

Collaborative Research in Exploration Systems and Technology Announcement of Opportunity

Closing Date: 16:00 21st June 2017

CREST is open to HEIs, other research organisations and industry however preference will be given to collaborative proposals. The main objective is to position the UK community to secure the maximum scientific and technological return goals from future planetary exploration projects and programmes.

CREST-2017 Priorities

There are three priority areas for this CREST call but this does not preclude applications in other areas of robotic exploration:

1. Instrument and mission studies up to a maximum award value of £60k. Proposals should not exceed 6 months.
2. Autonomous systems and in particular sample manipulation for example collecting cached samples, the transfer of samples from a fetch rover to a Mars Ascent vehicle. Proposals should not exceed 12 months or £300k.
3. Validation and verification of Autonomous Systems. Proposals working with the ESA's Exploration Unit at Harwell would be particularly welcome (contact Ludovic.Duvet@esa.int). Proposals should not exceed £300k.

Co- funding for applications to the ESA Networking Partnering Initiative on robotic exploration technologies

http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Engineering_Technology/Networking_Partnering_Initiative

Apart from NPI's applicants must be very clear about any funding already received or applied for from the European Space Agency, demonstrating that the proposal is for distinct but complementary work.

How to Apply

Application forms and detailed guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collaborative-research-in-exploration-systems-tech-crest-ao>

Companies with no track record with the UK Space Agency may be required to provide additional eligibility details.

The earliest start date for an award is 1st October 2017.

Universities will be funded at 80% FEC. Industrial companies will be expected to provide a contribution in line with state aid rules and should justify in their proposal which aid intensity category the proposal falls within. (See Annex A: State Aid Rules).

Annex A

CREST State Aid Summary

R&D project aid: The framework allows state aid for the following levels of R&D:

The information below summarises the position at publication the latest information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-general-block-exemption-regulation>

Fundamental research: defined as “experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct practical application or use in view”.

Industrial research: defined as “planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services” .

Experimental development: pre-competitive development category defined as “the acquiring, combining, shaping and using of existing scientific technological business and other relevant knowledge and skills for the purposes of producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services”. This category extends to the development of commercially usable prototypes and pilot projects where they would be too expensive to produce only for experimental purposes; where there is subsequent commercial use of the prototype any revenue generated has to be deducted from eligible costs. This category does not cover routine or periodic changes to produces and services.

Technical feasibility studies preparatory to industrial research and experimental development.

Aid Intensities – Project Aid	Small enterprise	Medium enterprise	Large enterprise
Fundamental research	100%	100%	100%
Industrial research	70%	60%	50%
Industrial research projects involving collaborations* or where the results will be disseminated	80%	75%	65%
Technical feasibility study preparatory to industrial research	70%	60%	50%
Experimental development	45%	35%	25%
Experimental development projects involving collaborations*	60%	50%	40%

* collaborations between businesses and research organisations where the research organisation bears at least 10% of the costs & have the right to publish their own research, or business to business collaborations which involve more than one member state of the EU/ EEA or involve at least one SME, provided that no one business partner carries more than 70% of the project costs.



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