



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council

# EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships funding opportunity webinar

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# Welcome To The Webinar



This webinar will provide information about the EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships funding opportunity and a chance to ask questions.

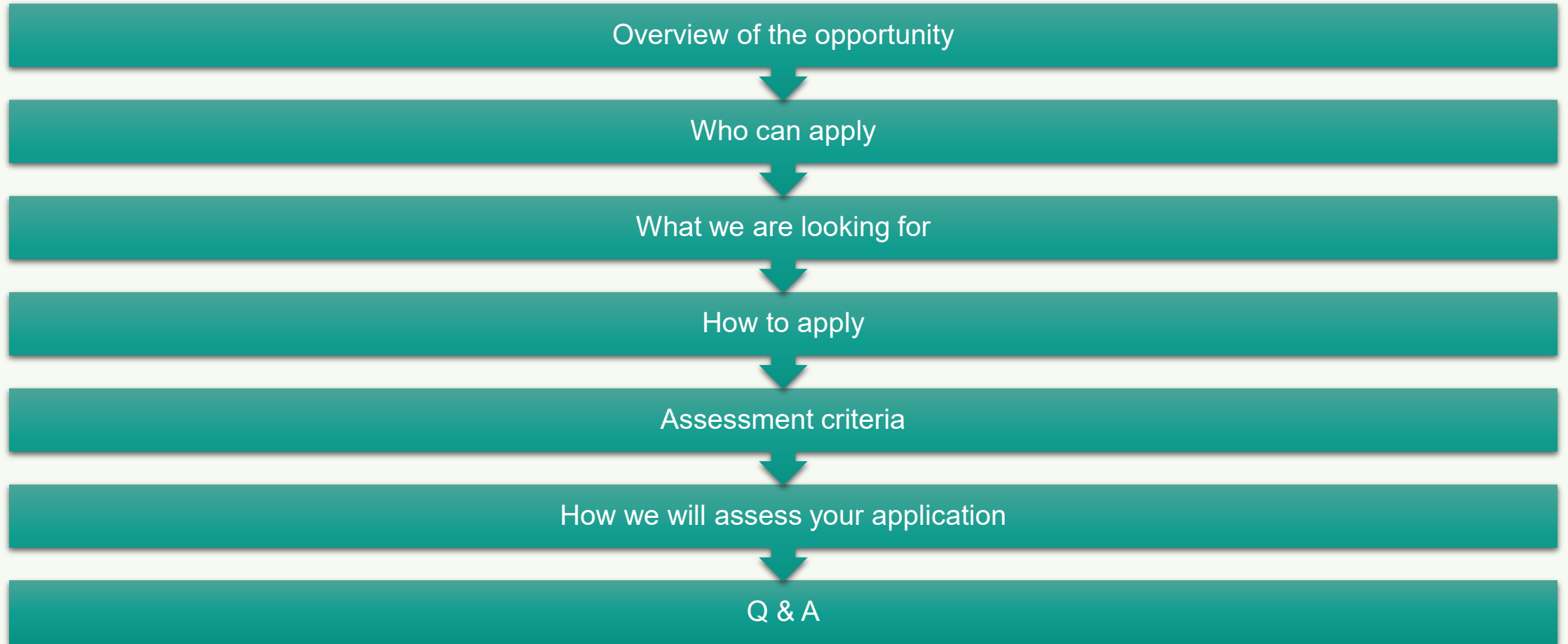


We ask that you submit questions via the Q&A function. Specific questions about your project are encouraged to email us via [materials@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:materials@epsrc.ukri.org)



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

# What This Webinar Will Cover



# Overview Of Opportunity

- This [EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships](#) funding opportunity forms part of the [National Materials Innovation Programme](#), announced, as part of the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan in the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy.
- EPSRC aims to support Materials Innovation Partnerships projects that:
  - be **co-created and co-delivered** by business and academic partners that share an existing working relationship for **at least one year**
  - focus on **one or more of the six high-growth opportunity themes** from the [National Materials Innovation Strategy](#) (NMIS)
  - aim to create long-term prosperity for the UK
- Projects should aim to:
  - accelerate advanced materials research and development, focusing on real-world challenges
  - speed up the translation of materials innovation towards industrial application
  - develop novel or enhanced materials solutions to meet business needs

# Overview Of Opportunity

- EPSRC have up to **£7.5 million** to invest in a minimum of four projects.
- EPSRC will fund 80% of the full economic cost (FEC).
- The business cash contribution must **at least match the amount funded by EPSRC.**
- Grant size: **£250,000 upwards**
- Duration: **up to three and a half years**, with a fixed start date of **1 October 2026.**
- Eligibility: EPSRC standard eligibility rules apply (see [EPSRC's eligibility page](#)).

