

Innovate UK
Technology Strategy Board

EnergyCatalyst

Accelerating UK energy innovation



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

EPSRC

Pioneering research
and skills

UPDATED FOR ROUND 3
APRIL 2015

The opportunity

Technology innovation in the UK energy sector is essential to successfully address the energy 'trilemma' of:

- ▲ low carbon
- ▲ security of supply
- ▲ affordability.

These challenges are creating major global market opportunities, for which the UK can develop and grow innovative businesses to deliver world-leading solutions.

The Energy Catalyst

The Energy Catalyst will accelerate innovation by providing investment and support at the time, in the way and at the scale innovators need it. It will help stimulate and support innovation at all stages through to commercial readiness and bring the best ideas, processes, products and skills to the UK energy supply chain to make it globally competitive.

The Energy Catalyst has been established by Innovate UK, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Funding up to £10m is available for this third round, open from 30 April 2015.

How will it work?

The Energy Catalyst supports UK businesses, universities and research organisations to respond to global challenges and market opportunities across the energy sector. It will fund projects delivering innovative solutions that address all elements of the energy trilemma and that have scope to deliver future UK business growth.

The Energy Catalyst can fund projects from early concept stage through to pre-commercial technology validation, based upon innovation that incorporates, for example:

- ▲ new technologies or enhancement of existing technologies
- ▲ components, sub-systems or systems
- ▲ integrated whole system approaches
- ▲ enabling technologies for the energy system.

Projects focusing on certain elements of transport, buildings or bio-energy (where these are already addressed by other specific Innovate UK schemes) are out of scope.

Who can take part?

The Energy Catalyst welcomes proposals from any sector and is seeking to fund the best concepts and innovative technologies from any UK business or research organisation.

Applicants can apply for funding for any stage of award at any time.

EARLY STAGE AWARDS: TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

These projects will explore and evaluate the technical potential of an early-stage idea or concept through **technical feasibility** studies (including, for example, pre-industrial research at a small scale).

Key features

Single-stage application process

Projects must be led by either an SME (acting either individually or collaboratively) or by a research organisation or university (collaborating with business)

Duration: up to 12 months

Total project costs: £50k-£200k

Total research partner costs: must not exceed 50% of the total project costs

Business partner funding: up to 70% of their total project costs for micro and small, 60% for medium-sized, or 50% for larger companies

MID-STAGE AWARDS: TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

These projects will take innovative ideas forward through the **technology development** stage by conducting industrial research and development (including, for example, laboratory studies, testing, verification and evaluation in simulated environments).

Key features

Two stage application process: expression of interest followed by full proposals from invited applicants

Projects must be collaborative and business-led

Duration: up to 36 months

Total project costs: up to £1.5m

Total research partner costs: must not exceed 30% of the total project costs

Business partner funding: up to 70% of their total project costs for micro small, 60% for medium-sized, or 50% for larger companies

LATE STAGE AWARDS: PRE-COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY VALIDATION

These projects will demonstrate and evaluate the capability and performance of innovative technologies through **pre-commercial technology validation** (including, for example, prototype and pilot testing including field trials in realistic operating environments).

Key features

Two stage application process: expression of interest followed by full proposals from invited applicants

Projects must be collaborative and business-led

Duration: up to 36 months

Total project costs: up to £10m

Total research partner costs: must not exceed 30% of the total project costs

Business partner funding: 45% of their total project costs for micro & small, 35% for medium-sized or 25% for larger companies

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.

www.innovateuk.gov.uk

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is the UK's main agency for funding research and postgraduate training in engineering and the physical sciences. EPSRC is generating the fundamental knowledge and skilled people essential to business, government and other research organisations.

www.epsrc.ac.uk

DECC's mission is to ensure secure, clean and affordable energy supplies and to promote international action to mitigate climate change. DECC supports low carbon innovation in a number of ways, including by providing direct funding for demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of low carbon technologies.

www.gov.uk/decc

More information

To find out more or to apply, go to the Innovate UK competition website – **interact.innovateuk.org**.

Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Helpline: 0300 321 4357

For further information on government support for low carbon innovation go to www.lowcarboninnovation.co.uk

Innovate UK
North Star House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UE

Telephone: 01793 442700

www.innovateuk.gov.uk

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