



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

Centre for quantum commercialisation skills

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Wider context



Industrial Strategy

Digital and technologies is one of eight priority sectors

By 2035 we will:

- Be one of the top three places in the world to create, invest in and scale up a fast growing technology business
- Aim to secure the UK's first trillion-dollar technology businesses
- Aim to have more investment in commercial research and development in the sector than any other country globally (excluding USA and China)

The Government QT missions

Mission 1:

By 2035, the UK will have a quantum computer capable of 1 trillion operations.

Mission 2:

By 2035, we will deploy the world's most advanced quantum network to pioneer the quantum internet.

Mission 3:

By 2030, NHS Trusts will benefit from quantum sensing-enabled solutions.

Mission 4:

By 2030, quantum navigation (and clocks) to be deployed on aircraft to provide satellite-independent resilience.

Mission 5:

By 2030, we will have exploited quantum sensors across critical infrastructure.



Ensure the sector can access the skills needed to develop and adopt quantum technologies the UK



Collaborate with our close international partners, building on the strengths of existing programmes and broadening international R&D collaborations to ensure mutual benefit.



Support the commercialisation of quantum technologies from labs to fabrication in the UK by enabling access to the infrastructure required to meet scaling needs.



Create a national and international regulatory framework that supports innovation and the ethical use of quantum technologies, and protects UK capabilities and national security

UKRI Mission

“To advance knowledge,
improve lives and drive growth”

The Challenge

- UKRI and Government priority to drive growth
- The UK has world leading quantum research capability supported by significant public investment over the past decade
- The UK quantum sector is moving into a phase where real-world deployment and adoption is needed
- Need people with the skills to enable and drive this transition
- Skills provisions are fragmented



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Opportunity Overview



Overview and timeline

- Up to £11.3m to establish a UK Centre for Quantum Commercialisation Skills
- 4 years in duration
- Closing date: 7 July 2026
- Interview panel: October 2026
- Centre starts: 1 December 2026

Aim of the Opportunity

- Establish a national Centre to build the commercial, entrepreneurial and translational skills needed to move quantum research into real-world use
- Equip researchers to:
 - identify market opportunities
 - generate, protect and exploit IP
 - Engage effectively with industry and investors
- Provide coordinated, UK-wide support across career stages
- Enable the UK to capture greater value from its quantum research base, supporting long-term sector growth

What the Centre is and isn't

What it is

- A national centre for providing skills provisions across the UK
- Focused on people, skills and supporting pathways to impact
- A centre that engages with and supports the wider ecosystem and investments

What it is not

- A centre delivering its own subject led research programme
- A replacement for CDTs, Hubs or Innovate UK activity
- A new physical centre
- Limited to or aimed at a single organisation

Expected Outcomes

- A stronger pipeline of commercially viable quantum ideas and opportunities progressing beyond the Centre
- Increased formation of spin-outs, licensing agreements and industry partnerships
- Researchers with the skills and confidence to translate research into applications, and engage with industry and investors
- Greater industry engagement, co-creation and private investment in quantum innovation
- A more connected, inclusive and nationally accessible skills ecosystem across the UK
- Long-term impact through economic growth, high-value jobs and strengthened UK global competitiveness in quantum

Structure of the centre and leadership team

- Single or multi-institutional centre
- Provide strong, strategic and inclusive leadership to deliver a coherent, national programme
- Bring together a diverse team with the expertise and leadership to deliver a coherent national centre.

Structure of the centre and leadership team

Co-directors

strategy and operations

commercialisation and
entrepreneurial skills

Wider Leadership Team:

Skills development

EDI

Translational Pathways

Partnership Building

Centre Manager

Advisory and Governance Structures

Eligible Organisations

- Standard EPSRC Organisation eligibility rules apply:
 - higher education providers
 - independent research organisations
 - public sector research establishments
 - UKRI institutes
 - Catapults
 - NHS bodies
- Organisations are limited to one application as lead but may be a non lead organisation in other applications

Applicant eligibility

- Standard EPSRC individual eligibility rules apply:
 - Academic employee of an eligible organisation and resident in the UK
- Applicants are limited to one application

Centre Activities

- 4 Key activities the centre must deliver
- Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about the mechanisms and approaches taken to best deliver the centre's aims. This may include:
 - Supporting understanding of commercialisation pathways
 - Building skills in exploring application potential
 - Delivering responsible innovation training, including trusted research, EDI and sustainability
 - Providing flexible, small-scale funding to support researcher-led learning and early exploration
 - Offering insight into investment and funding landscapes
 - Giving access to regulatory and standards expertise

