Agri-Tech Catalyst

Helping to commercialise UK agricultural innovation

UPDATED FOR ROUND 5 ONWARDS
The opportunity

Agricultural science and technology is one of the world’s fastest-growing and exciting markets, driven by global challenges:
- a rising population
- rapid development of emerging economies
- shortages of land, water and energy.

The Agri-Tech Catalyst

The vision of the Government’s UK strategy for agricultural technologies (www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-agricultural-technologies-strategy) is to make the UK a world leader in agricultural technology, innovation and sustainability. To achieve this, the Government is investing £70m in an Agri-Tech Catalyst.

The Agri-Tech Catalyst has been set up by Innovate UK and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. The Department for International Development is contributing £10m to the Catalyst, to support the transfer of technology and new products to developing countries.

How will it work?

The Agri-Tech Catalyst will fund proposals relating to:
- primary crop and livestock production, including aquaculture
- non-food uses of crops including ornamentals
- food security and nutrition challenges in international development
- challenges in downstream food processing, provided the solution lies in primary production.

Applications from the aquaculture and livestock sectors are particularly encouraged, as are crop sector projects targeting weed control and on-farm storage and management. Projects targeting the late-stage award category are also encouraged.

The Agri-Tech Catalyst will not fund equine-related proposals, or proposals relating to forestry or wild-capture fisheries.

Who can take part?

Any UK business or research base partner* undertaking research and development may apply. All projects must be collaborative. Developing country partners must be involved for applicants targeting international development.

* A research base partner is defined as a university, research institute, public sector organisation or research and technology organisation.

TO APPLY ONLINE and get more information about each award category and guidance for applicants visit https://interact.innovateuk.org
TO FIND OUT MORE about the Agri-Tech Catalyst you can also go to www.bbsrc.ac.uk and look under Working with business/Collaborative research.
**EARLY-STAGE AWARDS**
These projects will explore the commercial potential of an early-stage scientific idea through feasibility studies.

**Key features**
Projects can be business-led or research-led

**Duration**: up to 18 months

**Total project costs**: £150k to £500k

**Total research base partner costs** must not exceed 50% of total project costs

**Business partner funding**: up to 55% of their total project costs for SMEs or 45% for larger companies

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**INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AWARDS**
These projects will aim to develop innovative solutions, e.g. through technology development, lab-based prototyping, product development planning, field trials and market testing.

**Key features**
Projects must be business-led

**Duration**: up to three years

**Total project costs**: up to £3m

**Total research base partner costs** must not exceed 50% of total project costs

**Business partner funding**: up to 45% of their total project costs for SMEs or 35% for larger companies

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**LATE-STAGE AWARDS**
These experimental development projects will evaluate or trial the commercial potential of an innovative concept in a real-life environment.

**Key features**
Business-led projects to support individual companies, or business partners working in collaboration*. These projects will test and validate innovative concepts in a commercial environment to demonstrate their economic and technical feasibility ahead of large-scale deployment.

**Duration**: up to 12 months

**Total project costs**: up to £1m

Research base partners may only participate as subcontractors to a business partner

**Business partner funding**: up to 35% of their total project costs for SMEs or 25% for larger companies

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*Projects targeting international development must include a UK business partner and a developing country partner.*
Innovate UK is the new name for the Technology Strategy Board - the UK’s innovation agency. We know that taking a new idea to market is a challenge. We fund, support and connect innovative businesses through a unique mix of people and programmes to accelerate sustainable economic growth.

www.innovateuk.gov.uk

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) invests in world-class bioscience research and training on behalf of the UK public. Our aim is to further scientific knowledge, to promote economic growth, wealth and job creation, and to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond.

www.bbsrc.ac.uk

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the UK Government Department that leads the UK’s work to end extreme poverty. We’re ending the need for aid by creating jobs, unlocking the potential of girls and women and helping to save lives when humanitarian emergencies hit.

www.gov.uk/dfid

More information

APPLY ONLINE: https://interact.innovateuk.org

TO FIND OUT MORE about the Agri-Tech Catalyst you can also go to www.bbsrc.ac.uk and look under Working with business > Collaborative research.

Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Helpline: 0300 321 4357

For the Government’s UK strategy for agricultural technologies, go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-agricultural-technologies-strategy.

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