

The UKRI logo consists of the letters 'UK' stacked above 'RI' in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a dark purple square background.

Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

Prosperity Partnerships

Fostering business and academic research collaboration



Prosperity Partnerships: Round 6

Welcome to the webinar

We hope this helps everyone to better understand the opportunity.

Please wait to submit questions until the presentation is finished.

The slides and the recording of the webinar will be posted on the opportunity page.



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

21 March 2024



This presentation will cover

- Introduction to the Prosperity Partnerships scheme
- Round 6 – Two routes (how the two routes differ and align with each other)
- What we are looking for
- Timelines and decision-making process
- Matched 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 a further 9 early-stage business and academia collaborations in 2023
- EPSRC and business invest equally in each Prosperity Partnership, and the portfolio now totals £480 million
- Round 6 is unique in the sense that we are offering one opportunity with two routes of entry
- This is a combined opportunity for well-established collaborations as well as early-stage collaborations



Prosperity Partnerships – two routes

Route 1	Route 2
collaborative relationship is at a relatively early-stage approximately one to five years in duration	collaborative relationship is well-established, five years or more, at strategic partnership level
amount of funding you may apply for must not exceed £1 million	there is no restriction on the maximum amount of funding you may apply for
grants are normally between two-three years in duration	grants are normally between three-five years in duration
shorter peer review process	longer peer review process



Applicable for both routes

- One stage submission process with no expression of interest or outline stage = submitting full proposals for both routes
- 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 collaborative research programmes



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



What we are looking for

- Both partners are committed to the co-creation of a jointly delivered research programme at technology readiness level (TRL) one to three
- Projects must be at least 50% within the EPSRC remit. Cross-disciplinary and multidisciplinary projects are welcomed
- Encouraging Small Medium Enterprise (SME) involvement - this could be alone, or as part of a consortium, or as part of the supply chain of a larger company
- Welcome applications across the whole breadth of EPSRC's remit, but for this round of Prosperity Partnerships we are particularly encouraging applications for certain areas in EPSRC's Quantum Technologies and Engineering Net Zero portfolios



Doctorate provision

- Like all EPSRC research grant applications doctoral studentships cannot be requested.
- The nature of a PP does allow two ways of including people to be registered for a Doctorate as part of the project:
 1. Funded by business as part of their cash contribution
 2. Within the research and innovation staff component, full economic costs (fEC) at 80%

Note that these people must do research that is worthy and integral to the project, but should not be on a critical path.



Matched contribution

- EPSRC funding model is 80% fEC (full economic cost) which means we will fund 80% of the amount applied for, and the primary academic partner's research organisation is expected to cover the remaining 20%
- If there is only one business partner involved in the project, then they must provide a cash contribution which at least matches the EPSRC funding
- If there are multiple business partners involved, then the combined cash contributions from all the business partners must at least match the EPSRC funding requested
- We expect the primary business partner's cash contribution to be larger than any cash contribution from other business partners on this project
- This expectation does not apply to an application from a consortium of SMEs

