

EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships funding opportunity webinar

This document collates answers to the questions that were not answered during the EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnership funding opportunity webinar held on 23 March 2026.

Eligibility

Does "individual" refer to the organisation or a specific researcher within the organisation?

Answer: For established relationship requirement, the individual refers to who will lead the project from primary academic partner and primary business partner.

Does full consortium need to have "Established" partnership or is that just lead academic and business partners?

Answer: Only the established relationship between the lead of a consortium (primary business partner) and the primary academic partner is required.

Are projects that have potential impact across multiple themes encouraged?

Answer: yes, as long as the project is aligned with the six high-growth opportunity themes from the [National Materials Innovation Strategy](#).

Will the catapults such as MTC be counted as business or academic/university?

Answer: Catapult centres which are eligible for UKRI funding can act as academic partners.

Is there a limit on the number of applications each organisation can submit?

Answer: There is no limit on the number of applications each organisation can submit. However, the individual acting as the primary academic partner and the individual acting as the primary business partner may only be named in these joint roles on one application at a time.

Can a Public Sector Research Establishments (PSRE) join as academic partner in a project that is led by other Primary Academic Partner (e.g., a UK University)?

Answer: UKRI-approved public sector research establishments can be included as non-primary academic partners.

Can the project is related to the industry partners products/businesses?

Answer: The proposed projects should aim to develop novel or enhanced materials solutions to meet business needs.

Cash contribution

Further conformation requested on "Cash" contribution. If salary costs and equipment are allowed how is this captured in the finances? Is it essentially in-kind contribution?

Answer: If the costs are included in the 'Definitive list of eligible cash contributions' on the [EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships](#) opportunity page, they can be counted as a cash contribution. Otherwise, they should be considered as an in-kind contribution.

It was mentioned that the business cash contribution must at least match the EPSRC funding. Could you confirm whether time spent by industry scientists/engineers, sample costs, and testing costs—normally considered in-kind—can count toward this cash contribution?

Answer: See the above answer

Does the funding support instrumentation purchases i.e. if the academic partner requires instrumentation from the industry partner, is this covered?

Answer: See the above answer

Just to clarify, staff salaries of the industry partner do count towards their cash contribution?

Answer: See the above answer. Also, please note that the salary of the person who is the primary business partner must be paid by the business. This money is not eligible to be counted as a cash or in-kind contribution.

If BP can provided their own equipment at "cost" not market rate, is that the same rule for material/consumables?

Answer: yes, as long as the consumable materials are specifically needed to enable delivery of the project.

Does the full 50% business match need to come from UK members in any consortium?

Answer: Matched contribution from business partners can be a combined cash contribution from all business partners who can act as the primary business partner.

If we had an international partner acting as the non-primary business partner, could their contribution count towards the match funding? (I know it would need to be a lower amount than the primary business partner). It said match funding must be contributed by a partner or consortium meeting definitions such as UK-based etc.

Answer: If the international partner has a UK presence and significant UK-based research activity, their cash contribution can be counted towards the matched contribution.

Cash contribution at 100% FeC or the EPSRC contribution 80% Fec?

Answer: For matched cash contribution from business partner(s), it must at least match the EPSRC funding requested which is 80% of FEC.

Grant size is £250K upwards - 80% of that is £200K so is that what businesses must contribute as a minimum in cash? And does cash include staff time?

Answer: £250,000 is the minimum grant size that can be requested from EPSRC. Therefore, a £250,000 matched cash contribution from business partner(s) is required. Also, please note that the salary of the person who is the primary business partner must be paid by the business. This money is not eligible to be counted as a cash or in-kind contribution.

If min is 250,000 does it mean £250K from EPSRC and 250K from business?

Answer: See the above answer

What is the minimum amount industry should provide? £100k or £125k?

Answer: The business cash contribution must at least match the amount funded by EPSRC.

Can past contributions count as cash contributions? for example, if industry has already committed to funding a Phd studentship beginning Sept 2026? or even a previous studentship already finished?

Answer: Cash contributions must be part of the funded project duration. "Preparatory work" is considered to be part of establishing the relationship with the primary business partner prior to a potential prosperity partnership and cannot be used as a cash contribution retrospectively.

Can you clarify, if the industry is doing the testing and has produced the samples for the collaboration, are those cost considered "cash" contribution? The post test analysis is then costed towards the academic partner.

Answer: If the samples are produced specifically to enable delivery of the project, they can be counted as a cash contribution.

Assessment process

So, with the expert review, have the experts been recruited already, or will they be recruited once the call closes and once you know the fields you will need to recruit from?

Answer: Experts across the six high-growth opportunity themes will be recruited to participate in the assessment panel. EPSRC will ensure that their expertise align with submitted applications as much as possible.

So there is an opportunity for peer review response for everyone?

Answer: Applicants will have the opportunity to respond to questions raised by panel members.

Other topics

Four projects does not seem very many - what level of success rate is anticipated for applicants?

Answer: It depends on the level of funding requested for each project but EPSRC aims to invest in a minimum of four projects through this funding opportunity

Please can you confirm if this funding being distributed from the new-ish Bucket 2 allocation?

Answer: The funding available for this opportunity has been incorporated into the UKRI's Advanced Manufacturing priority programme within Bucket 2, as addressed in the [UKRI budget allocation](#) published in December 2025.

Could you please comment on how this call will be coordinated strategically with the Prosperity Partnership opportunity?

Answer: Both [EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships](#) opportunity and the [UKRI Translation: EPSRC Prosperity Partnerships 2027](#) opportunity aim to create long-term prosperity for the UK through the translation of research innovation towards industrial application.

Do the Network Plus applications come out of the £7.5m or is there separate funding ringfenced for these?

Answer: The £7.5M available fund is only for this EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships funding opportunity.

What is the difference between this call vs coordinated network pluses, it was not very clear.

Answer: The [EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships](#) opportunity aims to support a portfolio of at least four ambitious, collaborative, fundamental research programmes, spanning the breadth of the six high-growth opportunity themes identified in the [National Materials Innovation Strategy](#) (NMIS), whereas the [Materials Innovation Programme Coordination Network Pluses](#) aims to establish a series of Network Plus investments to support implementation of the National Materials Innovation and Industrial strategies.

For the Materials Innovation Programme Coordination Network Pluses call, is a cash contribution from business or industrial partners required, or would in-kind support from project partners be acceptable?

Answer: Specific information for the [Materials Innovation Programme Coordination Network Pluses](#) funding opportunity can be found on the opportunity page.