



**Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council**

## **STFC Particle Physics Experiment Consolidated Grants 2026 – M&O**

**Guidelines for applicants**

**24 April 2026**

**M&O request submissions – 9 July 2026 16:00 UK Time (via email)**

*Please read these guidelines carefully and submit the proposals in accordance.*

## **Contents**

2	Overview .....	3
2.1	Introduction.....	3
2.2	Timetable.....	3
2.3	Enquiries .....	4
3	Experiment submissions .....	5
3.1	Scope .....	5
3.2	Submission .....	5
3.3	Assessment.....	6
3.4	Guidelines for submission preparation .....	6

# 1 Overview

## 1.1 Introduction

This document sets out the guidelines for request of Maintenance and Operations (M&O) support as part of the 2026 Particle Physics Experiment Consolidated Grants (CG) round.

While this document provides specific guidance concerning the M&O requests, you will also need to familiarise yourself with the funding opportunity on the [UKRI Funding Finder](#). The request for M&O funding should be in support of posts requested on the consolidated grants submitted by each RO.

As this is an update to the 2024 Particle Physics Experiment Consolidated Grant round, only experiments which received funding during the 2024 round can request M&O funding. There are:

- ATLAS
- CMS
- COMET
- LHCb
- Lux Zeplin
- NA62
- SNO+
- Mu3e
- MicroBooNE/SBND
- Darkside
- NOvA
- Mu2e/g-2
- FASER
- LEGEND
- T2K/Super-K
- Hyper-K

## 1.2 Timetable

The timetable for the review will be as follows:

<b>Closing date for M&amp;O experiment submissions</b>	<b>9 July 2026 16:00 UK time</b>
<b>Closing date for consolidated grant proposals, financial details form and Form X</b>	<b>9 July 2026 16:00 UK time</b>
Notification of changes since submission	4 September 2026

Review	Autumn 2026
Approval & Announcement	Winter 2026 (tbc)
Grants commence (M&O payments that will be paid via RAL PPD begin from April 2027, updating the provisional allocation made in the 2024 review.)	1 October 2027

### 1.3 Enquiries

Enquiries can be directed to the STFC Particle Physics team via [pp@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:pp@stfc.ac.uk).

Any questions regarding TFS, and the funding opportunities being run on it should be directed to the UKRI Funding Service Helpdesk.

E-mail: [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)

Telephone: +44 (0) 1793 547490

## 2 Experiment submissions

### 2.1 Scope

Applications will be accepted from experiments which are either already in or are about to enter the exploitation phase and which have received M&O funding through the 2024 PPE CG round. This funding is used primarily to make M&O/Common Fund payments to an international experiment on behalf of the UK collaboration and for travel to the experiment to perform M&O tasks. Support may also be requested from the STFC Technology Department (TD), though if awarded, these funds will be held centrally by STFC.

Applications for the following experiments can be submitted:

- ATLAS
- CMS
- COMET
- LHCb
- Lux Zeplin
- NA62
- SNO+
- Mu3e
- MicroBooNE/SBND
- Darkside
- NOvA
- Mu2e/g-2
- FASER
- LEGEND
- T2K/Super-K
- Hyper-K

The application must be made to the PPGP by the UK spokesperson for the experiment on behalf of the UK experimental collaboration. The **collaboration must state** whether the awarded funds are to be **administered by the collaborating universities, or by STFC through RAL PPD**. If funding is to be held by STFC then identify an STFC budget holder to administer the funding on behalf of the collaboration.

### 2.2 Submission

The closing date for all written applications is 4pm on Thursday **9 July 2026**. The application must be sent to STFC Particle Physics via email ([pp@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:pp@stfc.ac.uk)) as an attachment.

The application covers the period April 2027 to March 2030 and is for:

- firm allocation of funds for the financial years 2027/28 and 2028/29
- provisional allocation of funds for FY 2029/30.

## 2.3 Assessment

The PPGP will review and assess each application, considering STFC's strategic priorities and input from STFC, and will make a recommendation on the level of funding. The panel will consider the posts associated with each experiment as part of the CG proposal review.

The assessment criteria and process can be found on the opportunity page on the [UKRI Funding Finder](#).

Feedback will be provided to the applicants.

The membership of the PPGP taking part in the 2026 PPE CG review can be found on the [STFC website](#).

## 2.4 Guidelines for submission preparation

Each experiment should submit a written case for support, outlining changes or developments since the 2024 round and the future programme of the experiment. The report should highlight the UK contributions to the experiment over the period of this consolidated grant round and focus on the cost justification for the requested funds.

The submission should focus on providing full justification for each of the requests for travel, M&O and TD technical support, rather than an extended description of the science. Responsive posts should be anonymised, using the same convention as the group submissions.

The university M&O tasks and FTE required should be numbered, for reference in the group proposals.

### Submission requirements

In 12-point type, excluding appendices, the submission should be **no longer than 1500 words**.

The report should contain:

- a brief update of changes to or developments of the experiment since the 2024 submission
- a brief overview of the future programme of the experiment, highlighting physics goals and future UK exploitation activities/contributions
- a detailed justification of the bid for UK experiment M&O and travel, and STFC Technology Department effort for the period from April 2027 to March 2030<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, the following appendices (not counting towards the page limit) are required:

- a numbered list of UK commitments to maintenance and operation (M&O) of the detector, specifying FTE required, over the period April 2027 to March 2030<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Bids for Category A costs for the LHC experiments are not required; it is expected that bids for category B costs will be justified.

<sup>2</sup> RAL PPD baseline staff effort, which are not funded through the grants round, should be identified separately. The level of all such effort requested should be justified, as it will be used as one input in consideration of the level of experiment support, both for M&O and for bids for posts from the universities/STFC.

- a short justification of the requested long-term-attachments<sup>3</sup>

For costing, experiments should assume exchange rates of £1 equals<sup>4</sup>:

- CHF1.09
- JPY197
- US\$1.32
- €1.17

---

<sup>3</sup> A total sum for travel will be awarded and the declaration of named individuals will not affect the flexibility of the spokesperson to re-assign funds after the final award has been made.

<sup>4</sup> Rates based on 2025 average GBP exchange rates | Bank of England | Database