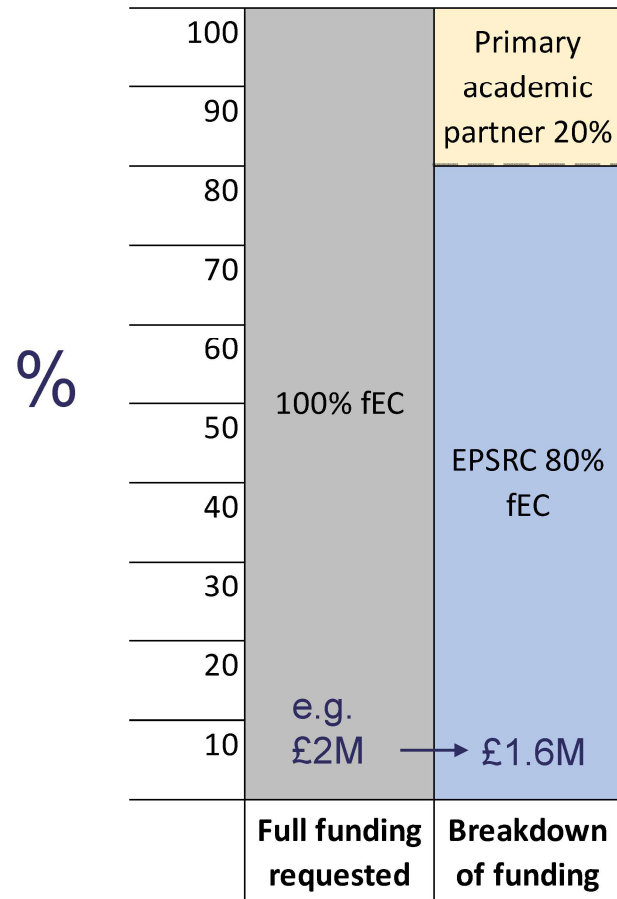


Definitive list of eligible cash contributions

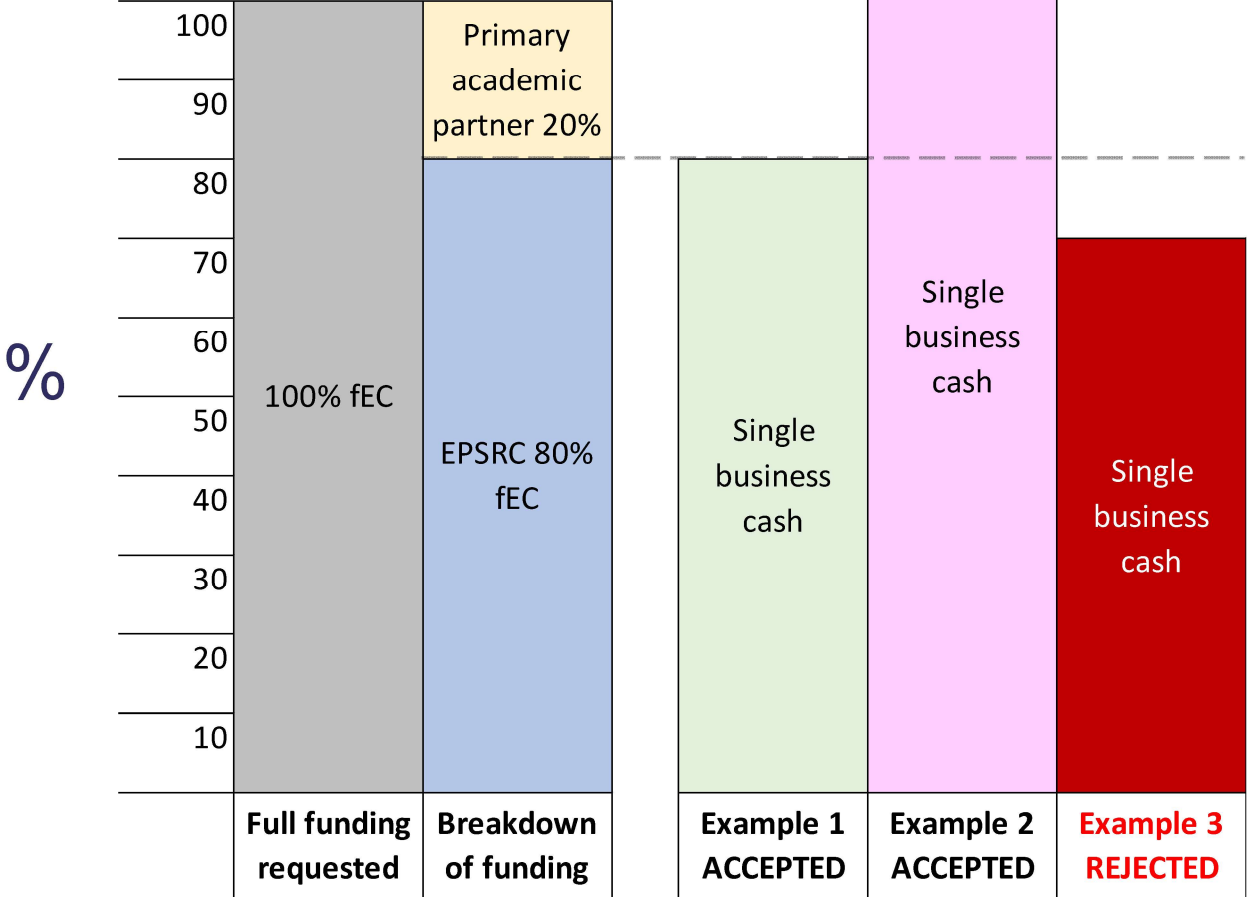
- Researchers' salaries
- Professional project manager's salary
- Specialists' and technicians' salary
- Software licenses
- New equipment
- Equipment produced by the business - at the cost of manufacture
- Equipment-specific materials
- Access to equipment and facilities
- Facilities' refurbishment
- Business cash contribution



