UK/Republic of Korea Open RAN R&D collaboration - Clarifications

Briefing Event

Whether the recording and slides from the briefing event will be shared.

Please see the [full recording](#) and [slides](#) from the briefing event.

Forming consortia

Whether there are any tools to connect potential participants to form a consortium.

UK5G have created a website, which potential bidding consortia can use as a networking tool to find consortium partners. Please visit https://uk5g.org/connect/collaborate/246-telecoms-rd-collaboration-with-the-republic-of-kor/ for further information.

Whether a company can participate in multiple bidding consortia.

Yes, companies are allowed to participate in multiple bidding consortia.

Scope

Whether the emerging DECT-2020 (NR) technology is applicable for this project.

DECT-2020 is not within scope of this collaboration, which focuses on Open RAN R&D.

Whether this project would accept proposals falling under the R&D category of industrial research, therefore accommodating TRLs 1-4, with the aim of achieving TRLs 5-6 by the end of the project.

As stated in the application guidance, by the end of the project, your products' or services' TRLs should achieve 6-7. As set out in the "General Guidance to Grant Applicants" document, DCMS expects projects funded under this competition to fall under the experimental development with collaboration category of R&D. The aid intensities should be in line with this approach.

Subsidy control

Whether there are any limitations on funding/costs for public sector entities such as universities.

Please refer to the "General Guidance for Grant Applicants" document, section 'Participation in a Project': "The level of research participation is a maximum of 30% of total eligible costs. Where there is more than one research organisation the eligible costs will be shared between them".

Subsidy control mechanisms now that the UK has left the EU.

Please refer to the "General Guidance for Grant Applicants" document.

The UK must follow its international obligations on subsidy control. DCMS expects projects funded under this competition to fall under the experimental development with collaboration category of R&D.

As such, large companies would be eligible for up to 40% of costs, with medium companies at 50% and small companies at 60%.

Funding

For how much of the £1.6 million of funding should a bidding entity apply.

The amount of funding applied for should be appropriate to the work being conducted and the level of value for money and benefits that the consortium can deliver for the costs, within the funding envelope available.

Whether there is a limit on the proportion of funding that can be subcontracted.

A maximum of 30% should be subcontracted across the entire funded project. Subcontracting within any companies in the same group should be capped at cost of delivery.

Delivery

Whether SONIC Labs will be available to use during the delivery of the project.

Consortia should make their own plans for delivering against the scope, objectives and outcomes of the grant, working with partners to build a strong rationale or case for funding.

However, DCMS encourages the successful consortium to utilise the expertise at SONIC Labs for interoperability and compatibility testing.

Whether the end date of the project could be shifted if the GFA process results in a longer-than-expected start to the project.

The funding available is assigned until 31 March 2024. The commercial agreement (grant funding agreement) end date will not be extended if set up is delayed. Therefore, activity needs to be completed before this time.