



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council

# EPSRC Critical Mass Programmes to Drive a Sustainable Future Funding Opportunity Informational Webinar

23 January 2024, 2:00pm UK Time

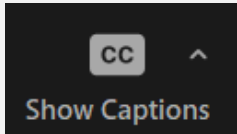
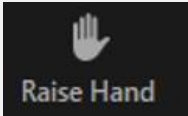
A teal rectangular area with several orange diagonal lines crossing it from the left side.

Energy & Decarbonisation  
+ Manufacturing & the Circular Economy

# Format of today's webinar

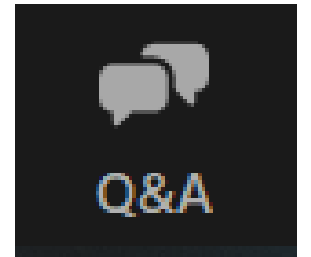
- Introductions to the team leading this funding opportunity (~2 minutes)
- Webinar Housekeeping (~2 minutes)
- Presentation on the Critical Mass Programmes to Drive a Sustainable Future Funding Opportunity (~25 minutes)
- Moderated Question and Answer Session (~30 minutes)

# Housekeeping

- This event is being recorded for asynchronous participation.
- This event is fully closed captioned.  A small dark rectangular icon with the letters 'CC' in a white box and an upward-pointing arrow to its right. Below the icon, the text 'Show Captions' is written in white.
- Attendees are muted and your video is turned off.
- We have addressed all accessibility requests that we received.
- **Tech issues and Chat Protocol:**  
Please only use the chat for raising technical issues during the webinar (your name will be shown).
- The raise hand function is not being monitored.  A dark rectangular icon with a white hand symbol (palm facing forward) and the text 'Raise Hand' in white below it.

# Questions

- Submit your questions as the webinar progresses using the Q&A function.
- Have questions about the UKRI Funding Service?  
Email [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)
- Questions can also be submitted to [manufacturingandCE@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:manufacturingandCE@epsrc.ukri.org) and [energyanddecarbonisation@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:energyanddecarbonisation@epsrc.ukri.org) after the webinar.
- **Eligibility questions which refer to a specific individual or team should be emailed directly to us.**



# Introduction to the Team

- Adam Suttle, Portfolio Manager (Energy and Decarbonisation)\*
- Rehemat Bhatia, Senior Portfolio Manager (Manufacturing and the Circular Economy)\*
- Amanda Howes, Portfolio Manager (Energy and Decarbonisation)
- Anke Davis (Joint Head of Manufacturing and the Circular Economy)
- Jim Fleming (Joint of Energy and Decarbonisation)

# Purpose of the Webinar

- Introduce and provide an overview of the Critical Mass Programmes to Drive a Sustainable Future Funding Opportunity
- Ensure applicants understand key aims of the scheme
- Application Process
- Assessment Process
- Opportunity for Questions



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**Please make sure that you read the  
funding opportunity document**

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/critical-mass-programmes-to-drive-a-sustainable-future/>



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# Background

Our goal\* is to invest in research and innovation critical to the discovery, development and deployment of technologies and solutions to:

- Increase the speed of the **deliverability of net zero**
- Shift us away from environmentally detrimental **materials, industries and processes** to more sustainable and **circular** alternatives.

That includes:

- Pioneering new technologies
- The rapid scaling and evolution of current technologies.

## \*EPSRC Thematic Teams Involved:

- Manufacturing & the Circular Economy
- Energy & Decarbonisation





# Core Aims of this funding opportunity

- ❑ **Up to three Critical Mass five year transdisciplinary research programmes**
  - ❑ **Directly contribute** to the shift away from environmentally detrimental materials, technologies, energy solutions and operations to more sustainable, clean and circular alternatives.
  - ❑ **Discover, inform and optimise** equitable and resilient approaches to the solutions required by the UK's mid-to-long term future.
  
- ❑ **Support for multiple programmes targeting the highlight area of interseasonal energy storage (IES) beyond hydrogen**
  - ❑ **Develop critical solutions** needed to store energy in large volumes from season to season in ways that are safe, economical and efficient, to enable the UK to take best advantage of the growth in renewable energy generation.

**This funding opportunity is intended as a pilot for EPSRC:**

We will conduct review and evaluation activities during and after the funding opportunity to inform the targeted priorities of any potential future funding rounds.

# Funding Available

## Budget (EPSRC will fund 80% Full Economic Cost of a Project)

- **Total fund: £22,725,000**
  - **£13,725,000:** Critical Mass Programmes (all other projects)
  - **£9,000,000:** IES (beyond hydrogen) highlight area projects

	No. of awards	Maximum Award (100% FEC)	Maximum EPSRC contribution (80% FEC)	Funding duration
<b>Critical Mass Programmes</b>	Up to three	£5,718,750	£4,575,000	5 years
<b>IES (beyond hydrogen) highlight area</b>	Approx. 3 ( <i>could be greater or fewer than 3</i> )	£3,000,000	£2,400,000	5 years

# What is in Remit for All Projects?

**Themes of focus may include, but are not limited to:**

- Advanced renewable energy technologies with potential to play a part in the energy transition or revisions of existing technologies that provide more sustainable solutions
- Decarbonised, sustainable transport, including land, air, sea and cross modal
- Sustainable next generation manufacturing technologies, processes and systems
- Technologies to enable a circular economy, in particular reuse, refurbish, remanufacture and longer-in-life solutions

