



Funding opportunity

# UKRI Translation: EPSRC ACT Proof of Concept

<b>Opportunity status:</b>	Open
<b>Funders:</b>	<a href="#">Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)</a>
<b>Funding type:</b>	Grant
<b>Total fund:</b>	£5,500,000
<b>Award range:</b>	£100,000 - £500,000
<b>Publication date:</b>	3 July 2026
<b>Opening date:</b>	27 March 2026 9:00am UK time
<b>Closing date:</b>	27 May 2026 4:00pm UK time

Last updated: 2 June 2026 - [see all updates](#)

Apply for follow-on funding to support early to mid-stage commercialisation of research in Advanced Connectivity Technologies. Projects must build on engineering and physical sciences outputs to deliver economic, societal, policy and environmental benefits for a more sustainable and resilient UK. Funded topics must align with Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's (DSIT) Sustainable Networks and Secure and Resilient Networks connectivity challenge themes.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for EPSRC funding.

The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £500,000. EPSRC will fund 80% of the FEC. Projects may be up to two years in duration. Funding is subject to business case approval.

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## Who can apply

To lead a project, you must be based at an eligible organisation. [Check if your organisation is eligible](#).

EPSRC standard eligibility rules apply. For full details, visit [EPSRC's eligibility page](#).

## Who is eligible to apply

The project lead is the individual who takes responsibility for the intellectual leadership of the project and its project management. They will be our main point of contact for the application and must be:

- based at a UK research organisation eligible for Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funding, which will be responsible for submitting the grant application to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- hold a lecturer or equivalent position at a UK higher education institution, research council institute, or a UKRI-approved independent research organisation
- hold either a permanent contract with the relevant research organisation or be a fixed-term employee with a contract term that extends beyond the duration of the proposed research project

Project co-leads are expected to meet all the eligibility criteria of principal investigators except for the requirement to hold a contract that extends beyond the end date of the proposal.

The researcher co-lead role can be used for named postdoctoral (or equivalent) research assistants who merit appropriate recognition for making a significant contribution to developing the grant application or whose input is essential to its successful outcome.

We also welcome research technical professionals and professional research and investment strategy managers as co-applicants, where necessary.

## Link to prior research

The fund will be open to researchers across the UK who can demonstrate prior awards relevant to engineering and physical sciences. Eligible previous funding may come from EPSRC, other UKRI councils, Horizon Europe, government departments, industry, international funders, and similar sources. To qualify, the award must have started on or after 1 January 2020.

Your application will need to clearly evidence how the proposed project directly follows on from the prior work.

Eligible grants may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- research grants
- fellowships
- training grants

## Resubmissions

We will not accept uninvited resubmissions of projects that have been submitted to UKRI or any other funder.

Find out more about [EPSRC's resubmissions policy](#).

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

[We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity](#) for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

[UKRI can offer disability and accessibility support](#) for UKRI applicants and grant holders during the application and assessment process.

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## What we're looking for

### Demand management

Demand management is not currently being applied to this funding opportunity. However, should the level of interest exceed what can be managed within the assessment process, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) may introduce limits on the number of applications that can be submitted. Further details will be clearly communicated where this is the case. UKRI encourages organisations to support applicants in preparing well-planned, high-quality applications that are competitive for funding relative to the funding opportunity.

### Aim

The aim of the UKRI-Translation: EPSRC ACT Proof of Concept funding opportunity is to support and accelerate the development of new or improved technologies, products, processes, and services arising from research activities at eligible UK research organisations.

It will enable early to mid-stage commercialisation by helping researchers apply existing research to real-world use cases through pathways such as licensing or proof of concept and prototype validation.

The scheme fills a gap in the current funding landscape by providing translation and impact support to bridge the divide between research and user adoption. Projects must clearly demonstrate how research outputs will progress beyond fundamental research to deliver benefits that contribute to domestic innovation and economic growth.

A key challenge identified is the difficulty of retaining and scaling UK-born technologies, since research often remains within universities or with start-ups whose intellectual property is often acquired by international companies.

