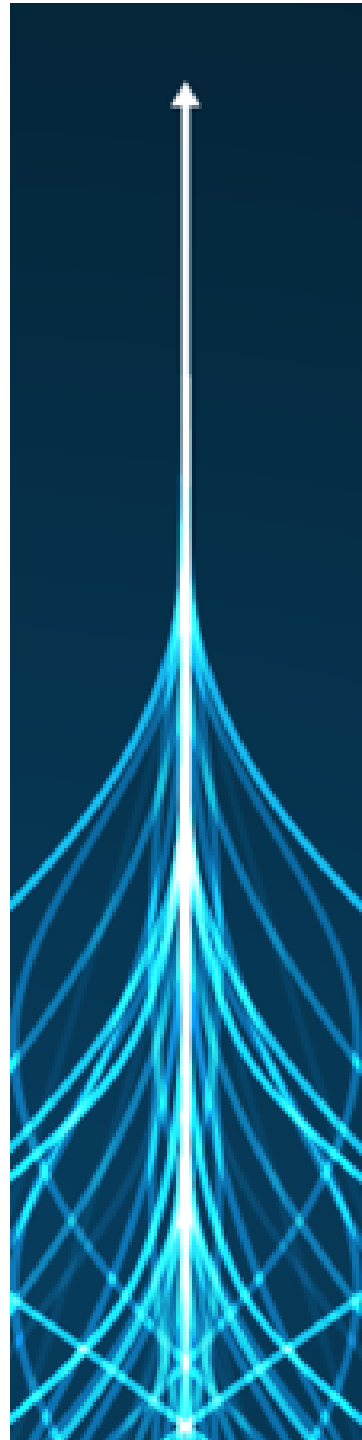
Applications will be rejected if

- they do not fit to this opportunity
- correct documentation is not submitted
- business contribution does not match the EPSRC amount



Assessment process

- Faster process to shorten the time between application and decision:
Full proposal – Prioritisation panel – Interview panel – Decision
- No postal peer review. No option for applicants to choose reviewers
- Expert panellists will cover EPSRC's research themes
- Panellists will also include individuals with experience of running Prosperity Partnerships
- Applicants must convince the panel that their bid meets the call criteria



Criteria for Expert prioritisation panel

The panel will assess the qualities of each proposal against several opportunity-specific assessment criteria:

- fit to opportunity
- quality and excellence, importance, timeliness, and feasibility
- applicants and partnerships

The panel's aim is to identify those projects that best align to the ambitions of this opportunity. The panel will recommend which applicants are to be invited to interview.



Criteria for Interview panel

Panel will consider each proposal against these assessment criteria:

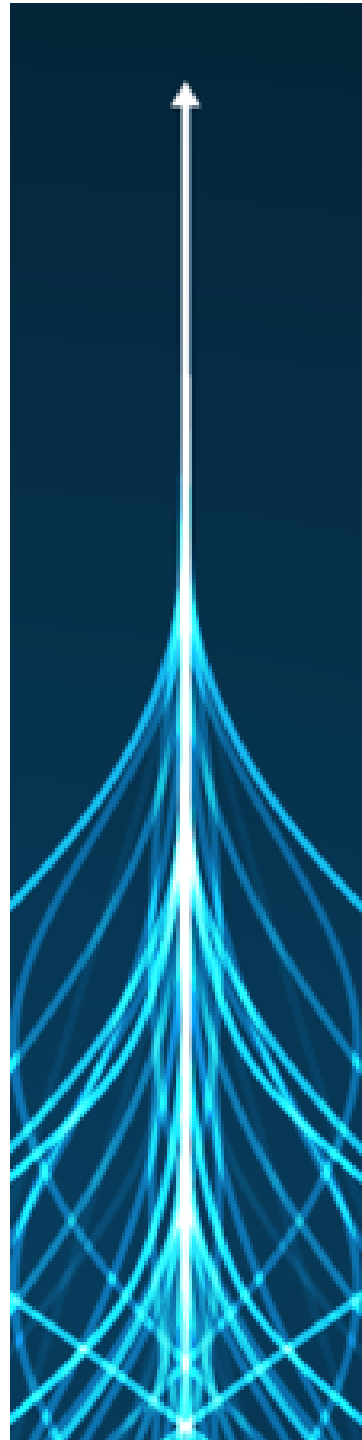
- Vision and ambition
- Additionality and added value
- Applicants' leadership and appropriateness of the team
- Impact, monitoring, evaluation, and benefits realisation
- Management, governance, and resources

The interview panel will produce a ranked list, and we will fund from the top as far down the list as the money will go.

