



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

15 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00351**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 25 April in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am trying to better understand the funding process, and portfolio approach of Innovate UK. For the following competitions*

*Engineering Biology Collaborative R&D Round 1  
Engineering Biology Collaborative R&D Round 2*

*Could you kindly provide:*

*Application Data:*

- 1. Total number of applications.*
- 2. Total number of applications ineligible for assessment.*
- 3. Total number of successful applications.*
- 4. Total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application.*
- 5. Total number of successful applications which were considered a resubmission of a previous application.*
- 6. The success rate.*
- 7. The score of the lowest scoring funded project.*
- 8. The score of the highest scoring funded project.*
- 9. The score of the highest non-funded project.*
- 10. The average (mean) score of funded projects.*
- 11. Average grant fund value of funded projects.*
- 12. The score distributions of the applications (eg. % (or number) of applications which scored <70, 70.1-75, 75.1-80, 80.1-85, 85.1-90, 90.1-95, 95.1-100.*
- 13. The number of assessed applications by NEBP theme (food systems; biomedicine; clean growth; environmental solutions)*
- 14. The number of successful projects by NEBP theme (food systems; biomedicine; clean growth; environmental solutions)*
- 15. The success rate across NEBP themes (food systems; biomedicine; clean growth; environmental solutions)*
- 16. The number of unsuccessful applicants, if any, which scored above the minimum funded score.*

**Our response**

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

Questions	Round 1	Round 2
1. Total number of applications.	57	68
2. Total number of applications ineligible for assessment.	6	10
3. Total number of successful applications.	22	28
4. Total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application.	4	10
5. Total number of successful applications which were considered a resubmission of a previous application.	2	3
6. The success rate.	43.1%	48.3%
7. The score of the lowest scoring funded project.	70.2	71.6
8. The score of the highest scoring funded project.	88.2	89.0
9. The score of the highest non-funded project.	74.8	76.6
10. The average (mean) score of funded projects.	82.0	80.8
11. Average grant fund value of funded projects.	£314,825.15	£245,935.29

12. The score distributions of the applications (eg. % (or number) of applications which scored <70, 70.1-75, 75.1-80, 80.1-85, 85.1-90, 90.1-95, 95.1-100.

Score <sup>1</sup> Range	Number			Percentage	
	Round 1	Round 2	Total	Round 1	Round 2
<=70	11	12	23	21.6%	20.7%
70.1-75	14	10	24	27.5%	17.2%
75.1-80	12	19	31	23.5%	32.8%
80.1-85	9	12	21	17.6%	20.7%
85.1-90	5	5	10	9.8%	8.6%
90.1-95	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
95.1-100	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Total	51	58	109	100%	100%

13. The number of assessed applications by NEBP theme (food systems; biomedicine; clean growth; environmental solutions) (Assessed)

Theme	Count of IFS Application ID
Biomedicine - 1 Cross-cutting technology or service development - 2	1
Biomedicine	1
Biomedicine Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Biomedicine Cross-cutting technology or service development Synthetic biology	1
Clean growth Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Cross-cutting technology or service development	2

Cross-cutting technology or service development Environmental solutions Clean growth	1
Environmental solutions Clean growth	1
Food systems Clean growth	1
Food systems Environmental solutions (secondary theme)	1
Primary: Clean growth Secondary: Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Primary: Cross-cutting technology or service development Secondary: Biomedicine / Environmental solutions / Biosecurity	1
Best fit: Cross-cutting technology or service development. Secondary fit: Food systems, Clean Growth, Environmental Solutions	1
Biomedicine - (this new innovation in biocatalyst immobilisation is a platform-technology also relevant to several other market-sectors e.g. Food Systems)	1
Cross-cutting technology or service development: we are developing enabling bio-manufacturing technology Food systems: we are producing TGFB1 for cultivated meat	1
Fungicide outputs: Environmental solutions Heterologous expression toolkit: Cross-cutting technology for service development with potential applications including biomedicine and clean growth	1
1. Environmental solutions 2. Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Biomedicine	18
Biomedicine Cross-cutting technology or service development (secondary)	1
Biomedicine and cross-cutting technology	1
Biomedicine is the theme that best fits with our proposal but can also be considered as a cross-cutting technology.	1
Biomedicine The NEBP Biomedicine theme specifically prioritises Bioinspired Design, and Precision Drug Targeting -- these are central to our project.	1
Biomedicine, specifically therapeutic development for oncology indications.	2
Biomedicine.	1
Clean Growth	2
Clean growth and Environmental solutions	1
Clean growth theme fits our project as it focuses on production of Biohydrogen from Paper Sludge by optimising microbial communities.	1
Clean growth Environmental solutions	2
Clean growth The project develops a platform for bio-based chemicals production incorporating Syn-Bio	1
Cross cutting technology which could be applied to any theme. Our project will be exemplifying the biomedicine use-case.	1
Cross-cutting technology	1
Cross-cutting technology and biomedicine	1

