



[Redacted]

29 April 2024

Dear [Redacted],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00278

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 2 April in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would be very grateful if you could please provide the below information on the [Innovate UK Smart Grants: September 2023] competition for both:

- a) Stream 1 projects (6-18 months duration, eligible project costs between £100K-£500K), and;*
- b) Stream 2 projects (19-36 months duration, total eligible project costs between £100K-£2M).*

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 some information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

Table 1: Questions 1-2

Question	Stream 1: 6-18 Months	Stream 2: 19-36 Months	Total
1a. The total number of applications submitted	1259	284	1543
1b. The number of those that were assessed (i.e. deemed eligible for funding)	1134	126	1260
2a. The overall number of applications awarded funding	62	6	68
2b. Breakdown of how many of these were first-time applications	41	3	44
2c. Breakdown of how many of these were resubmissions	21	3	24

Table 2: Question 3a – The total number of applications within each innovation area

Innovation Area	Stream 1: 6-18 Months	Stream 2: 19-36 Months	Total
Additive layer manufacturing (ALM)	4	1	5
Advanced therapies	4	0	4
Aerospace	6	0	6
Agricultural productivity	10	5	15
Assembly / disassembly / joining	1	0	1
Biosciences	29	8	37
Ceramic / electronic / functional materials	0	1	1
Chemical / bio processes	10	5	15
Composite materials	7	4	11
Connected and autonomous vehicles	4	1	5
Connected transport	5	1	6
Creative industries	49	3	52
Diagnostics, medical technology and devices	49	12	61
Digital health	103	10	113
Digital industries	308	4	312
Digital manufacturing	7	0	7
Digital technology	196	6	202
Electronic materials and manufacturing	4	0	4
Electronics manufacturing	2	0	2
Electronics, sensors and photonics	10	1	11
Emerging technology	53	6	59
Energy - other	15	3	18
Energy and automotive	7	0	7
Energy efficiency	25	5	30
Energy systems	17	5	22
Enhancing food quality	7	0	7
Forming technologies	1	0	1
Independent living and wellbeing	11	0	11
Low carbon vehicles	13	1	14
Marine transport	2	0	2
Material recovery and treatment	10	4	14
Materials, process and manufacturing design technologies	21	2	23
Metals / metallurgy	0	1	1
Nanotechnology / nanomaterials	4	0	4
Not specified	52	5	57
Offshore wind	4	1	5
Other transport	7	5	12
Polymers and plastics	4	2	6
Precision medicine	2	1	3
Preclinical technologies and drug target discovery	4	2	6
Rail transport	9	3	12
Resource efficiency	9	8	17
Robotics and autonomous systems	10	2	12
Satellite applications	3	0	3
Sensor and instrument design or manufacture	2	0	2
Smart infrastructure	8	2	10
Surface engineering	3	0	3
Surface engineering, coatings and thin films	1	0	1
Sustainable materials	5	2	7
Therapeutic and medicine development	4	2	6
Urban living	13	2	15
Total	1134	126	1260

Table 3: Question 3b – The total number of applications that were successful in each innovation area

Innovation Area	Stream 1: 6-18 Months	Stream 2: 19-36 Months	Total
Advanced therapies	1	0	1
Agricultural productivity	0	1	1
Chemical / bio processes	1	1	2
Composite materials	2	0	2
Creative industries	7	1	8
Diagnostics, medical technology and devices	8	2	10
Digital health	2	0	2
Digital industries	18	0	18
Digital technology	5	0	5
Electronics manufacturing	1	0	1
Electronics, sensors and photonics	1	0	1
Emerging technology	4	0	4
Energy - other	1	0	1
Energy efficiency	1	0	1
Energy systems	1	0	1
Enhancing food quality	1	0	1
Independent living and wellbeing	1	0	1
Material recovery and treatment	2	1	3
Not specified	5	0	5
Total	62	6	68

Table 4: Questions 4-5

Question	Stream 1: 6-18 Months	Stream 2: 19-36 Months
4. The average grant request and project size of the applications successfully awarded funding ¹	£301,728.89	£797,203.67
5a. The funding thresholds of successful applications ²	84.4%	86.1%
5b. Average scores of successful applications	87.1%	86.9%

¹ Average value of funding sought for 'successful' applications at the assessment stage. 'Successful' applications are still subject to due diligence process and may not be funded.

² The minimum successful score of successful applications

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

Research Category	Stream 1: 6-18 Months		Stream 2: 19-36 Months		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Experimental development	2	1.3%	2	25.0%	4	2.5%
Feasibility studies	3	2.1%	1	7.1%	4	2.6%
Industrial research	57	6.8%	3	2.9%	60	6.3%

Table 6: Question 7 – The number of successful Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects that were (i) single applicant/partner, (ii) 2 partners, (iii) 3+ partner

Research Category	Stream 1: 6-18 Months			Stream 2: 19-36 Months		
	1 Partner	2 Partners	3+ Partners	1 Partner	2 Partners	3+ Partners
Experimental development	2	0	0	0	2	0
Feasibility studies	3	0	0	0	0	1
Industrial research	50	6	1	0	0	3

8. The total funding allocated in this competition round

As per the information provided in the [online competition brief](#)¹ this is up to £25m across both streams. The amount of funding awarded to each organisation will be published as part of IUK's [transparency data](#)² in due course.

9. How many projects awarded went to project set up

This information is not held. Project set up is still currently in progress.

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: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
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¹ <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1719/overview/b45c28c8-bced-4e87-96ba-69cc10ed15ca#eligibility>

² <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>