



Innovate  
UK



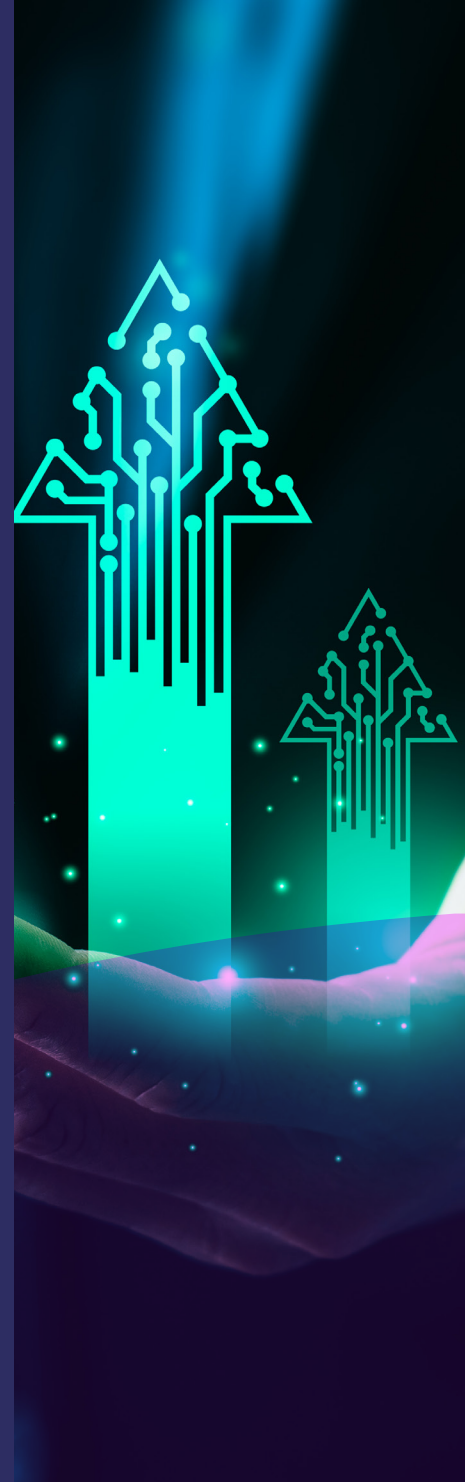
**Innovate UK (IUK)**

**Director of Semiconductors,  
Connectivity and Cyber**

Applicant Pack  
April 2026

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# About UKRI

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. UKRI is the largest public funder of research and innovation in the UK, spanning all disciplines and all sectors, investing £9 billion each year on behalf of the UK government.

UKRI inspires and enables talented people to push the boundaries of discovery, support innovative businesses to grow and scale, and target solutions to national and global priorities.

UKRI connects the seven research councils, Innovate UK and Research England, and works with the funding agencies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to deliver an ambitious agenda. It does so by drawing on its great depth and breadth of expertise and the enormous diversity of its portfolio.

UKRI maintains and champions the creativity and vibrancy of disciplines and sector-specific priorities and communities. Its councils shape and deliver sectoral and domain-specific support and work together to ensure a fully joined-up research and innovation investment portfolio.

UKRI works with its stakeholders and partners to understand the opportunities and requirements of all the different parts of the research and innovation landscape. This helps to maintain the health, breadth and depth of the system. This could be through research grants, quality-related block grants from Research England or grants and wider support for innovative businesses from Innovate UK.

We fund people and teams in over 140 universities, 60 institutes and 3,600 companies across the UK, supporting a diverse range of research and innovation environments. Our investments in research and development (R&D) deliver benefits across the whole of the UK.

# About IUK



IUK is the UK's innovation agency. We help UK businesses to grow through innovation.

The government's vision is for the UK to be a global hub for innovation by 2035.

Our mission in achieving that is to help companies to grow through their development and commercialisation of new products, processes and services, supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive and easy to navigate.

**Find out more in our action plan 'building the future economy: plan for action for UK business innovation'.**

We help companies, through three strands of activity:

- inspire: to make the opportunity visible and compelling
- involve: to bring relevant organisations and people together
- invest: to convene the resources needed, including our own.

We do this in our five strategic theme areas and through the six strong foundations that underpin all our activities.

We help companies access the expertise and equipment they need, build the partnerships that will help them go faster, and fund the innovation work through grants or loans.

We support the best ideas from business, as determined through free and fair competition.

# Context

The Secure and Resilient Growth Directorate leads and manages IUK's programme for three of the UK government's priority frontier technologies:

- advanced connectivity technologies
- semiconductors
- cyber-security

There are substantial programmes within each of these but also a strategic imperative to create business growth opportunities by building a more integrated ecosystem across all three.

The role sits as part of the Digital and Technologies growth sector and there will be opportunities to work closely with activities in quantum, AI and engineering biology in an overarching programme worth around £2bn over the next four years.

