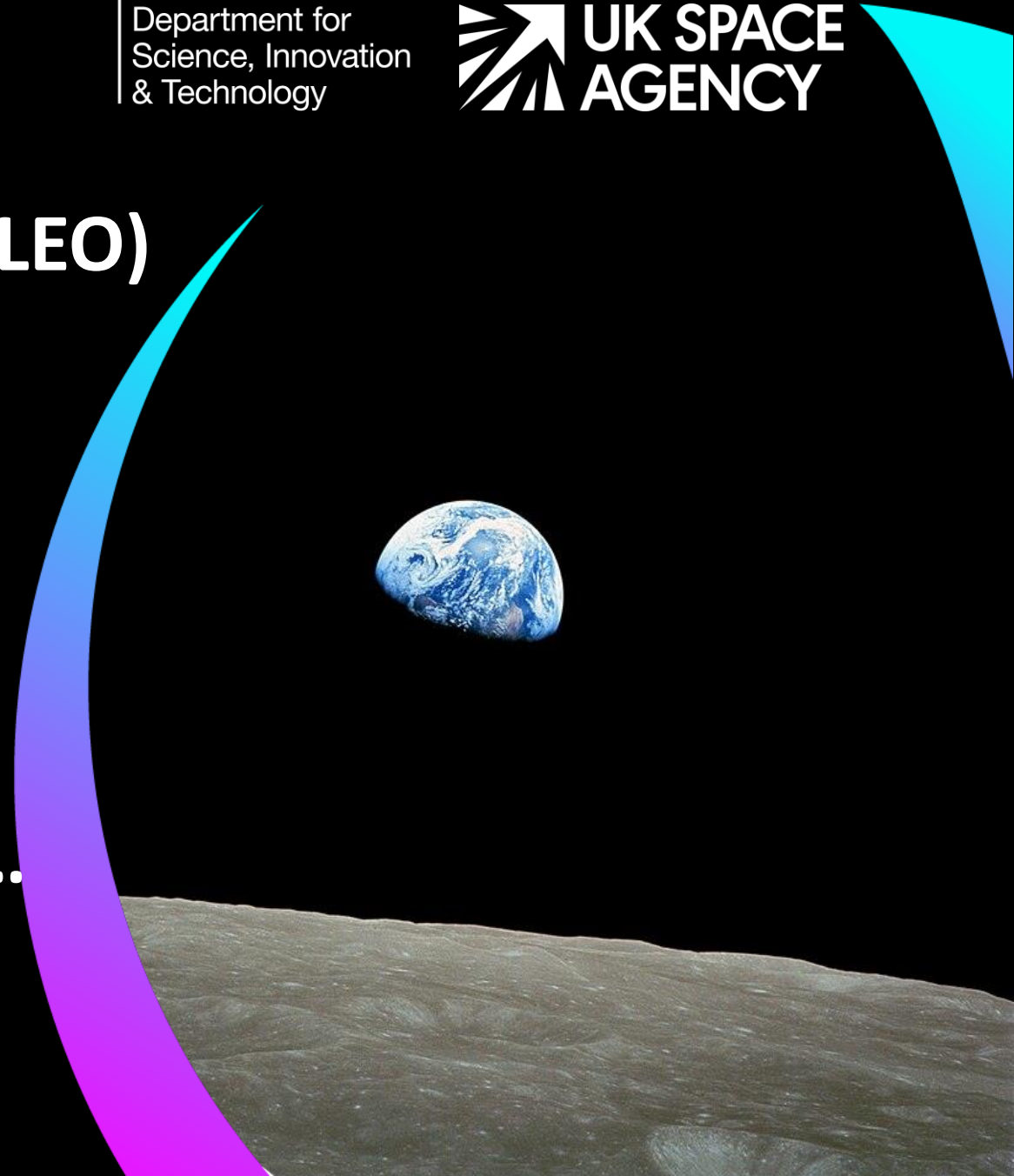


Connectivity in Low Earth Orbit (C-LEO)

Funding Call 3:

National Route Only

The webinar will begin shortly...



