Healthcare Technology Translation Partnership Scheme Outline

Opportunity status:	Closed
Funders:	**Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)**
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£10,000,000
Award range:	£400,000 - £1,500,000
Publication date:	19 September 2024
Opening date:	19 September 2024 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	12 December 2024 4:00pm UK time

Last updated: 17 October 2024 - **see all updates**

Apply for funding to progress basic and fundamental engineering and physical sciences research towards proof of concept and validation through partnering with clinical and healthcare professionals, and industrial partners.

Projects will address unmet clinical needs, offer significant added value or both over current health solutions. Applications will provide detailed translation plans and show how the project has been co-developed in partnership to maximise the impact in healthcare.

The full economic cost (FEC) of projects can be up to £1.88 million. EPSRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

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 UKRI Funding Service.

For full details, visit **Eligibility as an individual**.

International applicants

As EPSRC is a lead funder for this opportunity, the **UKRI and Research Council of Norway Money Follows Cooperation agreement** applies therefore a project co-lead (international) can be based in a Norwegian institution.

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

Find out more about **equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI**.

What we're looking for

Scope

This funding opportunity is intended to support the progression of basic and fundamental research towards application and impact within one of the following three challenges:

- improving population health and prevention of ill health
- transforming prediction and early diagnosis
- discovering and accelerating the development of new interventions

Further information on each challenge can be found in the **EPSRC health technologies strategy**.

We are looking for applications which will advance engineering and physical sciences research towards application and impact in an area of unmet healthcare need during the lifetime of the proposal. Applications will be co-developed and co-delivered with clinical or healthcare professionals, industry partners and public and patient contributors to maximise impact and navigate the translation pathway.

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are a way to describe the maturity of a particular technology. For this funding opportunity we are using **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)'s definitions of TRLs**. This funding opportunity will fund projects from TRL 2 and we expect to see acceleration of translation towards TRL 3.5. In practice this means principles should have already been demonstrated through experimentation (TRL 2) and proposals should aim to take research or technology through to proof of concept or validation in a more relevant environment (TRL 3.5). More applied research and collaborative initiatives aimed at advancing technologies closer to practical application and commercialisation at subsequent TRL levels are out of scope for this funding opportunity.

Projects should ensure the research addresses an unmet health need or offers significant added value over current or alternative healthcare solutions.

Research projects funded through this funding opportunity are expected to generate a range of outputs that make significant contributions to delivering impact within our challenge areas.

Funding opportunity objectives

Proposals will:

- ensure a clear route to translation for research outcomes by developing a translation and impact action plan which considers the specific translation context and challenges within the research area and affected community
- engage with a diverse range of relevant partners to ensure research is co-created and co-delivered with users
- embed PPIE throughout the aims, objectives and operations, considering the context of each research area

Translation

You are required to submit a translation plan that must demonstrate clear understanding of and detail an approach to navigating the barriers to translation (for example, further funding, regulatory and ethical frameworks, licensing). The translation plan will form part of the assessment criteria at both assessment stages. Our **impact and translation toolkit** provides an overview of some of the barriers researchers may face when applying their research to solve challenges in human health and wellbeing.

You will need to demonstrate that funding will be used to significantly accelerate translation and not act as temporary financial support for existing projects.

Partnerships

You will be required to partner with clinical or healthcare professionals and business partners bringing together a range of expertise to provide the support and guidance required to navigate the pathways to generating impact in the UK health sector.

All partners will be expected to play an active role in the design and delivery of the project, as well as demonstrating significant direct or in-kind contributions towards the project.

Clinical or healthcare professional partnership or collaboration is mandatory.

At the time of application, confirmed and named industrial partnerships are not a mandatory requirement. You may use part of the application to detail a well-defined plan in acquiring and developing appropriate industrial partners and partnerships. For those without confirmed industrial partners at application, it is expected those brought on will be meaningfully engaged for some time prior to the conclusion of the project to inform and aid onward translation. Updated engagement plans will be requested from EPSRC to ensure significant progress and contributions have been made in line with the funding opportunity on a regular basis. International industrial partners are permitted so long as the project demonstrates significant benefit for the UK health sector.

Public and patient involvement and engagement (PPIE)

PPIE is a key cross-cutting theme of the new EPSRC health technologies strategy. We expect all projects to integrate PPIE at all stages of the research and innovation process.

To ensure we support high quality research where research outcomes can benefit users, industry and have maximum impact in the UK health sector, we are looking for clear evidence of genuine, substantiative partnerships with co-creation, co-delivery and embedded engagement with patients, people with lived experience and health professionals throughout all projects and activities.

Proposals are required to include a PPIE plan as part of their submission. You may highlight where the PPIE plan and Translational and impact plan overlap.

Clinicians can be costed into the proposal as a project co-lead.

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

Duration

The duration of this award is up to 48 months.

Funding available

The FEC of your project can be up to £1.88 million.

EPSRC will fund 80% of the FEC. EPSRC's contribution may be up to £1.5 million.