This funding opportunity is part of UKRI's commitment to supporting the UK Industrial Strategy, which aims to create favourable conditions for businesses in the eight high-potential IS-8 sectors.

Investment in these sectors is intended to accelerate economic growth and strengthen the UK's global competitiveness. Among them is the digital and technology sector, which encompasses advanced connectivity technologies (ACT) and plays a critical role in underpinning both the UK's economic growth and its national security.

This funding opportunity aims to realise part of the ambitions set out for ACT in the [sector plan](#).

## Scope

Projects considered through this funding opportunity should:

- be primarily within EPSRC remit
- build on existing engineering and physical sciences research outputs. You should provide evidence of relevant awards funded by UKRI or other funders such as EU Horizon Europe. To qualify, the award must have started on or after 1 January 2020.
- support industrial uptake and collaboration with stakeholders to drive real-world implementation
- consider a broad range of possible impacts and unintended consequences, including economic, societal, policy and environmental, in the development and delivery of the project
- involve appropriate users and beneficiaries to deliver the proposed impact, with a focus on non-academic audiences and new users. Consideration of the involvement of users and expected beneficiaries as project partners is strongly encouraged but not required until full application stage
- be based on a sound understanding of the benefits that its product, service, technology or insight will deliver to meet the needs of end users

- be scientifically and technically sound, and demonstrate a credible route to commercial viability

Applications should aim to support the translation and commercialisation of research into products and services. You are expected to work with business partners who can enable and facilitate the commercialisation activity.

Applications should address one or both of the following Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) connectivity challenge themes:

### **Challenge 1: secure and resilient networks**

This challenge will develop solutions which position the UK as a leader in secure communications, underpinning critical national infrastructure and economic sectors.

Solutions will protect networks against interception and cyber threats, ensuring data confidentiality within legal frameworks. This includes the integration of terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks to expand coverage and provide resilience to connectivity networks.

The key outcome will be to create networks that are trustworthy, reliable, and able to withstand disruption, while preparing for emerging risks.

You must demonstrate how your application will address at least one of the following network performance characteristics. These are to:

- improve reliability and availability, ensuring continuity of service even during faults, cyberattacks, or natural disasters
- reduce recovery times following disruption, through self-healing capabilities, automation, or AI-driven detection and response
- strengthen end-to-end security by embedding “zero trust” principles across devices, access points, and core infrastructure
- prepare for future threats by demonstrating readiness for quantum-safe cryptography and advanced threat environments
- assure supply chains through transparent hardware/software provenance, and secure interoperability across multiple vendors
- safeguard critical services, ensuring that healthcare, finance, emergency, and defence communications remain protected in crisis
- enhance resilience to extreme events and power outages, including climate-related shocks, retaining continuity of service
- secure open interfaces, addressing risks linked to disaggregated and open-architecture networks
- reduce the cost of secure and resilient network solutions, both up front and operationally

We are particularly interested in projects that will enable:

- AI-driven resilience: core system architectures in telecoms with built-in, explainable and trustworthy AI, not just as an add-on
- opportunities to stress-test secure roaming, slicing security, and cross-border service continuity
- solutions that contribute to international standards on secure and resilient communications

## **Challenge 2: sustainable networks**

This challenge will drive innovation in technologies that reduce the environmental impact of telecoms while ensuring that finite spectrum is used as effectively as possible. The key outcome will be to create sustainable, energy-efficient networks that contribute to the UK's clean power commitments.