Exchange of people and skills

- Enable meaningful two-way movement of people between academia and industry and end users
- Utilise placements and other mechanisms that allow:
 - researchers to gain first-hand commercial insight
 - Industry or public-sector professionals to engage with emerging quantum research
- The centre must not provide selective advantage to individual enterprises. Therefore, salaries of staff employed by industry or other non eligible organisations cannot be funded through this grant

Early-stage research accelerator

- Deliver an accelerator fund enabling researchers and teams to explore application and commercial pathways
- This programme should guide participants through activities such as:
 - Engaging with users, stakeholders and markets
 - Identifying unmet needs and use cases
 - Testing key assumptions and assessing commercial potential
- Provide structured coaching and mentoring should be incorporated to provide tailored support and help participants navigate the commercialisation pathway

Early-stage research accelerator

- The programme should conclude with an opportunity for researchers to present their findings to a panel of experts to inform next steps such as:
 - Further research and development
 - Licensing opportunities
 - Spin-out creation or follow on funding
- Researchers gain the insight, skills and confidence to progress ideas towards investment and real-world impact

Opportunity discovery and ideation

- Deliver a programme to help researchers identify new challenges and early application opportunities within the UK quantum landscape
- Work with industry, public sector and end-users to co-design activities that explore emerging needs and challenges that stimulate new ideas
- Activities may include:
 - themed workshops and sandpits
 - challenge-led collaboration
 - early market discovery exercises
- Create a pipeline of industry-relevant ideas, with researchers equipped to recognise opportunities and take them forward into further development

Tailored Training and Skills Development

- Develop and provide a portfolio of accessible, sector-specific training for researchers and professionals across career stages
- The training should develop capability in:
 - commercialisation and entrepreneurship
 - understanding innovation pathways
 - intellectual property protection and exploitation
 - regulatory, compliance and export control awareness
- Delivery may be through short courses, modular learning and workshops and may include both in person or online training.

Tailored Training and Skills Development

- The training should embed the principles of responsible research and innovation, trusted research equality diversity and inclusion and environmental sustainability
- Over time, the centre's training portfolio is expected to evolve into a sustainable resource that supports the sector beyond the lifetime of the award

Stakeholder Collaboration

- Significant collaboration and leverage (cash or in-kind) are expected from project partners
- This may include:
 - Supporting placements between academia and industry
 - contributions of expertise, facilities or mentoring
 - participation in challenge-led ideation and sandpit style activities
 - involvement in the development and delivery of training and capability building programmes
 - support for the early exploration of industry relevant opportunities
- Expect the centre to proactively engage with and expand its partner network throughout the lifetime of the award

Governance

- Establish a robust advisory structure with commercial, translational and sector expertise
- Ensure transparent, fair and accountable processes for all activities and funding
- Provide clear oversight of training, capability building and funded activities
- Avoid duplication with existing UKRI investments
- Embed Trusted Research & Innovation (TR&I) principles
- Deliver inclusive, UK-wide engagement across academia, industry and partners
- Enable continuous evaluation and adaptation to evolving sector needs

Subsidy Control

- This funding has been designed as 'No Subsidy' under the Subsidy Control Act 2022
- Organisations must ensure all activities and collaborators remain compliant
- It is the nature of the activity, not intention, that determines subsidy status
- Applicants should seek independent legal advice where needed

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

- As a leading national centre it is expected that EDI will be embedded in all activities throughout the lifetime of the centre
- The centre should identify and address challenges and barriers that could impact engagement with the centre's activities
- Applicants should include information on EDI resources in the justification of resources

Responsible innovation and trusted research

- Embed Responsible Research and Innovation across all Centre activities
 - Reflect on potential ethical, societal and environmental impacts
 - Encourage responsible and inclusive innovation practices
- Apply Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I) principles to:
 - ensure secure and ethical collaboration, including internationally
 - manage risks in partnerships and funding decisions
 - support compliance with relevant frameworks (e.g. National Security and Investment Act)

Responsible innovation and trusted research

- The Centre must develop and manage:
 - clear risk identification and mitigation measures
 - appropriate due diligence for partnerships and collaborations
 - engagement with relevant regulatory and oversight bodies where needed

Funding Available

- £11.3M - As a non-FEC grant, we will fund 100% of eligible costs listed in the funding opportunity. Estates and indirect costs will not be funded
- Leadership staff salaries
- Administrative support
- Costs associated with delivering key activities of the centre:
 - Costs for salaries during placements
 - Costs associated with activities themselves and to support engagement with activities including T&S