# What is in Remit for the Interseasonal Energy Storage Highlight Area?

**Applications may include, but are not limited to:**

- Electrochemical storage
- Thermal storage
- Gravitational (potential energy) storage
- Whole system including the production of the storage technology, storage integration, and use of the energy storage system

# Other council remits?

Applicants are expected to **co-create solutions between different disciplines, within and beyond EPSRC's remit, as appropriate.**

## However:

- Overall majority of the research proposal must be within EPSRC remit\*
- Driving a sustainable and net zero future from 2030 **must not** be a beneficiary or potential impact pathway, but rather the core focus and vision of the programme\*



**\*EPSRC reserves the right to make remit decisions without reference to peer review.**

# Other Council Remits?

Sustainability research is often **transdisciplinary by necessity**

## **Definition of Transdisciplinarity for this Funding Opportunity:**

“Research that transgresses boundaries between disciplinary knowledge or integrates different bodies of knowledge and actively co-creates knowledge between academic and societal partners such as policymakers or business.”



# "Critical Mass Programmes"

- A consortia of researchers with a view to achieving a particular aim collectively and for that to be the basis of the proposed research project.
- We recognise that delivering a sustainable, prosperous and resilient future is complex and high-risk, requiring the integration of multiple stakeholders and broad interdisciplinary teams across and beyond the remit of EPSRC.



# "Critical Mass Programmes"

- Expected to exhibit a set of features ("Programmes must" and "Programmes should") which we believe to be vital to delivering impact towards ENZ aims
- These investments will provide the scale, flexibility and length of award necessary to support this.





# What would a successful programme look like?

Refer to "Programmes must" & "Programmes should" sub-sections of the sections

Programmes must:

- address one or more timely research challenge or challenges focused on a single strategically important theme which is driven directly by the vision of the transition to sustainable, clean and circular materials, technologies, energy and operations in the UK's mid-to-long term future from 2030 onwards
- demonstrate a coherent long-term strategic vision and bring together a collaborative and world-leading academic team with relevant stakeholders to address it
- take a systems approach, considering the wider context in which the proposed research and research outcomes will sit and the trade-offs and unintended consequences of the research outcomes
- demonstrate co-creation and collaboration with stakeholders including industry, policy and the third sector to identify timely and strategically important research challenges
- drive added value as a core focus of the programme by demonstrating synergistic connectivity between partners, disciplines, and workstreams
- identify and embed clear, realistic and proportionate impact and translation pathways which will maximise demonstrable impact from the programme in the medium and longer term
- use the scale, flexibility and length of the funding to deliver UK-wide national leadership and advocacy and embed creativity and agility into the plans for the programme
- develop the skills of the researchers and partners involved, embedding equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the programme, as well as supporting development and training for early career researchers
- embed environmental sustainability throughout the programme, both in research outcomes and in programme operations

Refer to  
"Programmes  
must" &  
"Programmes  
should" sub-  
sections of  
the sections

Research programmes should:

- look to integrate leading-edge analysis of whole life cycle, social engagement or behavioural science, alongside engineering, physical, and environmental science approaches to enhance the translatability of findings into viable solutions
- build upon existing UKRI research investments, from fundamental to applied, avoiding duplication, competition, and ensuring collaboration where applicable, building upon or partnering with existing UK and international academic and stakeholder initiatives relevant to the challenge area of focus, including exchanging knowledge, drawing on experience and outcomes and collaborating on data use and collection
- anticipate the need for freedom to respond quickly to new arising challenges, bring in new collaborators, attract more funding, and cross-fertilise ideas

# What would a successful programme look like?

## Address EPSRC's strategic aims:

- Deliver high quality, novel engineering and physical sciences research addressing timely and strategically important challenges demonstrably driven directly by the vision of a net zero and sustainable UK.
- Demonstrate broader benefits to **society, the economy and the environment**



# What would a successful programme look like?

## Programme Impact:

- **Timescale:** clear pathways to impact (*translatable to the domain of the 2030s and 2040s*).
- **Engage, collaborate and co-create** with industrial, policy and third sector stakeholders
- **Consider the wider system** in which your proposed programme's research and planned outputs exist.



# What would a successful programme look like?

## Programme Impact:

- **Embed** careful consideration of environmental sustainability **throughout the lifetime** of the programme. All proposed project outputs and outcomes, research approaches and operations



# What would a successful programme look like?

- **Maximise quality and impact**
  - **Collaborative and transdisciplinary approaches**
  - **Co-creation** with new and existing stakeholders, both academic and non-academic, across and beyond EPSRC's remit
- **Compliment:** how you will **interact with existing EPSRC/UKRI investments** and demonstrate how your work will **compliment and add value to the existing** research and innovation landscape.





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# Eligibility: Who Can Apply for this Funding Opportunity?

# Who can apply

- **Individual UK investigators and Research Organisations:** Standard EPSRC eligibility requirements apply
- **Project Lead\*:** One application only
- **Project Co-Lead\*:** Multiple applications

There is no demand management and there are no limits on the number of applications per organisation.