You must demonstrate how your application will address at least one of the following network performance characteristics. There are to:

- reduce energy use per bit of data transmitted, making networks significantly more efficient than today and reducing operational costs of connectivity networks
- improve spectrum use, by increasing the amount of data carried per unit of spectrum and demonstrating effective spectrum-sharing methods
- lower carbon impact, through reductions in emissions (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per site-year) and increased reuse and recyclability of network equipment
- adapt energy use to demand, scaling power up or down depending on network traffic
- integrate renewable energy, demonstrating sites powered by solar, wind, or other clean sources
- improve thermal efficiency, reducing the energy required to cool and operate base stations and edge data centres
- enable circular economy models, embedding reuse, repair, and recycling into hardware and infrastructure from the design stage
- end-to-end lifecycle reporting, using digital product passports or equivalent methods to track environmental impact across equipment life

We are particularly interested in projects that will enable:

- next-generation network designs that cut operational energy use by at least half compared to today's systems
- AI-driven orchestration to optimise both energy and spectrum in real time
- shared-infrastructure models that reduce cost and environmental footprint, while extending coverage to rural and underserved areas
- cross-sector pilot projects that integrate telecoms with energy, transport, and healthcare systems for wider sustainability benefits

Examples of activities that may be funded are:

- commercialisation
- Proof of concept of a product, tool or service
- market exploitation, overcoming barriers to exploitation and commercialisation
- environmental impact and benefits exploration and estimation (where appropriate, and critical to the translation of research)

This funding opportunity sits alongside a suite of other impact-driven funding routes, such as UKRI Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs), UKRI Translation: Proof of Concept, flexible funding delivered by EPSRC hubs, centres and institutes, funding available for scale-up from commercial partners, Innovate UK funding routes, among others.

This funding opportunity is intended to complement, not duplicate, other sources of support so we would not expect to see applications that would be more appropriately funded through these other routes, or at a stage where they could already be taken forward by users and commercial partners. Applicants who have submitted or intend to submit to concurrent funding opportunities will be rejected.

Applications to this funding opportunity should have a primary focus on the translation of research or knowledge, or both, to deliver defined benefits.

We would not expect to see significant new fundamental research in your application. We do however recognise that achieving impact does not always follow a linear pathway, so some incremental research may be included in the application, provided it delivers against objectives and is not the primary activity.

We would therefore not expect to see applications through this route that could be more appropriate for our standard funding opportunities for example.

We encourage you to engage with EPSRC Future Communications investments such as the Federated Telecoms Hubs including [JOINER](#), [CHEDDAR](#), [HASC](#) and [TITAN](#) and their [FTH](#) function, the [National Dark Fibre Facility \(NDF\)](#), among others.

This funding opportunity runs alongside additional opportunities offered by Innovate UK. More details will be available soon.

## Duration

The duration of this award can be up to two years.

Projects must start by 1 January 2027.

Grant extensions beyond the applied grant duration will only be considered under exceptional circumstances, in line with the Equality Act 2010, and will require our agreement on a case-by-case basis.

## Funding available

The Full Economic Cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £500,000; however, we are expecting to fund a range of projects between the value of £100,000-£500,000.

EPSRC will fund 80% of the FEC. The funding is subject to business case approval.

## What we will fund

We will fund:

- a contribution to the salary of the project lead and project co-lead(s)
- support for other posts such as specialist and technical staff
- research consumables
- travel costs
- collaboration and stakeholder engagement
- impact and knowledge exchange activities
- estates and indirect costs
- equipment (between £25,000 to £400,000 per item)

Quotes for equipment do not need to be included in your application, but please retain quotes for equipment costing more than £138,000 as we may ask for these at post-panel stage before releasing funds. For details of how to include equipment in your application see [Equipment on research grants](#).

## What we will not fund

The Proof of Concept funding opportunity is not a standard research project. This opportunity will not fund:

- fundamental or curiosity-driven research
- discovery research
- public engagement activities
- the filing of intellectual property (for example, patent, trademark, registered design)
- projects focused solely on delivering training
- costs relating to students
- applied or contract research conducted on behalf of commercial organisations
- projects at a stage where they could already be funded by commercial partners
- projects that would more appropriately be funded through our existing critical mass investments (such as centres, hubs and institutes)
- applications primarily outside our remit

## 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.

As such, applicants for UKRI funding may be asked to demonstrate how their proposed projects will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help proportionately reduce these risks.