What we will fund

We will fund:

- equipment (up to £400,000 per item). Quotes for equipment do not need to be included in your outline application, but please retain quotes for equipment costing more than £138,000 as we may ask for these at full application and before releasing funds
- the progression of basic and fundamental research towards application and impact within our three challenge areas
- projects whose engineering and physical sciences principles have already been demonstrated through experimentation and proposals aim to take research or technology through to proof of concept or validation in more relevant environments
- while we do not fund clinical trials, that is studies that involve large numbers of animals or patients, costs may be requested for proof of concept (PoC) studies where initial data from a small number of tests is being gathered to validate and inform the continual development of the technology developed as part of the project. **Read about PoC studies in healthcare**

What we will not fund

We will not fund:

- proposals out of remit or scope. Proposals must lie primarily within the remit of EPSRC and be within the scope of this funding opportunity. Any proposals that we deem out of remit or out of scope may be rejected
- proposals which do not include a substantial element of research or new knowledge in engineering or physical sciences (including information technologies and maths)

- proposals deemed too fundamental. This funding opportunity does not look to support early, fundamental, research. Any application deemed too fundamental will be ineligible. Projects should have already explored new concepts and generated data in support of the approach
- costs for PhD studentships
- applications utilising AI or machine learning (ML) must demonstrate novelty in creation or development of the AI/ML tool itself. Applications applying "off the shelf" tools to, for example, new diseases or datasets are ineligible and will be rejected if this is the only EPS component of the application
- publication costs
- funding to use as a 'bridge' between grants
- costs associated with applying for intellectual property protection, for example, patent filing

We do not expect to receive applications from those already associated with current significant EPSRC funding where translation is supported, unless significant added value can be clearly justified above that of the associated award.

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**.

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.

Further guidance and information about TR&I, including where you can find additional support.

How to apply

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

Expression of interest

To help EPSRC plan for this funding opportunity, you are requested to submit a mandatory expression of interest (EOI) by 14 November at 4:00pm UK time. This will not be assessed. Any EOIs completed after this date, or applications received without a corresponding completed EOI will be rejected.

Information you provide in the expression of interest stage can change prior to submission of the outline proposal.

Complete your **expression of interest**.

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. If your organisation is not listed, email **support@funding-service.ukri.org** Please allow at least 10 working days for your organisation to be added to the Funding Service. We strongly suggest that if you are asking UKRI to add your organisation to the Funding Service to enable you to apply to this opportunity, you also create an organisation Administration Account. This will be needed to allow the acceptance and management of any grant that might be offered to you.
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 5MB 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**

References

Applications should be self-contained, and hyperlinks should only be used to provide links directly to reference information. To ensure the information's integrity is maintained, where possible, persistent identifiers such as digital object identifiers should be used. Assessors are not required to access links to carry out assessment or recommend a funding decision. You should use your discretion when including references and prioritise those most pertinent to the application.

References should be included in the appropriate question section of the application and be easily identifiable by the assessors for example, (Smith, Research Paper, 2019)

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

Deadline

EPSRC must receive your application by 12 December 2024 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 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 **EPSRC Funding Application 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
- researcher co-lead (RcL)

Note that clinicians can be listed as PcLs.

Only list one individual as project lead.

You must have the following named leads within your application:

- PPIE and partnership working lead
- translation and impact lead

Find out more about **UKRI's core team roles in funding applications**.

Application questions

Outline Vision

Word limit: 1,000

You will need to include an additional short lay summary of how the proposal falls within EPSRC remit and where the novelty lies. You must also clearly describe the current TRL stage of the proposed research or technology ensuring eligibility to the scheme.

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how your proposed work:

- effectually meets the strategic aims of the funding opportunity
- is sufficiently developed to apply for this scheme. Have you summarised the previous work and described how this will be built upon and progressed

- how the project will address a clear unmet health need within the health technology's challenge areas and what the proposed impact will be
- is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the field(s) or area(s)
- has the potential to advance current understanding, generates new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond the field or area
- is timely given current trends, context and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment

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

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.

Outline Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word limit: 500

How will the application team deliver the proposed research programme?

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 research programme
- 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 (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.

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.

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the Funding Service.

For full details, see **Eligibility as an individual**.

Outline costs

Word limit: 250

What are the expected costs of the proposed work?

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
- view the guidance on the costs you can apply for

Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Word limit: 500

What are the ethical and RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work? If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:

- the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
- how you will manage these considerations

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

If you are collecting or using data you should identify:

- any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing the data (including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security and other ethical considerations and, in particular, strategies to not preclude further reuse of data)
- formal information standards that your proposed work will comply with

Additional sub-questions (to be answered only if appropriate) relating to research involving:

- animals
- human participants
- genetically modified organisms

Translation and impact plan

Word limit: [750]

How has onward translation and impact been considered in the proposal?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

- details of plans and strategy for further development and delivery of your product or technology, outlining the proposed route to achieving patient benefits and overcoming perceived barriers to translation following the end of the Healthcare Technology Translation Partnership Scheme award. This could include further financial support, required advice, training and skills or additional partners
- a demonstration and appreciation of the requirements and criteria that would need to be met to access further support
- what support you have acquired within the team that will help navigate the appropriate immediate and future translation pathway
- any engagement taken place or planned with potential downstream funders, partners or regulators, outlining who they are and the status of discussions
- how the team will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts

PPIE and partnership working plan

Word limit: 500

Provide details about your plans to embed patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) and partnership working into the proposal.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

- how will co-creation and co-delivery will be prioritised with a range of partners from relevant health sectors (including patients, professionals and those with lived experience). How will you engage with them?
- what PPIE activities will be conducted throughout the lifespan of the proposal and why these are the most appropriate to support a patient or user-needs focused delivery
- how the anticipated technology or tool will be accessible and suitable for benefit of the intended users
- how you have considered health equity in your research

How we will assess your application

Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

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

This will be a two-stage assessment process and this outline funding opportunity is stage one.