# Overview Of Opportunity

## Key dates

- **Opening date:** 3 March 2026 9:00am UK time
- **Closing date:** 14 May 2026 4:00pm UK time
- **Assessment panel:** August 2026
- **Application outcome:** August 2026
- **Project fixed start date:** 1 October 2026

# Who Can Apply

## Primary academic partner

- Research organisations can act as the ‘primary academic partner’ if they are eligible to receive EPSRC funding. This includes:
  - UK higher education institutions
  - research council institutes
  - UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)-approved independent research organisations
  - [public sector research establishments](#)
  - NHS bodies with research capacity
- Additional to eligibility of organisations, please check eligibility of individuals (see [EPSRC’s eligibility page](#)).

# Who Can Apply

## Primary business partner

- Businesses can act as the ‘primary business partner’ if they meet at least **one** of the following requirements:
  - be a **UK-based business of any size**
  - be a business of any size with a **UK presence and significant UK-based research activity**
  - be a public sector research establishment (PSRE), noting that your financial contribution to the match funding requirement **must not be derived from public funds** (appropriate confirmation and assurance of this will be required)
  - be the **lead of a consortium of organisations** which collectively contributes the match funding, the members of which meet any of the above requirements
- **Collaborations may include international partners**, noting that the match funding must be contributed by a partner or consortium meeting the above definitions.

# Who Can Apply

## Established partnership

- This funding opportunity will support collaborative partnerships between the primary partner organisations which have been established for **at least one year**.
- A partnership is a working relationship between the **two individuals who will lead the project in both organisations, as well as a broader relationship between the two organisations**. An established partnership in this context is one which meets **all** the following requirements:
  - has **individual relationships at the core** of the partnership
  - can be **recognised by both primary partner organisations**
  - can demonstrate a track record of at least one year (prior to the point of application) showing significant, **regular collaborative research projects** which the primary academic and business partners have developed and progressed together
  - can demonstrate a **clear trajectory for future collaborative work**
- These partnerships may involve the signing of a memorandum of understanding or collaboration agreement.

# Who Can Apply

## Additional project partners

- Projects may include any number of additional business or academic partners. These are termed “**non-primary business partners**” or “**non-primary academic partners**”.
- Non-primary business partners may contribute to the match funding requirement.
- This means consortia of any size are allowed.
- An established relationship between the two primary partners still needs to be demonstrated.

# What We Are Looking For

Your project must focus on one of the six high-growth opportunity themes from the NMIS.

- Materials for energy solutions
- Materials for future healthcare
- Materials for structural innovations
- Materials for advanced surface technologies
- Materials for next generation electronics, telecommunications and sensors
- Materials for consumer products, packaging and specialist polymers

Further information about the scope within each high-growth opportunity theme can be found in the [National Materials Innovation Strategy](#).