[See further guidance and information about TR&I](#), including where you can find additional support.

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## How to apply

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service, so please ensure that your organisation is registered. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

The project lead is responsible for completing the application process on the Funding Service, but we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application.

Only the lead research organisation can submit an application to UKRI.

## To apply

Select 'Start application' near the beginning of this Funding finder page:

1. Confirm you are the project lead.
2. Sign in or create a Funding Service account. To create an account, select your organisation, verify your email address, and set a password.
3. Answer questions directly in the text boxes. You can save your answers and come back to complete them or work offline and return to copy and paste your answers. If we need you to upload a document, follow the upload instructions in the Funding Service. All questions and assessment criteria are listed in the How to apply section on this Funding finder page.
4. Allow enough time to check your application in 'read-only' view before sending to your research office.

5. Send the completed application to your research office for checking. They will return it to you if it needs editing.
6. Your research office will submit the completed and checked application to UKRI.

Please be aware that research office and finance teams undertake checks on hosting arrangements and financial eligibility. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring compliance with all opportunity requirements lies with the applicant.

Where indicated, you can also demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant.

When including images, you must:

- provide a descriptive caption or legend for each image immediately underneath it (this must be outside the image and counts towards your word limit).
- insert each new image onto a new line.
- use files smaller than 5MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format.

Images should only be used to convey important visual information that cannot easily be put into words. The following are not permitted, and your application will be rejected if you include:

- sentences or paragraphs of text
- tables
- excessive quantities of images

A few words are permitted where the image would lack clarity without the contextual words, such as a diagram, where text labels are required for an axis or graph column.

For more guidance on the Funding Service, see:

- [how applicants use the Funding Service](#)
- [how research offices use the Funding Service](#)
- [how reviewers use the Funding Service](#)

## References

References should be included within the word count of the appropriate question section. You should use your discretion when including references and prioritise those most pertinent to the application.

Hyperlinks can be used in reference information. When including references, you should consider how your references will be viewed and used by the assessors, ensuring that:

- references are easily identifiable by the assessors
- references are formatted as appropriate to your research
- persistent identifiers are used where possible

## General use of hyperlinks

Applications should be self-contained. You should only use hyperlinks to link directly to reference information. You must not include links to web resources to extend your application. Assessors are not required to access links to conduct assessment or recommend a funding decision.

## Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Use of generative AI tools to prepare funding applications is permitted, however, caution should be applied.

For more information see our policy on the [use of generative AI in application and assessment](#).

## Deadline

EPSRC must receive your application by 27 May 2026 at 4:00pm UK time.

You will not be able to apply after this time.

Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines.

Following the submission of your application to this funding opportunity, your application cannot be changed, and submitted applications will not be amended. If your application does not follow the guidance, it may be rejected.

If an application is withdrawn prior to peer review or office rejected due to substantive errors in the application, it cannot be resubmitted to the opportunity.

## Personal data

### Processing personal data

EPSRC, as part of UKRI, will need to collect some personal information to manage your Funding Service account and the registration of your funding applications.

We will handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read our [privacy notice](#).

## Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, email [TFChangeEPSRC@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:TFChangeEPSRC@epsrc.ukri.org)

Include in the subject line: [the funding opportunity title; sensitive information; your Funding Service application number].

Typical examples of confidential information include:

- individual is unavailable until a certain date (for example due to parental leave)
- declaration of interest
- additional information about eligibility to apply that would not be appropriately shared in the 'Applicant and team capability' section
- conflict of interest for UKRI to consider in reviewer or panel participant selection
- the application is an invited resubmission

For information about how UKRI handles personal data, read [UKRI's privacy notice](#).

## Institutional matched funding

There is no requirement for matched funding from the institutions hosting the project lead, project co-leads or other staff employed on the application, beyond the standard 20% FEC. Expert reviewers and panels assessing UKRI funding applications must not consider levels of institutional matched funding as a factor on which to base recommendations. Direct and in-kind contributions from third party project partners are encouraged.