Stage one: outline stage

At stage one, we are looking for outline applications that are a good fit for the funding opportunity with appropriate translation as well as PPIE and partnership working plans. You should seek to address the Funding opportunity objectives as set out in the What we're looking for section.

Any outline proposal EPSRC considers to be outside the scope of the funding opportunity, or not primarily within the remit of EPSRC, will be rejected prior to review by expert panel. You should ensure that the fit to the funding opportunity is clear.

Panel

Outline proposals that meet the scope will be assessed by a panel in accordance with the assessment criteria. We will invite a panel of experts to review your outline application against the specified criteria for this funding opportunity outline stage. The expert panel will determine a rank, which will be used to determine which submissions to take forward to full stage applications.

At outline stage, the panel may provide advice on the balance of the portfolio and subject matter diversity of applications received when deciding which applicants to invite to submit full applications.

Feedback

No feedback will be provided at the outline stage to unsuccessful applicants, unless specifically requested by the panel.

Feedback will be provided to applicants who are invited to submit full proposals at discretion of the panel.

Stage two: full application stage

Applicants who are successful at outline stage (stage one) will be invited to submit full proposals in stage two.

Peer review

We will invite experts to review your application independently, against the specified criteria for this funding opportunity.

You will not be able to nominate reviewers for applications on the new Funding Service. Research councils will continue to select expert reviewers.

Panel

Following peer review, we will invite peers to use the evidence provided by reviewers and your applicant response to assess the quality of your application and rank it alongside other applications after which the panel will make a funding recommendation.

EPSRC will make the final funding decision. EPSRC may draw on advice from the panel to ensure a desirable balance of funded applications across the portfolio that delivers against the strategic aims of the opportunity.

Feedback

No feedback will be provided at the full application stage in addition to reviewers comments.

Assessment areas

The assessment areas we will use are:

- Vision
- Approach
- Translation and impact plan
- PPIE and partnership working plan
- Applicant and team capability to deliver
- Resources and cost justification
- Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

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

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**.

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 **healthcare@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**

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**.

Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, please contact **TFSchangeEPSRC@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**.

Additional info

Background

This funding opportunity is supported by EPSRC's Healthcare Technologies theme. The opportunity aims to accelerate EPSRC-funded research towards products and practices by working in partnership with key stakeholders across the healthcare sector. This opportunity will give applicants the chance to harness productive collaborations with both business and clinical or healthcare partners to help deliver impact in health.

The Health Technologies Translation Partnership Scheme (HTTPS) is a continuation of the previously run Healthcare Impact Partnerships Scheme (HIPS).

HIPS was introduced in 2013 to enable the progression of previously funded EPSRC research outputs towards impact within a healthcare application. To date, 36 HIPS projects have been funded across five calls, representing a total investment of just over £31 million. The scheme was open to academics who had held one or more EPSRC research grants and supported preclinical and precompetitive research projects, from basic or applied research to early proof of concept and scale up research.

EPSRC commissioned an **independent report** to understand the value and impact of HIPS (funded between 2013 and 2019) and provide evidence as to

whether the scheme continued to address a need. The evaluation was carried out by Technopolis between January and March 2020.

Using the findings of this evaluation, alongside consultation with our strategic advisory team as well as strategic partners, the HTTPS opportunity has been created.

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.

Additional disability and accessibility adjustments

UKRI can offer **disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders** during the application and assessment process if required.

Webinar for potential applicants

We held a webinar on 26 September 2024 to provide more information about the funding opportunity and a chance to ask questions.

Watch webinar recording on YouTube

EPSRC webinar slides (PDF, 5.5MB)

Konfer webinar slides (PDF, 114KB)

Webinar questions and answers (PDF, 316KB)

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.

Updates

17 October 2024
EPSRC webinar slides document added to the 'Additional info' section.

10 October 2024
Webinar recording link, Konfer webinar slides document and webinar questions and answers document added to the 'Additional info' section.

10 October 2024
Expression of interest closing date and full proposal (by invitation) date added to the timeline.

Timeline

○ **19 September 2024 9:00am**
Opening date

○ **26 September 2024 10:00am**
Webinar

○ **14 November 2024 4:00pm**
Expression of interest closing date

○ **12 December 2024 4:00pm**
Closing date

○ **March 2025**
Full proposal (by invitation)

Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/healthcare-technology-translation-partnership-scheme