Cross-cutting technology or service development	3
Cross-cutting technology or service development Secondary theme: Environmental solutions	1
Cross-cutting technology or service development, secondary biomedicine	1
Cross-cutting technology or service development, with food systems as a secondary theme.	1
Cross-cutting technology or service development/Biomedicine	1
Environmental solutions	3
Environmental solutions Biomedicine	1
Environmental solutions. We will develop a sustainable, reliable and economical biomanufacturing platform, producing a natural biopesticide, replacing environmentally-damaging synthetic pesticides.	1
Evoralis technology crosses between Clean Growth and Environmental Solutions; providing a solution for waste management (true recycling of textile polymers).	1
Food systems	2
Food Systems and Biomedicine, with a range of cross-cutting applicability	1
Food systems and clean growth	1
Food systems. Cross-cutting technology or service development with the potential to impact biomedicine.	1
Increasing the sustainability and yields for mushroom growth through the use of a bio-engineered growth medium and optimised nutrition delivery.	1
Main theme: Cross-cutting technology or service development Secondary theme: Food Systems	1
Main theme: food systems Supporting themes: cross-cutting service development and clean growth. This product supports sustainable production of food and biomaterials.	1
Our proposal fits with the food system theme, and the clean growth theme	1
Our system proves ownership and provenance for engineered biological assets hence fits best with cross-cutting technology and service development.	1
Primary theme: Food systems Secondary theme: Clean growth	1
Primary Theme: Biomedicine Secondary Theme: Cross-cutting Technologies	1
Primary theme: Biomedicine Secondary theme: Food systems	1
Primary Theme: Food systems Secondary Theme: Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Primary theme: Food systems Secondary theme: Clean growth	1
PRIMARY: Food systems SECONDARY: Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Primary: Biomedicine Secondary: Cross-cutting technology	1
Primary: Biomedicine Secondary: Cross-cutting technology or service development	2

Primary: Clean Growth Secondary: Environmental Solutions	1
Primary: Food Systems Secondary: Clean Growth	1
Primary: Food systems Secondary: Environmental solutions (due to low-emission food production)	1
Project theme: Clean growth Secondary theme: Environmental solutions	1
Project's theme: Food Systems, as precision fermentation food companies will be serviced by MLScaling. Secondary theme: cross-cutting service development	1
Terpenes and engineering biology for sustainable solutions in environmental (Environmental solutions) and biomedical fields (Biomedicine)	1
The best fit is the "Biomedicine" theme. Additionally, our project also aligns with the "Cross-cutting technology or service development" theme.	1
The biggest impact of our innovation will be in Biomedicine.	1
The Biomedicine theme would best fit this proposal.	1
The following themes fit with our proposal as below: Food systems Clean growth Environmental solutions Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
The innovation proposed is a cross-cutting technology/service to fast-track the development of biomedicine technologies.	1
The main theme of the project is Clean Growth, with a secondary theme of Cross-cutting technology or service development.	2
The primary theme fitting our proposal is "Environmental Solutions," with a secondary theme in "Clean Growth".	1
The primary theme is Biomedicine	1
The Primary theme is Food Systems The Secondary theme is Cross cutting technology / service development	1
The primary theme this project fits is Food Systems, and the secondary theme is Clean growth.	1
The project fits in the following themes: Clean growth Environmental solutions Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
The proposed project fits three of the themes of this competition: food systems, clean growth and environmental solutions.	1
The synthetic biologic hormone is intended to be used in livestock reproduction which aligns with the "Food Systems" theme.	1
The theme "Food systems" best fits with our proposal. "Environment solutions" would act as the secondary theme.	1
Theme 1 - Cross-cutting technology (Tool Development) Secondary Theme - Primary Application in Biomedicine And Secondary Application in Genomics Research	1
Theme: Food Systems Secondary theme: Cross-cutting technology or service development	1