This policy 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.

## Publication of outcomes

EPSRC, as part of UKRI, will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity at [EPSRC Funding Applications Outcomes](#)

If your application is successful, we will publish some personal information on the [UKRI Gateway to Research](#).

## Summary

Word limit: 550

In plain English, provide a summary we can use to identify the most suitable experts to assess your application.

We usually make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, therefore do not include any confidential or sensitive information. Make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion-formers
- policymakers
- the public
- the wider research community

## Guidance for writing a summary

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

- context
- the challenge the project addresses
- aims and objectives
- potential applications and benefits

## Core team

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

- project lead (PL)
- project co-lead (UK) (PcL)
- specialist
- grant manager
- professional enabling staff
- research and innovation associate
- technician
- visiting researcher
- researcher co-lead (RcL)

Only list one individual as project lead.

UKRI has introduced a new addition to the 'Specialist' role type. Public contributors such as people with lived experience can now be added to an application.

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

## Application questions

### Outline vision

Word limit: 500

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how your proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the field(s) or area(s),
- has the potential to address a stakeholder need, technological challenge, or exploit a market opportunity,
- meets the needs of potential users and could lead to the development or deployment of a new or improved product, service or technology
- is timely given current trends, context, and needs,
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment
- meets the strategic aims of the funding opportunity

Within the Vision section we also expect you to:

- define who the key stakeholders for the planned project will be and how they will inform and benefit from the project. In your response, include names of existing and potential partners in industry and user organisations
- explain why your proposed project is timely and how it will lead to the development of previous research outputs beyond fundamental research to accelerate economic, societal, and environmental benefits

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

## **Outline approach**

Word limit: 500

How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how you have designed your approach so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

## **Outline applicant and team capability to deliver**

Word limit: 500

How will the application team deliver the proposed project?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:

- relevant research experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed project
- planned to identify and embed additional expertise where gaps in the team exist

The core leadership team should consist of the project lead and the project co-leads identified on the outline proposal. There will be scope to expand this team and include new collaborators on the full application and you will be able to add further detail.

Showcase the range of relevant skills you and, if relevant, your team (project and project co-leads, researchers, technicians, specialists, partners and so on) have and how this will help deliver the proposed work.

[The roles in funding applications policy](#) has descriptions of the different project roles.

## **Outline costs**

What are the expected costs of the proposed work?

Provide the approximate total values in GBP (£) for the expected directly incurred, directly allocated, indirect costs and exceptions.

If successful, you will be asked to expand on the information you provide in this section at the full application stage. The costs will only be able to change by 10% between the outline and full proposal and must not exceed the maximum value allowed for each project.

View the guidance on the costs you can apply for in the 'What we are looking for' > 'What we will fund' section of this opportunity.

## **Fit to scope**

Word limit: 500

How does your proposed project build on previous funded research (started on or after 1 January 2020)?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Please provide:

- a clear explanation of the added value this funding opportunity will provide to your proposed project
- a justification of why your proposed project cannot be delivered through existing funding opportunities offered by UKRI, EPSRC, other funding organisations, or your own institution
- a description of the current stage of the work, explaining why it is at an appropriate point to benefit from this funding opportunity

- an explanation of why this funding opportunity is the most suitable route for your proposed idea

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

References may be included within this section.

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## How we will assess your application

### Assessment process

There will be a two-stage assessment process for this funding opportunity:

- outline application
- full application

We will assess your application using the following process.

#### Stage one: outline application

Applications submitted to this funding opportunity and which EPSRC deems to be in remit will be considered by an assessment panel which will assess your applications independently, against the specified criteria for this funding opportunity.

Following the outline stage, we will decide which applicants to invite to submit full proposals based on the panel's rank order list.

Please note that the vision for the programme will not be allowed to change significantly between the outline and full application stages and the costs will only be able to change by 10% and must not exceed the maximum value allowed for each programme.