**\*Please note:** Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator have been renamed Project Lead and Project Co-Lead respectively

## Expression of Interest will request:

- Project lead name, affiliation and email address
- Proposed host organisation
- Project co-lead names





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**Funding available:  
What can be funded  
in a project?**

# Eligible Costs

	No. of awards	Maximum Award (100% FEC)	Maximum EPSRC contribution (80% FEC)	Funding duration
<b>Critical Mass Programmes</b>	Up to 3	£5,718,750	£4,575,000	5 years
<b>IES (beyond hydrogen) highlight area</b>	~3 ( <i>could be greater or fewer than 3</i> )	£3,000,000	£2,400,000	5 years

For this Funding Opportunity, EPSRC's standard business rules on eligible costs apply.

Please visit ['Costs you can apply for'](#)

**You do NOT have to provide any indicative costs at this (EoI) stage.**



The screenshot shows the UKRI website header. It includes the UKRI logo, the text 'UK Research and Innovation', and a navigation menu with links: 'Apply for funding', 'Manage your award', 'What we do', 'News and events', 'Who we are', and 'Our councils'. There is also a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a teal banner with a grid of links: 'AHRC', 'BBSRC', 'ESRC', 'EPSRC' (highlighted), 'Innovate UK', 'MRC', 'NERC', 'Research England', and 'STFC'. To the right of the banner is a small image of a laboratory experiment.

Home > Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) > Guidance for applicants > Costs you can apply for

## Costs you can apply for

### Contents

- **Overview**
- Principles of full economic costing (FEC)
- Fund headings
- Directly allocated costs
- Directly incurred costs
- Costs not included in full economic costing
- NHS costs
- Proof of concept studies in healthcare

# Eligible Costs

You do **NOT** have to provide any indicative costs at this (EoI) stage.

<b>Directly Allocated Costs</b>	<b>Eligible?</b>
Project Leads and Project Co-Leads	Yes
Estates	Yes
Other directly allocated costs	Yes
<b>Directly incurred costs</b>	<b>Eligible?</b>
Staff (Enabling staff are scheme specific – details to follow in the Full Stage Opportunity)	Yes
Travel, subsistence and consumables for staff	Yes
Equipment (up to £400,000 including VAT)	Yes
<b>Exceptions</b>	<b>Eligible?</b>
Norway and International Institute of Advanced System Analysis (IIASA) co-leads	Yes
Studentships (Masters, PhD)	No

# Who can be funded in a project?

## Expression of Interest will request:

- Project lead name, affiliation and email address
- Proposed host organisation
- Project co-lead names

**You do NOT have to provide any indication of other Enabling Staff at the Expression of Interest Stage.**

[Home](#) > [Roles in funding applications](#) > [Roles in funding applications: eligibility, responsibilities and costings guidance](#)

Guidance

## Roles in funding applications: eligibility, responsibilities and costings guidance

From: UKRI  
Published: 23 May 2023  
Last updated: 20 August 2024

### Contents

- [How to use this guidance](#)
- [Before you apply: discuss and agree with lead organisation](#)
- [Using roles in funding application services](#)
- [Role descriptions and responsibilities](#)
- [After applying to a funding opportunity](#)
- [Role costings](#)

This guidance sets out the different roles on a project team when applying to a funding opportunity from UKRI or one of its research councils.

### How to use this guidance

UKRI has three main services that you can use to apply for funding:

- UKRI Funding Service – a new service used by the seven research councils
- Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system – in the process of being replaced by UKRI Funding Service
- Innovation Funding Service – for funding opportunities from Innovate UK

Follow this guidance if you are applying through the [UKRI Funding Service](#) to a

# Who can be funded in a project?

\*Any **unnamed** role resource, can be included and justified in the '**Resources and Costs**' section of the Full Stage Application.

Directly incurred costs - Staff*	Eligible?	Notes
Project Lead (PL)	Yes	
Project Co-Lead UK (PcL)	Yes	
Project Co-lead (International) (PcL (I))	No	Unless based in Norway or at the International Institute of Advanced System Analysis (IIASA) Co-leads *listed in Exceptions
Researcher Co-Lead	Yes	
Fellow	No	
Grant Manager	Yes	
Research and Innovation Associate	Yes	Formerly 'PDRA' in Je-S
Visiting Researcher	Yes	Overseas collaborators to the UK for up to 12 months per individual
Specialist	Yes	
Technician	Yes	
Doctoral student	No	
Professional Enabling Staff	Yes	

# Are Project Partners Eligible for this Funding Opportunity?

**Yes – however:** You do **not** have to provide any indication of your intended Project Partners or their contributions at the Expression of Interest Stage.

## EPSRCs standard business rules will apply to this Funding Opportunity

### How do I list my overseas / international collaborators in my proposal?

Project Partners or Visiting Researchers

**Project partners:** Can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. Extended visits should be listed as visiting researchers.

**Visiting researchers:** Support may be requested for visits by overseas collaborators to the UK for up to 12 months per individual. The application may include estates and indirect costs for any visiting researcher, regardless of whether the support being requested includes a salary contribution or is only travel and subsistence.

# Eligible Overseas Costs

Cost	Eligible?
Travel for UK researchers to partner labs	Yes
Extended overseas visits of UK based research staff	Yes
Hosting costs for overseas visitors in UK	Yes
Consumables of UK researchers while working overseas	Yes
Cost of transporting equipment used in joint experiments	Yes
Use of DTP funds to support EPSRC funded students in visits	Yes
Costs of overseas researchers while at UK institutions	Yes
Costs of overseas researchers at overseas institutions ( <i>other than Norway</i> ), including consumables and international PDRAs	No
Costs incurred by research undertaken by collaborators	No
Research projects led by non-UK institutions	No



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# Additional considerations



# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

EPSRC aims to support a diverse and inclusive research environment where there is equality of opportunities.

