

Accelerated Knowledge Transfer to Innovate (AKT2I) Pilot Scheme Competition Guidance

Summary

The Accelerated Knowledge Transfer to Innovate (AKT2I) pilot will support a UK Higher Education (HE), Further Education (FE) institution, Research Organisation (RTO) or Catapult (the Knowledge Base partner¹), to work with a UK registered business, charitable company, or charity (the Business Partner²), to deliver a short, rapid and targeted intervention to accelerate the evaluation or development of an innovation project or concept, which has the potential for significant impact for the Business Partner. Projects must run for between 2 and 4-months.

The AKT2I project will establish a new partnership or consolidate an existing collaboration between the Knowledge Base (KB) and the Business Partner (BP) through knowledge exchange activity.

The application must be submitted by the Knowledge Base partner but will be developed in partnership with the Business Partner. The Knowledge Base will be the sole grant recipient.

Public sector organisations are not eligible as Business Partners in an AKT project.

Grant Summary

- Up to £3m is available for this initiative
- Projects must run for between 2 and 4-months
- A UK Knowledge Base must work with a UK registered business, charitable company, or charity
- The maximum grant will be £35,000 per project
- The Business Partner must contribute 10% (minimum) of the total project costs in cash
- There is no upper limit to the cash contribution of the business

Grant Details

¹ The Knowledge Base partner must be eligible to register to participate in the KTP programme

² See “Business Partner” section below for more details on how we define a business

The grant will fund Knowledge Base supervision providing specialist knowledge and expertise to the project. The grant will also support an AKT Associate, who will deliver day-to-day project activities.

Knowledge Base supervision may be delivered virtually and should be appropriate to ensure successful project delivery. The minimum level of this supervision is 0.25 days per week.

The AKT Associate(s) role will be supported through project costs at up to 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE), for the duration of the project. The Associate role can be delivered by a maximum of 2 people. The Associate role can be delivered virtually, however applications should demonstrate how the project team will work and communicate effectively as a team.

AKT Associate(s) should be named in the application and be available to start project delivery upon receipt of a Grant Offer Letter.

Each project will involve:

- At least one Knowledge Base Supervisor based at a Knowledge Base eligible to participate in KTP.
- A Business Partner that requires support from the Knowledge Base partner to evaluate or develop an innovative idea or concept.
- The employment of resources at the Knowledge Base (the AKT Associate), in order to deliver the project activity.
- The Business Partner must commit the 10% cash contribution to the project in addition to resourcing its own project costs. (NB. the personnel costs for the Business Partner resource are not covered by the grant).

Your project will:

- Request a maximum total grant of up to £35,000
- End by 31 March 2023
- Have a duration between 2 and 4-months
- Be delivered within the UK
- Exploit the results from or within the UK
- Have a KTP-eligible Knowledge Base institution as the Lead Organisation (the grant recipient)

Scope and Eligibility

This initiative has the following aims:

- Accelerate access to Knowledge Base expertise to evaluate or develop an innovative idea for the Business Partner.
- Stimulate demand within the Business Partner to deliver further innovation(s) and accelerate delivery through partnership with the UK's Knowledge Base.

Specific partnerships of interest in this pilot include, but are not restricted to:

- Partnerships that have identified an innovation project with the potential to lead to some other, more significant Business-Knowledge Base collaboration (e.g. Knowledge Transfer Partnership)
- Those actively involved in existing UKRI-funded projects that have identified a potential innovation of value, that expands the scope of the current project
- Those involving early career academics that have not previously received funding from UKRI

Please note that Knowledge Bases will apply directly for this grant and KTA support is not required prior to making an AKT2I submission.

Project budgets

- Applicants should follow the KTP costing model for Knowledge Base Supervisor, Associate and Additional Associate Support costs
<https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/costs-we-fund/costs-guidance-for-knowledge-transfer-partnerships/>
- There is no upper limit to project costs, but any costs over £35,000 must be met by the business partner
- Up to 10% of the total grant can be used for Travel & Subsistence, Estates and/or Consumables
- The Business Partner must commit the 10% cash contribution to the project in addition to resourcing its own project costs. The Knowledge Base is responsible for recovering this.

Budget Exclusions

- Costs for IT equipment such as computers, cloud storage, software etc are ineligible for grant support

The Business Partner

The business partner must:

- Be a UK registered business, charity, or charitable company (see section below on how we define a charity or charitable company)
- Have the ability and capacity to exploit outcomes from the project
- Demonstrate to the Knowledge Base partner they have sufficient funds to support their contributions to the project
- Employ a minimum of 4 FTEs

Under current restrictions, this competition will not fund any procurement, commercial, business development or supply chain activity with any Russian and Belarusian entity as lead, partner or subcontractor. This includes any goods or services originating from a Russian and Belarusian source.

Applications will be verified by Innovate UK and funding withdrawn if Russian or Belarusian involvement is found.

Charity Definition

A charity must be a:

- Registered charity
- Registered Community Interest Company
- Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Charitable company
- Exempt or excepted charity
- Registered charitable industrial and provident society or charitable Cooperative (Bencom)

A “Charitable company” refers to an organisation which is both a registered company (normally a private company limited by guarantee) and a registered charity (all charities with an income over £5,000 p.a. being required to register with the [Charity Commission](#)).

Questions

Questions should be sent to ktpquestions@iuk.ukri.org.

Data Sharing

This competition is jointly operated by Innovate UK’s partner organisations (each an “agency”).

Any relevant information submitted and produced during the application process concerning your application can be shared by one agency with the other, for its individual storage, processing and use.

This means that any information given to or generated by Innovate UK KTN in respect of your application may be passed on to Innovate UK and Innovate UK EDGE and vice versa.

This would include, but is not restricted to:

1. the information stated on the application, including the personal details of all applicants
2. scoring and feedback on the application
3. information received during the management and administration of the grant, such as Monitoring Officer reports and Independent Accountant Reports

No-Subsidy

This competition provides funding that is not classed by Innovate UK as a subsidy. You should still seek independent legal advice on what this means for you before applying.

More information about the UK Subsidy Control requirements can be found within the [EU-UK Trade and Cooperation agreement](#) and the subsequent [BEIS guidance](#).

'No subsidy' status is only granted to organisations which declare that they will not use the funding:

1. in any way which gives them selective economic or commercial advantage
2. in any way which would determine the funding as a subsidy as defined by the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement

It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure all collaborators in the project remain compliant with these requirements.

It is important to note that it is the activity that an organisation is engaged in as part of the project and not its intentions, that define whether any support provided could be considered a subsidy.

Further information

If you are unsure about your obligations under the UK Subsidy Control regime you should take independent legal advice. We cannot advise on individual eligibility or legal obligations.

If there are any changes to the above requirements that mean we need to change the terms of this competition, we will tell you as soon as possible.