



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Future Nuclear Enabling Fund

Application Guidance

September 2022



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1. Introduction

1.1. What is the Future Nuclear Enabling Fund

1. The Future Nuclear Enabling Fund (FNEF) is a £120m fund that was announced in the government's 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener' in 2021¹. The fund is the first in a series of interventions designed to achieve the government's ambition of deploying up to 24GW of nuclear capacity by 2050, as announced in the British Energy Security Strategy (BESS)².

2. Low-carbon nuclear supplies approximately 15% of the UK's electricity as a steady source of electricity generation complementing intermittent renewables³ with nuclear the only form of reliable, low-carbon generation which has been deployed at scale to date. In 2020, the government set out the strategic case for new nuclear deployment in the 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'⁴ and Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future⁵, committing to taking action to support the deployment of both large-scale nuclear and advanced nuclear technologies (ANTs) during this Parliament. The BESS set out the government's increased ambition to expand the UK's civil nuclear fleet, which makes supporting the early development of potential new nuclear power stations through the fund and future government interventions even more important.

3. The fund will be administered by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and was launched via a Request for Information (RFI) in May 2022, when the department invited interested parties to register their interest in applying for funding⁶.

4. The fund is designed to help realise the nuclear sector's potential to contribute to meeting the UK's energy needs, to support the nuclear sector's opportunities for growth and innovation, and to deliver Value for Money (VfM) for taxpayers.

5. The aim of the fund is to support the commercialisation of nuclear fission technologies to help mature potential nuclear projects ahead of the government selection process described in section 1.3.3. Funding will be allocated through the process set out in this guidance document over the grant period (FY 2022/2023 – 2024/2025); funding will expire on 31st March 2025. The process is designed to award grant funding where it best helps mature nuclear technologies and potential nuclear deployment projects that are viable for Final Investment Decision (FID) between 2025 and 2030, subject to VfM and all relevant approvals.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy>

³ BEIS Energy Trends report, 2020-2021 (provisional)

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10_P_OINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945899/2012_16_BEIS_EWP_Command_Paper_Accessible.pdf

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-nuclear-enabling-fund-fnef>

6. As described in the RFI, the government recognises that industry faces a range of barriers which inhibit new projects being initiated and accelerating. Table 1 describes some of the barriers to entry that government has identified.

Barrier	Examples
Technology readiness for deployment	Design readiness/technology readiness levels, reactor physics and design maturity, degree of regulatory engagement/confidence, and visibility of/conformity to regulatory requirements for each technology type, etc.
Development capability gaps	Capability and resources to deliver safety case development, nuclear project planning, management and analysis, controls software and expertise, operations arrangements and procedures, etc.
Financing	Expected ability of project sponsors to attract funding during the pre-development, development and then construction phase, investors and lenders understanding of commercial challenges of developing new build nuclear projects in UK
Siting	Any land access and the ability to acquire all relevant property rights, understanding approach to land management, site characterisation and selection, geo-technical work, road improvements, offshore and onshore ground investigations, etc.
Consenting	Plans for site licensing, Development Consent Order strategy, engagement and compensation strategies with local residents, funded decommissioning plans, etc.

Table 1: Barriers to entry to UK market

7. The department is inviting applicants from the nuclear industry to apply for funding for work packages that contribute to a potential nuclear deployment project.

8. Applications should put forward proposals for work packages that address one or more of the barriers in Table 1. Applicants should also describe how work packages will help enable FID within the required timescales and make clear what portion of the £120m they are seeking.

9. Given the quantum of capital available, the department expects the fund to support a limited number of work packages. The work packages must be completed in the period FY 2022/2023 – 2024/2025.

1.2. Terms in this guidance document

10. The terms defined in Table 2 are used throughout this guidance document.

Term	Definition
Final Investment Decision (FID)	FID is the point in the project planning process when the decision to make major financial commitments is taken and

	contracts are signed for engineering, procurement, and construction.
Work package	A work package is a discrete early-phase development scope of work being proposed by applicants for which funding is sought. A work package must address one or more of the barriers in Table 1, to be completed in the grant period (FY 2022/2023 – 2024/2025), and form a critical early-stage enabler for the nuclear deployment project.
Nuclear deployment project	The nuclear deployment project is the potential longer-term deployable nuclear power plant project (or projects) to which the work package relates and which is viable for a FID between 2025 and 2030 and project completion (electricity on grid) before 2050.

Table 2: Terms in this guidance document

1.3. Nuclear policy context

1.3.1. British Energy Security Strategy

11. The BESS sets out the government’s ambition to increase plans for deployment of civil nuclear up to 24 GW by 2050 – three times more than current capacity and representing up to 25% of our projected electricity demand in 2050. The government intends to take one project to FID this Parliament and two projects to FID in the next Parliament, including Small Modular Reactors, subject to VfM, relevant approvals and technology readiness/maturity.

12. The BESS builds on the government’s previous comments to new nuclear deployment in the 10 Point Plan, Energy White Paper, and Net Zero Strategy. These statements of government policy recognise the role of large-scale nuclear reactors and advanced nuclear technologies (ANTs) could have in reaching net zero by 2050.

13. The government has already delivered on the 10 Point Plan, having provided £100 million into Sizewell C and £210 million to develop SMRs. The publication of BESS further increases our nuclear ambitions and will radically change how we deliver nuclear projects.

1.3.2. Great British Nuclear

14. The BESS commits government to setting up a new flagship body, Great British Nuclear (GBN), to enable nuclear projects and get us on a pathway to meet our ambition of up to 24GW of civil nuclear by 2050. GBN will be tasked with helping projects through every stage of the development process and developing a resilient pipeline of new build projects, including GW-scale and small modular reactors, and is being developed in close collaboration with industry, ensuring that GBN has the capability and capacity to deliver the government’s ambition. GBN will have a role in the government’s aim to take two nuclear projects to FID in the next Parliament, subject to VfM and all relevant approvals.

1.3.3. Government selection process

15. The government also intends to initiate a selection process in 2023, with the intention of entering negotiations with the most credible projects to enable a potential government award of support as soon as possible.

16. An award from the fund will not directly influence whether applicants or projects can participate in the anticipated selection process in 2023. Additionally, applicants and projects that choose not to apply for FNEF funding or that do apply and are unsuccessful will not be excluded from the anticipated selection process in 2023 or consideration for future government awards.

17. Whilst the fund aims to support new nuclear deployment, FNEF awards will not constitute a government decision to progress with a project or on long-term funding, which will be subject to the anticipated future selection process announced in the BESS as well as VfM and all relevant approvals.

2. Scope of the fund

2.1. Barriers to entry

18. Applications to the fund must aim to address at least one of the barriers to entry to the UK nuclear market set out in Table 1.

19. The different barriers to entry have varying relative impacts on cost and schedule over the course of pre-FID project development. Applicants should note that the fund is targeted at the early stages of project development, where the biggest drivers of variance on cost and schedule are typically technology maturity and regulatory risk. The department therefore expects that most applications will seek to address these barriers.

20. Applicants should also note that siting and consenting are later stage activities in the development of a nuclear project so applications should not focus on these areas.

2.2. Eligibility and exclusion criteria

2.2.1. Applicant eligibility criteria

21. Applicants must be entities that meet the criteria in Table 3 to be considered for funding.

Eligibility criterion	Description
Companies Act 2006	The successful entity (i.e. a sole applicant or a member of a consortium) which enters into a Grant Funding Agreement must be a registered company in the UK under the Companies Act 2006 (CA06). Applicants must confirm that they are already registered in the UK under the CA06, or able to make the necessary arrangements to do so by 3 rd January 2023, if their application is successful.
New nuclear deployment project	Applicants must apply for a work package relating to a new nuclear deployment project in the UK. Work packages relating to all new nuclear projects in the UK are eligible to apply for FNEF funding but the fund will not support any activities related to the existing or proposed projects at Hinkley Point C, Sizewell C, Bradwell B or any existing nuclear electricity generation station.
Alternative public funding	Applicants must indicate if they, their associated entities, or their consortium partners are participating in any activities that are similar or linked to the work package and funded elsewhere by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the government; and/or b) another public authority in the UK; and/or c) another government.

	Applicants will be required to identify these activities and explain how they are separate from the work package they are applying for under the fund.
Offences	Applicants must confirm that neither the applicant (or each of the consortium partners if a consortium), nor any of its/their directors or officers, have been convicted of any of the offences listed under regulation 57(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. This also applies to any parent companies (as defined by section 1162 of the Companies Act 2006) of the applicant and any consortium member and to directors and officers of those parent companies.
Sanctions	Applicants must confirm that neither the applicant (or each of the consortium partners if a consortium), nor any of its/their directors or officers, are subject to United Nations, European Union or United Kingdom sanctions. This also applies to any parent companies (as defined by section 1162 of the Companies Act 2006) of the applicant and any consortium member and to directors and officers of those parent companies.
Solvency	Applicants must confirm that the applicant (or each of the consortium partners if a consortium) is not in the situation described in Article 57(8)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (it is not the subject of insolvency or winding-up proceedings etc., or in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under the laws and regulations of any state). This also applies to any parent companies (as defined by section 1162 of the Companies Act 2006) of the applicant and any consortium member and to directors and officers of those parent companies.
Non-Proliferation	<p>Applicants must confirm that the applicant (or each of the consortium partners if a consortium), and all entities in the upward group structure are associated with a country that has both signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) and one of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a Voluntary Offer Agreement (VOA); b) a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA); c) a modified Small Quantities Protocol (mSQP); and d) an Additional Protocol (AP) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The AP should be universal and supplementary to whichever of the three primary safeguards agreements the country has with the IAEA. <p>Applicants must also confirm that the applicant (or each of the consortium partners if a consortium), and all entities in the upward group structure are not associated with a country which is subject to United Nations or European Union sanctions due to infringements of the NPT, their CSA, or an associated Additional Protocol. In this context 'associated with' is defined as incorporated in, operating in, or owned (directly or indirectly) by nationals of this country.</p>

Table 3: Applicant eligibility criteria

2.2.2. Applications from consortia

22. In the case of an application from a consortium, only one application covering all consortium partners is required. The application must outline:

- a) which consortium partner is the lead applicant; and
- b) the proposed role that each consortium partner will play in the executing the work package.