**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

# We strongly encourage you to integrate EDI in your application

## Am I expected to know about EDI as an applicant?

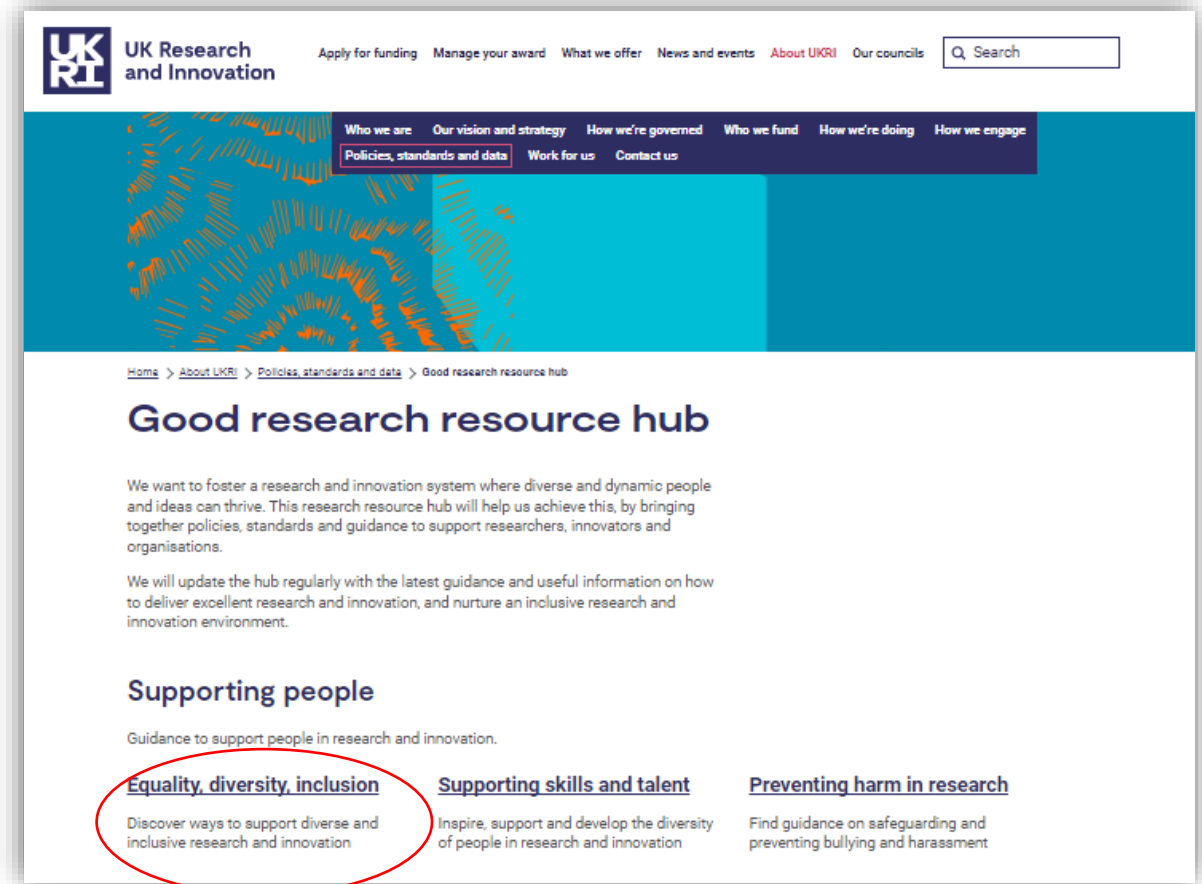
Project teams are not expected to have specific expertise in EDI.

## What should I think about in my application?

- How you will support **Capacity Building and Skills Development** across and beyond the research programme:
  - Team Formation
  - Activity and Outcomes planning

**Integrate** EDI principles in **all** parts of the application.

- **How** will you foster a nurturing research culture?



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Home > About UKRI > Policies, standards and data > Good research resource hub

## Good research resource hub

We want to foster a research and innovation system where diverse and dynamic people and ideas can thrive. This research resource hub will help us achieve this, by bringing together policies, standards and guidance to support researchers, innovators and organisations.

We will update the hub regularly with the latest guidance and useful information on how to deliver excellent research and innovation, and nurture an inclusive research and innovation environment.

