**Industry Impact Fund Challenge Statement Form**

*Industry Impact Fund (I2F) is designed to assist companies overcome existing product or service issues through STFC Facilities and expertise. The programme is not designed for any aspect of early product/service development or primary research (see* ***note 1****).*

**To apply for I2F funding:**

1. Complete the sections below. The Challenge Statement should be limited to approximately 500 words.

Once completed please forward to I2F@stfc.ukri.org.

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| **What is the problem?**  Describe the problem you are encountering in sufficient detail that allows the reader an understanding of the challenges you face. This should include:   * Brief introduction that provides background and context for the reader. * Clear description of the problem. * The expected technical outcomes of overcoming the problem. * Which theme does your project relate to? And briefly describe how it relates (Delete as appropriate), Energy/ Net Zero/ Security and Defence/Health |
|  |
| **How does resolving the problem improve the performance of the company?**  Explain the value of solving the problem and how it improves the performance of your business and/or the UK economy. This may include statements on company competitiveness, revenue, profitability and/or turnover, production efficiency improvements and cost reductions.  The most impactful descriptions contain measurable or quantitative information that are translated into values (£). For example:  …..overcoming this problem will reduce wastage during the production process by 50% and will result in £100,000 savings to the company per year.  or  …..overcoming the issue will reduce the time spent manually searching documents and reduce the cost of providing the service to the customer by 25%.  *(See* ***note 2****, in notes for applicants, for further guidance)* |
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| **What attempts have already been made to solve the problem?**  Describe what previous attempts have been made to solve the problem.   * Approaches taken, including analytical methods used; * Conclusion of these efforts.   *(See* ***note 3****, in notes for applicants, for further guidance)* |
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**Applicant company details**

Please complete the boxes below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company name |  |
| Companies House registration number |  |
| Company’s registered address (head office) |  |
| Company’s trading address (if different) |  |
| Postcode where majority of work will be carried out |  |
| Lead contact at company and contact details |  |
| Total number of staff and size of organisation  *(See* ***note 4****, in notes for applicants, for further information)* |  |
| Where did you hear about I2F Programme |  |

**Notes for applicants**

Note 1: The proposal should relate to an established product/service or a prototype product/service that is in, or close to, the implementation stages of deployment. Examples of projects that are in-scope may include:

* Removing bottlenecks from manufacturing or service processes;
* Overcoming intractable analytical problems that reduce the effectiveness of your business;
* Overcoming problems with new product/service development that will result in the commercialisation of said product/service.

In this competition we are not funding projects that are related to:

* Fundamental research;
* Early applied R&D activities;
* Market analysis;
* Testing and measurement services.

Note 2: Challenge statements should be clear on how the problem relates to the selected theme and the value to the company in solving the problem.

Note 3: When describing previous efforts to solve the problem, an effort should be made to highlight the analytical methods and approaches used. Greater priority is generally given to challenge statements that can leverage the unique expertise, facilities and equipment STFC has to offer.

Note 4: It is a requirement that applicants contribute an in kind or cash funds equal or proportional to the value of the project based upon your business size as follows:

* Minimum of 30% if you are a micro or small organisation
* Minimum of 40% if you are a medium sized organisation
* Minimum of 50% if you are a large organisation

For more information on company sizes, please refer to the [company accounts guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-of-a-company-annual-requirements/life-of-a-company-part-1-accounts#micro-entity).

Note 5: Information describing the facilities and expertise available at STFC can be found at <https://stfc.ukri.org/innovation/our-facilities-and-services/>.

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| **FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY** | |
| **Facilities to consider** |  |
| **Comments:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |