



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills

Innovate UK

# Competition for funding

Connected and  
autonomous vehicles

REGISTER BY  
**23 September  
2015**

Feasibility Studies  
and  
Collaborative R&D

**The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is to invest up to £20 million\* in collaborative R&D projects and feasibility studies (delivered by Innovate UK on behalf of BIS) to stimulate developments in autonomous vehicles and connected transport systems.**

Building on the government's 'Introducing driverless cars to UK roads' collaborative research initiative, this competition aims to encourage development of connected and autonomous vehicles, focusing on three themes – connectivity, autonomy and customer interaction – along with catalysing new business models.

Proposals must be led by a business and be collaborative. We are primarily seeking to fund collaborative research and development (industrial research). Small business partners could receive up to 70% of their eligible project costs, medium-sized businesses 60% and large businesses 50%.

We welcome consortia led by any sized company and particularly encourage proposals from medium-sized companies. Research organisations may participate as collaborators in a consortium but business partners must incur at least 70% of the total eligible project costs. We expect collaborative R&D projects to range in size from total costs of £1 million to £5 million. We encourage overseas-based partners to participate in consortia by conducting their R&D in the UK.

Up to £2.5 million of the total funding will be available for smaller-scale feasibility studies. These are open to companies working alone or collaboratively. Small businesses could receive up to 70% of their eligible project costs, medium-sized businesses 60% and large businesses 50%. We expect feasibility studies to range in size from £50,000 to £250,000.

The competition opens for both types of project application on **20 July 2015**. The deadline for applications is at noon on **30 September 2015**.

There will be a briefing in London for potential applicants on **4 August 2015**.

### Background

The UK government announced in the Chancellor's Spring Budget in March 2015 an investment of £100 million for research and development of intelligent mobility, which will be matched by funding from industry to total £200 million. The focus will be on enhancing the development of autonomous vehicle technology and the wider connected systems required to implement and adopt the technology. This initial

£20 million competition aims to catalyse intelligent mobility through advances in connected and autonomous vehicle technology.

Connected and autonomous vehicles could play a significant role in a future transport system and unlock enormous social benefits at the same time. Cars are already becoming increasingly automated and could eventually operate, at least in part, autonomously. The emergence of autonomy – vehicles that drive themselves – would represent the most significant transformation in road travel since the introduction of the internal combustion engine. Connected and autonomous vehicles have the potential to improve people's lives by reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries, reducing costly congestion and harmful emissions, and providing mobility solutions to a wider public, both young and old.

This competition will focus on identifying solutions to challenges in the development of connected and autonomous vehicles, focusing on three themes – connectivity, autonomy and customer interaction – along with catalysing new business models.

\* Note funding is only guaranteed for the 2015–16 financial year (ending 31 March 2016) and further funding is subject to decisions in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The overarching aim is to provide a world-class research base in systems for connected and autonomous vehicles. Wider government action includes a review of the regulatory framework, developing insight for legislators, insurers and law enforcers alongside the key technologies required for connected systems, and a five-year programme that will foster cross-working between sectors.

The competition is part of the government's commitment to support innovation in our resurgent car industry and in robotics and autonomous systems, which the government recognises as one of the 'eight great technologies' in which the UK can be a global leader. It will build on our world-leading science and engineering base, help to generate new trade and job opportunities, pave the way for disruptive new business models and establish the UK as the global destination of choice for investment in intelligent vehicle technologies in a connected UK infrastructure.

### Scope

We are seeking proposals that fall into one or more of the following thematic areas for both collaborative R&D and feasibility studies:

- connectivity
- autonomy
- customer interaction

### Collaborative R&D projects

Within these thematic areas only, collaborative R&D proposals must address one or more of the following:

- system validation tools and methodologies including security and trustworthiness
- vehicle to X communications (V2X)
- data acquisition for innovative applications

It is expected that each successful proposal will consist of at least two of the following elements:

- interaction with other road users
- research and investigation of public acceptance
- safety and cyber security (integrity, confidentiality and availability) to ensure that projects are 'safe and secure by design'

- assistance for an ageing population and to aid assisted living
- trial of vehicles
- demonstration of system through modelling
- rapid change to the environment
- collection and analysis of data (along open data principles)

Successful projects will demonstrate close collaboration with partners such as technology developers, supply chain companies and manufacturers, harnessing capability and expertise beyond the traditional automotive and transport sectors.

All projects must include a final report and a dissemination plan.

