# UK Futures Programme

# Off-site Construction Webinar – 3rd June

**Questions and answers**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| On the logic chain template, the description of 'Activities' and 'Outputs' both include 'new qualification framework development'. Pls. can you clarify the difference between 'Activities' and 'Outputs' in that context. Thanks. | The Activity is the 'doing' bit - the development of the qualification. The output is the framework itself - the thing which is produced. |
| What is the expected private contribution for scaling-up projects? (as it says that private organisations are expected to cover most of the costs). And will the UK CES give priority to scaling over development projects for accelerating change and maximising impact? | We have not specified percentage balances for any type of project. As part of a competitive process we will consider the contribution we are asked to make against the nature, level and quality of cash and in-kind private contributions proposed. it is important that in the application form you explain why the proposed levels of public/private support are the most appropriate to support the proposed solution. We have no particular preference over any of the 'types' of project we have specified, but we do have a strong emphasis on innovation. |
| As intermediaries (a term used in the call documents) can we manage and provide collaborative skills development solutions on behalf of the Off-site sector that meets the needs of many, provided we can demonstrate this is required? Or does it need to be run/ project managed by an Off-site manufacturer | The grant can sit with an intermediary and you can provide a key role in the project. However, it is essential that off-site employers play a driving role in the development and implementation of the solution. |
| Funding seems to be available for financial year 14/15 but the projects are likely to continue beyond that. Is it possible to advance bill for costs in later financial years? | The majority of the public contribution must have been spent by the end of March 2015. It is not possible to advance bill for costs that occur it later financial years. |
| can a small business submit an application without availability for cash contribution? | We would expect some cash contribution and maybe a consortium bid working with others may be a way forward. The assessment process will consider which bids have the biggest impact and most innovative from the bids received. So in summary we would expect some cash but proportionate. |
| Is there a minimum percentage cash/CIK requirement for a Development project? | We have not specified percentage balances for any type of project. As part of a competitive process we will consider the contribution we are asked to make against the nature, level and quality of cash and in-kind private contributions proposed. it is important that in the application form you explain why the proposed levels of public/private support are the most appropriate to support the proposed solution. We have no particular preference over any of the 'types' of project we have specified, but we do have a strong emphasis on innovation. |
| The types of projects listed are research, development, piloting and scaling. Would you expect a project to just tackle one of these or look at a longer proposal that covers more or all of these areas? | We're not covering research in this specific competition - that is stated in the brief for this competition. Otherwise, we have no specific expectations. Our contribution is available to the end of March, the extent to which projects can go through those processes in that time period will depend on the project. However, it is not to preclude projects having a life beyond March 2015 as it moves to later stages. In short, we have no expectations, and will review each proposal according to the criteria set out. |
| What is the position on match funding from other sources such as Technology Strategy Board (TSB)? For example what if a company wished to develop a Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme to work alongside the UKCES bid in order to implement new skills into their company and indeed the sector - would their cash contribution to the KTP process also be consider as a contribution to this skills bid or would this be seen as double counting? | We are not looking for match funding in the traditional sense. We are looking for the right balance of cash and in kind funding from private sources which are appropriate to the project. Funding from other public sources such as the SB are welcomed in terms of wider co investment but would not replace employer contributions. You would need to record the TSB funding in the Other Non UKCES funding tab in the Financial spreadsheet annex. |
| We have a relatively new panelised building system which we have developed into a new of-the-shelf product which needs further financial support around marketing, We see that the market may want discounted or demonstrative examples before committing. Would we be able to align a bid to support this contribution to customers and also to up-skill and train an OSM workforce to deliver this product. If so, what would your expectations be on the private and public financial contributions and the level of direct financial support from this programme? | The competition is focused upon targeting skills issues that are affecting the wider sector. As such, we are not able to support the development of products or services. We would expect all learning to be shared with the wider sector. |
| Many of the primary & secondary skills are common with the overall construction sector. Can the proposed solution be targeted also at a wider construction solution or must it be limited only to companies currently in the offsite construction market. | We are looking at solutions specific to the Off site sector, if they are similar to general construction challenges then it would not meet the specific aims of the projects. |
| If we are developing a partnership do we need to submit documentary evidence of our partners? For example, a letter of partnership support on a companies' letterhead? | Your partners do not need to submit a headed letter. There is an appendix in the application form and an additional appendix in the financial application form that asks for details about your partners. That is sufficient for the application stage. |
| We are planning to put forward a proposal to adapt and expand a major internet based program to the benefit of the off-site sector. Can we include a proportion the development costs of this program as a contribution in kind from the private sector? | Money that has already been spent on an existing solution would not count as the necessary private sector contribution. We would be looking for new money to be spent on a new solution. Adapting and expanding the solution is an acceptable type of innovation for the purposes of the competition but we would only consider money spent at this stage count as the private sector contribution. |
| This competition closes on 18th June. The briefing docs refer to a 3rd and 4th competition - if we don't get a proposal together in time, does this mean we have a later opportunity to apply? | Each of the competitions have a different focus so this one is specific to Off-site construction and will not be repeated. So if you have a potential solution now is the time to submit an application. |
| With regard to the 'Solution addresses problem' is the 1,000 word narrative over and above the 'Potential for impact' document or are the 1,000 words part of that document? | The 1,000 word narrative response to the Potential for Impact question (4a) is in addition to the Logic chain document which we are also asking you to provide at question 4b. |
| A further question please for clarity. In order for the proposed innovation to take place it is necessary to both solicit data from the industry and also to adapt the base model so as to give effect to the use of this data in a modelled format. There will be programming costs as well as the gathering of data and developing the logic of the model. Could the cost of the program development itself be a contribution in kind with the data-gathering and logic development being funded from the grant contribution? | I'm afraid not. Any costs incurred ahead of contracting is not eligible to be counted as private or public contribution. |
| How much interest has been shown in the competition? | We have had a good level of interest in the competition, with the expressions of interests growing on a daily basis. However, we have noted that some people attending todays webinar have not expressed an interest via our online expressions. I would strongly urge you to do this because without expressing an interest, you will not have access to the application form and submission process. You can express an interest on our website: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-futures-programme-application-form |