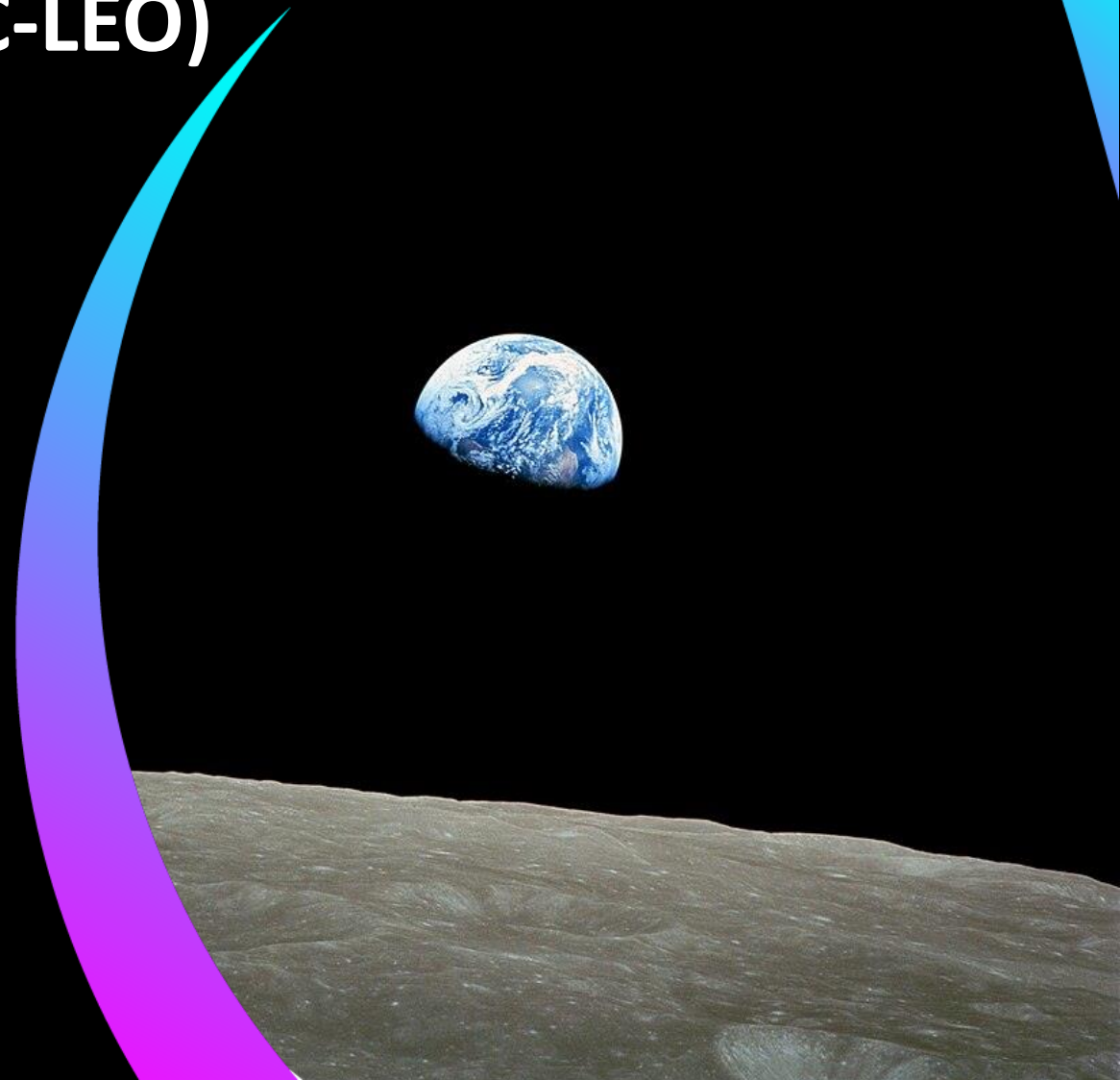
Connectivity in Low Earth Orbit (C-LEO)

Funding Call 3:

National Route Only

Wednesday 29th July

1100-1200



Scope

OFFICIAL



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology



**Satellite
Communications
in the UK**



What is C-LEO?