In order to unlock the maximum potential of the intelligent mobility programme by facilitating future research, development and testing, data generated by these and subsequent individual collaborative R&D projects may be stored in a central repository to allow for open data exchange.

### Feasibility studies

The scope for feasibility studies is not restricted and proposals are invited within the three thematic areas of connectivity, autonomy and customer interaction. Projects must have the potential to lead on to future R&D opportunities.

### Out of scope

In this competition we are not funding projects covering other modes of transport outside the automotive space. However, connected infrastructure and supporting systems and services are within scope.

### Funding allocation and project details

We have allocated up to £20 million to fund collaborative R&D projects and feasibility studies in this competition.

Successful applicants can attract grant funding towards their eligible project costs. The percentage of costs that we pay varies, depending on the type of research being carried out and the size and type of organisation involved.

### Collaborative R&D projects

For the collaborative R&D projects (industrial research), small business partners could receive up to 70% of their eligible project costs, medium-sized businesses 60% and large businesses 50%. Projects must be led by a business.

We expect collaborative R&D projects to range in size from £1 million to £5 million. We may consider larger projects, but applicants should discuss their plans with us before making an application. Projects should last up to 3 years.

Looking for  
partners to work  
on your project?  
Go to **\_connect**  
([https://connect.  
innovateuk.org](https://connect.innovateuk.org))

Each partner in a  
project can receive funding  
towards their project costs – the  
funding is a percentage of the total  
eligible project costs and varies,  
depending on the size and type of  
organisation and the type of research.  
For general guidance see: [https://  
interact.innovateuk.org/funding-rules](https://interact.innovateuk.org/funding-rules)  
or watch our video  
([https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=cExDpxTL8JY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cExDpxTL8JY))

### Feasibility studies

Up to £2.5 million of the total funding will be available for smaller-scale feasibility studies. These may be carried out by a business working alone or collaboratively.

Small businesses are eligible to receive up to 70% of their project costs as grant, medium-sized businesses 60% and large businesses 50%. We expect feasibility studies projects to range in size from £50,000 to £250,000. Feasibility studies are expected to last up to 12 months.

For both types of project, an independent panel of experts assesses applications on individual merit.

To find out if your business fits the EU definition of an SME, see: [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/index_en.htm)

### Application process

The collaborative R&D and feasibility studies elements of this competition will open for applications on **20 July 2015**. Applicants must first register via our website.

The deadline for registration is at noon on **23 September 2015** while the deadline for applications is at noon on **30 September 2015**.

Applications are assessed on individual merit by an independent panel of experts. We may invite top-ranking applicants for the collaborative R&D projects to attend an interview with a panel of experts as part of the assessment process.

There will be a briefing in London on **4 August 2015** to highlight the main features of the competition and explain the application process. **Applicants are strongly recommended to attend.**

**Note: all deadlines are at noon.**

### Key dates

Competition opens	20 July 2015
Competition briefing	4 August 2015
Registration deadline	noon 23 September 2015
Deadline for receipt of applications	noon 30 September 2015

### More information

For more information and all the documents you need to read before you apply, including the *Guidance for Applicants*, go to the web page for this competition by using the search function at <https://interact.innovateuk.org/> or watch our applications process video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-rnSpIMiPc>)

To apply you must first register with us through the competition page on the website. Registration opens when the competition opens and closes a week before the deadline for applications.

Get help to understand the future market for your innovation before you apply at: <http://horizons.innovateuk.org>

### Publicity

As part of the application process all applicants are asked to submit a public description of the project. This should adequately describe the project but not disclose any information that may impact on intellectual property, is confidential or commercially sensitive. The titles of successful projects, names of organisations, amounts awarded and the public description will be published once the decision to offer an award has been communicated to applicants by email. Information about unsuccessful project applications will remain confidential and will not be made public. Email [pressoffice@innovateuk.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@innovateuk.gov.uk) with any queries.

### Help for SMEs to grow faster

Small businesses that combine the funding they receive from us with additional business support are more likely to grow faster. If you are an SME and receive funding through this competition, you will automatically gain access to a growth workshop, an online diagnostic and a growth expert to help you develop a growth plan. This may include coaching, mentoring and entrepreneurial skills training.

Competition helpline:  
**0300 321 4357**  
Email:  
**support@  
innovateuk.  
gov.uk**

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.

The Technology Strategy Board is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and is incorporated by Royal Charter in England and Wales with company number RC000818. Registered office: North Star House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UE.

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