The 10% flexibility is only intended for essential updates, such as inflation or minor changes to the application, not as a default expectation to request additional funds. Any cost changes included in the full application must be clearly explained and fully justified.

We encourage the addition of further collaborators and project partners between outline and full application where appropriate.

In the event of this funding opportunity being substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable, we reserve the right to modify the assessment process.

#### Assessment criteria for the outline application

The criteria we will assess your application against are:

- vision
- approach
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- fit to scope

Resources are indicative only and will not be subject to assessment at the outline stage.

Find details of assessment questions and criteria under the 'Application questions' heading in the 'How to apply' section.

## **Stage two: full application**

Only invited applicants will be eligible to submit a full application via a separate funding opportunity.

Full applications will be considered by an assessment panel against the full opportunity assessment criteria.

The full application panel will be given the opportunity to submit questions for clarification to the applicants prior to the assessment panel date. You will be able to prepare a written response to these questions for clarification. The full application panel will then assess the full application and the submitted clarifications from the applicant according to the full application assessment criteria.

We aim to hold the funding panel in the autumn, with applications informed of the funding outcomes in November 2026.

## **Assessment criteria for the full application**

The assessment areas we expect to assess invited full applications against are:

- vision
- approach
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- stakeholder engagement
- resources and cost justification
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)
- trusted research and innovation
- added value

For more information on how we prioritise applications for funding please visit [How we make decisions](#).

## **Feedback**

There will be no feedback provided after the outline stage.

## Principles of assessment

We support the San Francisco [declaration on research assessment](#) and recognise the relationship between research assessment and research integrity.

Find out about [the UKRI principles of assessment and decision-making](#).

## Using generative artificial intelligence (AI) in expert review

Panellists are not permitted to use generative AI tools to develop their assessment, including to correct language, spelling, grammar and formatting. Using these tools can potentially compromise the confidentiality of the ideas that applicants have entrusted to UKRI to safeguard.

For more detail see our [policy on the use of generative AI](#).

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

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## Contact details

### Get help with your application

If you have a question and the answers aren't provided on this page

The helpdesk is committed to helping users of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service as effectively and as quickly as possible. In order to manage cases at peak volume times, the helpdesk will triage and prioritise those queries with an imminent opportunity deadline or a technical issue. Enquiries raised where information is available on the Funding finder opportunity page and should be understood early in the application process (for example, regarding eligibility, content or remit of a funding opportunity) will not constitute a priority case and will be addressed as soon as possible.

### Contact details

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.

For questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact [future.communications@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:future.communications@epsrc.ukri.org)

Any queries regarding the system or the submission of applications through the Funding Service should be directed to the helpdesk.

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

Phone: 01793 547490

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm
- Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

To help us process queries quicker, we request that users highlight the council and opportunity name in the subject title of their email query, include the application reference number, and refrain from contacting more than one mailbox at a time.

For further information on submitting an application read [How applicants use the Funding Service](#).

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## Additional info

### Background

Grant funding provided by UKRI Proof of Concept funding opportunity does not constitute legal subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Standard UKRI terms and conditions of research grants apply to the Proof of Concept funding opportunity notably in regard to the publication and dissemination of research outputs.

Knowledge assets including intellectual property and any rights arising from projects funded by the Proof of Concept funding opportunity (foreground intellectual property and their rights including patents) need to be managed professionally and according to current practices.

Successful applicants may need to demonstrate the adoption of good practices (TenU USIT guide or other relevant practices).

### Research and innovation impact

Impact can be defined as the long-term intended or unintended effect research and innovation has on society, economy and the environment; to individuals, organisations, and the wider global population.

### Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

- breaks and delays
- disruptive working patterns and conditions
- the loss of ongoing work
- role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing.

Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

## Supporting documents

[Equality impact assessment \(PDF, 112KB\)](#)

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## Updates

### **2 June 2026**

Removed out-of-date text from How to apply point 2.

## Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://beta-ukri.msapproxy.net/opportunity/ukri-translation-epsrc-act-proof-of-concept>