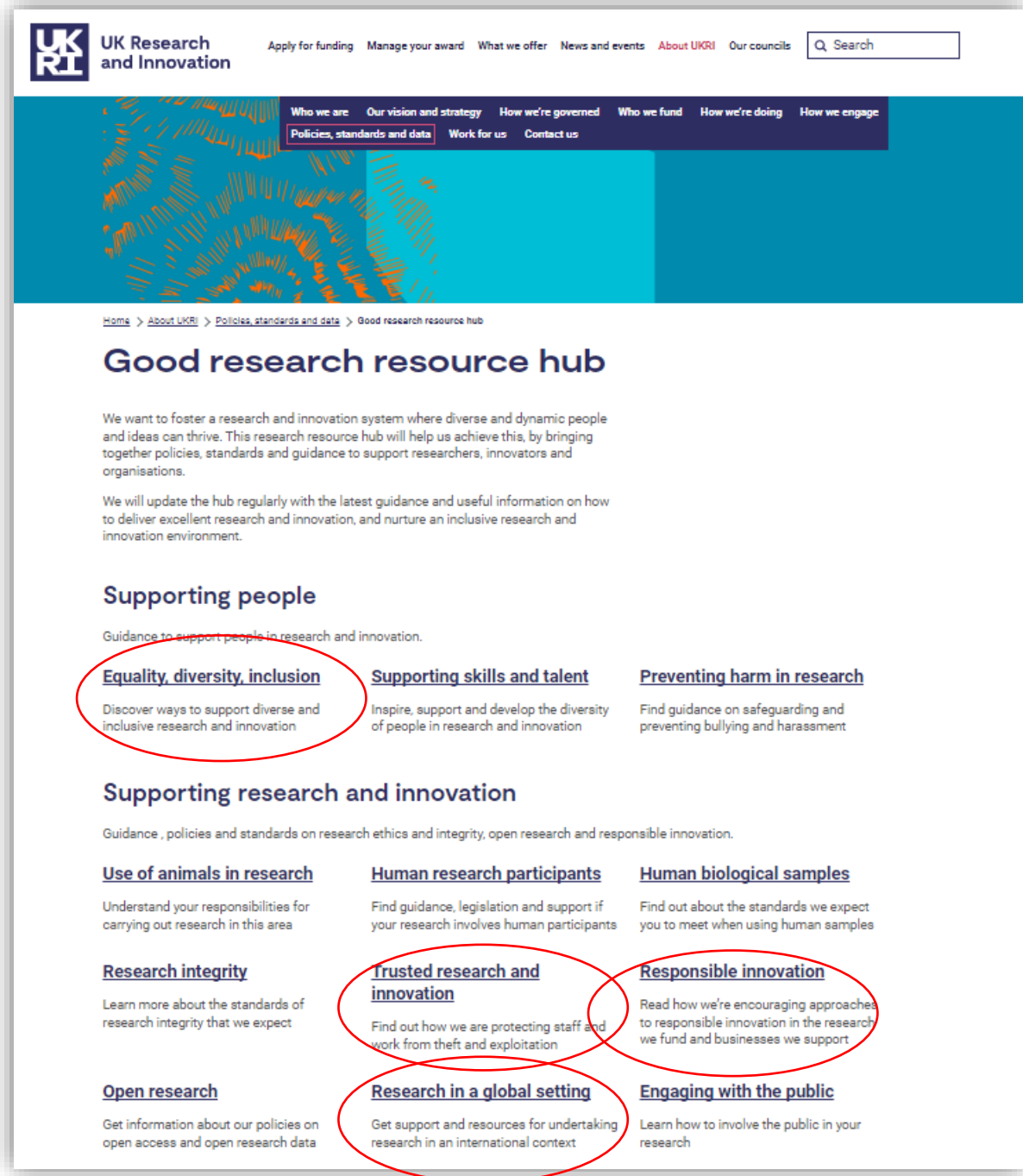
### Supporting people

Guidance to support people in research and innovation.

<b>Equality, diversity, inclusion</b> Discover ways to support diverse and inclusive research and innovation	<b>Supporting skills and talent</b> Inspire, support and develop the diversity of people in research and innovation	<b>Preventing harm in research</b> Find guidance on safeguarding and preventing bullying and harassment
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# Other considerations

- Responsible Innovation
- Trusted research and Innovation
- Export control
- Visas



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### Supporting people

Guidance to support people in research and innovation.

- Equality, diversity, inclusion**  
Discover ways to support diverse and inclusive research and innovation
- Supporting skills and talent**  
Inspire, support and develop the diversity of people in research and innovation
- Preventing harm in research**  
Find guidance on safeguarding and preventing bullying and harassment

### Supporting research and innovation

Guidance, policies and standards on research ethics and integrity, open research and responsible innovation.

- Use of animals in research**  
Understand your responsibilities for carrying out research in this area
- Human research participants**  
Find guidance, legislation and support if your research involves human participants
- Human biological samples**  
Find out about the standards we expect you to meet when using human samples
- Research integrity**  
Learn more about the standards of research integrity that we expect
- Trusted research and innovation**  
Find out how we are protecting staff and work from theft and exploitation
- Responsible innovation**  
Read how we're encouraging approaches to responsible innovation in the research we fund and businesses we support
- Open research**  
Get information about our policies on open access and open research data
- Research in a global setting**  
Get support and resources for undertaking research in an international context
- Engaging with the public**  
Learn how to involve the public in your research

# What is Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)?

**Trusted Research** is a sector term for protecting the UK's intellectual property, sensitive research, people and infrastructure from potential theft, manipulation and exploitation, including due to interference by hostile actors.

**The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA)** website has guidance for academia and industry:

“The UK has a thriving research and innovation sector that attracts investment from across the world.”

“More than half of UK research is a product of international partnerships.”

“Trusted Research aims to secure the integrity of the system of international research collaboration, which is vital to the continued success of the UK's research and innovation sector.”

<https://www.npsa.gov.uk/trusted-research>



The UK has a thriving research and innovation sector that attracts investment from across the world. Trusted Research aims to secure the integrity of the system of international research collaboration, which is vital to the continued success of the UK's research and innovation sector.