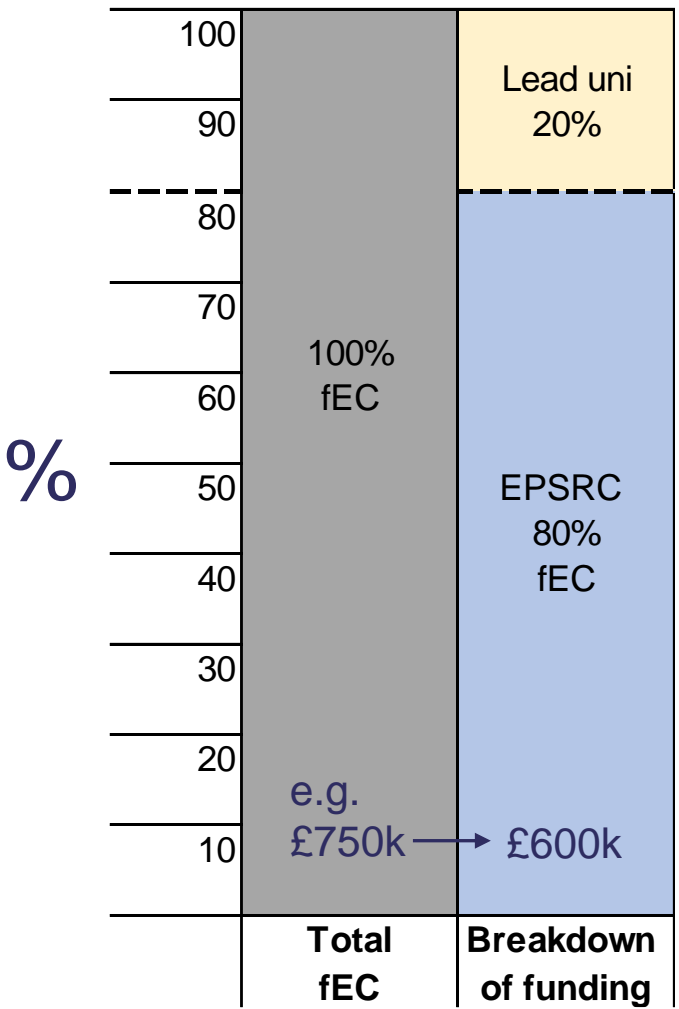


Definitive list of eligible cash contributions

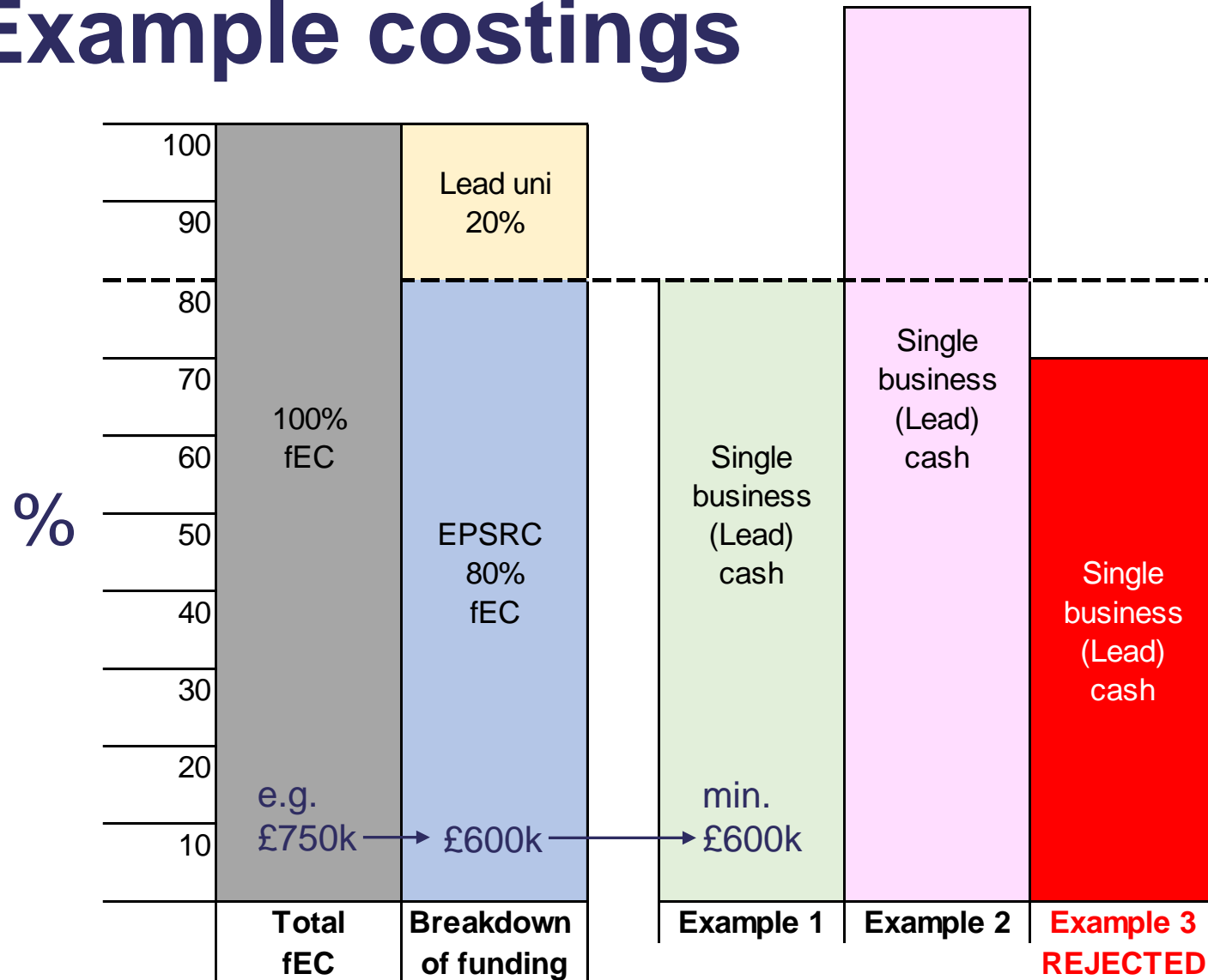
- Researchers' salaries
- PDRA salary
- Professional project managers' salary
- Technicians' salary
- Software licenses
- New equipment
- Equipment produced by the business - at the cost of manufacture
- Access to equipment and facilities
- Facilities refurbishment
- Business cash donation