23. Applications should set out the organisation and governance of the consortium. For further information, see section 6.3.

24. No organisation may act as lead application in more than one consortium application. However, the department recognises that companies may add value to multiple applications. As such, applicants will be permitted to participate as non-lead consortium partners in more than one proposal submitted to the fund.

25. It is anticipated that the department will only contract with the lead applicant of a consortium, with the lead applicant responsible for the dispersal of funds, management of consortium partners and recovery of any misused funds by any consortium partners. The lead applicant should therefore be of suitable size and capability to represent a viable entity to lead on work packages.

26. The department recognises that arrangements in relation to consortia may (within limits) be subject to future change. Applicants should therefore set out arrangements as currently envisaged. Applicants should note that, should they be successful in applying for funding as the lead applicant of a consortium, any future proposed change in relation to membership of that consortium must be submitted to the department for approval.

27. Please note that where this guidance document refers to ‘the applicant’, this also applies to the lead applicant of a consortium.

2.2.3. Work package eligibility criteria

28. Work packages must meet the criteria in Table 4 to be considered for funding.

Eligibility Criterion	Description
Nuclear fission technology	Work packages must be based on nuclear fission technology and either incorporate large-scale nuclear technologies, advanced nuclear technologies, or both.
On-grid electricity	Work packages must contribute towards nuclear deployment projects which can provide on-grid electricity in the UK by 2050. Applicants should note that nuclear deployment projects must primarily be geared towards the production of on-grid electricity. Additional products, such as hydrogen production, are a secondary consideration.
Near-term proposition	Work packages must contribute to projects that could feasibly be ready for FID by the end of the next Parliament (2025-2030).

	Applicants should indicate how the work package will help to progress a nuclear deployment project so that that project can reach the point of FID within the required timeframes.
Co-investment	Work packages must attract at least 50% co-investment. This must be new investment and not funds already accounted for in earlier development phases. All co-investments must be spent during the grant period (FY 2022/2023 – 2024/2025). The required evidence is detailed in section 6.7.1.

Table 4: Work package eligibility criteria

2.2.4. Work package exclusion criteria

29. Work packages that meet the criteria in Table 5 will be excluded from consideration for funding.

Exclusion criterion	Description
Activities already in receipt of government funding	Work packages supporting existing activities that are already in receipt of government funding are not eligible to apply.
Existing projects or power stations	Work packages relating to existing nuclear power stations or existing nuclear power station projects are not eligible to apply.

Table 5: Work package exclusion criteria

2.3. Costs

2.3.1. Eligible costs

30. Costs must meet the criteria in Table 6 to be eligible for funding. Applicants must ensure that all costs are eligible and the department reserves the right to ask for ineligible costs to be removed from work package costs.

Eligibility Criterion	Description
Fair market value	Costs must be at 'fair market value'. Profit must not be included (including profit within labour costs).
Directly attributable	Costs must be directly attributable to the work package.
Capital expenditure	Costs must be capable of being capitalised and/or treated as capital expenditure in line with the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance ⁷ .
Grant period	Costs must be incurred within the grant period (FY 2022/2023 – 2024/2025).
International accounting standards	Costs must be as detailed by UK FRS 102 ⁸ and/or international accounting and financial reporting standards.

⁷

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/969175/2021-22_CBG_For_Publication.pdf

⁸ <https://www.frc.org.uk/accountants/accounting-and-reporting-policy/uk-accounting-standards/standards-in-issue/frs-102-the-financial-reporting-standard-applicabl>

Table 6: Eligible costs

2.3.2. Subsidy intensity

31. Subsidy intensity is the proportion of a work package's eligible costs that government grant funding may cover. It is the maximum amount of funding that can be applied for. The subsidy intensity for the fund is 50%. This means that the department expects applicants to contribute to at least 50% of work package costs either as cash or cash equivalent. Co-investment above the minimum 50% will be considered favourably in the application assessment process. Further information on co-investment can be found in section 6.7.1.

32. Additionally, the amount of funding sought must be an accurate representation of the funding requirement for the relevant work package and the figure must be the minimum necessary to bring the work package forward. Applying for greater funding than the minimum necessary to bring the work package forward will negatively impact the assessment of an application and may lead to a proposal being unsuccessful. If the department determines that applicants have requested more funding than required, applicants will be offered a lower grant amount if the application is successful.

33. The department will not negotiate the grant offer.

2.3.3. Application cost liability

34. The department will not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation of any application, whether or not it is successful.

2.4. Applications for Generic Design Assessment entry costs

35. Applicants may bid into the fund to cover part of the costs of taking a nuclear design through Generic Design Assessment (GDA).

36. Applicants wishing to submit an application to the fund for GDA costs must also submit an application to the GDA Entry process⁹.

37. The GDA Entry application must be submitted by 3 January 2023 at 3pm otherwise the application to the fund will be deemed ineligible. The department still encourages all applicants to provide as much notice of their intention to apply to the GDA Entry process as possible, up to the recommend three-month notification period discussed in section 2.4 of the GDA Entry Guidance.

38. Applicants should note that the FNEF and the GDA Entry process are separate assessments; success in one process does not guarantee that an application will be successful in the other. However, where an applicant is applying to the fund for funding to contribute towards the costs of a GDA, success in either the fund or GDA Entry process will be contingent on success in the other process. It is also expected that, where relevant, information provided for each assessment will be consistent with one another. For example, on the timelines for the proposed work package.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/entry-to-the-generic-design-assessment-for-advanced-nuclear-reactors>

39. Any award from the fund to support the GDA Entry process will be contingent on the applicant successfully applying to enter GDA through the GDA Entry process and, if successful, entering into cost recovery agreements with the Nuclear Regulators. Where an application for entering GDA is dependent on receiving an award from the fund (i.e. to contribute towards the costs of undertaking a GDA), the GDA Entry application may not meet the minimum standard in one or more of the GDA Entry criteria if the applicant is unsuccessful in obtaining an award from fund. More information on this is provided in section 3.5 of the GDA Entry guidance.

3. Application process

3.1. Application requirements

3.1.1. Reading this guidance document

40. Applicants must ensure they have read this guidance document in its entirety before notifying the department of their intention to apply for the fund.

3.1.2. Application deadlines and indicative assessment timetable

41. The opportunity to apply to the fund will be available for a fixed period of time and applicants must submit their applications before the advertised deadline.

42. The department retains the discretion to extend the application deadline at any time and will communicate any changes via gov.uk in advance.

43. The department will not accept applications submitted after the advertised deadline.

44. The department expects that the online application portal will be open between 15:00 BST 2nd September 2022 and 15:00 4th November 2022. The following is an indicative timeline for the application process:

- a) The department opens application and clarification windows – 2nd September 2022
- b) The department publishes clarifications – week commencing 3rd October 2022
- c) The department closes the application window – 4th November 2022 at 3pm
- d) The department closes FNEF Generic Design Assessment (GDA) application window – 3 January 2023 at 3pm
- e) The department evaluates the applications received – November to January 2023
- f) The department publishes the shortlist of successful applicants (subject to internal government assurance and approvals processes and due diligence) – January 2023
- g) The department issues grant offer letters – March 2023

45. Applicants will be notified once their applications have been received by the department and can expect to receive further updates once the application window has closed.

3.1.3. Submitting the required documentation

3.1.3.a. Required documentation summary

46. Applicants must submit all required information summarised below, and set out in full detail in sections 6.1- 6.9:

Section	Required Documentation
Section A	▪ Application Form A

Section B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work package and nuclear deployment project summary
Section C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applicant structure and governance information ▪ Group structure/organogram
Section D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applicant equalities information
Section E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E1 - Contribution to the UK nuclear sector narrative ▪ E2 - Contribution to government's strategic objectives ▪ E3 - Social impact
Section F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annex F - Economic Assessment Template
Section G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ G1 - Evidence of Co-Investment ▪ G2 - Financial capability including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Turnover - Employee numbers - Statutory Accounts - Management Accounts ▪ G3 - Business and financing plan
Section H - Deliverability: Work Package Deliverability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work package delivery credentials ▪ Work package brief/initiation document ▪ Work package schedule ▪ Work package organisation and governance ▪ Work package risks and learning from experience
Section H – Deliverability: Nuclear Deployment Project Deliverability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nuclear deployment project technology strategy ▪ Nuclear deployment project siting strategy ▪ Nuclear deployment project development and delivery organisation strategy ▪ Nuclear deployment project procurement and commercial strategy ▪ Nuclear deployment project development and delivery project schedule
Section I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Security and intellectual property protection plan
Declarations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statement of non-collusion ▪ Form of bid ▪ Conflict of interest

Table 7: Documentation required to apply to the fund

47. The onus will be on applicants to provide all the required information and to answer all the questions in the application in full. Applications which are incomplete or contain incorrect information may be rejected.

3.1.3.b. Application Checklist

48. Application form A includes a checklist which will help applicants to ensure that they have included all the required information in their applications. The department will also provide applicants with named folders in the application portals which correspond to each assessment, as detailed in Annex A. Applicants should ensure they upload the correct documents to the correct folders.

3.1.3.c. Declarations

49. Before submitting an application, applicants will be asked to confirm agreement with a number of declarations. Some of these are included in Application Form A, under the 'Declarations' tab. These check that the applicant has completed all parts of the application form and has supplied information which is true to the best of their knowledge. Where the applicant is a consortium, the lead applicant in making declarations must take steps to verify the accuracy of the contents of the application with all members of the consortium.

50. Three further declarations must be signed by the lead applicant: 'Statement of Non-Collusion', 'Form of Bid' and 'Conflict of Interest' declarations in Annex D.

51. If a conflict of interest is declared, applicants must include a document that describes the conflict. Details on what to include and what constitutes a conflict of interest can be found in Annex D.

3.2. Application submission process

3.2.1. Seeking clarifications to this guidance document

52. If applicants have any questions about the assessment process or assessment criteria, they should submit their questions to FNEF@beis.gov.uk with the subject heading 'Future Nuclear Enabling Fund: Clarification'.

