

29 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00196

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 31 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Could I please have a list of all the companies that have applied for the governments Automotive Transmission Fund (ATF) since 2021?

Our response

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

Below are the names of the companies whose applications were successful for the Automotive Transmission Fund, in 2021 and 2022.

2021	2022
ADVANCED ENERGY MINERALS (UK) LIMITED	ADELAN LIMITED
BARUCH ENTERPRISES LIMITED	ALTIUM METALS LTD
CORNISH LITHIUM LTD	AMTE POWER PLC
ELECTRIFIED AUTOMATION LIMITED	BRAMBLE ENERGY LIMITED
ENTRUST EV TECHNOLOGY LTD	DEREGALLERA LTD
EQUIPMAKE LIMITED	ECHION TECHNOLOGIES LTD
EVC POWERTECH LTD	GEOTHERMAL ENGINEERING LIMITED
FORD MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED	ILIKA TECHNOLOGIES LTD
GKN AUTOSTRUCTURES LIMITED	INDUSTRIAL TOMOGRAPHY SYSTEMS LTD
GREEN LITHIUM REFINING LIMITED	INEX MICROTECHNOLOGY LIMITED
HAYDALE COMPOSITE SOLUTIONS LIMITED	JAGUAR LAND ROVER LIMITED
ILIKA TECHNOLOGIES LTD	LIVISTA ENERGY LIMITED
INNVOTEK LTD	LTS TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS LIMITED
LESS COMMON METALS LIMITED	NANOTECH ENERGY, INC
LOOP TECHNOLOGY LIMITED	NORTHERN LITHIUM LIMITED
MERITOR HEAVY VEHICLE BRAKING SYSTEMS (UK) LTD	NYOBOLT LIMITED
Q-FLO LIMITED	TALGA ANODE UK LIMITED*
RICARDO UK LIMITED	WEARDALE LITHIUM LIMITED
RML GROUP LIMITED	
TALGA ANODE UK LIMITED	
ULTIMA FORMA LTD	
XCIENCE LTD	

*This company had two successful applications.

Further information about the successful applications will be published on [Innovate UK's Transparency Page](#)¹ in the next monthly update.

For the names of the companies who were unsuccessful in their applications, this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 41 of the FOIA, as it was information that was provided in confidence. To explain further, companies apply to Innovate UK in confidence, with the expectation that the complete bid information, including their application and the associated documents, will be kept in confidence. When an application is successful, they are aware that only certain parts of the application, such as public description and grant funding received will be put in the public domain. As such, we are unable to provide information that was provided to Innovate UK by participants of the project that, if released, we believe would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality. As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Furthermore, the names of unsuccessful applicants are also withheld under Section 43 (2) of the FOIA, commercial interests. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced. This is a qualified exemption, meaning that a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest outweighs the requirement for commercial confidentiality.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- There is a public interest in protecting commercially sensitive information, including the names of companies who were unsuccessful.
- This is confidential information and release would prejudice the operational success of the competition.
- As such disclosing the information requested is likely to reduce the applicants' commercial advantage and thereby harm their commercial interests in a highly competitive field. We believe disclosing this information would likely materially disadvantage and harm their interests, particularly in their ability to compete for future grants.
- Releasing information provided in confidence to UKRI is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential when held by UKRI.
- Breaching the commercial interest may also adversely affect future negotiation opportunities for UKRI. UKRI may be seen as a 'confidentiality' risk if it routinely releases information relating to business arrangements into the public domain, particularly where this is third party information.
- We follow the government guidance on [managing public money](#)². Standards expected of all public services include integrity, reliability, spending money in the public interest and achieving value for money. Our current thorough process ensures that only the best projects receive public monies. Releasing this information could jeopardize the fair and transparent competition process and undermine our function to fund the best projects. In turn, undermining this process would go against our responsibilities to manage our use of public funds.

¹<https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1075006/MPM_Spring_21_without_annexes_040322_1.pdf

- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for maintaining commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure; therefore, the information is exempt from disclosure.

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:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@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.

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,


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Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
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