



8. Eligibility Criteria of applicants

8.1. This competition is open to applications from UK based registered entities. Applicants may take the form of sole legal entities or may wish to combine to form consortia, joint ventures (JVs), unincorporated associations or partnerships. This may, for example, apply to entities who feel that alone they do not have the capacity or capability to address the size and scale of the Department's requirement. Applicants are responsible for determining the most appropriate approach to delivering their proposal.

8.2. Specific eligibility criteria for the competition are below:

- Applicant(s) must be registered entities and have a significant UK presence and deep knowledge of the UK tech sector.
- Public sector organisations¹⁴ are not eligible to receive this funding.
- Individual people are not eligible applicants.
- All awards will be made subject to successful due diligence checks. Such checks will include, but not be limited to, a review of financial statements to ensure financial viability, a review of proposed governance structures, adverse media checks and legal entity checks. DCMS reserves the right to take account of other factors that have a bearing on a bidder's suitability.

8.3. The following additional guidance applies to applicants who put forward a joint approach:

- A Lead Partner that shall submit an application on behalf of all Parties to the JV/consortium must be identified; The Lead Partner shall be responsible for all communication with the Department during the competition process. The Lead Partner will be the prime recipient of grant funding and who will be responsible for managing the consortium's activities and for allocation of grant funding to other consortium members.
- As part of their application, the applicant must submit a structure diagram identifying the roles and relationships between the Partners including all relevant companies, their respective parent or ultimate holding companies. The structure should make clear who will be responsible for delivery of the grant and ensure that, as a minimum, the legal obligations and liabilities of the applicant are borne by an entity or entities which satisfy the financial and economic requirements set out in the ITA. Where the group is proposing to create a separate legal entity, such as a special purpose vehicle

¹⁴ For the purposes of this grant, we consider public sector organisations to be Ministerial Departments, non-Ministerial Departments, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Local Authorities, and Mayoral Combined Authorities. We do not consider Universities and/or Higher Education Institutions to be public sector organisations.



9.9. The technical experts evaluating will include: Cabinet Office Complex Grants Advice Panel; Financial Business Partner; Commercial Business Partner; Deputy Director of Digital and Media Analysis; and DCMS Tech Sector Team Policy Leads.

9.10. Bids shall be evaluated against the Evaluation Criteria as set out in this ITA. Bidders must provide answers to the relevant section. For weighted technical and quality elements, the following scoring methodology shall be applicable. Weighting values indicate the relative importance of the question in the overall evaluation. DCMS shall award the Grant to the Bidder which submits the highest scoring response.

Score	Quality	Description
0	No evidence	No evidence provided that the Proposal meets the requirement. No confidence that the Bidder can meet the requirement.
1	Minimal Response	Limited evidence to support that the bid meets the requirement, with major concerns leading to the conclusion of a low level of confidence that the Bidder can meet the requirement.
2	Acceptable Response	Acceptable evidence provided to support that the bid meets most of the requirement with minor concerns leading to the conclusion of a medium level of confidence that the Bidder can meet the requirement.
3	Good Response	Good evidence to support that the bid meets all material aspects of the requirement leading to a high level of confidence that the Bidder can meet the requirement.
4	Excellent Response	Comprehensive evidence provided to support that the bid fully meets all aspects of the requirement, leading to the conclusion of a very high level of confidence that the Bidder can meet the requirement.

Assessment process

9.11. Following evaluation of the applications and moderation of scores, any application with an unweighted score of 1 or below (serious concerns) against any individual competition question, including where an error has been made by the applicant, will not be considered further. All remaining applications with an average evaluation score against all competition questions (i.e. the weighted score across all competition questions) of 2 and above will be considered.

9.12. Initial eligibility checks will be undertaken on all applications against the scope, funding and eligibility requirements set out in Section 8 of this ITA. If an application passes the sift and minimum threshold outlined in section 9.11, it will progress to evaluation and will be scored against the scoring scale and then ranked based on total score. If an application does not pass

