**BBSRC STFC facility access fund for bioscience partnerships**

**Expression of interest - Application Form**

*The BBSRC STFC facility access fund for bioscience partnerships is designed to accelerate the development of new products or services requiring further research and innovation at proof-of-concept stage, through STFC Facilities and expertise. The programme is not designed for fundamental research which is not industrially relevant (see* ***note 1****).*

**To apply for funding:**

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

Once completed please email to: [business.unit@bbsrc.ukri.org](mailto:business.unit@bbsrc.ukri.org), **by Thursday 12th June 2025, 4pm**

|  |
| --- |
| **Challenge Statement**    **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. |
| **How does resolving the problem benefit the company?**  Explain the value of solving the problem. 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)* |
| **What attempts have 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)* |
| **Do you have an ongoing relationship with an academic research partner and if so, what is the nature/structure of that partnership and how does it relate to the proposed challenge?**  **If there is no pre-existing partnership, how will you identify and build a relationship, in the time available, in a way which will enable effective collaboration for the challenge you have outlined?** |

**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 Programme |  |
| Suggested technologies or equipment to be used (if known)  *(See* ***note 5****, in notes for applicants, for further information)* |  |

**Notes for applicants**

***Note 1***: The proposal should relate to the development of new products/services which require further research and innovation at proof-of-concept stage. For example, 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 which is not industrially relevant;
* Market analysis;
* standard testing and measurement services readily available commercially or via academic partners.

***Note 2***: Challenge statements should be clear on the value to the company in solving the problem. Higher priority is given to challenge statements that show a clear benefit or route to impact for the company.

***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***: The company size can be determined using the criteria shown in the table below. The size of the company determines the level of company contribution to the project.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Company size** | **Company size criteria** | **Company contribution to total project cost (based on STFC facility costs)** |
| Micro | A micro-entity must meet at least 2 of the following conditions:   * Average number of employees must not be more than 10 * Annual turnover must not be more than £632,000 * Balance sheet total must not be more than £316,000 | 30% |
| Small | A small company must meet at least 2 of the following conditions:   * Average number of employees must not be more than 50 * Annual turnover must not be more than £10.2 million * Balance sheet total must not be more than £5.1 million | 30% |
| Medium | A medium-sized company must meet at least 2 of the following conditions:   * Average number of employees must not be more than 250 * Annual turnover must not be more than £36 million * Balance sheet total must not be more than £18 million | 40% |
| Large | A large company meets the following conditions:   * Staff headcount more than 250 * Turnover more than £36 million * Balance sheet total of more than £18 million | 50% |

***Note 5***: The following facilities will be available through the programme:

[Diamond Light Source](https://www.diamond.ac.uk/Home.html), [Central Laser Facility](https://www.clf.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx), [Hartree Centre (High Performance Computing)](https://www.hartree.stfc.ac.uk/), [ISIS Neutron and Muon Source](https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx), [Scientific Computing](https://www.scd.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx), [National Quantum Computing Centre](https://www.nqcc.ac.uk/) and [Boulby Underground Laboratory](https://www.boulby.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx).

Information describing the facilities and expertise available can be found at the websites linked above.

**Ethical information**

Please answer the following questions, and delete as appropriate

1. **Human Participation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Would the project involve the use of human subjects? | yes | no |
| If yes, would equal numbers of males and females be used? | yes | no |
| Would the project involve the use of human tissue? | yes | no |
| Would the project involve the use of biological samples? | yes | no |
| Would the project involve the administration of drugs, chemical agents or vaccines to humans? | yes | no |
| Will personal information be used? | yes | no |
| If yes, will the information be anonymised and unlinked? | yes | no |
| Or will it be anonymised and linked? | yes | no |
| Will the research participants be identifiable? | yes | no |

1. **Animal Research**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Would the project involve the use of vertebrate animals or other organisms covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act? | yes | no |
| If yes, what would be the maximum severity of the procedures? | Mild or non-recovery |  |
|  | Moderate |  |
|  | Severe |  |
| Please provide details of any areas which are Moderate or Severe: |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Animal Species**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does the proposed research involve the use of non-human primates? | yes | no |
| Does the proposed research involve the use of dogs? | yes | no |
| Does the proposed research involve the use of cats? | yes | no |
| Does the proposed research involve the use of equidae? | yes | no |

Please indicate and other species of animals that are to be used in the proposed research e.g Fish, Rabbit, Amphibian, Cow, Reptile, Pig, Bird, Sheep, Rat, Poultry, Mouse, Guinea Pig, Other Rodent, Other Animal:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **Genetic and Biological Risk**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Would the project involve the production and/or use of genetically modified animals? | yes | no |
| If yes, will genetic modification be used as an experimental tool, e.g., to study the function of a gene in a genetically modified organism? | yes | no |
| And will the research involve the release of genetically modified organisms? | yes | no |
| And will the research be aimed at the ultimate development of commercial or industrial genetically modified products or processes? | yes | no |
| Would the project involve the production and/or use of genetically modified plants? | yes | no |
| If yes, will genetic modification be used as an experimental tool, e.g., to study the function of a gene in a genetically modified organism? | yes | no |
| And will the research involve the release of genetically modified organisms? | yes | no |
| And will the research be aimed at the ultimate development of commercial or industrial genetically modified products or processes? | yes | no |
| Would the project involve the production and/or use of genetically modified microbes? | yes | no |
| If yes, will genetic modification be used as an experimental tool, e.g., to study the function of a gene in a genetically modified organism? | yes | no |
| And will the research involve the release of genetically modified organisms? | yes | no |
| And will the research be aimed at the ultimate development of commercial or industrial genetically modified products or processes? | yes | no |

1. **Approvals**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Have the following necessary approvals been given by: | yes | no | Not required |
| The Regional Multicentre Research Ethics Committee (MREC) or Local Research Ethics Committee (LREC)? | yes | no | Not required |
| The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority? | yes | no | Not required |
| The Home Office (in relation to personal and project licences, and certificates of designation)? | yes | no | Not required |
| The Gene Therapy Advisory Committee? | yes | no | Not required |
| The UK Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority? | yes | no | Not required |
| Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee (ARSAC)? | yes | no | Not required |
| Other bodies as appropriate? Please specify: | yes | no | Not required |

1. **Other issues**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Are there any other details of which the Council should be aware? | yes | no |
| If yes, please give details: |  |  |

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