

FAQs

How to Apply:

How to make submission from UK side?

- Applications to EPSRC are via The Funding Service (TFS), which is our standard funding application system. Applicants will need to write the joint proforma in full, in conjunction with their Indian partners and attach this to the application. Applicants will also need to copy some of the information from the joint proforma to TFS, such as the Vision. This is so that we will be able to create a grant if your application is successful.
- Applicants will need to add in their full costings from the UK side, as with all grant applications.

For the submission, do both the India and UK side submit the same proforma?

- Yes
- Both the UK and the India side must come together and collaboratively write the joint proforma, which can then be submitted to both the Indian and UK funding systems.
- Please be mindful that both DST and EPSRC have additional steps which the applicants will have to complete which are standard to each organisation's usual application method.

How will the proposals be assessed? Would it be reviewed on both sides?

- Yes
- Both sides will conduct a peer review and/or assessment of the joint proforma, according to the assessment process. EPSRC will conduct our usual method of reviewing applications and issuing of PI responses.
- A joint Chairs meeting will take place featuring at least the Indian and UK chairs, supported by DST and EPSRC staff. This joint funding meeting will enable the chairs to agree a ranked ordered list and for the funders to agree which proposals to fund, based on the Chairs advice.

The UK is asking for both the TFS application and the Joint proforma, are these both necessary?

- Yes, both parts are essential to the application.
- Applicants will need to complete the proforma that is found on our website and submit this to both UKRI and DST. You will also need to fill out the normal requirements for UKRI on TFS. For details on how to submit this to DST please check their website. The joint proforma should have many of the answers the same as for TFS. We need the information inputted into TFS so that we can create the grant. The information can be copied from the proforma into the relevant TFS areas. There are a few extra pieces such as the 'justification of resources' which are required from the EPSRC side via TFS. For further information please get in touch with ICT.Theme@epsrc.ukri.org.

Do UK universities in a consortium need to submit letter of support?

- As per standard research grants, the details of any supporting universities can be added to the application. We would expect to see the contribution being made to be justified and noted in the application.

Scope:

Would X be suitable for the scope of this funding opportunity?

- The scope available on the funding opportunity page is a non-exhaustive list and all applications with relevance to communications systems are welcome.

- There are no 'primary areas'.
- Quantum communications is **out of scope** for this call.

Cost Breakdown:

Will the award range (£800,000 to £1,060,000) be shared between the Indian and the UK institute? or each institute will get amount.

- EPSRC will be finding UK applicants and DST will be funding the Indian equivalents.
- The values quoted on the UKRI funding finder are for the UK side of the project. These values are at 80% FEC.
- For DST, up to 8 crores in INR for a period of 4 years is available per project. For details on what Indian partners can apply for please see [DST website](#).

How is the funding split if there are multiple institutions/partners on the project?

- For UK applications, the lead application institute will be allocated the funds. The split in funding must be shown clearly for each institution involved in the Justification of Resources, as with all applications.
- Funds to the Indian applicants will be issued in the normal manner that DST use. For details on this, please check [DST's website](#).

Equipment Costs

What types of equipment can be requested from the UK and India side and are there any tender limits?

- UK applicants can request up to £400,000 for equipment for the UK component. As long as this is justified and appropriate for the application there are no other limits beyond the [standard tender agreements](#).
- For DST as well, the equipment costs should be justified. For any specific details related to equipment costs, contact jain.s@nic.in.

Travel Costs

Are there any guidelines for how to calculate hospitality for Indian visitors to UK from UKRI and UK visitors.

- The usual travel and subsistence rules apply to applications to DST or EPSRC.
- For Travel and Hospitality guidelines from DST please contact: jain.s@nic.in.
- For EPSRC the standard guidelines for visiting researchers and travel/subsistence can be found on our website: [Directly incurred costs – UKRI & Visiting researchers – UKRI](#).

If there is travel between the UK/India partners, should the cost of accommodation & subsistence be covered by the UK or India team?

- Our standard rules on visiting researchers as well as travel and subsistence apply for this funding opportunity. Information on this can be found at: [Directly incurred costs – UKRI](#)

Personnel

Is UK Personnel Time calculated using normal UKRI roles?

- All standard UKRI requirements are to be met for this funding opportunity and are to be submitted through TFS.

Applicant Related:

Can publicly funded companies participate on the Indian side (not as a lead)?

- These projects are primarily meant for research organisations. However, if the company is recognised by DSIR then they might be eligible to participate. But since the research collaboration is academic, DST will be funding the academics only.

Industry can be a partner along with the academics. For further information please contact [DST](#).

Does this funding opportunity require a track record of research collaboration with India?

- No, we are welcoming new research collaborations.

Can PhD students be funded on this grant?

- For UK applicants, the usual rules apply, and proposals cannot include PhD students.

Who can be an international Co-lead?

- For this funding opportunity international Co-Leads can only be used for Norwegian researchers as part of the “Money Follows Cooperation” agreement between UKRI and Research Council of Norway (RCN).
- International Co-Leads must not be used for any other reason on this call or for standard proposals to EPSRC.
- On UK applications, “visiting researchers” can be used to cover travel and subsistence for visiting Indian researchers.

Limits of Involvement

Can I be a Co-Lead in multiple applications for this funding opportunity?

- UK applicants can be a PL on one proposal, and a Co-PL on multiple proposal.
- Applicants must have sufficient % time to cover all successful proposals that they are on.

Number of Partners

Can there be multiple institutions on the applications?

- Yes

Can there be a consortium on the India side and the UK side or is it 1:1?

- Funders are expecting to see a range of proposals and there are no expectations, so both consortiums and 1:1s are welcome to apply.
- These grants should be collaborative in nature and as such it is expected that there will be similar levels of effort on both sides and for applications to not be dominated by one side.

Industry

Is this funding opportunity open to business/industry?

- On the UK side, business or industry cannot receive funding, unless for a service.
- There is not expectation that there must be an industry or business partner on all proposals. It is up to applicants to decide which project partners are appropriate for their research proposal.

Future Networks Initiative

Can the UK and Indian Project Leads of successful bids join the Advisory Boards of the existing UK-India Future Networks Initiative (FNI)?

- EPSRC would expect any successful bids to be involved with the network.
- There is a separate close call for to enable to continuation of this successful UK and Indian research network. This will be funded by EPSRC but will be porous to Indian academics and businesses, as appropriate.