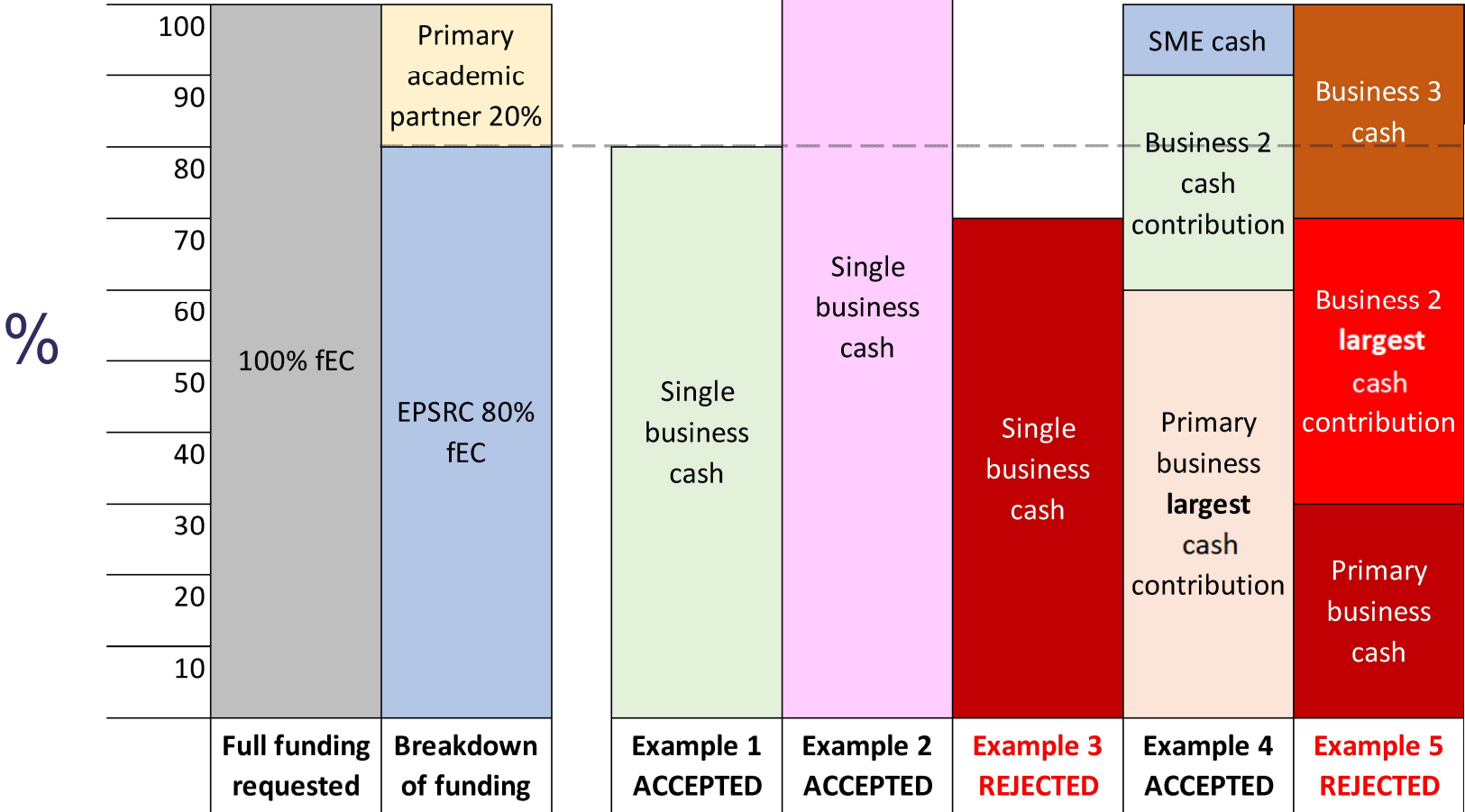
Example costings



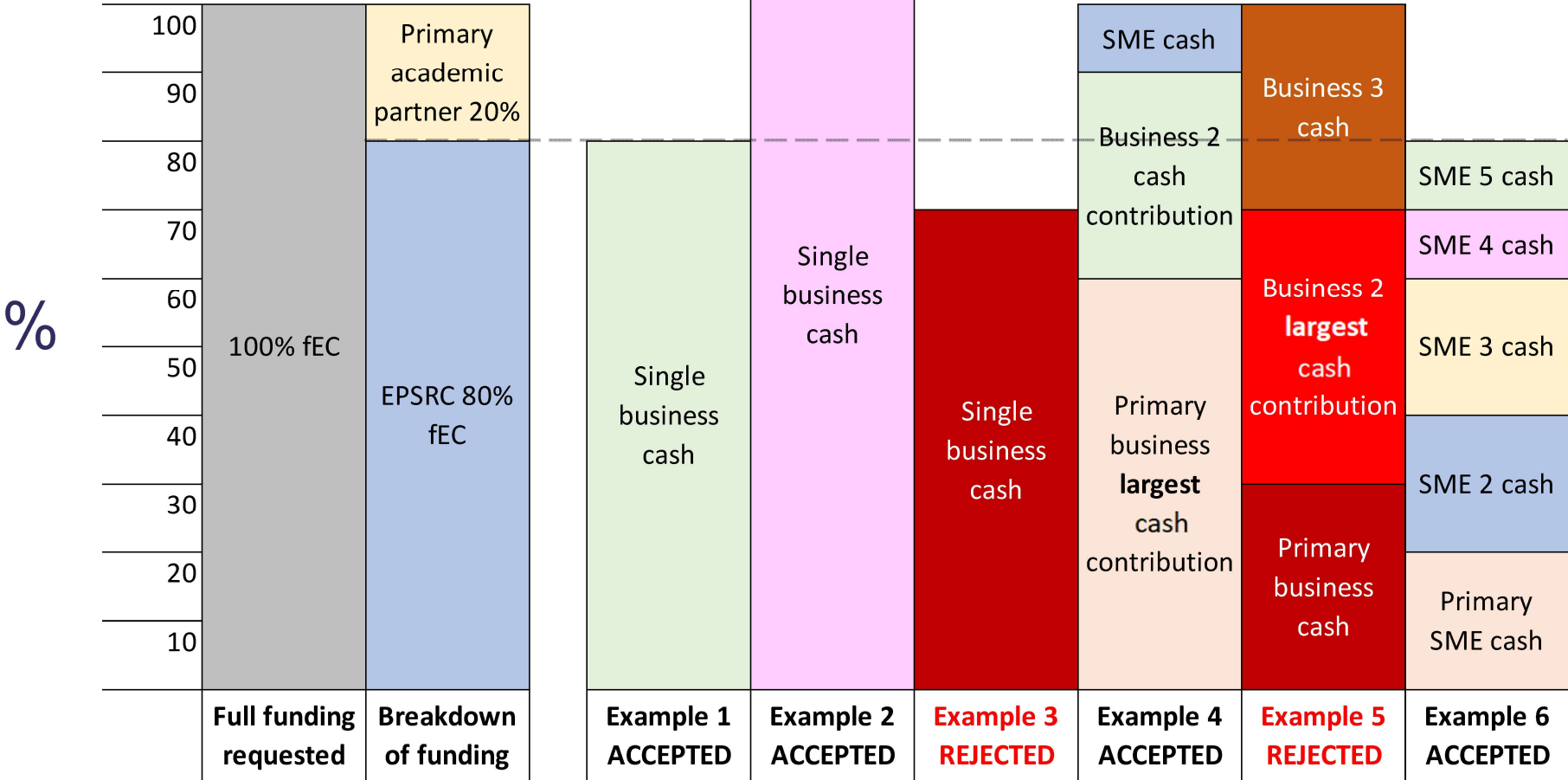
Example costings



Example costings



Example costings



Timeline and peer review

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12 Mar 2024 | - opportunity launched |
| 21 May 2024 4.00pm | - opportunity closes |
| 24 & 25 July 2024 | - prioritisation panel |
| Aug to Nov | - peer review for route 2 |
| Early October 2024 | - interviews for route 1 |
| November | - funding outcomes for route 1 |
| Late January 2025 | - interviews for route 2 |
| February – March 2025 | - funding outcomes for route 2 |



How to apply

- Application must be submitted by the primary academic partner, but we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application
- funding opportunity is running on the new UKRI Funding Service, and you can't apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system
- Queries relating to Funding Service must go to Funding Service 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

- Prioritisation panel will assess applications for both routes and decide which applicants should go forward to the next stage of the assessment process
- This panel will produce rank-ordered lists to prioritise the applications to manage the next stage in the process
- **Next step for route two only:** We will invite experts to review your application independently, against all the specified criteria for this funding opportunity - you will not be able to nominate reviewers for applications on the new Funding Service
- Interviews will be conducted for both routes - the interview panel will produce a rank-ordered list of proposals and make funding recommendations to EPSRC based on further exploration of all the assessment criteria



Expectations

- Most of the funding (three quarters) is expected to be for the larger, longer-relationship projects going via Route Two
- The Prioritisation Panel will help with demand management, based on a quality assessment, so that no more than 30 interviews are required
- The panel will also recommend which route applications take, to help with demand management and ensure a more consistent approach
- Be realistic. This is going to be a very competitive exercise. An application has got to be very good to be competitive.