[Trusted Research Guidance for Academia](#)



[Trusted Research Guidance for Industry](#)

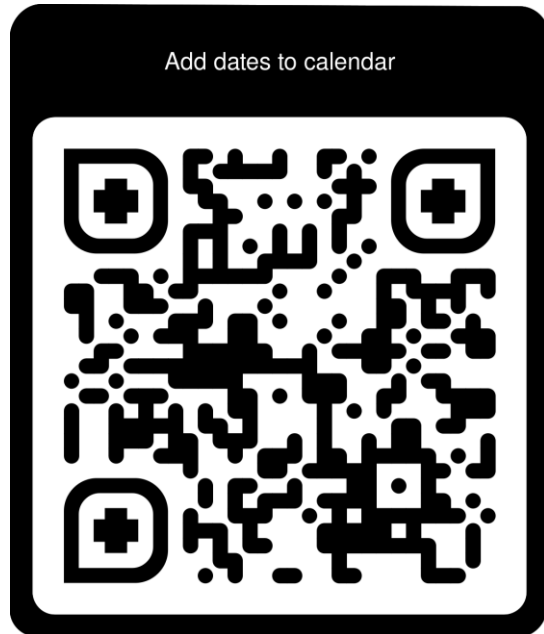




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# Application and Assessment process

# Key Application Dates



## Timeline



★ Anticipated. Specific dates to follow

# Have you filled in an Expression of Interest?

This is a mandatory part of the application process:

**More to come  
on this process  
later...**

**Link can be found in Funding  
Opportunity Page**

<https://engagementhub.ukri.org/epsr-c-energy-decarbonisation/4ef64852/>



The screenshot shows the UKRI Citizen Space website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Citizen Space', 'Manage Activities', and 'Go to this activity's dashboard'. On the right, there are links for 'Site', 'Energy & Decarbonisation', and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar is the UKRI logo and the text 'UK Research and Innovation'. A search bar is located on the right side of the page. The main content area features a large banner with a blue and orange geometric pattern. Below the banner, the title of the activity is displayed: 'Expression of Interest Stage: Critical Mass Programmes to drive a Sustainable Future (OPP726)'. The page is divided into two columns. The left column contains an 'Overview' section with the heading 'Expression of Interest (Eol) stage' and a paragraph stating that it is mandatory to submit an Eol to be eligible for the opportunity. The right column contains a 'Closes 4 Mar 2025' section with the dates 'Opened 7 Jan 2025' and 'Results expected 30 Apr 2025'. At the bottom of the right column, there is a 'Contact' section with the text 'Energy and decarbonisation Team' and the email address 'energyanddecarbonisation@epsr.ukri.org'. A footer note at the bottom of the page states: 'This Eol survey form will be open from 07 January 2025 09:00 UK time to 04 March 2025 16:00 UK time. You will not be able to apply after this time.'

# Submission Process – Expression of Interest (EoI) Application

- **Please ensure sufficient time to:**
  - Prepare for your **research organisation's submission process**
    - **Leave enough time** between submitting your proposal to your research office and the funding EoI Closing Date.
  - Proposals can be multi-institutional, however only one application form should be submitted for each bid.
  - EoI submissions should be made using our dedicated form on the The Funding Finder.
    - See How To Apply on the Funding Opportunity:  
<https://engagementhub.ukri.org/epsrc-energy-decarbonisation/4ef64852/>



# What do I need to submit?

**The Expression of Interest will request the following details:**

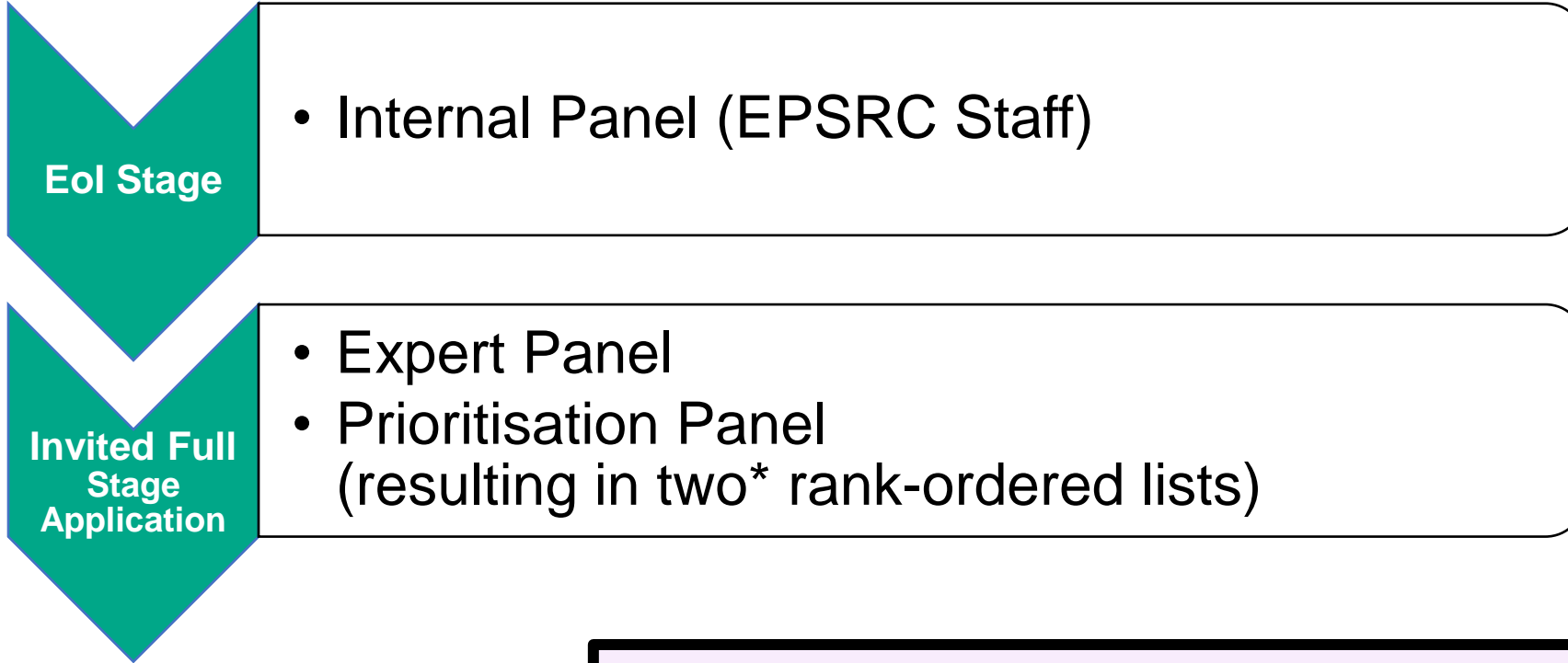
- Project Lead name, affiliation and email address
- Proposed host organisation
- Project Co-Lead names
- If your submission is for the interseasonal storage highlight area (**Yes or No**)
- Short summary of the proposed research vision and its objectives (**500 words / 3000 characters**)
- Short summary of how your programme will provide additionality to the current and foreseeable UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) portfolio (**250 words / 1500 characters**)
- How you would like us to contact you