# What We Are Looking For

## Matched contribution from academic partner(s)

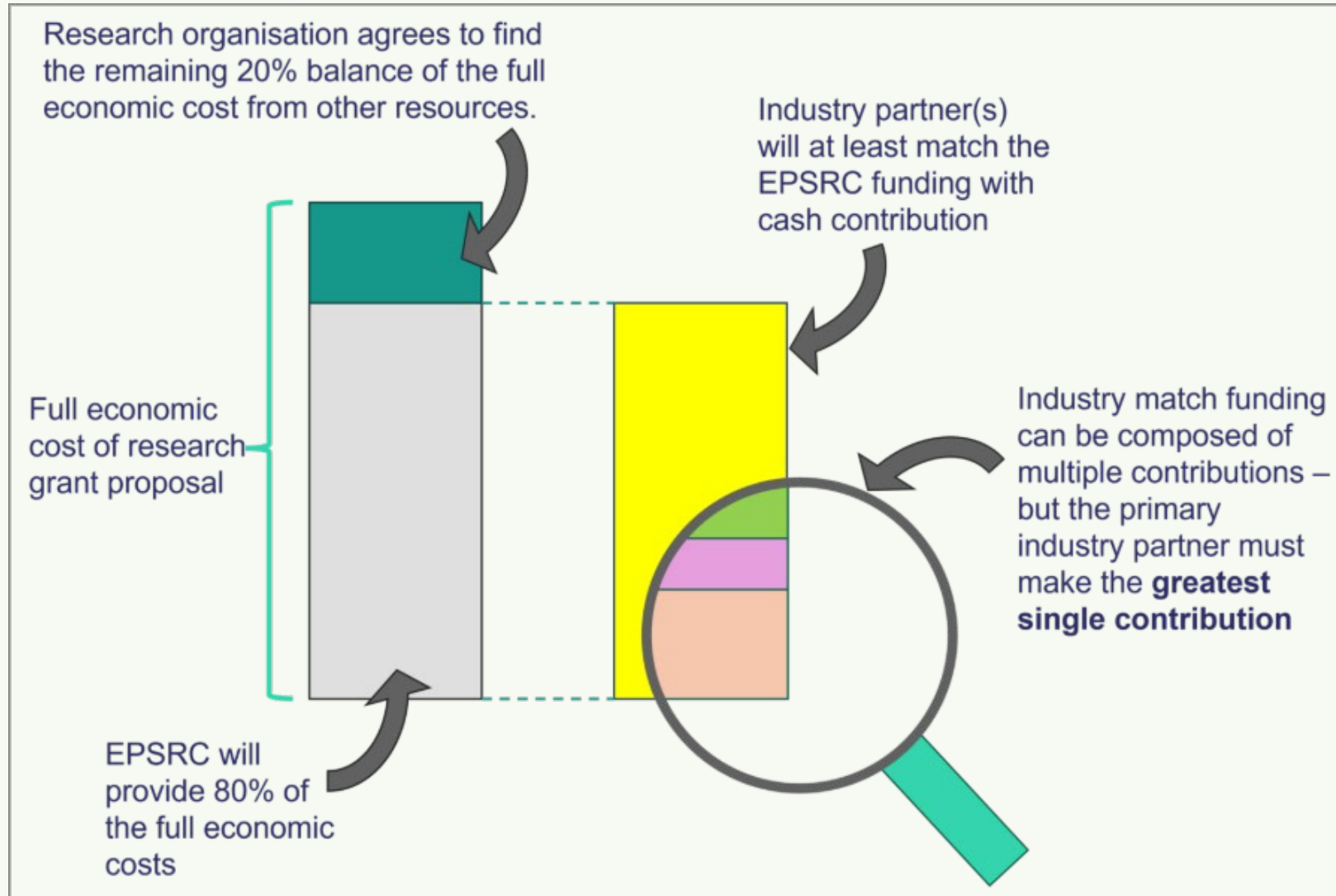
- By default, there are **no requirements** for host institutions to provide additional monetary support (including in-kind contributions) towards the cost of a UKRI-funded project, **beyond the standard 20% FEC.**
- Funding opportunity guidance advises applicants and organisations **not to include matched funding within their applications and that it will not be assessed.**
- This **does not remove the need for support from host organisations** who must provide the necessary research environment and infrastructure for award-specific activities funded by UKRI. For example, research facilities, training and development of staff.

# What We Are Looking For

## Matched contribution from business partner(s)

- If there is a **single primary business partner** named in the application, then they must provide a cash contribution which at least matches the EPSRC funding.
- **In-kind contribution will not count towards this cash component** but are encouraged.
- If there is a **consortium of businesses led by a primary business partner**, the combined cash contributions from all the business partners must at least match the EPSRC funding requested.
- **The value of the primary business partner's cash contribution must be the greatest** among business partners on the application.
- Definitive list of eligible cash contributions can be found on [EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships](#) funding opportunity page.

# What We Are Looking For



# What We Are Looking For

## Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

- UKRI is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks.
- Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I) is a UKRI work programme designed to **help protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector** by enabling partnerships to be as open as possible, and as secure as necessary.
- Our [TR&I Principles](#) set out UKRI's expectations of organisations funded by UKRI in relation to due diligence for international collaboration.
- [See further guidance and information about TR&I](#), including where applicants can find additional support.
- National Protective Security Authority also provide guidance for academia (see [Trusted Research - Academia | Trusted Research | NPSA](#))

# How To Apply



We are running this funding opportunity on **the new Funding Service (TFS)**. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.