This projects main theme is; - Environmental Solutions However, secondary themes are; - Clean Growth - Cross cutting technology	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>109</b>

**14. The number of successful projects by NEBP theme (food systems; biomedicine; clean growth; environmental solutions) (Successful)**

Theme	Count of IFS Application ID
Biomedicine - 1 Cross-cutting technology or service development - 2	1
Biomedicine Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Clean growth Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Primary: Clean growth Secondary: Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Fungicide outputs: Environmental solutions Heterologous expression toolkit: Cross-cutting technology for service development with potential applications including biomedicine and clean growth	1
1. Environmental solutions 2. Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Biomedicine	9
Biomedicine and cross-cutting technology	1
Clean Growth	2
Clean growth and Environmental solutions	1
Cross-cutting technology	1
Cross-cutting technology or service development	2
Cross-cutting technology or service development Secondary theme: Environmental solutions	1
Environmental solutions	3
Environmental solutions Biomedicine	1
Environmental solutions. We will develop a sustainable, reliable and economical biomanufacturing platform, producing a natural biopesticide, replacing environmentally-damaging synthetic pesticides.	1
Evoralis technology crosses between Clean Growth and Environmental Solutions; providing a solution for waste management (true recycling of textile polymers).	1
Main theme: Cross-cutting technology or service development Secondary theme: Food Systems	1
Our system proves ownership and provenance for engineered biological assets hence fits best with cross-cutting technology and service development.	1
Primary theme: Food systems Secondary theme: Clean growth	1
Primary theme: Biomedicine Secondary theme: Food systems	1

Primary Theme: Food systems Secondary Theme: Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Primary theme: Food systems Secondary theme: Clean growth	1
Primary: Biomedicine Secondary: Cross-cutting technology	1
Primary: Biomedicine Secondary: Cross-cutting technology or service development	1
Primary: Clean Growth Secondary: Environmental Solutions	1
Primary: Food Systems Secondary: Clean Growth	1
Primary: Food systems Secondary: Environmental solutions (due to low-emission food production)	1
Project theme: Clean growth Secondary theme: Environmental solutions	1
The main theme of the project is Clean Growth, with a secondary theme of Cross-cutting technology or service development.	1
The primary theme is Biomedicine	1
The Primary theme is Food Systems The Secondary theme is Cross cutting technology / service development	1
The primary theme this project fits is Food Systems, and the secondary theme is Clean growth.	1
The proposed project fits three of the themes of this competition: food systems, clean growth and environmental solutions.	1
The synthetic biologic hormone is intended to be used in livestock reproduction which aligns with the "Food Systems" theme.	1
The theme "Food systems" best fits with our proposal. "Environment solutions" would act as the secondary theme.	1
Theme 1 - Cross-cutting technology (Tool Development) Secondary Theme - Primary Application in Biomedicine And Secondary Application in Genomics Research	1
This projects main theme is; - Environmental Solutions However, secondary themes are; - Clean Growth - Cross cutting technology	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50</b>

**15. The success rate across NEBP themes (food systems; biomedicine; clean growth; environmental solutions) \***

Because the way applications are submitted and with applicants selecting multiple themes, we are unable to assess the success rate against a single theme.

Question	Round 1	Round 2
<b>16. The number of unsuccessful applicants, if any, which scored above the minimum funded score.</b>	0	11

For each competition a portfolio approach was adopted, considering the applicants' stated theme(s) and the project description. The final theme assigned for each project was determined by at least two specialists from across UKRI. A [portfolio approach](#)<sup>1</sup> was taken using these assigned themes.

#### Round 1

The competition has 5 themes that need to be represented in the final allocations. A portfolio approach took the top scoring 4 eligible projects from each theme where available, followed by a top-down approach.

#### Round 2

The competition has 5 themes that need to be represented in the final allocations. A portfolio approach took the top scoring 6 eligible projects from each theme where available, followed by a top-down approach.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact within the next 40 working days:

Head of Information Governance


Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org)

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/?\\_ga=2.95304988.1216090385.1714469670-913296546.1689323201#contents-list](https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/?_ga=2.95304988.1216090385.1714469670-913296546.1689323201#contents-list)