

DECC's Energy Entrepreneurs Fund – Q&A

Phase 3, 28th January 2014

1. What is the Energy Entrepreneurs Fund?

The Energy Entrepreneurs Fund is a £35m fund over the spending review period to support the development and demonstration of novel, innovative technologies in a broad range of technology groups across the energy efficiency, power generation and energy storage sectors.

2. Who can apply?

The funding is aimed at, but not limited to, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as individual entrepreneurs. However, any company can apply if they meet the competition criteria as specified in the Phase 3 guidance notes. Around 80% of the projects DECC are supporting through EEF are start-ups or SMEs less than 6 years.

3. How much funding is available?

Under EEF, organisations can bid for up to £2million to develop and demonstrate innovative technologies and processes and get advice from experts on how to bring their products to market. The scheme is designed to support projects for Experimental Development at Technology Readiness levels 6-8 (for definitions see Appendix 2, Energy Entrepreneurs Fund Phase 3 Guidance). It is intended that the funding can then be used to leverage additional funds from private sector investors.

4. How many projects have been funded to date?

EEF has been launched in phases to help assess and effectively manage the demand for this type of funding. To date we have received 345 applications and funded 51 projects to a total value of c.£25m.

The first phase closed on 31st October 2012. DECC received over 200 applications of a total value of £130m. 31 Companies were awarded grants of a total value of c.£16m.

The Second Phase was launched in June 2013 and received 450 expressions of interest. 145 applications were submitted to DECC. Of these, 20 companies have been awarded grants up to £9m.

5. Where can I find out about the projects DECC are funding under EEF?

A list of the projects awarded EEF grants since August 2012 is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/innovation-funding-for-low-carbon-technologies-opportunities-for-bidders#the-energy-entrepreneurs-fund-scheme>

6. Is this the final Call for applications?

DECC are allocating the remaining £10m of the £35m fund to this third phase. We would hope that the scheme may continue but this will be subject to future budgets.

7. How long does the assessment process take?

About four months from registration to award of grant, depending on the nature of the project and any outstanding issues being resolved. Applications are assessed by DECC and external technical experts, with advice from investors on the commercial potential of the bids. Applications are judged against a range of criteria including level of impact on the Government's 2020 and 2050 carbon targets, improved performance characteristics over existing technologies and products and ability to cut the cost of installation or maintenance of existing systems.

8. I heard that this fund also provides projects with incubation support?

To help ensure that companies achieve maximum commercial impact from an EEF grant, DECC also contracts industry specialists to provide incubation support to grant recipients – in addition to their capital grant. Incubation support includes helping companies prepare commercial plans and actions that will increase the chance of successfully bringing the innovation to market or reduce the time to market. To date we have commissioned some 75 incubation support tasks for the projects in Phase 1 and companies are really benefiting from this extra guidance to get their products to market.

9. How do I know whether my technology is eligible for EEF?

DECC is looking to support a broad range of technology groups within the energy efficiency, power generation and energy storage sectors. A list of eligible technologies is included within the Guidance Notes. However, the technology must be at least at Technology Readiness Level 6.

10. Can I discuss my application with someone in DECC?

DECC cannot engage in detailed discussions about specific project ideas or technologies. Questions should be e-mailed to deccentrepreneurfund@berr.gsi.gov.uk Please note that DECC is required to provide any answer or information given to one applicant to all applicants, so answers will also be made public via an FAQ section of the EEF website. Applicants are therefore reminded that anyone can view the FAQs, thus questions should not reveal anything commercial in confidence or sensitive to your application.

11. How do I use the Basecamp application folder?

The Basecamp application folder to which you will be invited by DECC, once you have expressed an interest and confirmed this to DECC, provides a secure and restricted access means by which you can submit your EEF Phase 3 application. The folder is pre-populated with discussions (including this one) to provide advice on using it and asking further questions; the EEF Phase 3 application templates and guidance notes; and a task list to guide you through the submission process.

Before the application deadline you must ensure that all necessary application documents have been uploaded into this Basecamp folder. The task list entitled "**EEF Phase 3 application - submission by applicant**" is designed to provide a useful checklist to ensure that you complete all the necessary steps and upload all of the required documents for your application to be assessed.

Basecamp is an intuitive system and on-line help is available. There are two key tasks which DECC expects applicants to undertake:

1. To mark a task as complete, you click the check box and the task will disappear.
2. Uploading documents can be done using the "Upload files" button. Please ensure that files have uploaded correctly by opening and reviewing them before logging out of the system.

However, you should not use Basecamp to store draft versions of your application forms. Only the final, completed versions for submission should be uploaded. This is to ensure that there is no confusion during the assessment stages.

12. Whom should I inform when I have uploaded my application?

There is no need to inform anyone that your application has been uploaded. Once you have checked that it has uploaded successfully (the easiest way is to log out of Basecamp and then log back in), DECC will be able to access the application after the closing date.