UK 5G Innovation Network

Competition Guidance for Applicants

At Budget 2017, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) published its UK 5G strategy[1], which included commitments to create a UK 5G Innovation Network alongside the Government's new 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme. This document provides guidance and criteria for applicants to DCMS for grant funding to facilitate the development of the 5G Innovation Network.

The competition for grant funding is open to organisations from across the UK, preferably consortia, with experience and understanding of 5G. The grant funding available from DCMS is up to £200k for 2017/18 and up to £250k for 2018/19, with the possibility to extend funding for a further two years to March 2021. Proposals should consider approaches allowing the 5G Innovation Network to continue operating beyond the initial 2 year grant funding period.

Applicants should answer all questions on the application form.

Dates and Deadlines

Event	Date/Deadline
Competition opens	26th October 2017
Briefing event	6th November 2017
Registration closes	20th November 2017
Deadline for clarification questions	24:00 9th November 2017
Deadline for receipt of applications	24:00 30th November 2017
Grant award notification	20th December 2017
Grant claim period	1st January 2017 - 31st March 2019

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[1]https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/597421/07.03.17_5G_strategy_-_for_publication.pdf

Eligibility & Reject Reasons

Please note the following eligibility criteria for the grant funding:

- Bids will preferably be from consortia, with a lead applicant who will be the prime recipient of grant funding and who will be responsible for managing a consortium's activities and for allocation of grant funding to other consortium members.

- The lead applicant and consortia should have strong industry representation.

- Applicants led or largely composed of mainly lobbying/advocacy groups are not eligible.

- Individual people are not eligible applicants.

- Companies that are not UK-registered are not eligible to receive grant funding from DCMS (Non-UK organisations may participate but will not receive grant funding).

- The grant must not represent more than 50% of the consortium's annual income (averaged over 3 years).

- Consortia members will need to have signed a collaboration agreement between themselves prior to any claim to DCMS for grant funding for the project.

Requirements for the UK 5G Innovation Network

The Government is seeking to establish the UK 5G Innovation Network to boost the development of the UK's 5G ecosystem in order to maximise the benefits to UK businesses and consumers from the development of 5G in the UK. We expect applicants to have their own ideas on how best to achieve this. However, DCMS has identified key areas where the Network can make a big difference, leading to the high level requirements being to:

- Facilitate the coordination and engagement of organisations working on 5G activities in the UK, to add to existing networks and to stimulate the development of a 5G ecosystem.

- Create and maintain an accessible and up to date source of information about 5G activities in the UK for industry, potential new entrants to the 5G ecosystem and other relevant parties including investors.

- Create a UK 5G Innovation Network marketing brand and fulfil other functions to encourage domestic and inward investment and participation in 5G activities in the UK, including facilitating access to credible advocates of UK success stories to potential investors.

Contribution to the DCMS 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme

The UK 5G Innovation Network is expected to prioritise its activity to have the most impact based on the above high level requirements. DCMS envisages that this work will contribute to the 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme's delivery objectives:

- Help to establish the conditions under which 5G can be deployed in a timely way to drive efficiency and productivity, and maximise the chances of the UK being amongst the leading 5G countries
- Foster the development of the UK's 5G ecosystem to ensure that the UK and UK businesses are well placed to maximise the efficiency and productivity benefits of 5G

The Programme will also contribute to the delivery of the 5G Strategy's success outcomes, which are:

- Accelerating the deployment of 5G networks
- Maximising the productivity and efficiency benefits to the UK from 5G
- Creating new opportunities for UK businesses at home and abroad, and encouraging inward investment

It is therefore expected that as part of its work, the Network will directly support the 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme by:

- Assisting in sharing the lessons learned by the Programme and other knowledge management, to reach a wider audience and to have greater credibility than if shared by the Government alone.
- Informing and bringing organisations together interested in participating in the 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme.
- Setting up and providing the secretariat for an advisory group to the 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme which will:
  - Provide feedback to the Programme from industry, including on industry priorities and concerns; and
  - Advise on future areas of focus as appropriate.
- Leveraging the work of the Programme towards the aims of increased inward investment and the timely deployment and take up of 5G in the UK.

Further details on expectations around the requirements are included in the guidance notes on particular questions listed below.

Competition process

The competition process will follow these steps:

- Applications will be assessed against the Competition Guidance.
- Applications will be ranked for shortlisting. The top three ranked Applications will be invited to a second stage assessment, which will include an interview. Details of the interview stage will be confirmed nearer the time. In exceptional circumstances if

there are more than three closely top ranked Applications then DCMS may invite additional Applicants to interview.

- Applicants attending interview will need to submit a draft collaboration agreement.
- The assessment of Applications will be updated following the interview and the highest scoring shortlisted Application will be selected as preferred Applicant.
- The Applicant lead will be notified of the funding decision.
- All Applications will receive assessor feedback upon request.

The application and allocation of scoring

This section explains the structure of the application and offers guidance on what to answer in each question. Your application should be no longer than 12 pages in total for your answers to sections 2 to 6.