**You do not have to provide any indicative costs at this stage.**

**You cannot insert figures into the form.**

# How will my application be assessed?

Details of each assessment stage are listed in the funding opportunity guidance.



\*Applications targeting the IES highlight area are ranked on a separate list to all other applications

# Assessment Criteria: Eol Stage

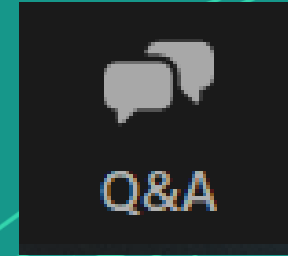
Eol submissions will be evaluated by EPSRC staff members internally after the closing date. This review will assess that:

- you meet our funding eligibility requirements
- the majority of the research is within EPSRC remit
- your application aligns to the scope and objectives of this funding opportunity
- a sustainable future is a core focus of the programme and not a mere beneficiary or potential impact pathway
- your programme will provide additionality to the current and foreseeable UKRI portfolio
- any applications with the same area of research focus, submitted into the same round of this funding opportunity, could be offered the opportunity to strengthen their consortia by forming a single full stage application with other applicants



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# Questions?



- Submit your questions using the Q&A function.
- Eligibility questions pertaining to an individual or specific applicant group should be emailed directly to us.
- Have questions about the UKRI Funding Service? Email [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)



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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/critical-mass-programmes-to-drive-a-sustainable-future/>



# Thank you

- Look out for the Webinar Outputs!  
They will be published on the Funding Finder soon.
- Another question?
  - Please get in touch:
    - [Manufacturingandcirculareconomy@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:Manufacturingandcirculareconomy@epsrc.ukri.org) or [energyanddecarbonisation@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:energyanddecarbonisation@epsrc.ukri.org)



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# FAQ

## – What's the difference to the Programme Grant scheme

Refer to the specific "**Programmes must**" and "**Programmes should**" of this Funding Opportunity because there are notable differences. A key requirement for programmes in this scheme is for them to develop clear pathways for impact and translation to the UK's mid-to-long term future (**translatable to the domain of the 2030s and 2040s**). It is really seeking **demonstrable impact from the programme in the medium and longer term** which the Programme Grant Responsive mode is not necessarily directed to.

	CMP / IES Scheme	Programme Grant
<b>Duration</b>	5 years	Up to 6 years
<b>Max Award</b>	£5.7m FEC, £3.0m FEC (IES)	N/A
<b>Impact</b>	Demonstratable med-long term (2030s/2040s)	N/A
<b>Sustainable Future</b>	Core focus	Not a necessity
<b>Systems Approach</b>	Essential	Not-essential

# FAQ

## – What is the purpose of the IES highlight?

The goal of this highlight area is to address a breadth of challenges in this area and build capacity in interseasonal energy storage beyond hydrogen due to saturation of IES funding in the hydrogen space.