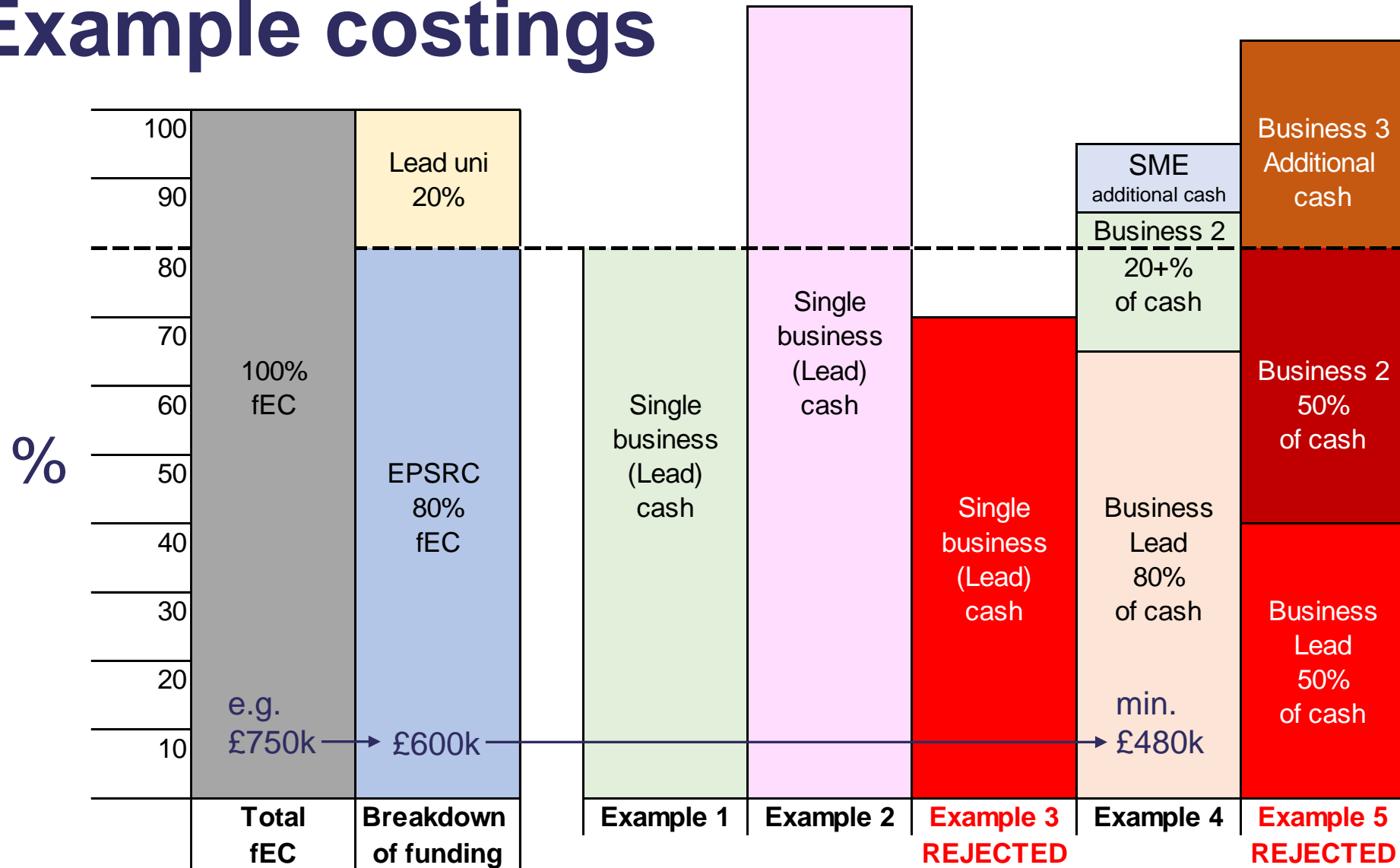
Example costings



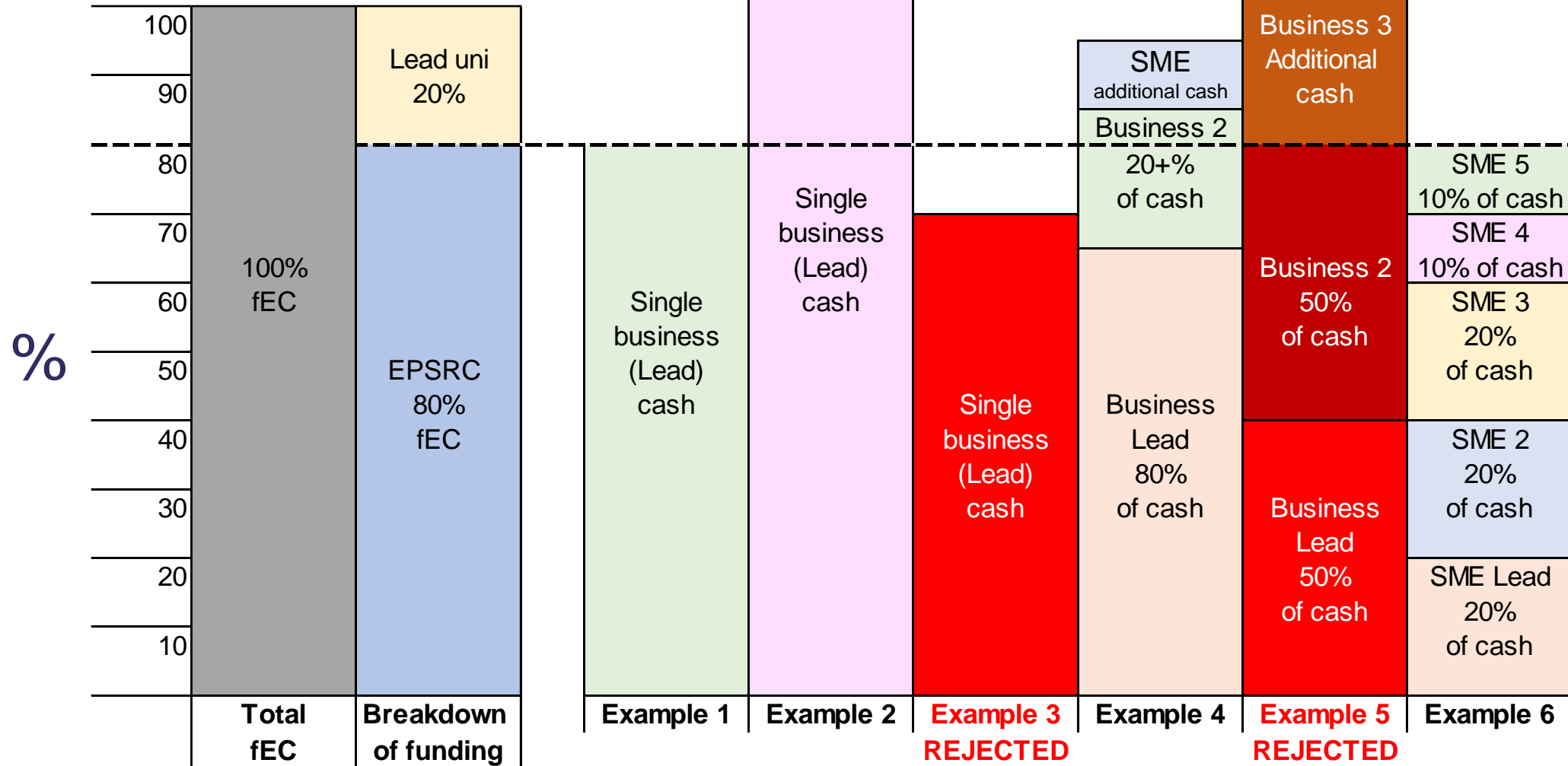
Example costings



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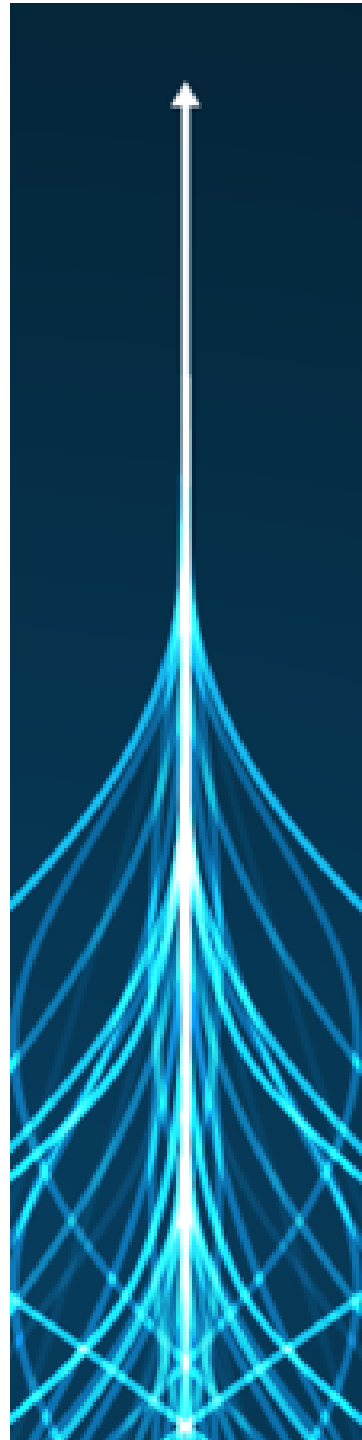


Example costings



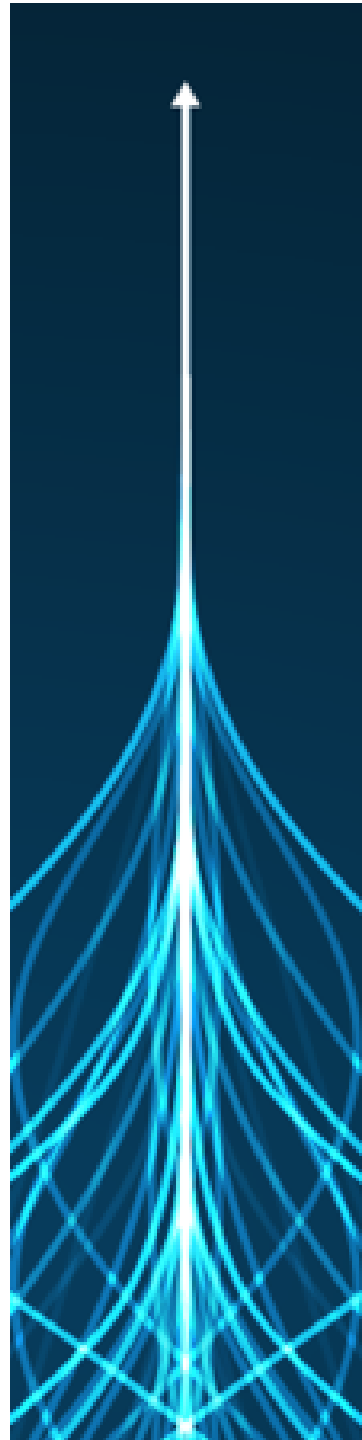
Summary

- Call specification goes into a lot of detail so take your time to read it carefully
- The Costings table and the worked examples in the Budget examples document (both linked at the very end of the call page) help to explain how contributions work.
- Discuss your application with your research office and your research teams – possibly try some internal peer review
- Ask us if you have questions



Q & A session

- Start with questions received during registration
- Please use Q&A function to ask further questions



THANK YOU

any queries please contact
prosperitypartnerships@epsrc.ukri.org