The structure is as follows:

Section 1: Applicant and application details

Section 2: Vision for the UK 5G Innovation Network (10%)

- Question 1: What is your vision for the UK 5G Innovation Network? (10%)

Section 3: First high level requirement: Facilitate the coordination and engagement of organisations working in the 5G ecosystem, to add to existing networks and to stimulate the development of a 5G ecosystem. (35%)

- Question 2: How do you propose to facilitate the coordination of activity in 5G in the UK, to best develop the 5G ecosystem? (25%)

- Question 3: What experience do you and your partner organisations have of doing this, and what members do your organisations have to help achieve this? (10%)

Section 4: Second high level requirement: Create and maintain an accessible and up to date source of information about 5G activities in the UK for industry, potential new entrants to the 5G ecosystem and other relevant parties including investors. (10%)

- Question 4: How do you propose to collate and make accessible to all those in the UK, with an existing or potential interest in 5G, up to date information and advice about 5G? (10%)

Section 5: Third high level requirement: Create a UK 5G Innovation Network marketing brand and fulfil other functions to encourage inward investment domestically and internationally, including facilitating access to credible advocates of UK success stories to potential investors. (25%)

- Question 5: How do you propose to build a brand and deliver increased inward investment into UK 5G? (15%)
- Question 6: What experience do you and your partner organisations have of doing this type of activity? (10%)

Section 6: Resources the applicant will bring to the Network (20%)

- Question 7: What people, organisations, audiences, additional funding and other resources will you bring to the functions of the 5G Innovation Network and how do you propose allocating these and grant funding to deliver on your vision for the UK 5G Innovation Network and the high level requirements? (20%)

Guidance and Criteria on application questions

Section 1: Applicant and application details

- State the full registered name of the lead organisation for the project. Please note that the lead organisation will be the main point of contact between DCMS and the Applicant.
- State the full name, address, email address and telephone number of the lead organisation.
- State the names of the operating board or senior executives of the lead organisation.
- State the full registered name of the partner organisations for the project.
- State the full name, address, email address and telephone number of the main point of contact in the partner organisations.

Section 2: Vision for the UK 5G Innovation Network

Question 1: What is your vision for the UK 5G Innovation Network?

- This section is for applicants to demonstrate ambition and credibility for how the Network will be effective. You should describe what you expect to achieve by the end of 2018/19, and the potential for how the 5G Innovation Network could continue to develop beyond that.
- This should describe how the Network could contribute to the overall objectives of the Government's 5G Testbeds and Trial's Programme and the wider 5G Strategy. It should also describe how the Network will be able to work independently of Government to stimulate the 5G ecosystem.
- Evaluators will be looking at:
  - An approach or a Network that will be able to provide leadership, direction and momentum;
  - How applicants propose to sustain the 5G Innovation Network beyond the initial 2 year funding period; and
  - The likely feasibility of achieving this vision, given the resources the applicants will be able to draw on.

Section 3: First high level requirement: Facilitate the coordination and engagement of organisations working in the 5G ecosystem, to add to existing networks and to stimulate the development of a 5G ecosystem.

Question 2: How do you propose to facilitate coordination in 5G in the UK, to best develop the 5G ecosystem?

Evaluators will be looking for proposals that are appropriately ambitious and achievable

Proposals could include, but not be limited to:

- A high level overview of existing networks of activities in the UK.

- A description of the areas the 5G Innovation Network could focus on. Areas of specific focus could include:

  - Whether there could be a more joined up approach in the UK to contributing to developing 5G standards (both global standards and emerging sector standards)? This could involve the organisation or facilitation of at least one event.

  - Other activities to stimulate the development of a 5G ecosystem, (which will be initially focussed on research, development and innovation activities) in the UK.

- A description of what activities you will undertake to deliver the 5G Innovation Network, complementing existing activities. Please identify expected milestones and outputs,any dependencies and constraints. (Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be agreed in Grant Funding Agreement)

- Activities to undertake could include, but not be limited to:

  - Networking and promotional activities. This could include those aimed at industry and potential investors in industry.

  - How the 5G Innovation Network will influence others to work on focus areas and how it will itself contribute to activities.

  - Activities to encourage common approaches, coordination, knowledge sharing and economies of scale.

- Describe your vision for an advisory steering group for the 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme. Applicants who are invited to participate in the second stage of the assessment process will be expected to have thoughts about who should sit on and chair the advisory steering group.

Question 3: What experience do you and your partner organisations have of doing this, and how many members do your partner organisations have to help achieve this?

Evaluators will be looking for:

- Well-evidenced experience and high credibility, with wide sector reach across industry, academic, SME, start up and public sectors.
- Evidence of a good understanding of innovation in 5G sectors.
- Evidence for how the applicant's deep networks in industry in particular has helped to influence and coordinate activity previously.
- Experience of monitoring and evaluating impact.

Section 4: Second high level requirement: Create an accessible and up to date source of information about 5G activities in the UK for industry and other relevant parties such as financiers.