**The primary academic partner will be required to create and submit the application** on the UKRI Funding Service, but all partners are expected to contribute to the application in the spirit of the partnership before its added to the system.



Although the primary business partner is a key member of the team, they cannot be listed with a core grant role. Instead, details should be added under the **'Applicant and team capability to deliver'** and **'Project partner'** sections.




Find out more about [UKRI's core team roles in funding applications](#).


# Assessment Criteria

 Vision

 Approach


 Fit to Materials Innovation Partnerships Opportunity

 Applicant and team capability to deliver

 Resources and cost justification

 Partner contributions to costs

 Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

 Trusted Research and Innovation

# Assessment Criteria

## Vision

- For the Vision, explain how your proposed work:
  - is of **excellent quality and importance** within or beyond the field(s) or area(s)
  - has the potential to **advance current understanding, generates new knowledge, thinking or discovery** within or beyond the field or area
  - is **timely** given current trends, context, and needs
  - **impacts** world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment
  - identifies the potential **local, regional and/or national impacts**, both direct and indirect, and **who the beneficiaries might be**
  - **enhances the UK's research and innovation capabilities** through local or regional activity, including the technical and specialist capability of the partner organisation(s)

# Assessment Criteria

## Approach

- For the Approach, explain how you have designed your work so that it:
  - is **effective and appropriate** to achieve your objectives
  - is **feasible**, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed
  - uses a **clear and transparent methodology**, if applicable
  - **summarises the previous work** and describes how this will be built upon and progressed , if applicable
  - will **maximise translation of outputs** into outcomes and impacts
  - will maximise the potential for **local, regional or national outcomes and impacts**
  - **realises the expected benefits** and provide the logic of how the planned activities will deliver the intended outcomes and impacts
  - will maximise the exploitation of outcomes, to **deliver long term prosperity for the UK**, and how you will **develop skills or create opportunities for all team members**
  - describes how your, and if applicable your team's, research environment (in terms of the place, relevance to the project, and availability of technical and specialist expertise) will contribute to the success of the work

# Assessment Criteria

## Fit to Materials Innovation Partnerships Opportunity

- Explain how your project:
  - **demonstrates clear strategic alignment and adds value** to one or more of the six high-growth opportunity themes from the [National Materials Innovation Strategy](#)
  - has been **co-created** by the primary partners, and will be **co-delivered** by the partners
  - is costed so that **the total value requested is appropriate for the depth and duration of the relationship** between the primary academic and primary business partner (as demonstrated in the Primary Academic Partner Research Organisation Statement).
- You should also exemplify **how your project delivers against the core objectives of the National Materials Innovation programme**, for example detailing:
  - the potential to **drive accelerated development of novel or enhanced materials** and the projects potential to deliver solutions to real world challenges
  - how you will **speed up translation** of materials innovation towards industrial application
  - how the project will **derive benefits to the partners** involved and **to the wider innovation ecosystem or supply chains**
  - how the project has **leveraged private investment** to deliver important developments in key areas of materials

# Assessment Criteria

## Applicant and team capability to deliver

- Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:
  - the **relevant experience** (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
  - the **right balance of skills** and expertise to cover proposed work
  - the **appropriate leadership and management skills** to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
  - contributed to **developing a positive research environment** and wider community
- Within this section we also expect you to:
  - **provide the names, titles, business name and research organisation name** of both the primary business partner and the primary academic partner
  - **provide evidence of your use of technical and specialist capabilities** within the partner organisation(s) in building your project team

# Assessment Criteria

## Resources and cost justification

- Explain how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work:
  - are **comprehensive, appropriate, and justified**
  - represent the **optimal use of resources** to achieve the intended outcomes
  - **maximise potential outcomes and impacts**
- Assessors are **not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown** of all project resources.

