

Innovate UK - Accelerated Knowledge Transfer

(AKT)

Competition Guidance

Summary

The Innovate UK - Accelerated Knowledge Transfer (AKT) scheme will support a UK Higher Education (HE), Further Education (FE) institution, Research Organisation (RTO) or Catapult (the Knowledge Base partner¹), in working 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.

Each Innovate UK AKT 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 Innovate UK AKT project.

Grant Summary

- Up to £4.5m 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.

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.

Grant Details

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

The Associate role will be supported through project costs of 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.

Academic supervision will typically be delivered at 0.5 days per week, with a minimum of 0.25 days per week. Any additional supervision time will need to be justified in the application and should represent the best means of delivering the project. Typically, it is expected that 1 academic will be supported via the grant.

A profile for the Innovate UK AKT Associate should be provided in the application. The Associate(s) must be available to start the project within 6-weeks from the issue date on the Grant Offer Letter (GoL). It is not essential that the Innovate UK - AKT Associate(s) be named in the application form.

Each project will involve:

- A Business Partner that requires support from the Knowledge Base partner to evaluate or develop an innovative idea or concept.
- Dedicated Associate resource employed by the Knowledge Base (the Innovate UK - AKT Associate), in order to deliver the project activity.
- At least one Knowledge Base Supervisor based at a Knowledge Base eligible to participate in KTP.
- 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.
- Start within 6-weeks from the date of the GoL.
- Have a project duration of between 2 and 4-months.
- Be delivered within the UK.
- Exploit the results from or within the UK and deliver impact within the UK.
- Have an KTP-eligible Knowledge Base institution as the Lead Organisation (the grant recipient) that is responsible for the submission of the application and if successful, its administration.
- Provide a final report and case study at the conclusion of the project.

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 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 Innovate UK - AKT 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.
- Grant costs allocated to travel, consumables and estates may not exceed £3,500. As a guide, these 3 budget items should be approximately 10% of the total project cost. Where the 10% guide is exceeded this may impact the score received from assessors. Costs over £3,500 must be met by the business partner. Guidance on costing projects can be found in the Innovate UK – AKT Cost Guidance document, which will be made available in advance of the competition opening, on the competition web page at <https://www.ktp-uk.org/accelerated-knowledge-transfer/>
- The Business Partner must commit to a minimum 10% contribution to the total project costs, which must be in cash. Additionally, they must provide resources to cover their own costs and any additional project costs over £35,000. The Knowledge Base is responsible for recovering the 10% contribution and any other costs from the business partner.

Budget Exclusions

- Costs for IT equipment such as computers, cloud storage, software etc are ineligible for grant support.
- Funding from the grant may not be used to purchase equipment. Only consumable costs are eligible for support.
- Funding from the grant may not be used to incentivise participants in trials, focus groups or similar.
- The grant may not be used to purchase branded goods or promotional materials.
- Travel, Consumables and Estates costs must be claimed excluding VAT; VAT is not eligible to be recovered by the grant.

Definitions

We use the term 'Business Partner' for businesses, not for profit organisations, charities or charitable businesses.

Businesses must be registered in the UK. This is normally demonstrated on a public register, such as on [Companies House](#).

The registered name and registration number provided must match the official public register.

UK subsidiary businesses of overseas parent companies are eligible, provided they are individually registered in the UK and can demonstrate the outputs of the project will be exploited to the benefit of the UK business.

Business Partners must have the ability and capacity to exploit outcomes from the project. They must demonstrate to the Knowledge Base partner that they have sufficient funds to support their contributions to the project. They should employ a minimum of 4 FTEs.

The definition used for not for profit organisations, charities or charitable business includes:

- a registered charity
- a registered Community Interest Company
- a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- a charitable company
- an exempt or excepted charity
- a registered charitable industrial and provident society or charitable Cooperative ([Bencom](#))

A "charitable business" 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](#)).

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.

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

Subsidy Control

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.

Further information about the Subsidy Control Act 2022 requirements can be found within the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (legislation.gov.uk).

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

in any way which gives them selective economic or commercial advantage
in any way which would determine the funding as a subsidy as defined by the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (legislation.gov.uk)

It is the responsibility of the lead organisation 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 Subsidy Control Act 2022 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.

Questions

Questions should be sent to akt@iuk.ktn-uk.org

Please thoroughly review this Competition Guidance document, the FAQs document, and Costing Guidance on the competition web page for answers to questions before emailing the competition inbox.

You should also review the webinar recording, a link to which can also be found on the competition web page at <https://www.ktp-uk.org/accelerated-knowledge-transfer/>