Question 4: How do you propose to collate and make accessible to all those in the UK, with an existing or potential interest in 5G, up to date information about 5G activities in the UK?

- This should link into other available sources of information.
- The functions and deliverables evaluators would expect as a minimum include:
    - A publicly available website with information and/or links about 5G, including events, funding sources for 5G projects, contact details of relevant organisations for specific areas of interest.
    - Alongside publishing findings from the 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme, the 5G Innovation Network should share developments in the wider ecosystem (such as IoT and Connected and Autonomous Vehicles).
    - The 5G Innovation Network will provide expert input and narrative, perhaps through the advisory group, on the significance of findings. An enquiry response function behind the website, to include at least referral to appropriate information sources.
    - A description of the monitoring approach. (KPIs to be agreed in Grant Funding Agreement but likely to include email/social media subscribers, web hits/downloads of content, number and satisfaction of event attendees etc.).

Section 5: Third high level requirement: Create a UK 5G Innovation Network marketing brand and fulfil other functions to encourage domestic and inward investment and participation in 5G activities in the UK, including facilitating access to credible advocates of UK success stories to potential investors

Question 5: How do you propose to build a successful brand for the 5G Innovation Network?

Proposals are expected to be appropriately ambitious whilst being credibly achievable. The proposals will be expected to include at a minimum the following activities:

- Hold a launch event for the 5G Innovation Network either at the end of Q1 or during Q2 2018.
- Involvement with large events like Mobile World Congress (e.g. through working with the Department for International Trade).
- Leading or participating in additional events (potentially without charge to attendees for 5G Innovation Network run events) to disseminate information to the widest audiences.
- Use of marketing to share information and highlight success stories.
- Be a credible advocate for UK 5G innovation capabilities and provide a plan to promote these in international forums focused on innovation and the associated wider trade development opportunities, including working with other government departments such as the Department for International Trade
- Monitoring and evaluation approach to gauge and guide success (KPIs to be agreed in Grant Funding Agreement).

Evaluators will also be looking at how the applicants intend to attract involvement from those organisations in vertical sectors where they may currently not see 5G to be relevant to them but it should be.

Question 6: What experience do you and your partner organisations have of doing this type of activity?

Evaluators will be looking for:

- Well evidenced experience of marketing activity and that credibility of the applicant organisations is high in the UK.
- Experience and impact working at an international level.

- Experience of attracting new audiences such as start-ups, SMEs, potential investors.
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Section 7: Resources the applicant will bring to the Network

Question 8: What organisations, audiences, additional funding and other resources will you bring to the functions of the 5G Innovation Network and how do you propose allocating these and grant funding to deliver on your vision for the UK 5G Innovation Network and the above high level requirements?

Confirm that the grant funding request includes all applicable costs, fees, expenses and any VAT payments which are irrecoverable by you.

Evaluators will be:

- Expecting a wide range of resources demonstrating considerable leverage and private sector contributions to significantly compliment grant funding levels in order to support the 5G Innovation Network to achieve its goals.
- Resources can include in-kind resources such as facilities, staff resources and additional funding.
- Examining how the applicant organisations' relationships with their existing wide networks of subscribers and members will be effectively utilised.
- Looking for how additional audiences and networks will be mobilised and reached, including how the applicant's resources enable it to expand its reach into areas where 5G may not yet seem relevant.

When making decisions:

- We will give equal consideration to all applications that meet our criteria.
- We will be open and accountable in our procedures.
- All staff have to declare any interests in applications from organisations they may have connections with. If there is a conflict of interest, they will not be involved in the assessment process or the decision to award a grant.

If you are offered a grant

Our standard terms and conditions apply to every grant we award. Your grant agreement letter will set out any additional conditions that apply specifically to your grant. The letter will also set out what the grant is for and the payment schedule. Once we have awarded a grant, we will ask you for regular financial and performance monitoring reports and a final project report at the end of the funding term.

Please ensure that you read the criteria very carefully to see what can and cannot be funded. If you have any doubts about whether your project meets all our criteria, please contact us: 5G-innovation-network@culture.gov.uk.

Additional Information

- When the grant ends, the DCMS does not have a commitment to provide any further funding for the project.
- If there is any breach of the terms and conditions, or your organisation ceases to operate before the grant has been spent, it may have to be repaid.
- Anyone found to be acting dishonestly in making an application for funding or spending the grant will be reported to the police and may be liable for prosecution
- Staff will be on hand to help with clarification questions, however, please do not try to influence. the outcome of your application by contacting a member of staff otherwise as your application will be disqualified.
- You must acknowledge you have received our grant in your annual report and accounts covering the period of the project.
- Grant money will not be paid until we have received your written acceptance of the terms and conditions attached to your grant offer.
- If you have any complaints about the application process, please email 5G-innovation-network@culture.gov.uk. in the first instance.

If, having read the criteria, you would like to apply for a grant, please email 5G-innovation-network@culture.gov.uk and we will forward you application details.