53. All questions should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than 15:00 BST 26th September 2022. Questions submitted after this deadline may not be answered.

54. The department will aim to answer any questions which, in the judgement of officials, are of material significance. Answers will be publicly available through an anonymised clarification sheet published via gov.uk during the week commencing 3rd October 2022.

55. If an applicant considers that their question is confidential, they should make this expressly clear in the subject title of their email. Marking a question as confidential does not mean that the department will withhold the question and response available to other applicants or potential applicants; it simply means that the department may redact or edit the response, if appropriate.

56. The department will not provide advice on the content or structure of an application. The onus is on applicants to read and understand the requirements set out in this guidance document before submitting an application.

3.2.2. Submitting an application

57. Applications must be submitted through a bespoke online application portal for the fund. Once applicants have completed the application form and compiled the additional documents required, they must notify the department of their intention to apply for the fund.

58. The deadline to submit an application is 3pm 4th November 2022 so applicants must notify the department of their intention to apply by 3pm 28th October 2022. Applicants must email FNEF@beis.gov.uk with the subject heading 'Future Nuclear

Enabling Fund: notification of intention to apply'. Applicants will then be provided with a link to access their application portal.

59. Applicants must include the following details when notifying the department of their intention to apply:

- a) Full contact details for the applicant;
- b) A primary email address for the applicant – the department will use this email address to share access to the bespoke applicant portal with the applicant and it is therefore essential that applicants have continued access to the primary email address throughout the application window, as this cannot be amended;
- c) The date when the complete application will be submitted – the department will share a link to the bespoke applicant portal shortly before this date.

60. The department will not accept any applications which are not submitted through the online portal. Details on how to access and use the bespoke online portal to upload documents can be found in Annex A.

3.2.3. Document formats accepted

61. The department will accept documents in Microsoft Office or PDF document formats. Where appropriate, to complete the Deliverability assessment, applicants can provide documents in native electronic (.mpp/.xer) format. The department will also accept planning software such as Microsoft Project for the deliverability assessment. Images may be provided in .jpg or .png format where appropriate. Open Documents should be converted to .docx to ensure compatibility.

62. Please contact FNEF@beis.gov.uk in advance to check compatibility with other formats such as Open Document and Rich Text.

4. Assessment process

4.1. High-level overview of process



Figure 1: Fund assessment process

63. Applications will be assessed using the methodology set out in sections 4.4 - 4.6 of this guidance document.

64. Subject to the Terms and Conditions in section 5.1, applications will undergo the assessments set out in Figure 1. Please note that some of these assessments may happen in parallel and Figure 1 does not necessarily reflect in the order in which they will take place.

65. If the department determines that applications have met the criteria of each stage, applications will then progress to the next stage. The department will notify both successful and unsuccessful applicants after the completion of evaluation stage 2.

66. Assessment of applications will only begin once the application window has closed.

67. When the application window closes, the department will undertake completeness checks on all applications to ensure that all the required information and accompanying documentation has been returned in full and that all relevant documents are accessible and legible.

68. Stage 1 of the assessment process will be the eligibility sift, which will assess applications against the eligibility and exclusion criteria outlined in Table 4 and Table 5 in section 2.2. Where possible, credit and audit checks will also take place during Stage 1.

69. Applications that are found to be ineligible at Stage 1 will not be assessed in Stage 2.

70. Stage 2 of the assessment process is comprised of four quality assessments, set out below and described in section 4.5:

- a) A strategic assessment to evaluate the merits of applications against government's strategic objectives, detailed in section 4.5.2;
- b) An economic assessment to evaluate the merits of applications against government's VfM criteria, detailed in section 4.5.3;

- c) A financial assessment to evaluate the merits of applications against co-investment criteria and evaluate the financial standing of applicants, detailed in section 4.5.4; and
- d) A deliverability assessment to evaluate the merits of applications against technical deliverability criteria, detailed in section 4.5.5.

71. Following Stage 2, a ministerial decision and shortlisting of successful candidates will take place. The department will also conduct the following assessments, outlined below and described in sections 4.6 - 4.6.3:

- a) An assessment of the proposal against the scheme level subsidy assessment, detailed in section 4.6.1; and
- b) A Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) assessment, detailed in section 4.6.2.

72. If necessary, the department may enact a 'portfolio approach', outlined in section 4.6.3.

73. Assessments will be carried out by government officials or by third-party contractors appointed by the department with relevant expertise. The scores for each assessment will be moderated by a panel chaired by a senior civil servant.

4.2. Amendments to this guidance document

74. The department reserves the right to amend the enclosed public facing documents at any time prior to 3pm 21st October 2022. Any such amendment will be numbered, dated and issued on gov.uk. Where amendments are significant, the department may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for receipt of applications.

4.3. Contact between the department and applicants during the assessment process

75. Before making a final decision, the department may, at its discretion, contact applicants directly to request clarification on the information provided in their applications. It remains the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required information and documentation are included in the application.

76. Applicants will typically be given no longer than 2 weeks to respond to requests for clarification.

4.4. Stage 1: eligibility sift

77. The eligibility test will assess applications against the eligibility and exclusion criteria outlined in Table 4 and Table 5 in section 2.2.

78. This stage of the process intends to:

- a) Confirm that the application is within the scope of the fund, detailed in section 2 of this guidance document;

- b) Confirm that applications, lead applicants and/or consortium partners meet the fund’s eligibility requirements, outlined in Table 3, section 2.2 of this guidance document; and
- c) Confirm that applications are complete and that applicants have included the appropriate attachments/information to enable the subsequent detailed assessments to be carried out.

4.5. Stage 2: quality assessments

4.5.1. Quality assessments relative weightings

79. Applications will be subject to four separate quality assessments.

80. The relative weightings of each of the quality assessments are set out in Table 8 below.

Assessment	Weighting
Strategic assessment	10%
Economic assessment	30%
Financial assessment	30%
Deliverability assessment	30%

Table 88: Quality assessments relative weightings

4.5.2. Strategic assessment

81. The objective of the strategic assessment is to ensure that the work package contributes to government’s overall strategic objectives, specifically in the context of the nuclear sector.

82. The strategic assessment will be comprised of three strands:

- a) Contribution to government’s strategic objectives;
- b) Contribution to the UK’s nuclear sector; and
- c) Social impact.

83. The relative weightings of the three strands in the strategic assessment are set out in Table 9 below. Further detail on how to complete this section of the application is set out in section 6.5.

Strategic assessment strand	Return document(s)	Weighting
Contribution to government’s strategic objectives	Contribution to government’s strategic objectives narrative	50%

Contribution to the UK nuclear sector	Contribution to the UK nuclear sector narrative	25%
Social impact	Social impact narrative	25%

Table 99: Strategic assessment strands relative weightings

84. The minimum threshold for the strategic assessment will be an aggregate score of 3 ('satisfactory').

4.5.3. Economic assessment

85. The objective of the economic assessment is to evaluate the VfM of the application. This will account for quantified benefits and costs, as well as qualitative and non-monetarised benefits and costs. It will be carried out as per the government Green Book guidance.

86. The Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)¹⁰ will be used to estimate the VfM of each proposal. The BCR together with the qualitative and non-monetarised benefits and costs will form the VfM assessment. The VfM assessment will account for 100% of the economic assessment.

87. The minimum threshold VfM criteria will be a BCR of at least two after unquantifiable benefits and costs as well as wider benefits and costs have been accounted for. The economic assessment may be informed by the independent technical assessment of the application's deliverability.

4.5.4. Financial assessment

88. The objective of the financial assessment is to maximise co-investment in work packages and provide the department with confidence that applicants are fit and proper and will pass the various anti-money laundering (AML) and sanctions checks required to receive funding.

89. As detailed in Table 4 in section 2.2, work packages must attract at least 50% co-investment; the 50% minimum threshold figure is comparable to other public body grant funding schemes, such as the Low Cost Nuclear Challenge¹¹. The department will score applications with higher levels of co-investment more favourably than those with lower levels, or those which only offer 50% co-investment.

90. The financial assessment will be comprised of three strands:

- a) Degree of co-investment, i.e. how much (over 50%) as a percentage of the work package will co-investment cover;
- b) Business and financing plan, i.e. the merits of the applicant's plan to finance the work package;

¹⁰ The BCR of each proposal is calculated as social net discounted benefits divided by discounted public costs.

¹¹ https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/our-main-funds/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/clean-growth/low-cost-nuclear-challenge/?_ga=2.148187444.2000536500.1661338783-294241551.1639402863

c) Financial capability, i.e. what is the applicant’s capability to deliver investment over the longer-term (this includes the financial capability of the lead applicant and, if a consortium, each consortium partner).

91. In all strands of the financial assessment, applicants must demonstrate that applicants have access to sufficient funds to complete the work package within the scope of the fund, inclusive of funding to be made available from the fund.

92. The relative weightings of the strands in the financial assessment are set out in Table 10 below. Further detail on how to complete this section of the application is set out in section 6.7.

Financial assessment strand	Return document(s)	Weighting
Degree of co-investment	Co-investment evidence for the work package.	50%
Business and financing plan	Evidence on how the applicant will finance the completion of the work package	25%
Financial capability	Financial information for the lead applicant	15%*
	Financial information for all consortium partners (if a consortium).	10%

Table 1010: Financial assessment strands relative weightings

* Applicants should note that if an application is made by a single entity/organisation that is not part of a consortium, then the financial information for that entity will be weighted at 25% (and the final box, above, will not apply).

93. The minimum threshold for the financial assessment will be an aggregate of score of 3 (‘satisfactory’) across the ‘business and financing plan’ strand and the ‘financial capability strand’. The ‘degree of co-investment’ strand will not have a minimum threshold in the financial assessment. To evaluate the degree of co-investment, we will assess each application against the eligible application which has proposed the highest level of co-investment. Unlike the other assessments, this strand of the financial assessment will not utilise the five-point scale found in Table 13.

4.5.5. Deliverability assessment

94. The objective of the deliverability assessment is to examine the deliverability of applications.

95. The deliverability assessment requires the applicant to demonstrate that they have clarity on the objectives, scope, benefits and deliverables for the work package, and robust control over the delivery of the proposed scope, thereby ensuring prompt delivery of the work package and its benefits. This will include providing proof of expertise and comprehensive planning.

