

## Frequently asked questions following the Sustainable Industrial Futures Brokerage Workshop on Wednesday 18 September

Please note for any specific remit or scope questions, please contact [energyanddecarbonisation@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:energyanddecarbonisation@epsrc.ukri.org) and a UKRI colleague will be in contact.

Q: Can further clarity be provided on the purpose and scope of the core vs. wave funding?

A: All eligible costs can be considered and costed in for both core and wave funding. This could include any of the example costs included within the funding opportunity. For example:

- salaries of core team including your time to lead the centre and co-investigators to provide the required interdisciplinary inclusive approach, the thought leadership team, postdoctoral research assistants, management team and staff
- resources for integrating lessons learned and horizon scanning (workshops etc)
- resources to support the integration, coordination, knowledge exchange and publication activities of the centre
- Resources to support research activity spanning the 7 years duration
- governance, monitoring and evaluation activities
- impact activities (including stakeholder and user engagement, policy engagement and public engagement)
- networking and community building activities, to enable engagement and collaboration across key disciplines, sectors and investments, and with policy officials
- a flexible fund to support secondments or agile research on emerging topics and to support the involvement of discrete parts of the community, outside of the centre, that would bring significant benefit to the programme but have not otherwise been engaged
- travel, subsistence and consumables

Core funding spans the lifetime of the full programme i.e. up to 7 years. Wave funding will be subject to the programme's identified requirements.

For this opportunity, wave funding will be provided for up to 3 years and is for specific research activity. This wave must be started within the first year of the core funding. Wave funding is expected to address new and emerging areas of strategic focus where research outputs will directly support and fast-track outcomes of the SIF investment. Full applications should identify and provide a strategic rationale for the key research priorities to be addressed by Wave 1 funding and will need to stipulate when they want wave 1 to start, and outline (where relevant) how new partners will be brought in to support Wave 1 research activities.

As outlined in the funding opportunity, Assessors are not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown of all project resources. Overall, they want you to demonstrate how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work:

- are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified
- represent the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes
- maximise potential outcomes and impact.

- Q: The funding opportunity refers to merging of ideas following assessment. Can you provide further information on what this means, especially in terms of negotiations about budget?
- A: Following the assessment stage, we will work with the successful group to ensure that any panel recommendations are met in the most appropriate manner. The nature of the recommendations will define the timescales which need to be met. This will not lead to an increase in the budget available for the funding opportunity.
- Q: Can you provide more information on the balance of engineering and physical sciences and environmental sciences expected in the proposals? Will there be tensioning between environmental science and sustainability? How do we pull out the environmental science angle rather than the sustainability angle?
- A: All proposals must have clear environmental science and engineering and physical science included in order to be eligible and competitive, we are not expecting a certain balance between them. The funding opportunity sets out a definition of sustainability as being better for people, planet and prosperity. Environmental science and engineering and physical sciences must underpin sustainability in its widest sense. For this funding opportunity environmental science includes anything that falls within [NERC remit](#).
- Q: Are both fundamental science/ low TRL research and scaling up/higher TRL research in scope of the funding opportunity?
- A: The proposed work should be flexible to achieve the outcomes and impacts as set out in the funding opportunity, therefore all levels from fundamental science through to impact are within scope as long as it is clear how it meets and delivers against the scope of the funding opportunity.
- Q: Is there any expectation for the centre model and what this should look like or how it should be run?
- A: The funding opportunity is for a virtual centre of excellence. There is no further expectation for the model of the centre or how it should be run, as long as the model proposed can meet the aims and scope of the funding opportunity.