

International Partnership Space Programme

What is this programme?

This is a two year programme to test an approach to enable UK satellite and other space sector companies to develop international partnerships for mutual benefit. It will provide grants under the Science and Technology act of up to 50% (or for medium and small companies 60% or 70 % respectively). We are not being prescriptive about the nature of any partnerships but we are particularly interested in partnerships with those countries that currently do not have extensive experience of using space or satellite technology as part of their core infrastructure or to provide essential goods and services.

The objectives for this programme are about societal or economic benefits from the use of UK satellite or space technology for countries that currently do not have these benefits. It is about the UK learning from the partnership with these countries and it is about establishing the UK as the partner of choice with these countries once they are in a position to acquire or enhance their own space or satellite infrastructure.

There is up to £32m available over two years and due to the short nature of this programme it is expected that the majority of these projects will be about better use or enhancement of existing space infrastructure but it is open to funding satellite applications, equipment, instrumentation, missions, facilities, data, know-how, research, skills and training and, other infrastructure in the space sector that provides societal and economic benefits.

Whilst we will be looking for many of the programmes to demonstrate immediate benefits they all have to be innovative in showing a novel approach to solving problems that can be replicated in other markets.

Why is this programme needed?

In the UK we take for granted the services we receive as a result of space infrastructure such as seeking a weather forecast, planning our journey into work, managing our businesses or accessing data at the touch of a button. However, for many in emerging economies, basic services such as communication infrastructure or local mapping are not something that is available to them. Satellites in space often provide the only communication options in many countries in the World particularly in places like sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, environmental monitoring from space can make a valuable contribution to resource management and response to environmental crises which can be particularly challenging owing to extreme environments and harsh conditions for agriculture and water management. Monitoring from space satellites can also support longer term climate mitigation and adaptation programmes.

Space also has the potential to inspire young people from even the most difficult backgrounds to dream of a job as a scientist or engineer. This programme will help build in-country capacity and capability to undertake research and innovation to solve societal challenges and grow economies.

How will the programme be delivered?

The programme will operate with a series of competitive calls for proposals. The first call will be in November 2014 and if funds permit there will be a further call in 2015. If the programme is successful we will bid to extend the programme for a further three years as part of the 2015 post-election spending review. Therefore we will only be able to fund projects up to March 2016 but bidders may want to consider whether their projects could be extended for a further three years if funds become available later.

All eligible bodies are invited to submit proposals according to the programme criteria, in addition the UK Space Agency reserves the right to submit proposals that it receives as a result of discussions with other international space agencies or UK public bodies (e.g. Research Councils, Met office) but all projects will be competitively assessed and the best ones funded.

What are the criteria against which proposals are judged?

Project proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. Clearly identified international partnership:

The partnership could be with overseas Government organisations (including space agencies), research institutes or local private sector companies or could be with international organisations (e.g. NGOs) operating in an overseas market.

2. Strong overseas impacts using an innovative solution involving UK satellites or space infrastructure or services from internationally owned space assets. These impacts could be:

- Building research capacity or capability
- Training or development or people exchange including MSc and PhD students
- The provision of essential services to remote or hard to reach areas using satellite communication. This includes innovative applications such as e-health, e-education and e-banking.
- The provision of public goods such as providing universal environmental monitoring, flood prevention, disease tracking or monitoring of deforestation.
- Improving crop yields or protecting endangered wild-life, Humanitarian or crises response.
- Collaborative research.

- Affordable goods and services, jobs and growth in emerging economies.

The satellite or space technology could be about:

- Lower cost space-related infrastructure or use of existing infrastructure that will be applied for societal or economic benefits overseas.
- Mobile or fixed receivers and other infrastructure that is deployed to, for example, provide education or healthcare or financial transfers in remote or hard to reach regions of the World.
- Building capacity to undertake environmental protection, monitoring or enhancement through examining water use, deforestation, disease prevention, flooding or drought monitoring including building local expertise to take advantage of space applications or raw data.
- Development and deployment of data applications or other innovations that can be shown to deliver benefit such as telemedicine packages or education content from leading institutions.
- The provision of affordable infrastructure enabled communications or positioning systems.
- Collaborative research or innovation.

3. Benefits for UK economy:

The rationale for UK companies to lead these projects will be varied and may include advancing and demonstrating innovative technologies in partnership with international collaborators, it might be about exchanging skills or research expertise or it might be about establishing partnerships for the future on which to build trade. For many economies, the ability to develop and use space systems is emblematic of progress in science and innovation. By working with emerging space countries for example by offering training and technology transfer, the UK can build both strong and enduring human links upon which future trade can be built; and also disseminate best practice in licensing, regulation and safe disposal of satellites. In the longer term UK companies become trusted partners to provide high tech exports for the UK thus growing the space sector.

4. Advancement of science and innovation.

Innovation in this context is not just technological innovation but also about demonstrating how societal or economic benefits can be created using the best available satellite application or wider technology.

5. Demonstrable and measurable success criteria.

All project proposals will need to be able to clearly articulate and measure their success in terms of delivering impacts. All measures will need to be supported by evidence and an explanation of the baseline situation without the project.