96. The deliverability assessment will be comprised of two strands:

- a) deliverability of the work package; and
- b) the deliverability of the nuclear deployment project.

97. The minimum threshold for the deliverability assessment will be an aggregate score of 3 ('satisfactory').

4.5.5.a. Work package deliverability

98. The relative weightings of the elements of the first strand of the deliverability assessment (the deliverability of the work package) is set out in Table 11 below. Further detail on how to complete this section of the application is set out in section 6.8.1.

Work package deliverability elements	Weighting
Work package delivery credentials	15%
Work package project brief/initiation document	25%
Work package organisation and governance	10%
Work package schedule	40%
Work package risks and learning from experience	10%

Table 11: Work package deliverability elements relative weightings

4.5.5.b. Nuclear deployment project deliverability

99. The relative weightings of the elements of the second strand of the deliverability assessment (the deliverability of the work the nuclear deployment) is set out in Table 12 below. Further detail on how to complete this section of the application is set out in section 6.8.2.

Nuclear deployment project deliverability elements	Weighting
Technology strategy	25%
Siting strategy	25%
Development and delivery organisation strategy	10%
Commercial strategy	20%
Development and delivery project schedule	20%

Table 12: Nuclear deployment project deliverability elements relative weightings

4.5.6. Evaluation criteria

100. Each of the quality assessments will be scored according to the evaluation criteria in Table 13 overleaf.

Score	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Poor	Basic	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Evaluation Principles	Response provides no information/data or provides irrelevant information/data, which does not allow for evaluation to be undertaken.	Response provides incomplete data/information but the information/data provided demonstrates consideration of requirements and allows for evaluation to be undertaken.	Response is mostly complete but some important data/information or important considerations are missing.	Response is mostly complete but some minor data/information or minor considerations are missing.	Response is full and complete with no or only negligible elements missing.
	Response does not reference any requirements, providing no evidential support or references irrelevant requirements and provides irrelevant evidence.	Response references requirements to provide a basic explanation of the arrangements planned to satisfy them, providing some evidential support where required.	Response references requirements to provide a satisfactory explanation on the arrangements planned to satisfy them, largely providing evidential support where required.	Response references requirements to provide a cogent and thorough explanation on the arrangements planned to satisfy them, largely providing good evidential support where required.	Response references requirements to provide a cogent and comprehensive explanation on the arrangements planned to satisfy them, providing significant, high-quality evidential support where required.
	For the economic assessment: Response provided in relation to the criterion is either	For the economic assessment: Response provides data and assumptions for the	For the economic assessment: Response provides data and assumptions for the VfM	For the economic assessment: Response provides data and assumptions for the	For the economic assessment: Response provides data and assumptions for the

	<p>omitted or of insufficient quality for an evaluation to be undertaken.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Response does not meet the minimum VfM requirements.</p>	<p>VfM assessment that result in the application being found to be VfM. However, the proposal is not VfM if any of the assumptions made by the applicant do not hold.</p>	<p>assessment that result in the application being found to be VfM within the most likely sets of assumptions tested.</p>	<p>VfM assessment that result in the application being found to be VfM in the likely and a more unfavourable scenario tested.</p>	<p>VfM assessment that result in the application being found to be VfM within the entire range of scenarios tested (best, likely, and worst case).</p>
	<p>Response provides no confidence that this area of the scope will be adequately addressed by the applicant. Assessor is certain that the application will not meet the fund's objectives for the criterion.</p>	<p>Response provides limited confidence that this element of the scope is or will be addressed by the applicant. Assessor is not certain that application will meet the objectives for the criterion.</p>	<p>Response provides moderate confidence that this element of the scope is or will be adequately addressed by the applicant. Assessor is certain that the application will meet the objectives for the criterion despite significant gaps or lack of clarity in the response.</p>	<p>Response provides confidence that this element of the scope is or will be adequately addressed by the applicant. Assessor is certain that the application will meet the objectives for the criterion.</p>	<p>Response provides a high degree of confidence that this element of the scope is or will be adequately addressed by the applicant. Assessor is certain that the application will meet the objectives for the criterion.</p>

Table 13: Evaluation Criteria

4.6. Ministerial decision and shortlisting of successful applicants

4.6.1. Subsidy control assessment

101. Compliance with subsidy control is an important part of the assessment process and may be taken into account at all of the assessment stages.

102. The fund will support successful applicants through subsidies awarded in the form of grants towards the eligible costs of the proposal. Since 1 January 2021, public authorities must comply with our international commitments on subsidies in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement¹², and other trade agreements, as well as the WTO rules on subsidies¹³. Subsidy rules dictate the types of costs that applicants can claim grant support for.

103. The onus of conducting a subsidy control assessment is on the department, not the applicant. As such, applicants will not be required to submit additional information to form the subsidy control assessment.

4.6.2. Public Sector Equalities Duty assessment

104. To fulfil requirements of the Equality Act (2010), the department is required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This includes having due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

105. Protected characteristics include:

- a) age;
- b) disability;
- c) gender reassignment;
- d) marriage and civil partnership;
- e) pregnancy and maternity;
- f) race;
- g) religion or belief;
- h) sex; and
- i) sexual orientation.

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complying-with-the-uks-international-obligations-on-subsidy-control-guidance-for-public-authorities>

¹³ https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/24-scm.pdf

106. As part of their application, applicants are asked to demonstrate how their work package would support the three aims of the PSED outlined above. The onus of conducting a PSED assessment is on the department, not the applicant. Applicants will therefore not be scored against the above information they provide for the PSED; the information will only be used by the department to consider how each proposal interacts with the three aims in paragraph 104. However, it is not optional for applicants to complete the PSED section of the application and applicants are required to provide the information requested.

4.6.3. Portfolio approach

107. The department reserves the right to select work packages to ensure a balanced portfolio between different technologies and technical areas. This means that grant funding may not be awarded to the highest scoring applications.

108. It is possible that when the quality assessments are complete, the fund will be oversubscribed with applications that meet the minimum quality threshold and the department must filter down from a long-list of fundable work packages to a short-list of preferred work packages.

109. If this situation arises, the department may enact the 'portfolio approach'. If the portfolio approach is enacted, ministers will consider the impact of the overall portfolio of proposed grant awards when selecting preferred applications, rather than focusing on quality assessment scores in isolation. The intention is to provide greater diversity of outcomes.

110. The department has set parameters for the use of the portfolio approach that will only be used in the event that the fund is oversubscribed with fundable applications and where portfolio decisions could drive diversity in one or more of the following areas:

- a) Diversity of technology types supported by the fund
- b) Project size/power output of nuclear deployment projects
- c) Location of work packages and/or nuclear deployment projects

111. In most cases, the department will not use the portfolio approach to prefer a lower scoring proposal than a broadly comparable higher scoring proposal.

4.7. Final decisions on award

112. After the conclusion of the quality assessments, subsidy control assessments, PSED consideration and – if enacted – the portfolio approach, senior officials will be presented with the full results of all assessments and considerations. Senior officials will then make a recommendation to a Minister on which projects to award funding. Ministers will make the final decision on which applications are offered grant funding.

4.8. Notification of applicants

113. Applicants will be informed by email as to whether their application has been successful. An application being successful at this stage does not constitute an offer of grant funding, which will be subject to internal government assurance and approvals processes and due diligence.

114. Applicants must not publish any outcomes of the assessment process without the department's' express permission. Where an applicant does so, it may jeopardise their continued role in the process and the department reserves the right to disqualify or reject any applicant that breaches this requirement.

4.9. Publication of successful applicant shortlist

115. The department will publish a shortlist of successful applicants and may wish to further publicise the outcomes of the assessment process. This may include engagement with the media, the issuance of a departmental press release or the publication of a notice on gov.uk. These publications would likely describe the work packages which have been successful.

116. The department also expects that all awards from the fund will need to be published on the subsidy transparency database. Details may include:

- a) the identity of the applicant and its partners;
- b) work package summary information including aims and expected outcomes of the work package, long-term project and technology area; and
- c) total award value.

4.10. Stage 3: Pre-grant award due diligence

4.10.1. Internal government assurance and approvals processes

117. Prior to the grant offer stage, successful applications will be subject to internal government assurance and approvals processes, which include the final approval of a Full Business Case. Further information may be requested from applicants to support these processes.

118. Successful applicants will be provided with detail on how the Full Business Case process will work, including any additional information sharing requirements, upon reaching Stage 3 of the process.

4.10.2. Due diligence

119. Prior to the grant offer stage, the department will conduct financial and organisational due diligence checks on applicants and applications. The purpose of this diligence includes, but is not limited to, confirmation of:

- a) the financial viability of all industry partner organisations; and
- b) the satisfactory financial standing of the applying business, and parent company (if applicable) and their ability to finance the work package.

120. Successful applicants will be required to provide additional information when contacted by the department. Applicants must be willing to dedicate sufficient resource to assist in completing this process. Applicants will need to provide full returns to requests for information for this process within 2 weeks of being notified.

121. The department reserves the right to reject applications if the requirements of the due diligence checks are not met or if the checks identify any discrepancies with the information provided that are deemed unacceptable. The department may also

decide against awarding funding, or suspend grant payments, if the department deems that applicants have failed to meet the requirements of a funding agreement for a current or previous public funding award.

4.10.3. Grant offer letter and grant funding agreement

122. If the results of the assessment, moderation, internal government approvals processes and due diligence are satisfactory, applicants will be issued a grant offer letter and grant funding agreement. This must be signed and returned to the department. It should be signed and returned quickly- if possible, within five working days of receipt. Applicants must ensure compliance with conditions contained in the offer letter and agreement to receive grant funding.

123. The offer letter and agreement will be drafted in line with standard departmental grant offer letter and terms and conditions, modelled on the Cabinet Office's Guidance for General Grants¹⁴. The terms of the grant offer letter and grant funding agreement are not negotiable. The department reserves the right to adapt the terms of the offer letter and agreement in respect of the relevant work package.