Funding Available

- Other costs associated with delivery of the centres activities, including but not limited to:
 - costs for subcontracting the delivery of specific, targeted elements of training or capability building activities to external specialists, where doing so is clearly justified as necessary to secure expertise that cannot be provided in house
 - software, platforms and tools required for activity and training delivery
 - costs for events and engagement activities
 - costs for developing and maintaining a website
- We expect partner contributions to support these mechanisms

Flexible funding

- The flexible funding should support the centre's key activities
- Flexible funds can be utilised to support researchers at any career stage at any organisation eligible for EPSRC funding
 - Not limited to standard EPSRC individual eligibility.
 - PhD students and research and innovation associates are eligible but this should not be used for student stipends or fees.
- Flexible funding should be delivered within the framework of the UKRI Principles of assessment and decision making
- Examples of the types of activities that may be supported through the flexible funds should be provided in the application

What we will not fund

- Tuition fees
- Stipends
- Research training support grant
- Equipment over £25,000
- The filing of Intellectual property
- Public engagement activities
- The salaries of staff employed by industry or other non-eligible organisations



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Application Process



How to apply

Submitting your application

- We are running this funding opportunity on the new Funding Service, before starting an application, you will need to log in or create an account on [The Funding Service \(TFS\)](#). You can save completed details in TFS at any time and return to continue your application later.
- Read our advice on [writing proposals for EPSRC funding](#)
- Complete the Application Questions

Deadline:

- EPSRC must receive your application by 4:00pm (UK time) on 7 July 2026.

Assessment Process

- Applications within scope of this funding opportunity will be assessed using the following process:

Assessment panel

- Applications will be reviewed by an assessment panel and will not be sent to expert review prior to the panel meeting
- At least 2 panel members will assess the application against the assessment criteria
- Prior to the panel itself panel members will have the opportunity to request a limited amount of additional information from applicants who will have 2 weeks to respond to the questions raised
- Successful applicants will be invited to interview

Interview panel

- Applicants will be interviewed by a panel in October 2026
- The panel will rank applications and make a funding recommendation

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following:

- Vision and approach
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- governance
- resources and cost justification
- flexible fund
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)
- fit to Centre for Quantum Commercialisation Skills funding opportunity
- stakeholder engagement
- your organisation's support
- project partners

Vision and Approach - Vision

What are you hoping to achieve with and how will you deliver your proposed work?

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/area
- is timely given current trends, context and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy or the environment
- will embed EDI considerations into, and how these will guide your aims, as well as other activities such as stakeholder engagement, events and other centre activities.

Vision and Approach - Vision

Within the Vision section we also expect you to outline:

- how the training programme, that you deliver through this grant, will support your vision, and align with the aim, scope and expectations set out in the funding opportunity documentation
- how your proposed centre responds to sector specific challenges in translating quantum research toward application
- how your proposed centre addresses national gaps in commercialisation and entrepreneurial skills
- how your proposed centre complements and integrates with the wider UK quantum landscape and investments

Vision and Approach - Approach

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
- if applicable, uses a clear and transparent methodology
- if applicable, summarises the previous work and describes how this will be built upon and progressed
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
- describes how your, and if applicable your team's, training environment (in terms of the place and relevance to the project) will contribute to the success of the work
- will build EDI considerations into the formation, operation and governance of the centre, including how these will be operationalised.

Vision and Approach - Approach

Within the Approach section we also expect you to:

- demonstrate how the centre will deliver equitable, inclusive and nationally distributed access to its programmes, resources and opportunities, enabling researchers and stakeholders across the whole UK quantum community to engage
- outline how you will identify specific barriers to participation and create strategies to remove them
- outline how key programme components will be delivered
- demonstrate how stakeholder and partnership working will be enabled and how partners will contribute to different elements of the programme
- outline future plans for sustaining the centre beyond the lifetime of the grant

Vision and Approach - Approach

Additionally, within the Approach section, explain how your proposed centre aligns strategically to the funding opportunity aims and scope, and how it will:

- deliver structured mechanisms enabling the exchange of people and skills across academia, industry and public sector partners, including placements, secondments and other knowledge exchange activities
- how partners across academia, industry, investors and the public sector will be engaged in co design and delivery
- how the flexible fund will be administered transparently to support capability building and early stage commercial exploration

Governance

How will you manage the award to successfully deliver its objectives?

