

# **SST Grant Call FAQs**

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The following document is designed to complement the UK Space Agency’s Space Surveillance and Tracking call for grant proposals which was launched on 26th May 2020. The final deadline for questions regarding this call for grant proposals is 03rd July 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the call, please email:

sst@ukspaceagency.gov.uk

Q1. Can I submit more than one proposal I response to this call?

A1. Yes, an organisation can submit more than one proposal. As per the instruction in ‘Annex B - Application Guidance’ each application must be submitted separately.

Q2. I want to include more detail around my application (for example my organisation or my project partner’s experience) but the form does not have enough space. If I submit additional documents will these be considered?

A2. No, only the information contained within the forms will be evaluated when selecting proposals. This is to ensure all proposals are scored fairly and equally, whilst also enabling assessors to more easily compare proposals.

Q3. Can fundamental research get 100% funding?

A3. This call is not accepting fundamental research proposals, please see page 6, section 7.1 of the call document.

Q4. Would the UKSA entertain applications which focus on higher altitudes (particularly in the geosynchronous regime)?

A4. No, unfortunately this strand of the call is looking at funding research into LEO SST only.

Q5. Can you confirm if academics can be part of a team and clarify if universities can be the ‘Prime’?

A5. Academics can be part of a team and UK universities can act as the Prime. Please refer to sections 4, 5 and 8 of the call document for mandatory requirements.

Q6. Can a company in the ROI act as a ‘Prime’?

A6. We can only accept Primes who are registered and based in the UK. International companies are able to partner with a UK company who would then act as the Prime.

Q7. What minor amendments will be considered for the grant funding agreement?

A7. This is up to the bidding company, please submit any minor amendments you wish the UKSA to consider along with your application form and budget template.

Q8. Will there be an opportunity to discuss any GFA amendments?

A8. Yes, any bids which make it through the first sift and the due diligence checks will have the chance to discuss minor amendments to the GFA before the start date.

Q9. Is there a direct point of contact I can engage with now to discuss any minor amendments to the GFA?

A9. No, due to the short deadline and number of incoming queries we are unable to discuss individual applications at this stage.

Q10. What principle would a non-UK university be funded on?

A10. If the non-UK university is a Member State, then the same rules would apply for State Aid as with any other UK institute/enterprise.

Q11. Is it compulsory to have a separate UK bank account, or will an existing account be accepted?

A11. A separate bank account is not required if the applicant can demonstrate that grant expenditure is ring fenced from general accounts.

Q12. Do the UKSA provide a small percentage of upfront capital to get a project started?

A12. The UKSA are not able to make advance payments to companies.

Q13. Does in-kind company staff time be considered as part of the 20% company contribution/resources needed?

A13. State Aid article 25(3)(a) sets out eligible costs which includes researchers, technicians, and ‘other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project’

Q14. Can you confirm what date and time the call closes?

A14. The call closes at noon (GMT) on Friday 10th July.

Q15. Can I use the complete De Minimis allowance together with GBER?

A15. State aid exempted under GBER should not be cumulated with any De Minimis aid in respect of the same eligible costs if that cumulation would result in an aid intensity exceeding those allowed under the GBER.

Q16. Is the grant call asking for a complete end to end solution for tracking debris, or does it encompass development of a key component that can be used for tracking debris, if integrated into a complete system?

A16. The call encompasses both aspects, so a complete solution as well as a key component which can be used to track debris. All bids should focus on LEO SST or AI and ML, but particularly demonstrate how they will benefit LEO SST. Key components should rely on existing technologies and be technically feasible; please see section 4 for more mandatory requirements.

Q17. Can you confirm the projects are to last a total of 6 months?

A17. We are aiming to award the grants as soon as possible after the call closes (early August) until the end of January 2021, so 6 months in total.

Q18. Can you please confirm the total percentage of funding a company would have to input to the project, using De Minimis state aid?

A18. Useful guidance on De Minimis state aid can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-the-basics>, but in general applicants must provide a minimum of 20% of the total project cost from their own resources, i.e. a maximum of 80% of the total project cost can come from grant funding. If you have not used De Minimis before or are under the threshold, this would apply to your company.