124. In the event an applicant refuses to agree to the terms of the offer letter or agreement or unduly delays the process, the department reserves the right to withdraw the offer letter and agreement. In this circumstance, the application will be deemed to have been disqualified from the process.

125. The agreement to make an offer to an applicant will be taken by the relevant senior officials and/or ministers, taking account of all relevant matters in respect of an application and all other relevant matters, including compliance with government's strategic objectives. Senior officials and/or ministers will retain full discretion in whether, and what, offers of public funds they make to applicants, taking into account all the factors outlined in this document.

4.11. Post-award monitoring

4.11.1. Post-award monitoring process

126. Monitoring and evaluation activities of those projects receiving grant funding will be undertaken during the grant period (FY 2022/2023 – 2024/2025). Each grant funded project will have a monitoring officer allocated by the department and be required to undertake regular, likely monthly, project reporting, to which the department will have access.

127. The monitoring officer will monitor delivery of the work package to ensure compliance with the grant offer letter and progress against the output indicators throughout the monitoring period. This will include grant claims, reviewing evidence of expenditure and ensuring compliance with subsidy control requirements. It is anticipated that monitoring will also include regular site visits and that monitoring information (including data on expenditure, progress towards FID; jobs, supply chain engagement, co-investment achieved) will be recorded on a centralised, web-based Management Information System.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1014034/2021-08-27_Grants-Standard-SIX-Grant-Agreements.pdf.

4.11.2. Core compliance indicators

128. During Stage 3, the department will agree core compliance indicators with each successful applicant. Core compliance indicators will be based on the individual objectives of each work package and may therefore vary for each successful applicant.

5. Important information for applicants

5.1. Terms and conditions

5.1.1. Standard terms and conditions

129. As with the grant offer letter and agreement, the terms and conditions for awards from the fund will be drafted in line with the standard departmental terms and conditions, modelled on the Cabinet Office's 'Guidance for General Grants'. The standard terms and conditions are non-negotiable. The department reserves the right to adapt the terms and conditions in respect of the relevant work package.

130. The full standard terms and conditions for grant award are set out in Annex E.

5.1.2. Parent company guarantee

131. Where applicants have a parent company, if successful they will be asked to provide a parent company guarantee from their ultimate parent company (as determined by the department). We may also consider other arrangements as necessary. Further information will be provided to successful applicants at stage 3- Pre-grant award due diligence.

132. The department will review the financial viability of the relevant parent company and run checks on that parent company. Failure to provide such a guarantee or information in respect of a relevant parent company may result in an applicant not being made an offer of grant funding.

133. Suitable governance arrangements will need to be in place with all consortium partners involved in an application, if applicable. This will need to be underpinned by suitable legal and collaboration arrangements.

5.1.3. Intellectual property rights

134. The proposed arrangement for intellectual property rights is set out in the standard terms and conditions for grant agreements in Annex E.

135. As per these conditions, the output of the work package in receipt of grant funding will be the property of the grant recipient, with the grant recipient granting the Secretary of State a non-exclusive irrevocable and royalty-free, sub-licensable, worldwide licence to use all the intellectual property material for the purpose of supporting the funded activities and other projects.

136. Costs associated with securing intellectual property arising from or associated with the work package will not be eligible for reimbursement.

5.1.4. Privacy notice

137. The department's privacy notice can be found in Annex B. Applicants should confirm in Application Form A that they agree with the privacy notice.

5.1.5. Information disclosure

138. All information provided as part of an application, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with any applicable law (including the

Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Regulations Law 2004), by order of a court or as required by any body or inquiry which has the power to compel disclosure.

139. The department will process personal data in accordance with all applicable data protection. If applicants want the information provided as part of their applications to be treated as confidential, they should inform the department, but be aware that the department cannot guarantee confidentiality in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by an applicant's IT system will not be regarded by the department as a confidentiality request.

140. Where any request is made to the department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the release of information relating to any applicant or application, which would otherwise be reasonably regarded as confidential information, the department will notify applicants of the request as soon as reasonably able to. Applicants must acknowledge that any information or data that they deem confidential or commercially sensitive are of indicative value only and that the department may nevertheless be obliged to disclose information which applicants considers confidential.

141. Applications will be assessed by government officials or by contracted delivery partners. All assessors will adhere to confidentiality requirements and must declare any potential conflicts of interest. They will treat applications in the strictest of confidence and adhere to relevant data protection rules. The department will not disclose the names of assessors to applicants.

5.1.6. Non-disclosure agreements

142. The department will not, at this time, enter into non-disclosure agreements with applicants in relation to their applications, work packages or nuclear deployment projects. Successful applicants to the fund with existing non-disclosure agreements must agree to waive all duties, obligations, commitments, undertakings, guarantees, warranties and liabilities owed or given by the department or the Secretary of State under any such non-disclosure agreements in respect of the publication requirements set out in section 4.9 of this guidance document.

5.2. Reserved rights

5.2.1. Cancelling the fund

143. The department reserves the right to withdraw the fund without notice at any time and will not be liable for any costs incurred by applicants during any stage of the process and the right to redesign the fund.

5.2.2. National security

144. The department reserves the right to reject applications that would in any way present a security concern to the United Kingdom.

5.3. Applications in scope of the Northern Ireland Protocol

145. Applicants will be subject to Article 10 of the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) to the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement¹⁵ if they are conducting activities that affect trade in goods or electricity between Northern Ireland and the European Union as envisaged by Article 10 of the Protocol. This is most likely to apply to applicants and partner organisations based in Northern Ireland, but in limited circumstances may also affect those in England, Scotland, Wales and those based internationally.

146. Applicants must answer some questions, outlined in Annex C, as part of their application, that will help the department determine whether they are likely to be subject to Article 10 of the NIP. The questionnaire has a yes / no format and applicants should consider the activities of their business in its entirety and work package and/or nuclear deployment project partners when answering. If an applicant's response to the questionnaire indicates that they are in scope of the NIP, the department will ask further questions. These additional questions will differ according to the location of businesses.

147. If an application is successful and the department determines that this application engages Article 10 of the NIP, the department will engage with the applicant prior to issuing a grant offer letter to ensure that any grant offered is compliant with the department's state aid obligations under Article 10. Mitigations to an application falling within scope of Article 10 of the NIP could include the application of the General Block Exemption Regulation¹⁶, exploring opportunities to eliminate cross-subsidies to Northern Ireland by requiring applicants to ringfence subsidised activities as a condition of the grant award, or making a formal state aid notification to the European Commission.

¹⁵https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840230/Revised_Protocol_to_the_Withdrawal_Agreement.pdf

¹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/gber_regulation_en.pdf

6. Detailed information requirements by section

6.1. Section A: Eligibility

148. Applicants must complete and return the eligibility declaration in the Application form A template.

149. Applicants must:

- a) agree with the department's privacy notice;
- b) confirm eligibility to apply for the fund;
- c) provide a response to the declarations; and
- d) complete the checklist.

6.2. Section B: Work package and nuclear deployment project summary

150. Applicants must provide a summary description of no more than 5 pages of the work package they are applying for funding for and the nuclear deployment project for which the work package will contribute to. This should include details on how much of the £120m fund they are applying for and the high-level rationale for this sum. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section B: Work package and nuclear deployment project summary.

151.

6.3. Section C: Applicant structure and governance information

152. Applicants must provide the information set out below on the structure and governance of the applicant and on all consortium partners, where a consortium exists. The applicant is not required to provide details for the entire supply chain. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section C: applicant structure and governance'.

153. The applicant should engage with the department if any confusion arises on the scope of this section.

154. Applicants must the following information:

- a) full name of the organisation;
- b) company/organisation;
- c) UK company registration number (if applicable);
- d) registered address;
- e) company website;

- f) company NACE code (NACE refers to the European Classification of Economic Activities¹⁷);
- g) total number of FTE employed by the applicant (please see paragraph 156 for the definition of FTE); and
- h) whether the application is from a wholly private company/organisation registered in the UK.

155. If the applicant or consortium member has a parent company¹⁸, the applicant must provide the following information:

- a) name of the applicant or consortium member's parent company;
- b) the country the parent company is incorporated in;
- c) registered address of the parent company;
- d) parent company NACE code;
- e) main business activity of parent company;
- f) information on whether the applicant has an ultimate parent company that is different to the immediate parent company;
- g) confirmation that the ultimate parent company can sign a reasonable parent company guarantee or a bank guarantee and if the answer to this question is no please provide rationale as to why a reasonable guarantee cannot be signed by the ultimate parent company.

156. The applicant must state how many people are employed in the entire Group. This information is required from all consortium partners as well. FTE refers to the number of Full Time Equivalent employees (FTE). Please note an FTE job is one of 30 or more hours per week. If the role requires any additional hours this still only counts as 1 FTE. Two part time jobs of 15 hours or more count as equivalent to one full time job. Any part time jobs of 15 hours up to 30 hours should be stated as 0.5 of an FTE.

157. Applicants must provide a group structure or organisational chart showing the relationship between the company, and the other companies within their group/structure, including their immediate and ultimate parent company (if this is different). The chart should provide the following:

- a) the full name of all entities and individuals present in the upward group structure. This includes the names of all intermediary companies and nominees

¹⁷ For further guidance on NACE, please see [NACE Rev.2](#). You can search for your company's NACE code on [Eurostat](#).

¹⁸ A parent company in this context means the company in relation to the applicant and/or consortium partner: i) which holds a majority of the voting rights in the applicant or consortium partner, or ii) is a member and has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the board of directors of the applicant or consortium member, respectively, or iii) is a member and controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other members, a majority of the voting rights in the applicant or consortium partners.

(if applicable) leading up to the ultimate beneficial owners, including country of registration and registration number (for non-UK entities).

- b) details of voting control where this does not align to equity stake – for example, where different share classes exist, these should be stated together with associated voting control details.
- c) the full breakdown of all share capital, including all share classes (this should total 100% at each level of the structure).
- d) subsidiary companies of the applicant (as defined in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006) that are pertinent to the application.

158. Applicants provide the project director's contact details, including their name, telephone number and email address. Applicants must also provide the same details for a lead contact as well as an alternative contact in the event that the lead contact is unavailable.

