

# 2023 Transformative Research Technologies

## Webinar Q&A

### Scope

- **Who makes the judgement if the proposal is out of scope?**

BBSRC staff will check through all applications to ensure they are within the scope of the opportunity. Where necessary, BBSRC may seek advice from a member of the assessment panel to confirm the decision. Any decision regarding whether a proposal is deemed to be within scope or not will be made at the discretion of BBSRC and will be considered as final. Please ensure you make a clear case for relevance to 23TRT's scope, as described in the opportunity guidance.

- **In terms of remit/scope, is the scheme mainly targeted to software development? Or would you also consider the development of hardware?**

23TRT is open to both software and hardware technology development that offers the potential for transformative impact in bioscience research. Development of new, 'wet lab' experimental techniques are also permitted. Please see our opportunity guidance for more detail on scope. If you are unsure about whether your planned project would be appropriate for this opportunity, send an outline (no more than 2 sides of A4) of what you plan to do to [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org) and BBSRC staff will be happy to advise you.

- **Can you comment on what would be considered 'early-stage'?**

We recognise that 'early-stage' can include many different levels of technology development. In general, we are looking for technology development projects that have little to no preliminary data. It is the responsibility of the applicants to make a case for why their project represents a cutting-edge, early-stage and potentially transformative idea. Applications which already contain considerable amounts of preliminary data could be more appropriate for [BBSRC's standard research grant](#), which supports more established technology development proposals.

- **Will this be an annual call, and will future calls have the same broad remit, or are they likely to be limited to particular technology areas?**

The 23TRT opportunity is essentially built on the previous Tools and Resources Development Fund (TRDF) and will be expected to run annually. Although 23TRT offers an open scope that spans early-stage technology

development across BBSRC's remit, the scope of future TRT rounds will be reviewed and may change from year to year.

## Eligibility

- **What are the eligibility requirements for 23TRT?**

Standard BBSRC eligibility criteria will be used for 23TRT. Please [check if you are eligible to apply](#) and contact [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org) if you have any further questions.

- **Can SMEs be the lead applicants?**

Individuals employed at SMEs are not eligible to apply as either the project lead or project co-lead. Applicants must be from an [eligible host institution](#). BBSRC supports collaborations with industry partners in its awards. Applicants may name formal project partners who will provide specific contributions either in cash or in kind to the project. We require project partner letters to be provided prior to awarding a grant, rather than at submission stage. Please visit our [guidance on collaborations](#) for more information.

## Funding

- **Would we have to declare any other funding sources that the project may have received?**

There is no requirement to declare other funding sources for the project.

- **How much can we spend towards equipment?**

Applicants can request equipment if necessary to the proposed project. There is no defined upper limit on what proportion of the requested cost falls into a particular category within the overall limit of £180K. However, applicants must be able to demonstrate that their project fits the scope of 23TRT. Applicants are expected to fully justify the need for any resources that are requested (including equipment). Please see our guidance on [Directly Incurred](#) costs for more information about equipment.

- **Can the opportunity support the salary of an RTP?**

Yes, costs can be requested for project lead and co-lead(s) salaries, which we encourage RTPs to apply for.

## UKRI Funding Service

- **At the moment research office staff are not able to edit applications - will this change?**

More research office functionality will be added in later updates of the service, including the ability to edit applications. For more information visit [How research offices use the UKRI Funding Service – UKRI](#)

- **In TFS the costs have to be entered as a Word document and it doesn't add up the figures. This has taken away a valuable check and introduces a lot of room for error. Will this be changed?**

A recent update to TFS is the digital capture of requested costs. Applicants will now be able to enter costs within the application section itself, instead of completing and attaching template word document. Totals within the digital cost information will be automatically calculated and the %FEC automatically applied.

- **Should references be included into the Vision and Approach or added in the Reference text box?**

You should include all references in the 'References' section of the application. When completing the 'Vision' and 'Approach' sections, please number your references in this section using a superscript citation style. Further guidance will be provided as you work through the application.

## Assessment

- **How will conflicts of interest be assessed?**

Each member of the assessment panel will be required to provide a complete list of conflicts upon being invited to the panel and update us of any new conflicts that arise during the assessment process. BBSRC ensure that those conflicted on an application are unable to view, and therefore influence, any of the assessment discussions.

- **Will we receive feedback on our applications?**

Yes, all applications assessed by the panel will receive feedback after the assessment has concluded, regardless of whether they are unsuccessful or successful. You will be informed by email.

## General

- **Regarding demand management: Is there an expectation on Universities/Institutions to manage demand internally before submission, or is there no limit on application numbers from institutions?**

There is no limit imposed on how many applications can be submitted from an institution. However, there is an expectation for universities/institutions to take a co-ordinated approach when submitting multiple applications, carefully considering the scope of the opportunity. You can only apply as a project lead on one application. However, you can still be project co-lead on multiple applications. Please see our opportunity guidance for more details on demand management.

- **Can the idea of an unsuccessful application be resubmitted/used in future grant applications?**

If you are unsuccessful in 23TRT and plan to resubmit in the future, please ensure that you comply with [BBSRC's resubmission policy](#).

- **Will there still be a resources call?**

Yes, BBSRC supports biological and bioinformatics resources through our BBR awards each year. Applications for community resources such as databases and infrastructures will not be eligible for 23TRT and are better suited to the [BBR awards](#).

- **What does BBSRCs intellectual property policy look like? Generally, and for this grant?**

BBSRC delegates responsibility for the identification, management and application of intellectual assets arising from research funded by the Council to the host institution. This includes identifying and managing intellectual property and where they arise intellectual property rights, which BBSRC appreciates, in certain circumstances, can be central to delivering commercial benefit from research outcomes. We therefore recommend that you contact your institution's technology transfer office (or equivalent) for advice.