**Eligibility and
Programme
Design**



**Application
Process**



**Engagement
Opportunities**



Q&A

OFFICIAL

Satellite Communications in the UK



- One of four subsectors within space that has been prioritised by Government:
 - **Satellite Communications**
 - Assured Access to Space
 - In Orbit Servicing, Assembly and Manufacturing (ISAM)
 - Space Domain Awareness (SDA)
- Satellite Communications is a key subsector as it closely supports priorities in:
 - Economic Growth
 - National Security
- UK Space Agency setting the right environment to deliver these priorities.
- Space Publication planned for later in 2026.

What is C-LEO?



- Up to £160 million of funding.

Aims of the programme:

- to accelerate the commercialisation of key technologies necessary for UK firms to meet demand for high-volume constellation production
 - to enable UK firms to secure a significant share of high-value contracts due in the next four to five years
 - to develop the UK's industrial capabilities in the constellation value chain
 - to catalyse private sector investment in UK high-volume constellation sector
- The programme is strongly aligned with 3 of the 4 core pillars of the National Space Strategy:
 - unlocking growth in the UK space sector
 - growing the UK as a science and technology superpower
 - developing resilient space capabilities and services

Funding routes:

- National grants
- ESA ARTES contracts

C-LEO Call 3 Objectives



- Call 3 is designed to accelerate the development and industrialisation of advanced satellite telecommunications technologies for LEO.
- This call supports the UK Space Agency's strategic objectives by:
 - Driving innovation in satellite communications.
 - Strengthening the UK's position in the global LEO constellation supply chain.
 - Catalysing investment and creating long-term economic benefits for the UK space sector.
- The call responds to rapid changes in the satellite communications market.

C-LEO Call 3 – Scope

- C-LEO 3 call will provide up to £42 million in funding support until March 2030.
- We are seeking to award funding of around £4 million to £25 million per project to a handful of projects.
- These sums would need to be match funded by the applicant organisation.
- Funding will be targeted towards proposals with TRL between 4 and 6, with the aim being to raise the proposal to TRL 7 and above.
- The funding of higher TRL proposals will be considered.
- By the end of the funded project, there must be a tangible improvement in the TRL of the technology or a demonstration of advancement in approach of the funded project.



Eligibility



- Must be a UK-registered entity and registered with Companies House.
- Funding targeted towards proposals with TRL of between 4-6, with the aim being to raise the proposal to TRL 7 and above.
- Projects should have an end date of no later than **31st March 2030**.
- Lead organisations must demonstrate financial viability and the capacity to deliver the proposed project.
- Applications must be complete and submitted in the required format.
- Projects must fall within the defined scope of the call and must clearly address one or more of the specified C-LEO technology areas.

Applicants may only submit one application as the lead organisation. Organisations may participate as a partner in multiple applications.

Eligibility – Match Funding Rates



- Projects must include a credible level of match funding in line with UK Subsidy Control requirements.