159. If the applicant is a consortium, they must outline the membership and roles of each member in the consortium. They must indicate who in the consortium is authorised to be the lead contact, and the organisational and governance arrangements associated with that consortium. Please include the proposed role that each partner will play in the application work package and subsequently in the UK nuclear market should the applicant be successful in receiving an award from the fund.

160. Applicants must provide information on whether the applicant or members of the consortium has received other public sector funding in the last three years including the following:

- a) details on the name of fund or scheme that provided the funding;
- b) the name of the body or government department that awarded the funding;
- c) how much funding was awarded;
- d) when the award was made; and
- e) any existing conditions from this award that you are still committed to.

161. Applicants provide details of any research organisations, institutions or universities that the applicant is working with or intends to work with. Details should include name, address and a summary of the collaboration or contract scope.

6.4. Section D: Applicant equalities information

162. Applicants must provide the information set out below to support the department in having due regard to our PSED duty. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section D: applicant equalities information'.

163. Applicants must provide the following information:

- a) a complete breakdown of the applicant and consortium partners, if applicable, workforce for each protected characteristic outlined above;
- b) supporting information, such as the applicant and consortium partners, if applicable, company equality, diversity and inclusion policies, commitments and targets, can also be included as annexes and uploaded to the Applicant Portal under the same heading;
- c) an explanation of how the proposal could benefit or disadvantage each group of people with protected characteristics, including mitigations if a disadvantage is identified; and
- d) a demonstration of how the applicant and consortium partners, if applicable, will ensure their approach to equality and diversity is sufficiently robust to prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity amongst those with and without protected characteristics and foster good relations between those with and without protected characteristics.

6.5. Section E: Strategic information

6.5.1. Section E1: Contribution to the UK nuclear sector

164. Applicants must provide a narrative return of no more than 10 pages describing how both their work package and their nuclear deployment project will contribute to the UK nuclear sector. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section E1: contribution to the UK nuclear sector narrative'.

165. The applicant must demonstrate the following:

- a) the contribution of the work package to the UK nuclear sector (including technology diversification) and how the barrier to entry addressed through the funding the work package could benefit the nuclear sector;
- b) that the work package offers fair opportunities for UK companies to compete for contracts so they are not disadvantaged compared to companies in other countries, including any unique capabilities in the UK supply chain or tackles any hard-to-reach areas within the scope of the fund — this could include a description of whether funding will:
 - (1) help to improve any under-developed areas of the nuclear supply chain;
 - (2) provide opportunity in traditionally disadvantaged geographical areas.
- c) the industrial production opportunities brought about by the work package or nuclear deployment project — this could include:
 - (1) details of the jobs created, or skills enhanced by taking forward the work package and/or nuclear deployment project;
 - (2) details on how the applicant plans to contribute to the Nuclear Sector Deal target of achieving 40% women in nuclear by 2030, e.g. board level

reporting data on the forecast number of women employed at each management level and within each specific job type;

(3) details of the applicant's plans for locating long-term production or manufacturing facilities, or constructing or expanding those facilities, in the UK;

(4) details of the applicant's commitment to training and employing workers in the UK;

(5) details of the applicant's plans for carrying out research and development in the UK in relation for its nuclear technology; and

(6) details of any foreign investment leverage potential through the work package.

6.5.2. Section E2: Contribution to government's strategic objectives

166. Applicants must provide a narrative return of no more than 10 pages describing how both their work package and their nuclear deployment will contribute to government's strategic objectives. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section E2: contribution to government's strategic objectives'.

167. The applicant must demonstrate the following:

a) the contribution that the nuclear deployment project could make to the BESS ambition of deploying up to 24GW of nuclear capacity by 2050¹⁹;

b) the contribution that the nuclear deployment project could make to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and government's interim statutory commitments;

c) the contribution of the work package (and of the nuclear deployment project, if known) to government's Strengthening the Union agenda as set out in the levelling up White Paper²⁰ — this could include an overview of the geographical locations of supply chain benefits, jobs, and skills that could be created;

d) the contribution of the work package (and of the nuclear deployment project, if known) to government's Levelling Up agenda. This could include an overview of how the work package or nuclear deployment project could stimulate the creation of high-skilled, high-paid jobs/skills creation/economic opportunities in geographical locations which have historically seen lower levels of opportunity.

¹⁹ This does not place or mean that there is a limit on the number of Development Consent Orders which may be granted for any energy generating infrastructure set out in the Energy National Policy Statement.

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>.

- e) the contribution of the work package (and of the nuclear deployment project, if known) to the UK becoming a Science and Technology Superpower²¹.

6.5.3. Section E3: Social impact

168. Applicants must provide a narrative return of no more than 10 pages describing the social impact of both their work package and their nuclear deployment project. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section E3: social impact'.

169. Specific social impact requirements will not be pre-defined. However, some suggested examples are set out below:

- a) creation of employment opportunities for those who face barriers to employment or are currently underrepresented in the nuclear workforce and/or who are in deprived areas or in industries with known skills shortages or high growth sectors;
- b) projects should consider how they can ensure the diversity and inclusivity of their workforce, as well as how to incorporate hiring practices which do not disadvantage those with protected characteristics;
- c) support for educational attainment of the workforce, including training schemes that address skills gaps and result in recognised qualifications (traineeships, apprenticeships, T-levels etc);
- d) delivery of training schemes and programmes to address any identified skills gaps and under-representation in the workforce; and
- e) identification of any other social benefit or impact and mitigations to cover any social impacts.

6.6. Section F: Economic information

170. Applicants must complete the economic assessment template in Annex F. Guidance on how to complete the template is included in each worksheet of the Excel file.

171. Applicants must use the template to provide economic information on:

- a) work package and nuclear deployment project summary
- b) annual profile of expenditure
- c) itemised list of planned expenditure
- d) jobs
- e) R&D
- f) training
- g) wider benefits

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy>

- h) innovation and additionality
- i) co-investment
- j) delivery risk and mitigations

172. Applicants must provide evidence to support any numbers provided and the underpinning assumptions made. Applicants must therefore provide detailed estimates, evidence and a narrative to justify each cost and benefit (as required in the application template).

173. All costs, whether in respect of the project or any counterfactual, should indicate any risk factors applied and assumptions made, and should relate to the information supplied to the ultimate decision maker and the parent/group policies relating to how investment decisions are made by the organisation(s) undertaking the work package.

174. All cost and price estimates presented in the template should be in GBP and in current 2022 prices. If converting values from another currency, applicants must provide evidence of the price/cost estimate in the original currency and supply the exchange rate used to convert the values to GBP.

175. Applicants must set out project risks in the 'Deliverability' worksheet as well as detail contingencies and mitigations which the applicant must account for both quantitatively and qualitatively. Applicants should also specifically address how they account for macroeconomic uncertainty, especially the potential impact of inflation on their work package and nuclear deployment project in the 'Itemised list of expenditure' worksheet. Inflation will likely also impact benefit estimates and this should be reflected in the 'Jobs', 'R&D details', 'Training' and 'Wider benefits' worksheets.

176. Applicants must include evidence to support cost and benefit estimates provided for the economic assessment. This could include but not be limited to details of the investment criteria that senior decision makers/executives will apply when making the investment decision concerning the project. Other acceptable forms of evidence could include, but are not restricted to:

- a) who the ultimate decision-makers are regarding the proposal's work programme;
- b) the scale and location of the project;
- c) what information is presented to relevant decision-makers, and how a decision will be reached;
- d) the metrics that the final decision-makers will use to compare any proposed options;
- e) parent/Group policy or guidance documents relating to how investment decisions are made;
- f) any existing parent/group investment appraisal documents;
- g) extracts from Board papers/minutes where the different location options have been discussed (if this is relevant to the counterfactual);

- h) feasibility studies on the different options (internal or external) to the extent relevant to the project or the counterfactual;
- i) communications from Senior Executives to the extent relevant to the project or the counterfactual;
- j) precedents set previously with similar type/scale investment decisions; and
- k) evidence that ultimate decision makers are giving serious consideration to other options (including the option to not undertake the work).l

177. The viability of alternative counterfactuals can be demonstrated by the following evidence:

- a) certified minutes from board-level meetings that discuss the alternative location;
- b) feasibility studies carried out by the counterfactual (or a third party);
- c) evidence of similar projects;
- d) communications from the decision-maker requesting cost reductions or directly addressing the capability of the counterfactual option; and
- e) location studies and relevant analysis feeding into board papers, etc.

178. Historic evidence that the metrics used for the decision-making process have been used previously by the applicant and are in line with wider company policy can help provide weight to any counterfactual and cost-gap calculation. This can come in the form of extracts from company policy or previous decisions that demonstrate the metrics and calculations reflect the applicant's standard practice.

6.7. Section G: Financial information

6.7.1. Section G1: Co-investment

6.7.1.a. Co-investment availability

179. Applicants must provide evidence of the availability of funds for their proposed share of co-investment in the work package, with a minimum of 50% co-investment. Alongside this, applicants must provide an indication of any limits that there might be on their plans to achieve this.

180. For self-funded co-investment, evidence could include a Board-level letter approving the quantum of funds to be committed, alongside an analysis of the applicant's balance sheet and cashflow projections (for the department to better assess the applicant's self-funding ability).

181. For proposed third-party co-investment, evidence should include a commitment letter from a credible third-party investor or investors.

182. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section G1: co-investment availability'.

6.7.1.b. Co-investment sources

183. Applicants must provide the following information relating to the source of third-party co-investment in the work package:

- a) a list of the key controllers of the source of the third-party co-investment, including (if applicable) a list of Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) associated with the source of the co-investment;
- b) countries of birth and residence for the key controllers of the source of the third-party co-investment; and
- c) a narrative return describing the origins of wealth of the key controllers of the source of the third-party co-investment.

184. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section G1: co-investment sources.