**"Inter seasonal" = 3+ months**

- electrochemical storage
- thermal storage
- gravitational (potential energy) storage
- whole system including the production of the storage technology, storage integration, and use of the energy storage system

# FAQ

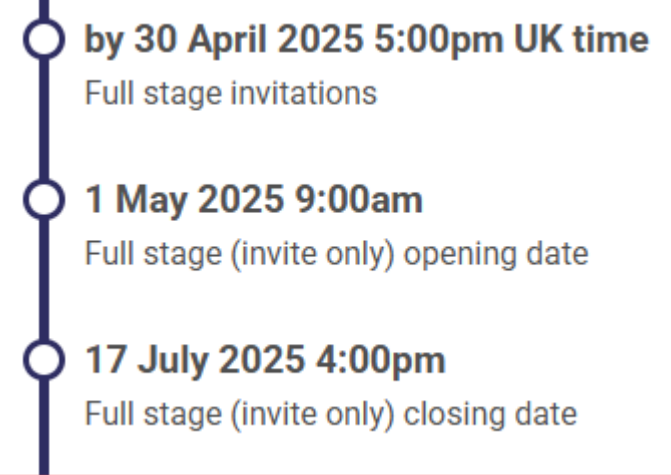
## Assessment – Full Stage

### Evaluation areas for full stage applications

It is anticipated that the following criteria will form the basis of assessment by the expert panel:

- Vision and Approach which will include that a sustainable future has been embedded as a core focus of the programme
- Applicant and team capacity to deliver
- Plans for taking a systems approach
- Co-creation and stakeholder engagement
- Resources requested, and the proposed management
- Ethical and responsible research and innovation considerations

More details, including assessment questions, will follow once the full stage of the funding opportunity opens in May 2025. This will be displayed under the 'Application questions' heading in the 'How to apply' section.

- 
- by 30 April 2025 5:00pm UK time  
Full stage invitations
  - 1 May 2025 9:00am  
Full stage (invite only) opening date
  - 17 July 2025 4:00pm  
Full stage (invite only) closing date



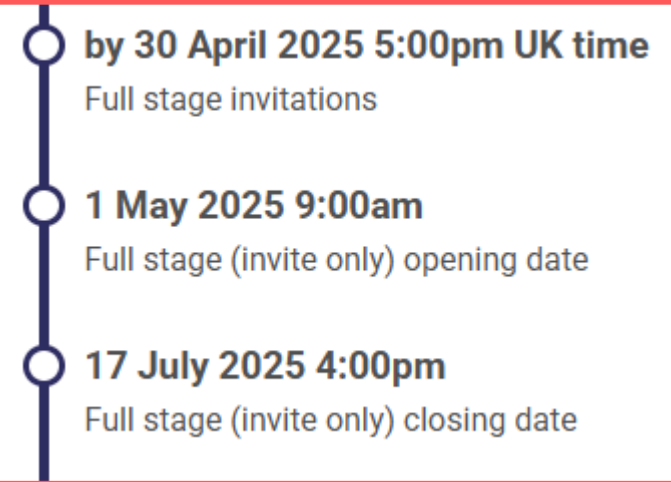
# FAQ

## Assessment – Full Stage

All applications, including those targeting the IES highlight area, will follow the same assessment process and criteria.

IES highlight will have a separate funding list

IES Highlight assessment contexts £3m < 5.7m

- 
- by 30 April 2025 5:00pm UK time**  
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# FAQ

## - What remits are out of scope?

Due to previous recent UKRI investment activity, the primary focus should not be on:

- hydrogen production or systems integration
- hydrogen based interseasonal energy storage
- nuclear fission
- nuclear fusion
- industrial decarbonisation
- healthcare manufacturing



# FAQ

## – What Hydrogen remits are included?

So long as a proposal sits distinct from the work being carried out by the EPSRC-funded hydrogen hubs, Hi-Act and HyRes, and does not concern production of hydrogen, or integration of hydrogen into the energy system, then it will be within remit of this call. An example of Hydrogen remits that could be included in this call might be investigations into material degradation by hydrogen in systems being powered by the fuel, or investigations in hydrogen for sustainable transport, including land, air, sea and cross modal.

However,

- Industrial Decarbonisation is out of scope due to previous recent UKRI investment activity - please see EPSRC's Definition of Industrial Decarbonisation and note the investment activity of the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge
- Hydrogen Interseasonal Energy Storage is out of scope.



HI-Act  
Hydrogen Interseasonal Energy Storage  
Accelerated  
Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge

HyRes  
UK Hub for Research Challenges in  
Hydrogen and Alternative Liquid Fuels

# Funding Available – Who Can Be Funded through a Project?

## Overseas partner organisations and International Collaborators

**Organisations** are defined as universities, public sector research organisations or publicly funded research institutes.

**International collaborators** should be listed as project partners or visiting researchers.

**Project partners:** Can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. Extended visits should be listed as visiting researchers.

**Visiting researchers:** Support may be requested for visits by overseas collaborators to the UK for up to 12 months per individual. The application may include estates and indirect costs for any visiting researcher, regardless of whether the support being requested includes a salary contribution or is only travel and subsistence.

# Exceptions

## Norwegian Project Co-Leads

Following the Money Follows Cooperation agreement between UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway co-leads (co-investigators) can be included in UK-led applications and to receive funding from the participating UKRI research councils.

This is not a separate research funding scheme; applications come through existing opportunities.

This agreement reduces barriers to cross-border collaboration.

### More info on UKRI website

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/collaborate-with-researchers-in-norway/>

#### Funding opportunity

## Collaborate with researchers in Norway

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	<a href="#">Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)</a> , <a href="#">Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)</a> , <a href="#">Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)</a> , <a href="#">Medical Research Council (MRC)</a> , <a href="#">Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)</a> , UK Research and Innovation
Co-funders:	Research Council of Norway (RCN)
Funding type:	Grant
Publication date:	3 November 2022
Opening date:	N/A
Closing date:	Open - no closing date

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