



## Funding opportunity

# Accelerating research outcomes to deliver a prosperous net zero: outline

<b>Opportunity status:</b>	Closed
<b>Funders:</b>	<a href="#">Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)</a>
<b>Funding type:</b>	Grant
<b>Total fund:</b>	£7,500,000
<b>Award range:</b>	£100,000 - £800,000
<b>Publication date:</b>	21 March 2024
<b>Opening date:</b>	21 March 2024 9:00am UK time
<b>Closing date:</b>	16 May 2024 4:00pm UK time

Last updated: 15 May 2024 - [see all updates](#)

Apply for follow-on funding to build on existing engineering and physical sciences research outputs to accelerate economic, societal, policy and environmental benefits. The proposed benefits must contribute to delivering Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)'s Engineering Net Zero (ENZ) priority.

Applications must build on prior EPSRC funding. 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 £800,000. We will fund 80% of the FEC. Projects may be up to two years in duration.

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## Who can apply

Before applying for funding, check the [Eligibility of your organisation](#).

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

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new Funding Service.

For full details, visit [Eligibility as an individual](#).

## 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 proposal and must be:

- based at a UK research organisation eligible for 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 principle 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 proposal 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.

You may only make one application to this opportunity as a project lead. You may be part of no more than two applications, in any role.

## Link to prior EPSRC research

Projects considered through this programme must have a direct link to current or previous EPSRC supported research or training grant(s). Your application will

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

There are no restrictions on how long ago the original project was funded, however all applications must make the case for how the new proposal is timely and relevant to the funding opportunity.

Staff on applications submitted to this opportunity (including the project lead) do not have to have been named on the prior grant.

The previously funded grant(s) may be any kind of EPSRC funding. Eligible grants may include (but are not limited to) the following EPSRC grants:

- responsive mode research grants including standard mode, new investigator awards, fellowships (any career stage)
- research grants and fellowships from targeted funding opportunities
- training grants (competitive and allocated awards)
- network and network plus grants
- programme grants
- critical mass awards such as hubs, centres or institutes. Please note that EPSRC critical mass awards often have flexible funds and a remit for delivering impact from their research. Projects following on from this type of grant will need to make a strong case for why additional follow-on funding is required
- impact acceleration accounts (IAA). Please note that IAA awards have a remit for delivering impact from research, therefore projects in addition to this type of grant will need to make a strong case for why additional follow-on funding is required
- projects previously funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund and Newton Fund funding opportunities would be considered eligible as a basis for this scheme. However, they must ensure they clearly articulate how this new award will deliver impact within the UK

## International applicants

Under the [UKRI and Research Council of Norway Money Follows Cooperation agreement](#) a project co-lead (international), previously co-investigator, can be based in a Norwegian institution.

## 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

Find out more about [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](#).

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## What we're looking for

### Aim

This opportunity aims to accelerate our progress towards the realisation of a just, prosperous, sustainable and resilient net zero transition through the exploitation of outputs of prior EPSRC-funded research. It will support the further development of research into practical application to deliver economic, societal, policy and environmental benefits. We are looking to provide follow-on funding to research outputs that are ready to move beyond fundamental research and need additional resource to be taken up as a solution by users. This funding will 'bridge the gap', ensuring that the benefits from EPSRC research can be truly realised to drive forward the transition to net zero.

This follow-on funding opportunity is a pilot for EPSRC. We will conduct review and evaluation activities during and after the opportunity.

### Scope

Engineering and physical sciences research is critical to the discovery, development and deployment of the solutions needed to create a sustainable future, and the scale and urgency for these solutions is growing. EPSRC's Engineering Net Zero (ENZ) priority aims to address this by increasing the speed of deliverability of net zero and shifting us to more sustainable and circular industries and processes. This includes pioneering new technologies and the rapid scaling and evolution of current technologies, as well as driving the realisation of a just, prosperous, sustainable, and resilient net zero transition. This is a wide-ranging challenge that will require contributions from many different disciplines and research areas to realise.

A breadth of challenges are in scope, including but not limited to: new energy technologies and systems; decarbonisation of sectors; more sustainable manufacturing technologies; and realising a circular economy. In addition to UK wide programmes, programmes which connect with and contribute to the innovation and sustainable development priorities of places, at local, region and devolved administration level are encouraged.

This follow-on funding opportunity is open to applications from all EPSRC disciplines and research areas, provided they can address the aim of the

opportunity to accelerate our progress towards the realisation of a just, prosperous, sustainable and resilient net zero transition.