# Main outputs and activities

- develop Innovate UK's strategy for growing companies in the secure and resilient growth area in conjunction with, and informed by, domain senior leadership and IUK Senior Leadership Team (SLT), ensuring connectivity and alignment across UKRI
- increasingly act as the focal point for wider security and dual-use capabilities as directed by the corporate strategy
- act as the prime IUK focal point to DSIT's critical technology teams in cyber-security, advanced connectivity technologies and semiconductors. Support delivery of government growth objectives for the design and technology (D&T) sector in the Industrial Strategy
- act as a key member of the wider security and resilience leadership community; influencing strategic technical direction at national level across industry and within government
- work collaboratively to support the creation and execution of a D&T-level vision and strategy seeking to better align individual technology themes within UKRI and government, where strategically helpful
- lead on building and fostering relationships/interaction with Place, Global, Products & Services programmes, IUK Business Connect and Catapults (including being the prime technical interface with the Compound Semiconductors catapult), in the pursuit of delivery and programmes and competitions
- provide strategic guidance and leadership in the delivery of a portfolio of strategic 'investment programmes' within the domain, and industry/company support in developing next generation technologies, products and services in the area of security and resilience



- build effective working relationships with the various senior teams and key stakeholders within and outside IUK, ensuring and safeguarding the connectivity to IUK's strategy. This specifically includes:
  - other IUK internal functions/IUK Business Connect
  - Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
  - Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
  - functions external to UKRI
  - industry
  - MoD
  - government bodies
  - relevant strategic and industry partners
- deliver IUK programmes in security and resilience to cost, quality and schedule requirements
- you will be an industry leader within the context of cyber-security; directing the advancement of business-led innovation in this field
- build, lead and develop a team of technical and innovation specialists in an environment where change will be common
- deputise for Executive Director when required.

# Your skills and experience



**(S)** – Assessed at shortlisting

**(I)** – Assessed at interview

**(S&I)** – Assessed at shortlisting & interview

- the role holder will be a recognised industry leader in at least one of cyber-security, advanced connectivity technologies or semiconductors and ideally several of these. **(S&I)**
- they will have demonstrated influence as a thought leader across industry and within government **(S)**
- they will have the technical credibility blended with collaboration skills to create and deliver integrated programmes across multiple agencies/bodies including stakeholders of a business and political nature **(I)**
- they will be recognised as influencing strategic technical direction at national level **(S&I)**
- they must have a proven track record of managing high-performance teams and complex programmes through periods of change **(I)**
- educated to degree-level or post graduate level in a relevant scientific/technical subject or equivalent experience **(S)**
- they will have the proven ability to work at board and executive level **(S)**
- they will have previously led the development and implementation of strategic plans and change initiatives **(S&I)**

# Terms of Appointment

**Salary:** £94,931- £117,800 per annum

**Hours:** Full Time

**Contract type:** Open Ended (permanent)

**Location:** Field Based

**Grade:** UKRI Band X

**Positions available:** One

## Summary of benefits

UKRI can offer the successful candidate:

- flexible working
- 30 days annual leave + public holidays
- access to Civil Service Pension Scheme
- various everyday discounts through our dedicated provider

Visit our dedicated benefits webpage for more info: [Benefits of working at UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\)](#)

Watch our video "Why Join Innovate UK?" [here](#)

# Timescales and selection

The selection process will include a panel interview with questions assessing your skills and experience against the advertised criteria of the role.

**Closing date:** 10 May

**Shortlisting:** W/C 18 May

**Interviews:** W/C 01 June

Please note, dates and details are subject to change.

## How to apply

Please submit your application via the Careers Portal by **23:55 on 10 May**

### **How to evidence the criteria:**

We encourage you to use the 'situation, task, action, result' (STAR) method in your cover letter to clearly demonstrate how your experience meets each of the 'person specification' criteria outlined in the job description. For examples of the STAR method, please visit: [The STAR method | National Careers Service](#).

Please ensure your CV and cover letter are no longer than two A4 pages each, using a minimum font size of 11. Once submitted, your application cannot be edited via our careers website; however, if you encounter any issues or need to update your documents, please contact us at: [SeniorRecruitment@ukri.org](mailto:SeniorRecruitment@ukri.org)

# General information

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

UKRI believes that everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with equal opportunities to flourish and succeed within an ethical and trusted working environment that is attractive and accessible to everyone interested in developing their career with us.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our board and executive positions and bringing in talent, regardless of its origins. We encourage applications from all candidates regardless of:

- ethnicity
- religion or belief
- gender
- sexual orientation
- age
- disability
- gender identity

We also value diversity of thought and experience and are committed to creating systems that value difference so that everyone can feel welcomed, included and nurtured throughout their time with us.

As a Disability Confident leader, UKRI will offer interviews to disabled candidates who meet the published minimum requirements for a job or role. Whether you choose to apply under the Disability Confident scheme or not, you can still ask us to make particular adjustments for you when attending an interview.

We know actions speak louder than words. For further information, please visit the UKRI web page: [How we support EDI in the workforce](#).

## Pre-employment screening

To enable us to hire the very best people and to safeguard our people, our assets and our important role, we will conduct a comprehensive pre-employment check on successful applicants as part of the recruitment process.

UKRI supports research in areas that include:

- animal health
- agriculture and food security
- bioscience for health

This includes research on animals, genetic modification and stem cell research.

Whilst you may not have direct involvement in this type of research, you should consider how this aligns with your personal values or beliefs. Our pre-employment requirements include a security check and an extreme organisation's affiliation check.

The role-holder will be required to have the appropriate level of security screening/vetting required for the role. UKRI reserves the right to run or re-run security clearance as required during the course of employment.

## Standards

In 1995, the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles, which should underpin the actions of all who serve the public in any way.

Consistent with the Commissioner's Code of Practice, applicants will be assessed on merit, and all candidates will need to uphold the standards of the UKRI Code of Conduct and conduct set out in the Seven Principles of Public Life, which are:

### Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or other friends.

### Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

## **Objectivity**

Carrying out public business including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

## **Accountability**

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

## **Openness**

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

## **Honesty**

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

## **Leadership**

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

## **Complaints procedure**

If you feel you have reason to complain, you should direct your concerns in the first instance to the Senior Appointments team ([SeniorRecruitment@ukri.org](mailto:SeniorRecruitment@ukri.org)) who will make every effort to deal with this and respond to you within 48 hours.

If your complaint is not dealt with satisfactorily, you can find information about the steps you can take under [UKRI Complaints Procedure](#).