# Assessment Criteria

## Partner contributions to costs

- For the Partner contributions to costs, following details should be addressed:
  - **all project partner cash contributions** should be briefly described in the table
  - **full details of each business partner contribution should be provided separately** in the corresponding project partner letter (or email) of support
  - **Business cash contributions without a corresponding letter of support will be removed**
  - our definitive list of “cash contributions” can be found in EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships [EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships](#) funding opportunity
  - use the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) methodology
  - **do not apply indexation** to the funds requested from EPSRC– this will be done by UKRI
  - the combined cash contributions from all the business partners must **at least match the EPSRC funding requested**
  - the value of the primary business partner’s cash contribution must be **the greatest among business partners** on this application
- You **must complete the table in the UKRI Funding Service** to provide a breakdown of the match funding that you have secured from your project partners (See the [EPSRC Materials Innovation Partnerships Partner Contributions to Costs table and guidance](#))

# Assessment Criteria

## Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

- Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:
  - the **relevant ethical and RRI considerations**, including both the research or topic area itself and the design and delivery of the project
  - the **wider implications of the proposed work**, and how you will maximise the positive societal, environmental, and economic benefits arising from the project, whilst **minimising unintended negative impacts**, such as research misuse or accidental harm
  - **how you will manage these considerations** throughout the lifecycle of the project

# Assessment Criteria

## Trusted Research and Innovation

- Demonstrate how your proposed work relates to UKRI's Trusted Research and Innovation principles including:
  - **list any dual-use** (both military and non-military) applications to your research
  - if this project is relevant to one or more of the **17 areas of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act**, please list the area(s)
  - please read the [academic export control guidance](#) and **confirm if an export control licence is required** for this project and the status of any application(s)
  - if your project involves **any items or substances on the UK strategic export control list**, please provide a list
  - if projects involve sensitive research, **describe the mitigations** to be put in place to ensure the protection of the UK's intellectual property, sensitive research, people, and infrastructure from potential theft, misuse and exploitation.

# How We Will Assess Your Application

## Prior to panel meeting

- Applications will be reviewed by an assessment panel and **will not be sent for expert review** prior to the panel meeting.
- Panel members will assess the application independently against the assessment criteria and score the application using an **evidence-based judgement** of the application.
- Prior to the assessment panel, panel members will be given the opportunity to **request a limited amount of additional information from you** under all or some of the assessment criteria.
- You will be given two weeks to provide **a written response** to the questions raised. The response can be a maximum of 1,500 words.

# How We Will Assess Your Application

## At panel meeting

- The panel will use the information provided in **your application and your response** to their questions to agree a consensus score for each application.
- **This assessment of the applications will be used to group them into three tiers**, funding decisions regarding applications in the middle tier will be made by EPSRC using the portfolio balancing approach.
- **Assessment by experts remains the mainstay of the process** and applications must pass a certain threshold to be deemed competitively strong against the assessment criteria for the funding opportunity. Therefore, only highly competitive applications will be considered via portfolio balancing approach.
- For more information on how we prioritise applications for funding please visit [How we make decisions](#)

# How We Will Assess Your Application

## After panel meeting

- Under this tiered approach, the portfolio balance will be considered starting with their **fit to the aims of the Materials Innovation Partnerships opportunity**, in particular consideration will be given to:
  - the balance across the six high-growth opportunity themes from the National Materials Innovation Strategy
  - the potential for local, regional and/or national impacts, both direct and indirect
  - the level of business leverage associated with an application
- While considering the balance, we may decide to **fund a particular application over another from the same middle tier for strategic reasons.**
- EPSRC may utilise the **National Materials Innovation Programme board**, with additional input as required, for advice on the selection of a balanced portfolio from the highest quality applications.
- The final funding decisions will be made by EPSRC.



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# Materials Innovation Programme Coordination Network Pluses

# Materials Innovation Programme Coordination Network Pluses

- [Materials Innovation Programme Coordination Network Pluses – UKRI](#)
- This funding forms part of the [National Materials Innovation Programme](#) (NMIP) announced as part of the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan in the [UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#).
- We are open to applications that will coordinate and add value to following themes:
  - materials for energy solutions
  - materials for future healthcare
  - materials for advanced surface technologies
  - materials for next generation electronics, telecommunications and sensors
- The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £1.15 million. EPSRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

# Materials Innovation Programme Coordination Network Pluses

- Key dates:
  - **Opening date:** 23 March 2026
  - **Closing date:** 27 May 2026
  - **Interview panel dates:** During the week of 13 July 2026
  - **Outcomes:** August 2026
  - **Project fixed start date:** 1 October 2026
  
- Please contact [materials@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:materials@epsrc.ukri.org) if you have questions regarding this opportunity.



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# Questions?



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# Thank You