Projects considered through this programme should:

- build on the outputs of a current or previously funded EPSRC research or training grant(s) and describe why this follow-on funding is the most appropriate route to exploit the outputs of that project
- clearly demonstrate how they will enable research outputs to be further developed beyond fundamental research into practical applications to deliver benefits relevant to ENZ
- be primarily within EPSRC remit and deliver against EPSRC's ENZ strategy as outlined in objective 5.1 of our [strategic delivery plan](#). See the additional information section for further information about the ENZ challenge
- involve appropriate users and beneficiaries to deliver the proposed impact, with a focus on non-academic audiences and new users
- 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
- consider a broad range of possible impacts and unintended consequences, including economic, societal, policy and environmental, in the development and delivery of the programme
- support pathways to impact that have not already been taken account of in the original award and demonstrate clearly how these will enhance the value and wider benefits of the original EPSRC-funded research project

Applications that address any aspect of impact; economic, societal, policy and environmental are welcome. The application must demonstrate how you will seek to deliver demonstrable benefit to the UK. However, it is recognised that the outcomes of some projects may also provide benefits to, or operate within, an international landscape.

EPSRC is looking to support a wide range of activities, from projects aimed at de-risking innovative ideas and knowledge exchange, to later-stage projects that encompass significant translational milestones. We recognise that smaller scale projects may not require the full word count allowance for each application section.

## Features of the funding

This opportunity will award follow-on funding for activities to take a project from the fundamental research stage onto the next level, where it could then be picked up by users. These activities could include, but are not limited to:

- knowledge exchange and embedding of research outputs in stakeholder practice
- commercialisation
- proof-of-concept of a product, tool or service

- public engagement as a pathway to achieving societal or economic impact
- active dissemination
- market exploration including building evidence of policy or other barriers and growth opportunities for the UK
- application of modelling, data, and evidence to develop policy solutions
- environmental impact and benefits exploration and estimation

The follow-on funding can also be used to enable engagement between researchers and a variety of user communities, including business, third sector, public policy, voluntary and community groups, and the public, to deliver greater benefits from the prior research. We encourage you to consider how your work can complement and build on existing initiatives and articulate the added value of your work within the wider research, innovation and policy landscape.

Applications to this scheme should have a primary focus on the translation of research or knowledge, or both, to deliver defined benefits, making projects focused solely on delivering training, new research or extending an existing research grant ineligible. We would not expect to see significant new fundamental research in your proposal, however we recognise that achieving impact does not always follow a linear pathway so some incremental research may be included as part of your application, provided it delivers against the objectives and is not the primary activity.

This follow-on funding opportunity sits alongside a suite of other impact-driven funding that EPSRC supports, for example the impact acceleration accounts (IAAs) and flexible funding delivered via EPSRC hubs, centres or institutes. It is intended to complement, not duplicate, other sources of support, so we would not expect to see applications that would more appropriately be funded through other EPSRC funding routes, or that are at a stage where they could already be funded by commercial partners or Innovate UK.

## Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

In line with the ethos of this opportunity, applicants are expected to consider RRI during planning and throughout the lifetime of their project. We strongly encourage the use of the [EPSRC AREA Framework](#) (anticipate, reflect, engage and act) to support consideration of impact and activities to maximise positive societal, environmental, and economic benefits. All applicants should take time to anticipate the wider potential impacts of their work and reflect on the purposes, motivations, and possible implications. This should inform, where appropriate, plans for wider stakeholder dialogue (engage) and ultimately how they might actively adjust their plans (act). This should be demonstrated in the application. We recognise that RRI considerations will take different forms for different research areas and projects and should be proportionate and appropriate to the proposal and discipline.

We conduct reviews of applications to ensure our alignment with the designated scope and we retain the authority to reject applications considered out of scope

before assessment.

For more information on the background of this funding opportunity, go to the Additional information section.

## Project Partners

Involvement of users and expected beneficiaries as project partners is strongly encouraged. Proposals which do not have project partners are expected to clearly articulate how users and beneficiaries have shaped the project to date and how they will be engaged in the future development of the project.

## Duration

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

## Funding available

The FEC of your project can be from £100,000 up to £800,000.

EPSRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

We are keen to support a broad portfolio of projects and value for money will be a key consideration. As such, we encourage applications of different sizes, across the full range of funding available, and do not expect all funded projects to be awarded the maximum allowable budget or take the full allowable duration. You should apply for the minimum amount of funding required to achieve your objectives.

## What we will fund

You can request funding for costs such as:

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

Individual items of equipment between £10,000 and £400,000 can be included on applications if both of the following apply:

- the equipment is essential to the proposed project
- no appropriate alternative provision can be accessed

We will contribute 80% of the final purchase price and will expect the research organisation or project partner to contribute the remainder from non-EP SRC funding.