6.7.2. Section G2: Financial capability

185. Applicants must provide the following evidence:

- a) details of annual turnover, historic, for three years prior to the fund application, if available; failing that, for the most recent year available and then for the current year, based on the management accounts, as per below;
- b) number of employees (guidance on the definition of an employee in the context of the fund can be found in paragraph 156);
- c) latest two sets of statutory accounts or, in a case in which the next financial year-end has passed but the annual accounts have not yet been approved, the draft statutory accounts (or management accounts where the draft statutory accounts are not available);
- d) latest management accounts for the current year if more than 4 months have passed since the year end;

186. If the applicant, or lead applicant of a consortium, is unable to provide details of its annual turnover and latest two sets of statutory accounts (or draft statutory accounts), the following information must be provided:

- a) management accounts for the latest accounting period (a month or quarter end will suffice if annual accounts are not available), to include a profit and loss statement, balance sheet and cashflow statement. These should have been approved by the Board and be in sufficient detail to identify the sources of funding referred to in the application and whether any funding has been paid up.
- b) bank statement(s) for the same accounting period i.e. if the management accounts are to 30th June 2022 (for example), the bank statement(s) for that month or quarter up to and including that date should be provided.

187. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section G2: financial capability'.

6.7.3. Section G3: Business and financing plan

188. Applicants should provide the below information in a business and financing plan of no more than 10 pages:

- a) the overall financing strategy for the work package e.g. internal vs external funding, including proposed funding routes, including equity or loans or other funding routes from overseas and an assessment of any potential currency risks attached to this;
- b) a robust plan to deal with cost inflation during the lifetime of the work package;
- c) an outline of the applicant's forecast costs for the work package;
- d) the governance mechanisms and timescales to secure additional funding;
- e) detailed cashflow forecast in sufficient detail to identify the assumed payment of costs at various dates and the amounts and timing of further amounts forecast to be received to fund the process; and
- f) any funds received that have repayment terms, interest accruals or dividend/distribution rights that could result in cash outflows during the lifetime of the work package.

189. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section G3: Business and financing plan'.

6.8. Section H: Deliverability

6.8.1. Work package deliverability

6.8.1.a. Work package delivery credentials

190. Applicants must demonstrate that they, or their consortium members:

- a) are experienced in the delivery of scope like the one defined in their work package;
- b) have experience of developing and/or delivering large, complex projects, like their proposed nuclear deployment project; and
- c) understand the UK nuclear context (e.g. planning and permitting and the regulatory system).

191. Applicants must submit a document (MS Word or pdf) providing examples of previous projects they or their consortium members have undertaken, that demonstrate relevant experience and expertise. Each project example should be limited to 2 pages.

192. The return document to be provided should include at least one example of:

- a) successfully developing and/or delivering projects of a similar nature to the work package;
- b) development and/or delivery of large, complex projects, like their proposed nuclear deployment project; and

- c) projects or activities that demonstrate an understanding of the UK nuclear context.

193. The examples provided must include:

- a) project name and location;
- b) a description of the scope and deliverables and the applicant and/or consortium member's role in delivering them;
- c) an explanation as to relevance to the objectives of the criterion and to the objectives of the fund;
- d) details of project size (i.e. cost and timeframe); and
- e) details of project complexity (e.g. workstreams, interfaces and stakeholders).

194. The same project example can be used to demonstrate multiple areas of expertise (e.g. delivery of projects like the work package, delivery of large, complex projects similar to their proposed nuclear deployment project, and understanding the UK nuclear context). Depending on project examples provided, a minimum of one and a maximum of six examples will need to be provided.

195. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section H Work Package Delivery Credentials'.

6.8.1.b. Work package brief/initiation document

196. Applicants must demonstrate that:

- a) there is clarity of the objectives of the work package (problems to solve and success criteria), clearly demonstrating how funding would assist the applicant in overcoming the identified barrier(s) to entry;
- b) the scope of work is clearly defined and well understood; and
- c) there is a holistic understanding of the challenges and strategy to deliver the work package.

197. Applicants must submit a brief paper (MS Word document or pdf) of no more than 15 pages.

198. The return document to be provided must include:

- a) narrative on context and barriers to entry faced by the applicant in delivering the work package (2 pages);
- b) description of the work package in line with the objectives of this criterion, as set out above (3 pages);
- c) objectives and success criteria of the work package (with links to defined barriers to entry) (2 pages);
- d) details of expected outputs/deliverables (product breakdown structure) (3 pages);

- e) outputs/deliverables linked to the continuing asset development (i.e. in parallel and subsequent to the work package) and critical path (dependencies) (2 pages);
- f) key known project constraints (1 page);
- g) identification of key stakeholders and high-level stakeholder management strategy (1 page); and
- h) summary of key project data: timeline, budget, organisation, risks (summary only as details will be covered in other return documents) (1 page).

199. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section H 'Work Package Brief/Initiation'.

6.8.1.c. Work package schedule

200. Applicants must demonstrate:

- a) that there is a clear plan to deliver the work package;
- b) the work package has been organised following a logical approach, consistent with the overall strategy for delivery (e.g. org. structure, governance/lifecycle, products);
- c) clear definition of milestones for outputs/deliverables;
- d) The sequencing of tasks required to deliver the required scope of work, key decision points and the associated timescales;
- e) how the proposed scope of work interfaces with third parties (e.g. constraints or dependencies);
- f) that adequate assumptions (as relevant for the scope of the work package) and quality data (i.e. reference class forecasting, wherever possible) have been used to plan the work package;
- g) that appropriate uncertainties (as relevant for the scope of the work package and data used for its schedule), risks and optimism bias (or other forms of risk quantification) have been considered when planning the work package; and
- h) the range of potential outcomes and interim milestones (completion dates) planned for the delivery of the work package.

201. Applicants must submit a project schedule (Work Breakdown Structure and Gantt chart) in native electronic (.mpp/.xer) and PDF formats for the scope intended to be delivered via the work package. A project planning software (e.g. Primavera P6, Microsoft Project) should be used to develop the project schedule. The project schedule should be complemented by a supporting written narrative (MS Word or pdf) of a maximum of 7 pages, outlining key assumptions, data sources and a risk and uncertainty analysis.

202. The return document to be provided by the applicant must include:

- a) project schedule (clearly showing Activity ID, Activity Name, Activity Duration, Earliest Start Date, Earliest Finish Date, Total Float);

- b) closed logic activity network, identifying a series of tasks and milestones to clearly demonstrate the sequencing required (dependencies: predecessors and successors) to complete the required scope of work;
- c) clearly identifiable interfaces to, and from, other third parties;
- d) critical path explanation (including sub-critical paths with limited float and the potential to become critical), including details on schedule constraints, and assumptions and their implications;
- e) durations estimation approach and data reference sources;
- f) definition of ranges (best case, most likely and worst case) for the completion of key project activities;
- g) key contributors (risks) to a potential project delay;
- h) A simple Quantitative Schedule Risk Analysis (QSRA) (e.g. simple Scenario Based Forecasting, Reference Class Forecasting or Monte Carlo Analysis) of the proposed schedule and the explanation of the results and their impact on project delivery;
- i) clear indication of best- and worst-case scenarios (dates) for the completion of the project; and
- j) narrative on how this analysis is accounted for in the project delivery strategy to ensure timely completion (e.g. re-baselining, mitigations, etc).

203. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section H 'Work package Schedule'.

6.8.1.d. Work package organisation and governance

204. Applicants must demonstrate that:

- a) a project team has been defined and it is mobilised/ready to be mobilised;
- b) the project team or team members have experience in delivering similar activities to the scope of the work package;
- c) the defined team structure is consistent with the proposed scope to be delivered;
- d) the defined team functions/workstreams are clear and allow for ownership and accountability;
- e) all reasonable and significant capability gaps (i.e. required to deliver critical elements of the work package) and the arrangements for support from sub-consultants have been identified;
- f) a robust process for decision making and accountability to government has been defined; and
- g) opportunities for internal project reviews and steering have been incorporated into the work package delivery strategy.

205. Applicants must submit a brief paper (MS Word document or pdf) of no more than 10 pages (excluding CVs that may be required).

206. The return document to be provided by applicants must include:

- a) details on the nuclear deployment project organisation:
- b) a clear graphic representation of the hierarchical Organisation Breakdown Structure (OBS) designed for the delivery of the work package, which should include:
 - (1) a definition of disciplines/workstreams;
 - (2) a definition of team member roles;
 - (3) the clear identification of reporting lines; and
 - (4) a list of existing/expected consultants/sub-contractors;
- c) the rationale for the proposed structure including, as relevant, links to the proposed scope (e.g. work breakdown structure) and risk management;
- d) CVs for key project members (or example CVs where not yet appointed) for the delivery of the work package, including professional qualifications as relevant – 5CVs of 1 page each.*
- e) details on the project's governance;
- f) a definition of decision making/steering bodies (e.g. project board);
- g) a diagram summarising the proposed nuclear deployment project lifecycle, which should include clear definition of stages and their objectives and stage gates milestones (key deliverables);
- h) an explanation of the decision-making process, delegation of authority and escalation procedures (key decisions, e.g. stage gates vs operational decision making); and
- i) a description of planned reporting process for the communication of nuclear deployment project data to decision makers and key stakeholders.

207. Information should be provided with the heading 'Section H 'Work Package Organisation and Governance'.

* If a key project member is yet to be recruited, applicants should provide a short narrative on why the timing of the appointment is adequate and consistent to the work package plan and an explanation of how the role will be resourced.

6.8.1.e. Work package risks and learning from experience

208. Applicants must demonstrate that:

- a) they understand the key risks associated with the work package;
- b) project risks have been identified, including research on project performance for similar scopes previously delivered by the applicant or by other organisations; and
- c) steps are being or will be taken to control key project risks and implement learning from experience.

209. The applicant must submit two documents: a completed risk register identifying both opportunities and threats (as relevant), complemented by a narrative (up to 5 pages) on key risk management and learning from experience considerations.

210. The risk register to be provided must include:

- a) A clear description of the nuclear deployment project's risk (threats and, if applicable, opportunities) causation and its potential consequences if they were to materialise;
- b) a list of data sources (e.g. research on projects of similar complexity);
- c) an assessment of the severity of the identified risks;
- d) for the most significant threats to the success of the nuclear deployment project, applicants shall provide a description of:
 - (1) The potential range of outcomes (scenarios) in case of the risk occurring; and
 - (2) The management plan in place to control the risks.

