



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

THERMAL EFFICIENCY INNOVATION FUND

Q&A

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1. How can I apply to the scheme?

For full details of scheme eligibility, including how to apply, please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/innovations-in-the-built-environment>

2. What is the deadline for submitting applications?

Applicants must submit a registration email by 5pm, 12 December 2017 to BuiltEnvironmentInnovation@beis.gov.uk using the title 'Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund' in the email subject and containing the following information: the name of the lead project organisation (project co-ordinator); the project title; and confirmation of intention to submit an application.

Completed applications for the Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund must be emailed to BuiltEnvironmentInnovation@beis.gov.uk using the title 'Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund' - (name of lead applicant – unique reference number)' in the email subject by the deadline 5pm, 2nd January 2018.

3. Are organisations permitted to submit individual applications or must applications be collaborative?

It is at the discretion of applicants to decide whether an individual or collaborative proposal is submitted.

4. Are universities only eligible to submit collaborative proposals with commercial partners?

Universities are eligible to submit both individual and collaborative proposals. All applicants should however refer to the Guidance Notes for full details of grant intensity and eligibility requirements before submitting an application.

5. How many separate applications can an organisation submit?

One organisation can only submit one proposal as project lead. However, organisations can participate in more than one project as a partner. Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund applicants are also permitted to submit one proposal as project lead and participate in more than one project as a partner if submitting proposals to the Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund.

6. How much funding is available for each project?

Total eligible project costs should be submitted via the Finance Form spreadsheet. Applicants are eligible for a minimum grant of £200k and a maximum grant of £2 million. The aid intensity represents the percentage of total project costs and maximum level of public funding that can be claimed for each project. This percentage is determined by the applicant based on the project research category and type/size of the relevant organisation(s).

7. What is the maximum percentage for project overhead costs?

Applicants are required to outline the actual overhead costs expected to be attributed to their project. We have not set a maximum percentage for these costs.

These costs are however expected to be realistic and justified in terms of the proposed project and they shall be scrutinised during the application assessment process.

8. What level of funding are research organisations eligible to claim for non-economic activities?

The definition of 'research organisation' applicable to this Competition is outlined in the EU General Block Exemption Regulation 2014 (GBER):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651&from=EN>

The GBER defines research and knowledge-dissemination organisations as follows:

'research and knowledge-dissemination organisation' means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it';

If an organisation falls within the research and knowledge-dissemination definition, it is also important to confirm whether it would be undertaking any non-economic activities within any proposed project — the BIS State Aid Manual of July 2015 provides relevant guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/520676/BIS-15-148-state-aid-manual.pdf

The level of grant which can be claimed will depend on whether an organisation is carrying out economic or non-economic activities (or a mixture of both). The Guidance Notes eligible and non-eligible cost information should be considered to help establish eligible project costs and what grant intensity can be claimed.

If a research organisation can demonstrate they are undertaking non-economic activities and the proposed project costs are eligible (e.g. not funded by other public

authorities), the grant intensity claimed could potentially be up to 100%. Otherwise, similar approaches to other public funding initiatives (e.g. 80% of overall project costs) could potentially be applied if they represent a credible approach toward demonstrating the effective removal of costs already covered by other sources of funding.

9. Is the grant intensity applicable to overall collaborative projects or individual collaboration participants?

The relevant grant intensities are applied to individual organisations participating in collaborative projects rather than the overall project.

10. What funding sources can be used to meet match funding requirements?

Given the aid intensity rules, applicants will need to have private funding in place to cover the balance of the eligible costs. Such funding may come from a company's own resources or external private sector investors, but it may not include funding attributable to any public authority or EU institution.

11. What is classed as match funding - can it be a contribution in kind?

Match funding must be demonstrated by a transfer of money. The simplest form of match funding is therefore cash. Staff time is considered an acceptable form of match funding as staff are paid for their time and this is a demonstrable transfer of money. In kind match, i.e. where a good or service is gifted to the project is not considered an eligible form of match funding. These are typically ascribed a notional cost and this can yield significant audit issues when assigning values to the project.

12. Can an applicant submit an application and retrospectively secure match funding?

Grant conditions require match funding to be in place when projects start. Match funding does not need to be signed-off at the time of the application, but applicants should be able to demonstrate the likely source(s).

13. Can EU based collaborators participate in projects?

EU based collaborators can participate in projects and the EU General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) remains applicable under these circumstances. Please note however that the activities for any project supported must be largely conducted in the UK (and the majority of the eligible project costs must be incurred in the UK).

14. Can applications include additional supporting documents (e.g. schematics)?

Applications can include additional supporting documents if necessary.

Before providing any additional documentation all applicants are advised to give due consideration to the number of proposals competition assessors will be required to

evaluate. Any additional documentation uploaded should be restricted to essential supporting information which cannot be included in the main proposal submission.

The maximum size email you can send is 10MB. If your application is larger than 10MB, please break the submission down into smaller sizes and ensure the subject line of each additional email takes the following format 'Thermal Efficiency Innovation Fund' - (name of lead applicant) – email x of y'.

15. Are projects required to include building field-trials in order to demonstrate where and how the innovation can be applied?

Applicants are responsible for outlining the most appropriate means for delivering their proposed innovation project. Applicants should note the application form requirement to outline the wide scale applicability of their innovation in existing UK buildings.

16. Are proposals for projects with a current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) below 6 eligible?

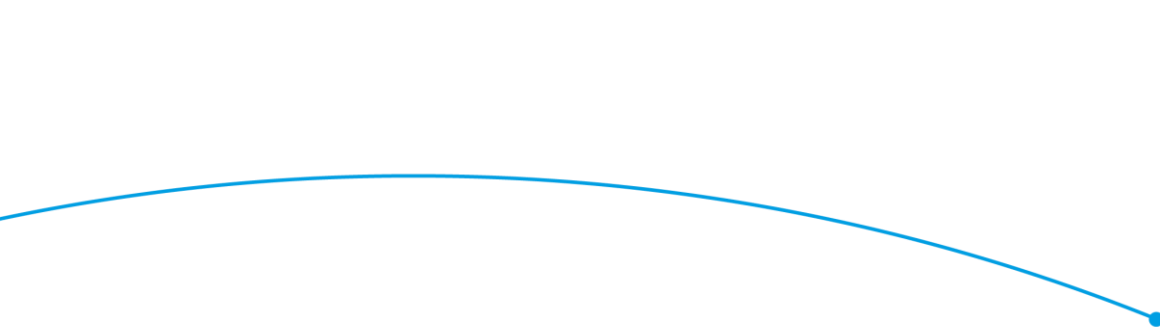
All applicants are required to declare their current technology readiness level against the criteria outlined within the Guidance Notes. Applicants must also demonstrate how their proposal has the potential to be deployed at scale in any type of existing UK building by 2025.

A current minimum TRL 6 is believed likely necessary to reach widespread market deployment by 2025. If an applicant submits a proposal with a current TRL below 6, they must still demonstrate how they can deploy at scale by 2025.

Some projects may involve the integration of existing technologies with lower TRL products and such proposals will also be considered.

17. What technologies are within competition scope?

All relevant thermal efficiency technologies, processes and business models are within scope unless stated otherwise in the Guidance Notes. Applicants are however advised to consider all competition assessment criteria (e.g. technology performance, cost, wider competition objectives, etc.) before submitting their proposal.



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