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 before releasing funds.

We expect applicants to provide a justification for the cost of the equipment in the justification of resources. We do not require a business case or an equipment letter of support.

## What we will not fund

The following would be ineligible:

- projects focused solely on delivering training
- costs relating to students
- significant new fundamental research or projects extending existing research
- applied or contract research conducted on behalf of commercial organisations
- supporting the direct costs associated with applying for Intellectual Property (IP) protections, for example patent filing
- projects not built on prior EP SRC research
- projects at a stage where they could already be funded by commercial partners or Innovate UK
- projects that would more appropriately be funded through EP SRC's existing critical mass investments (such as centres, hubs and institutes).
- applications primarily outside of EP SRC's remit

## Supporting skills and talent

We encourage you to follow the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) and the [Technician Commitment](#).

## International collaboration

If your application includes international applicants, project partners or collaborators, visit [UKRI's trusted research and innovation](#) for more information on effective international collaboration.

Find out about getting [funding for international collaboration](#).

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## How to apply



We are running this funding opportunity on the new UKRI Funding Service. 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 UK Research and Innovation (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. If your organisation is not listed, email [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org). Please allow at least 10 working days for your organisation to be added to the Funding Service.
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.

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

- use images sparingly and only to convey important information that cannot easily be put into words
- insert each new image onto a new line
- provide a descriptive legend for each image immediately underneath it (this counts towards your word limit)
- ensure files are smaller than 8MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

Watch our [research office webinars about the new Funding Service](#).

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](#)

## Deadline

We must receive your application by 16 May 2024 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 the funding opportunity, your application cannot be changed, and applications will not be returned for amendment. 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](#).

### Publication of outcomes

EPSRC, as part of UKRI, will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity at [What EPSRC has funded](#).

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 may make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, so 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 outline application team and assign them roles from the following:

- project lead (PL)
- project co-lead (PcL)
- researcher co-lead (RcL)

Only list one individual as project lead.

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

The core leadership team should consist of the project lead (programme director) and the project co-leads (co-investigators) 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.

Project partners are not required or permitted to be included at the outline stage.

In the full application you can assign roles from the following:

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

# Application Questions

## Link to previously funded EPSRC research

Word count: 200

How does your proposed programme link to a previously funded EPSRC grant(s)?

This question will be checked by EPSRC. If there is no clear link to a prior EPSRC project we reserve the right to reject your application without reference to peer review.

This question will not be assessed by the outline panel.

What EPSRC is looking for in your response

- a specific EPSRC grant reference number(s)
- a short description of how your proposed programme links to a previously funded EPSRC grant(s).

## Fit to Opportunity

How does your application fit the aims and scope of this funding opportunity?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

- describe the idea and expected outcomes of the programme and how they will deliver impact to support the UK's transition to a just, prosperous, sustainable and resilient UK net zero future
- define who key stakeholders for the planned programme will be and how they will inform and benefit from the programme. In your response, include names of existing and potential partners in policy, industry and user organisations
- explain why your proposed programme is timely and how it will lead to the development of previous research outputs beyond fundamental research to deliver benefits and impact relevant to Engineering Net Zero. Benefits may include, for example, economic, societal, policy, environmental.

Create a document that includes your responses to all criteria. The document should not be more than two sides of A4, single spaced in paper in 11-point Arial (or equivalent sans serif font) with margins of at least 2cm. You may include images, graphs, tables.

For the file name, use the unique Funding Service number the system gives you when you create an application, followed by the words 'fit to opportunity'.

Save this document as a single PDF file, no bigger than 8MB. Unless specifically requested, please do not include any sensitive data within the attachment.

If the attachment does not meet these requirements, the application will be rejected.

The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

## **Added value**

Word count: 500

Why is this particular funding scheme the most appropriate route for your proposed idea?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

- articulate the added value that this funding opportunity will provide to your proposed follow-on project
- explain why your proposed programme cannot be realised via existing funding opportunities currently delivered by UKRI, EPSRC, other funding organisations or your own institution

## **References**

Word limit: 500

List the references you have used to support your application.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Include all references in this section, not in the rest of the application questions.

You should not include any other information in this section.

We advise you not to include hyperlinks, as assessors are not obliged to access the information they lead to or consider it in their assessment of your application.

If linking to web resources, to maintain the information's integrity, include persistent identifiers (such as digital object identifiers) where possible.

You must not include links to web resources to extend your application.

## **Outline costs**

What are the expected programme costs?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

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 programme.

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.

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## How we will assess your application

### Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

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

- outline application
- full application

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

### Stage one: outline application

Applications submitted to this funding opportunity and which EPSRC deems to be in remit will be considered by an expert panel.

