



[REDACTED]

31 October 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00892

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 4 October in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would be very grateful if you could please provide the below information on the UK Smart grants: April 2024 funding competition for both: a) Stream 1 projects (6-18 months duration, eligible project costs between £100K-£500K), and; b) Stream 2 projects (19-24 months duration, total eligible project costs between £100K-£1M). The information I would like to request is as follows:

- 1. The total number of applications submitted and the number of those that were assessed (i.e. deemed eligible for funding);*
- 2. The overall number of applications awarded funding and a breakdown of how many of these were first-time applications and how many were resubmissions;*
- 3. The total number of applications within each innovation area and the number of those that were successful in each area;*
- 4. The average grant request and project size of the applications successfully awarded funding;*
- 5. The funding thresholds and average scores of successful applications;*
- 6. The percentages of successful applications that were Industrial Research and Experimental Development;*
- 7. The number of successful Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects that were (i) single applicant/partner, (ii) 2 partners, (iii) 3+ partner;*
- 8. The total funding allocated in this competition round.*
- 9. How many projects awarded went to project set up*

Our response:

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

Table 1 - Questions 1-2:

Question	6-18 Months	19-36 Months	Total
1a. Total number of applications submitted	1,463	182	1,645
1b. Number of assessed applications	1,241	107	1,348
2a. Number of successful applications	43	3	46
2b. Number of successful applications that were a first-time submission	20	2	22
2c. Number of successful applications that were a resubmission	23	1	24

Table 2 - Question 3a: Total number of applications within each innovation area

Innovation Area	6-18 Months	19-36 Months	Total
No Data Given	45	0	45
Additive layer manufacturing (ALM)	3	0	3
Advanced therapies	13	3	16
Aerospace	7	0	7
Agricultural productivity	17	0	17
Assembly / disassembly / joining	3	0	3
Biosciences	35	8	43
Chemical / bio processes	6	0	6
Composite materials	5	3	8
Connected and autonomous vehicles	3	2	5
Connected transport	9	1	10
Creative industries	39	3	42
Diagnostics, medical technology and devices	63	12	75
Digital health	127	14	141
Digital industries	316	7	323
Digital manufacturing	4	2	6
Digital technology	239	5	244
Electronic materials and manufacturing	2	1	3
Electronics manufacturing	7	1	8
Electronics, sensors and photonics	2	5	7
Emerging technology	43	6	49
Energy - other	28	5	33
Energy and automotive	5	1	6
Energy efficiency	19	4	23
Energy systems	18	2	20
Enhancing food quality	11	1	12
Forming technologies	1	0	1
Independent living and wellbeing	9	0	9
Low carbon vehicles	6	1	7
Marine transport	2	3	5
Material recovery and treatment	12	4	16
Materials, process and manufacturing design technologies	21	2	23
Nanotechnology / nanomaterials	3	0	3
Offshore wind	3	0	3
Other transport	7	0	7
Polymers and plastics	5	0	5
Precision medicine	8	1	9
Preclinical technologies and drug target discovery	14	0	14
Rail transport	2	2	4
Resource efficiency	10	0	10
Robotics and autonomous systems	11	1	12
Satellite applications	3	0	3
Sensor and instrument design or manufacture	3	0	3
Smart infrastructure	19	3	22
Space technology	3	0	3
Surface engineering	1	0	1
Surface engineering, coatings and thin films	2	0	2
Sustainable materials	10	2	12
Therapeutic and medicine development	9	2	11
Urban living	8	0	8
Grand Total	1241	107	1348

Table 3 - Question 3b: Number of successful applications within each innovation area

Innovation Area	6-18 Months	19-36 Months	Total
No Data Given	1	0	1
Agricultural productivity	2	0	2
Biosciences	1	0	1
Creative industries	1	0	1
Diagnostics, medical technology and devices	1	0	1
Digital health	4	0	4
Digital industries	10	0	10
Digital technology	6	0	6
Emerging technology	3	1	4
Energy – other	1	0	1
Energy efficiency	1	0	1
Energy systems	2	0	2
Material recovery and treatment	1	1	2
Materials, process and manufacturing design technologies	1	0	1
Preclinical technologies and drug target discovery	1	0	1
Rail transport	1	0	1
Resource efficiency	2	0	2
Smart infrastructure	2	1	3
Sustainable materials	1	0	1
Therapeutic and medicine development	1	0	1
Grand Total	43	3	46

Table 4 - Questions 4-5:

Question	6-18 Months	19-36 Months
4a. Average grant request of the applications successfully awarded funding ^{1,2}	£293,344.37	£687,059.67
4b. Average project size of the applications successfully awarded funding ²	£420,673.16	£923,953.69
5a. Funding threshold of successful applications (minimum successful score) ³	86.1	89.4
5b. Average score of successful applications ³	88.1	92.0

¹ Average value of funding sought for 'successful' applications at the assessment stage.

² Figures are based on 'successful' applications at the assessment stage, 'successful' applications are still subject to due diligence process and may not be funded.

³ All scores are the written assessment scores and are given as percentages.

Table 5 - Question 6: The percentages of successful applications that were Industrial Research and Experimental Development

Research Category	Number			Percentage	
	6-18 Months	19-36 Months	Total	6-18 Months	19-36 Months
Experimental development	1	0	1	2%	0
Feasibility studies	1	1	2	2%	33%
Industrial research	41	2	43	95%	67%
Grand Total	43	4	46	100%	100%

Table 6 - Questions 7-9:

Question	6-18 Months	19-36 Months
7(i). Number of successful Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects that were single applicant/partner	37	0
7(ii). Number of successful Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects that were 2 partners	6	3
7(iii). Number of successful Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects that were 3+ partners	0	0
8. Total funding allocated in this competition round	£12,613,808	£2,061,179
9. How many projects awarded went to project setup	43	3

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

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](#)¹.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>