Explain how the proposed award will be managed, demonstrating that it:

- will be effectively governed, including details about advisory structures
- will be effectively and inclusively managed, demonstrated by a clear management plan
- has clear leadership team roles and responsibilities
- will manage and encourage partnerships with non-HEI organisations across government, industry and civil society
- has plans for monitoring your progress as well as self-evaluation throughout the lifetime of your award
- will put in place appropriate governance and administration to deliver the range of devolved funding opportunities
- has equality, diversity and inclusion embedded in plans for convening and engaging with their community and the allocation of the awarded funds

Governance

The centre's governance and assurance processes must account for legal obligations relating to the administration of funding through the centre, including subsidy control compliance and due diligence processes consistent with Trusted Research and Innovation principles.

You should outline:

- how you will ensure appropriate processes for monitoring, reporting and governance of activities funded via the centre
- how the centre will manage the legal duties of activity funded through the centre, including subsidy control and Trusted Research and Innovation requirements

Applicant and team capability to deliver

Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work?

You should provide Evidence of how you, and your team, have:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
- the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the 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
- have a well-evidenced track record of supporting the training and development of others
- Complete this using the Résumé for Research and Innovation module headings:
 - contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
 - the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
 - contributions to the wider research and innovation community



contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit

Applicant and team capability to deliver

Complete this using the Résumé for Research and Innovation module headings:

- contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
- the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
- contributions to the wider research and innovation community
- contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit

Ethics and RRI

What are the ethical and RRI considerations, implications and issues relating to the proposed work? If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

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

Additional sub-questions (to be answered only if appropriate) relating to research involving:

- Animals, human participants and/or genetically modified organisms

Resources and cost justification

What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

Provide a single, overall grant value for your proposal with a cost breakdown across the relevant funding headings:

- Total – Other costs: costs associated with the centre's activities
- Total – Staff: management costs connected to programme delivery
- Justify the more costly resources, in particular:
 - project staff
 - subcontracting costs
 - significant T&S costs
 - all facilities and infrastructure costs

Flexible fund

How will you use and manage the flexible fund?

Explain how you will use and manage the flexible fund so that it:

- supports your objectives
- distributes funding appropriately across a diverse range of activities
- where appropriate, distributes funding through robust, transparent competitive processes
- accounts for sufficient time to complete funding distribution, whilst considering risk management
- builds capacity in key fields and career stages
- ensures appropriate processes for monitoring, reporting and governance of funded activities

Fit to opportunity

How does the proposed centre meet the objectives of the Centre for Quantum Commercialisation Skills funding opportunity

The assessors are looking for you to show:

- how the proposed centre will deliver a nationally accessible programme that strengthens the UK's quantum commercialisation skills pipeline
- clear alignment with the objectives of the investment, including building commercialisation capability across career stages, enabling early translation, and supporting researchers to understand pathways from discovery to deployment
- how the centre complements and integrates with existing investments, avoids duplication, and contributes to a connected national ecosystem for quantum commercialisation skills

Your organisation's support

Provide details of support from your research organisation.

- Assessors will be looking for a strong statement of support from your research organisation.
- Include any details of any matched funding
- Any additional support that might add value to the centre

Stakeholder engagement

Provide details about your plans to engage partners, including industry, end-users and public sector in the development and delivery of the centre

The assessors are looking for you to show:

- details of how you have engaged with partners and commercialisation and entrepreneurial professionals in the development of your centre
- evidence of genuine, substantive partnerships with co-creation, co-delivery and embedded engagement
- how you will manage existing partnerships and engage new stakeholders and partners in an open and inclusive manner
- how you will develop long term sustainability beyond the lifetime of the award through additional investment from partners and stakeholders

Project partners

Provide details of support from your project partners

- Letters of support should
 - demonstrate genuine, substantive partnerships
 - Show how partners will contribute to the centres proposed activities. This could include hosting of placements, participating and supporting in ideation and accelerator activities or providing professional or advisory support

Useful information

Get help with developing your proposal:

- For help and advice on costings and writing your proposal please contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

Ask about this [funding opportunity](#):

- We welcome you to get in contact if you have any specific questions. Please contact the Quantum Technologies Theme mailbox : QuantumTechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org.
- A Frequently Asked Questions document and a copy of this presentation will be available on the funding opportunity web page after the webinar.

Get help with applying through TFS:

Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org

Telephone: 01793 547490 Opening times: Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm, Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm



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Questions?



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Thank you



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