6. Strength and experience of the project consortia:

Projects will need to demonstrate skills, knowledge and experience of providing innovative space or satellite technology to provide on the ground benefits overseas. Whilst keeping within EU rules a project lead with an auditable track record that is able to attend regular meetings in the UK will be essential and all contracts will be with UK lead companies or institutions who will manage the overseas relationship through a collaboration agreement.

7. Sustainability of the project benefits beyond the period of any funding.

All projects need to demonstrate the necessary steps needed for the solution to be sustainable or to transfer the technology or lessons learnt to other projects.

8. Overall value for money

This is about ensuring the benefits to both the UK and to international partners represent value for money.

How will proposals be assessed?

For each call the UK Space Agency will assemble a panel comprised of assessors with knowledge and experience of space and satellite technology and applications and experience providing benefits from these. The UK Space Agency programme manager will also sit on this panel. This panel will independently score and rank proposals against the above criteria and make recommendations to the Chief Executive of the UK Space Agency as to which should be funded.

In a competitive open call how can bidders ensure individual projects have the best chance of winning support?

All projects will be independently appraised against the programme criteria and where more high quality projects than funding are received then they will be ranked according to their measurable impacts and success factors.

Success criteria have to be both demonstrable and measurable and be about impact or outcome not inputs or outputs.

Is there a limit on the size of projects?

No but it is expected that most projects will be in the range of £500k to £2m pa but exceptional projects outside this limit will be considered.

What is the timescale for projects?

This is a two year programme initially and all projects will need to have claimed all government grants by 31st March 2016. If successful, we will be looking to bid for money to fund a further three years of the programme and so bidders are welcome to include the possibility of extending their projects should more funds become available (although there can be no guarantees). There is up to £16m available for expenditure before 31st March 2015 and £16m for expenditure until March 2016.

What can any funds support?

Examples of the type of overseas impact, UK benefit and type of eligible satellite/space technology are given in the criteria above. Approximately 70% of all programme funds will be resource (to pay for labour etc) and 30% will be for capital. Individual projects will not need to keep to this ratio.

What requirements will there be for monitoring and evaluation?

In addition to progress reporting for milestone payments in any offer letter all successful projects will be subject to independent performance monitoring and reporting/evaluation. UK Space Agency will appoint the project monitor who will:

- Work with the project lead to refine the key performance indicators/success criteria.
- In partnership with the company alert UK Space Agency to any serious problems that would cause the project to fail.
- Work with the lead company to produce real time evaluation data.

What types of organisations can apply?

We expect the majority of lead organisations in projects to be UK based private sector companies in the satellite sector with an auditable financial and legal track record (typically three years accounts) but in line with European rules this programme is open to all to be part of project consortia including NGOs, Universities, research institutes, overseas private sector companies, overseas charities or overseas government organisations or space agencies.

Does the programme accept outline proposals?

Consortia that are not ready to submit fully worked up proposals are welcome to submit outline proposals and exceptional outline bids will be invited to submit full proposals if sufficient funds remain after full proposals have been ranked and awards made.

Do you expect matching contributions and if so how much?

All projects will receive a maximum of 50% funding although medium or small companies can receive up to 60/70 % respectively.

Eligible Costs:

(£)	2014/15	2015/16
Labour		
Overheads		
Materials		
Capital Equipment		
Sub-contracts		
Other eligible costs		
Total		

The net eligible costs shall be the costs which are properly attributable exclusively to the Project excluding and deducting (as may be appropriate) from the amount of such costs:-

- a) Input Value Added Tax
- b) Any grant under the Industrial Development Act 1982 received or receivable by the Company in respect of the Project;
- c) Any other grant from any public authority received or receivable in respect of the Project;
- d) Interest, service charges and interest arising from hire purchase, leasing and credit arrangements;
- e) any addition for profit by the Company and profit earned by any company in the Company's group as a result of work relevant to the Project undertaken

or sub-contracted to such company by the Company. For the purposes of this sub-paragraph “group” means any holding company of the Company and any subsidiary of such holding company or of the Company, and “holding company” and “subsidiary have the respective meanings assigned to them in Section 1162 of the Companies Act 2006.

What Defines an SME

SME stands for small and medium-sized enterprises – as defined in EU law: EU recommendation 2003/361.

The main factors determining whether a company is an SME are the number of employees and either turnover or balance sheet total.

Company category	Employees	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

What international partner countries are eligible?

We are not being prescriptive about the country which UK companies form partnerships with although we are particularly interested in partnerships with countries that have only just started to develop space enabled infrastructure or capability or do not currently have that capability. We are also interested in receiving proposals for international collaborations that are about the provision or protection of an international public good (e.g. rainforests, ice caps or provision of universal standards for satellite operation or cures for diseases or environmental monitoring).

Do applicants need a partner actually in the country of interest?

All projects will need a partner who owns the overseas part of the project but this could be space agencies or private or public bodies or research institutes or even international charities or NGOs.

How do I apply for funding under the programme?

A draft application form is attached to this guidance. Proposals can be sent by email to

IPSP@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk

All Proposals will need to be received by 10:00am on 15th December 2014 (GMT)