211. The complementary narrative to be provided must include:

- a) an outline of the process followed and to be followed for the identification, quantification and management of project risks and learning from experience; and
- b) details on how the risks and learning identified have informed the proposed delivery strategy (e.g. organisation structure, project schedule).

6.8.2. Nuclear deployment project deliverability

6.8.2.a. Nuclear deployment project technology strategy

212. Applicants must demonstrate that:

- a) the maturity of their technology development or selection process allows for FID by 2025 to 2030;
- b) the maturity of their technology development or selection process allows for nuclear deployment project completion (i.e. electricity on grid) before 2050;
- c) the primary function of the plant is for the deployment of commercial scale electricity (on-grid or otherwise), and not for demonstration or R&D purposes; and
- d) the long-term ambition is a fleet strategy and for Nth of a Kind (NOAK) deployment, in alignment with the fund objectives and timescales (i.e. commercial scale, on-grid electricity before 2050).

213. Applicants must submit a brief paper (MS Word document or pdf) of no more than 15 pages.

214. The return document to be provided by applicants must include as appropriate:

- a) the proposal of a single technology by a prospective vendor, or identification and down-selection of candidate technologies, including:

- (1) their current development stage/maturity;
 - (2) the design development plan;
 - (3) the approach to GDA, including any interaction with regulators to date; and
 - (4) a justification of technology choice(s) for export of electricity to the grid on a commercial scale – including technology type(s) and generation(s);
- b) proof of concept/credibility for technology being considered, including relevant plants/designs which have achieved one or more of the following:
- (1) become operational;
 - (2) commenced construction;
 - (3) received development funding;
 - (4) undergone significant analysis with regards to proof of concept;
 - (5) received third-party/expert support in development/analysis;
 - (6) produced trial or scale components; and
 - (7) regulatory review and/or nuclear licencing (in any country);
- c) a justification of suitability for UK market, including an analysis of key risks and opportunities, and which includes:
- (1) interaction with UK regulators;
 - (2) consideration of UK safety assessment principles; and
 - (3) identification of market differences, gaps and potential impacts
- d) technology partners and third-party involvement and support; and
- e) the identification of key challenges and barriers.

6.8.2.b. Nuclear deployment project siting strategy

215. Applicants must demonstrate that:

- a) the maturity of their site development or site selection process allows for FID by Q1 2025 to 2030; and
- b) The combination of site and technology selection allows for a consent-able project with an overall nuclear deployment project completion (i.e. electricity on grid) before 2050

216. Applicants are **not** required to demonstrate that a single site has been targeted, or is nearing purchase completion. This topic is in relation to approach and strategy

only in order to underpin the applicant's assumptions and familiarity with the UK market.

217. Applicants must submit a brief paper (MS Word document or pdf) of no more than 15 pages (excluding any appendices that may be required).

218. Applicants are not required to have developed a siting strategy but should look to demonstrate an understanding of the steps required to commence and undertake the process. On this basis, the return document to be provided by applicants must include, as appropriate:

a) generic siting approach and assumptions, including:

- (1) a list of required site characteristics;
- (2) the identity of potential site(s) compatible with technology, if available;
- (3) a justification of compatibility with proposed technologies:
 - ground conditions;
 - ultimate heat sink; and
 - external hazards considerations and overall interaction with technology safety claims (e.g. flooding frequency);
- (4) an understanding of local and available resources and associated strategy;
- (5) the logistics and transport considerations;
- (6) the expected technology footprint; and
- (7) the assumptions made regarding construction methodologies and working areas.

b) a planning strategy, including:

- (1) evidence of any interaction with the regulators (the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency) on licensing and permits;
- (2) a clear justification behind assumptions associated with planning and interactions with the authorities (e.g. Development Consent Order (DCO) timelines (or other relevant planning permission timelines, depending on the size and location of the project)
- (3) narrative/evidence on discussions and interactions with local authorities gauging interest/capability; and
- (4) narrative/evidence on interactions with current site owners

6.8.2.c. Nuclear deployment project development and delivery organisation strategy

219. Applicants must demonstrate that:

- a) their strategy to ramp-up/partner with a Development Organisation allows for FID, subject to VfM and all relevant approvals, by 2025 to 2030; and
- b) their approach to set-up/partner with a Development and Delivery Organisation allows for an overall project completion (i.e. electricity on grid) before 2050.

220. Applicants must submit a brief paper (MS Word document or pdf) of no more than 5 pages (excluding any appendices that may be required).

221. The return document to be provided by applicants must include:

- a) an indication of a proposed project development and delivery organisation makeup, including key organisations involved, their roles, and the status of engagement with these organisations;
- b) a definition of expected project maturity at FID;
- c) an indication of any potential resource capacity constraints;
- d) the capabilities/resources upskilling and deployment plan to support the project/programme; and
- e) proposed organisational structure and timelines for assembling.

6.8.2.d. Nuclear deployment project procurement and commercial strategy

222. Applicants must demonstrate that:

- a) they have identified, at a high level, a credible procurement and commercial strategy for its delivery of the nuclear deployment project and that this includes a credible supply chain strategy;
- b) the procurement and commercial strategy supports FID, subject to VfM and all relevant approvals, by 2025 to 2030; and
- c) the procurement and commercial strategy allows for delivery of the proposed nuclear deployment project (i.e. electricity on grid) before 2050

223. Applicants are **not** required to demonstrate their business model or funding model. The department recognises that these aspects are likely to require future involvement with government.

224. Applicants must submit a brief paper (MS Word document or pdf) of no more than 10 pages (excluding any appendices that may be required).

225. The return document to be provided must include:

- a) An overarching procurement and commercial strategy. This should include:
 - (1) the key principles determining the strategy;
 - (2) an indication of the applicant's holistic view of risk allocation;
 - (3) the approach to driving VfM;
 - (4) the contract packaging strategy;

- (5) the identification of credible supply chain:
 - the identification of capability and capacity in the supply chain for safety-critical and long-lead items;
 - the interaction with potential suppliers, demonstrating evidence ranging from informal discussions to formal engagement;
- (6) the anticipated form and commercial arrangements for each of the core contracts; and
- (7) the procurement approach and outline schedule.

6.8.2.e. Nuclear deployment project development and delivery project schedule

226. Applicants must demonstrate:

- a) a clear understanding of the scope required to develop and deliver the nuclear deployment project;
- b) that the strategy to develop the nuclear deployment project up to FID, subject to VfM and all relevant approvals, is deliverable by 2025 to 2030; and
- c) that the nuclear deployment project can be delivered and supply electricity on grid before 2050

227. This must be underpinned by:

- a) an understanding of the sequencing of tasks, schedule dependencies (including identification of “critical path”) and key milestones required to deliver the nuclear deployment project by the required timescales;
- b) consistency between the outlined technology, site and development and delivery strategies, and plans for development and delivery of the works; and
- c) evidence that adequate assumptions and quality data have been used to plan the nuclear deployment project (e.g. reference class forecasting).

228. Applicants must submit an indicative project schedule (Work Breakdown Structure and Gantt chart) in native electronic (.mpp/.xer) and PDF formats. Note that it is expected that more detail will be available for the works programme pre-FID than for the delivery activities post-FID to operations. A project planning software (e.g. Primavera P6, Microsoft Project) should be used to develop the project schedule. The project schedule should be complemented by a supporting written narrative (MS Word or pdf) of no more than 7 pages, outlining key assumptions and data sources.

229. The return document to be provided by applicants must include, as appropriate:

- a) an indicative project schedule, clearly showing; Activity ID, Activity Name, Activity Duration, Earliest Start Date, Earliest Finish Date, Total Float;
- b) coverage of delivery strategy, which may include:
 - (1) GDA timescales;

- (2) nuclear site licensing (including additional time for assessment of the reactor technology where a GDA has not been completed);
 - (3) design scope and timescales;
 - (4) DCO (or other relevant planning permission timelines, depending on the size and location of the project) and permitting timeline assumptions;
 - (5) site selection timescales;
 - (6) supplier upskilling and capacity to deliver;
 - (7) timescales for organisational development;
 - (8) overall construction and commissioning timelines; and
 - (9) number of units and overall deployment plan;
- c) closed logic activity network, identifying a series of tasks and milestones to clearly demonstrate the sequencing required to complete the required scope of work;
 - d) clearly identifiable interfaces to, and from, other third parties;
 - e) critical path explanation, including details on schedule constraints, and assumptions and their implications;
 - f) durations estimation approach and data reference sources; and
 - g) brief indication of duration uncertainty ranges for key project phases (particularly focused around FID, subject to VfM and all relevant approvals, by 2025 to 2030, but also including in summary form to electricity on grid by 2050),

6.9. Section I: security and intellectual property protection plan

230. The applicant must provide a security plan, of no more than 10 pages detailing how they plan to comply with UK specific security requirements. This must be provided using the heading 'Section I: security and intellectual property protection plan'.

231. Applicants are advised to read the ONR's Security Assessment Principles²² and consider how they plan to develop their security procedures prior to submitting an application.

232. The plan must include information on how the applicant (and consortium partners if applicable) will approach security, safeguards, and non-proliferation requirements and should include a plan on developing compliance with security relevant regulations. It should also include security measures to protect any Sensitive Nuclear Information and intellectual property held by the applicant or consortium.

²² <https://www.onr.org.uk/syaps/>

233. The security plan should also answer the following questions regarding export control compliance:

- a) Will any information, technology, software, or other relevant goods be exported outside of Great Britain by the applicant as part of the fund application?
- b) If so, are the items/information in the proposed export(s) found on the Nuclear Suppliers Group Trigger List therefore being subject to export control laws?
- c) If there are items/information which would require export control licensing, identify the countries of origin of the relevant technologies (other than UK).
- d) Has the applicant contacted the Export Controls Joint Unit or BEIS Non-Proliferation Unit about the proposed export associated with the fund application?
- e) Has the applicant started any export licence applications for the fund work package or nuclear deployment project?
- f) Does the applicant have any existing export licences that cover any of the proposed exports?
- g) How are issues related to Export Control currently managed by the applicant?
- h) Does the applicant have an Export Control Manager or dedicated point of contact for export control?

This publication is available from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-nuclear-enabling-fund-fnef

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