The outline panel will evaluate applications with reference to the assessment criteria given below.

Following the outline stage, the panel and EPSRC will take into account geographic and thematic portfolio distribution across the UK of applications received when deciding which applicants to invite to submit full proposals. See Funding decisions: a portfolio approach.

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.

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

### Assessment criteria for the outline applications

The criteria we will assess your application against are:

- fit to opportunity

- added value

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 applications

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

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

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 at the end of November, with applications informed of the funding outcomes in December 2024.

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

## Feedback

Feedback will be provided only if specifically requested by the panel.

## Funding decisions: a portfolio approach

There is no limit to the number of outline applications that a single research organisation can submit. However, subject to a satisfactory quality threshold being met, decisions at outline will be made using a portfolio approach, to ensure an appropriate geographic and thematic coverage across the UK.

## 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](#).

## Assessment criteria for the full proposals

The criteria we expect to assess invited full applications against are:

- vision
- approach
- impact for net zero
- appropriateness of applicant team and capability to deliver
- stakeholder engagement
- resources and cost justification
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

We reserve the right to amend these assessment criteria and further details will be provided to applicants invited to the full stage.

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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

Important note: 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 or content/remit of an 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 [manufacturingandce@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:manufacturingandce@epsrc.ukri.org), quoting 'ENZ FoF' in the subject line.

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.

You can also find information on [submitting an application](#).

## Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, please contact [tfschangeepsr@epsr.org](mailto:tfschangeepsr@epsr.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](#).

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## Additional info

### Background

#### Engineering Net Zero (ENZ)

EPSRC's World-Class Impacts' objective was published in our and aims to deliver advances in four mission-inspired, interdisciplinary challenges, including ENZ.

Engineering and physical sciences research is critical to the discovery, development and deployment of the solutions needed to create a sustainable future. EPSRC's plans in ENZ align to the [UKRI Building a Green Future strategic theme](#), as well as the and the [British Energy Security Strategy](#). We

will take a whole systems approach to developing the technological solutions needed to deliver a just transition to net zero for all.

Throughout the ENZ challenge, we aim to:

1. Strike a balance between supporting the evolution of current systems and transformational next generation solutions
2. Increase our resilience and adaptability to the known and anticipated effects of climate change
3. Facilitate partnership working to maximise the economic benefit to the UK

Priority areas with ENZ are:

### Tackling the biggest emitters

Major progress is required to reduce industrial emissions, as well as in surface transport, aviation, shipping, and buildings emissions. To tackle this will require research into:

- reducing demand on fossil fuels
- scalable and commercially viable, low and zero-emission alternative technologies and processes
- carbon capture, utilisation, storage, and negative emission technologies

### Pioneering environmentally sustainable advanced technologies

Current solutions for net zero come at a cost to the natural environment. An opportunity exists to work towards:

- discovery and development of next generation, more sustainable low and zero-emission technologies and processes
- identifying near-term solutions to increase the sustainability of current technologies

### Delivering accessible and affordable net zero solutions

Ensure everyone can benefit from a 'just transition' to net zero. Research in this area could enable:

- lower consumer costs alongside growth for UK businesses
- delivery and uptake of affordable, clean energy
- regional and localised solutions, supporting a just transition across the whole UK
- optionality in the available solutions for the UK and internationally

### Harnessing the power of digital

While acknowledging the environmental impacts of digital technologies as they stand, they offer huge potential. Research in this area could enable:

- faster development and faster improvements in the quality of sustainable technologies, processes, products, systems and services
- more resilience and better optimised national infrastructures and systems (for example the UK power grid)
- new digital products and systems to service sustainability needs

## Webinar for potential applicants

We held a webinar on 25 March 2024 at 1:00pm UK time. This provided more information about the funding opportunity and a chance to ask questions.

[Watch the webinar recording via Zoom.](#)

Passcode: WFJG6a\$Z

## 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.

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## Updates

### 15 May 2024

Under 'How to apply', in the 'Outline costs' section, have removed some incorrect information. Removed 'Word count: 500' and 'Demonstrate briefly that the outline research proposed programme fits within the funding available'.

**5 April 2024**

Webinar recording added under Additional info

## Timeline

- **21 March 2024 9:00am**  
Outline opening date
- **25 March 2024 1:00pm**  
Webinar for potential applicants
- **16 May 2024 4:00pm**  
Outline closing date
- **16 July 2024 9:00am**  
Full stage opening date
- **24 September 2024 4:00pm**  
Full stage closing date
- **December 2024**  
Expected decision

## Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/accelerating-research-outcomes-to-deliver-a-prosperous-net-zero>