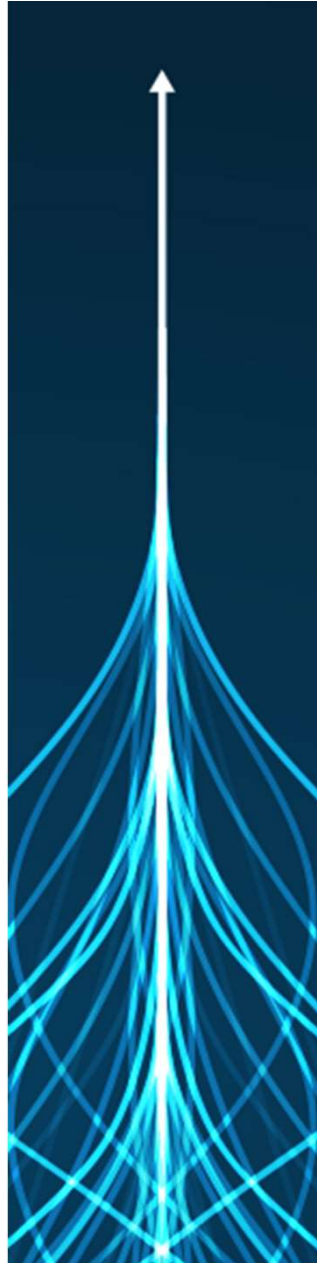
Assessment criteria

- vision
- approach
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- costs and resources
- partner contributions to costs
- research organisation support
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)



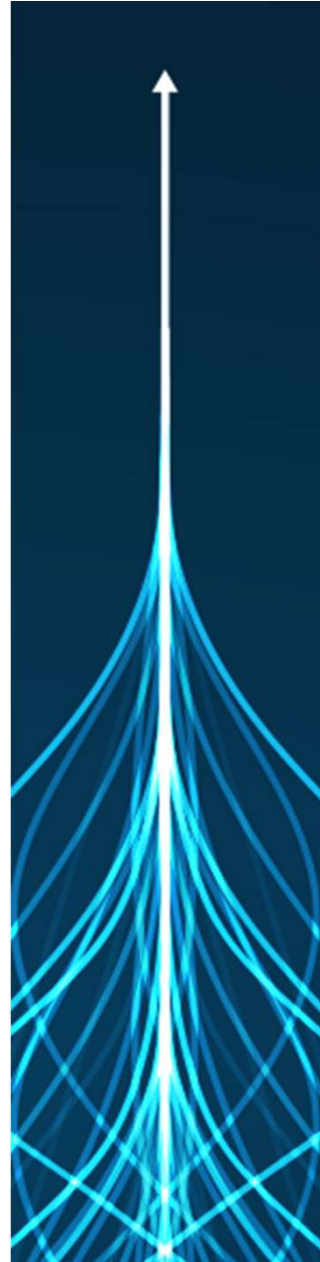
Application questions

- The vision of the project - What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?
- The approach to the project - how you have designed your work, i.e. how are you going to deliver your proposed work?
- The capability of the applicant(s) and the project team to deliver the project - Why are you the team to successfully deliver the proposed work? This will follow the Resume for Research and Innovation (R4RI) type format. R4RI is a flexible narrative CV template already being used across many funding opportunities that require track record information.
- The ethical and responsible research and innovation (RRI) considerations of the project - What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work? If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.



Other application areas

- Project partners – adding details of any project partner’s contributions
- References – list references you have used to support your application
- Project partners – letters/emails of support
- Resource and cost justification – will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?
- Partner contributions to costs – mandatory attachment that needs to be completed and uploaded which will be used to determine whether matched funding meets the required threshold for this opportunity
- Organisation’s support – details of support from your research organisation
- Route selection
- Summary of your application
- Core team listing



Summary

- Opportunity document goes into a lot of detail so take your time to read it carefully
- The **costings template** and the worked examples (linked as one document 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 a few common received questions
- Please use Q&A function to ask further questions



THANK YOU

any queries please contact
prosperitypartnerships@epsrc.ukri.org



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