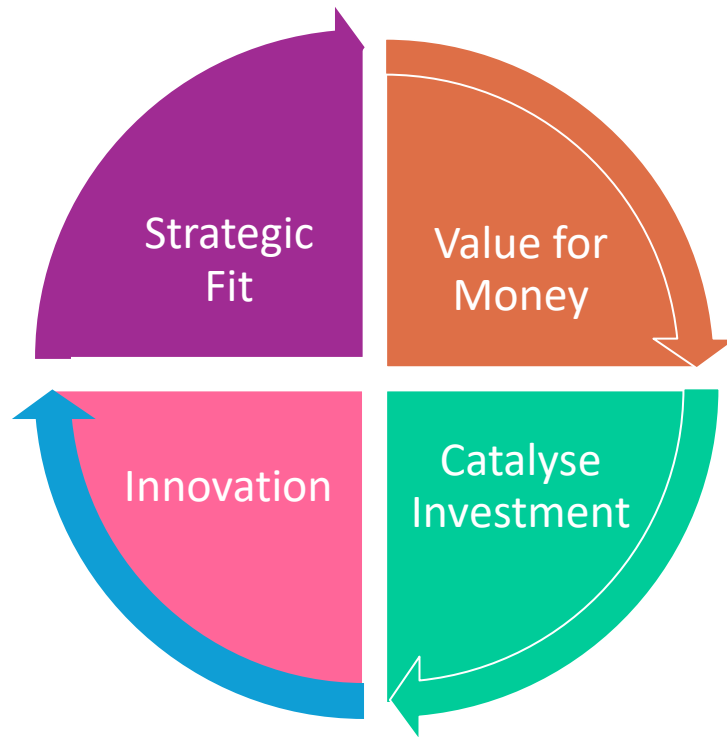
Size of Enterprise	Without enterprise collaboration uplift	With enterprise uplift (requires at least 1 small to medium-sized enterprise (SME) or at least one research and knowledge dissemination organisation)
Small	45% of the eligible project costs	60% of the eligible project costs
Medium	35% of the eligible project costs	50% of the eligible project costs
Large	25% of the eligible project costs	40% of the eligible project costs

Criteria

- All applications are considered in competition with others received.

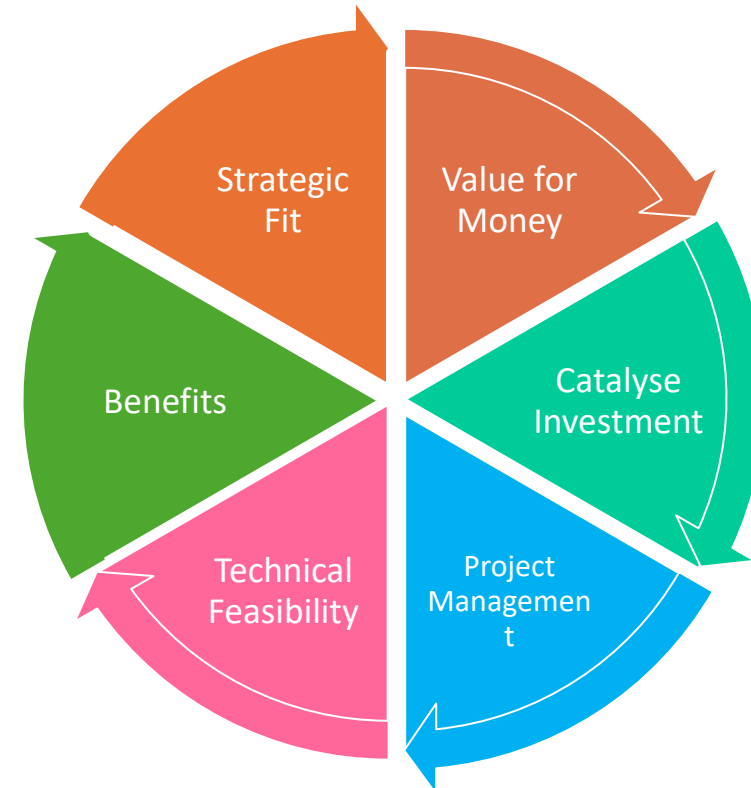
For Stage One:

All applications are considered under four assessment criteria.



For Stage Two:

All applications are considered under six assessment criteria



Application Process - Timeline



- **Monday 20th July** - Call Opens.
- **Thursday 6th August** - Consortium Building Event.
- **Monday 7th September**, 12:00pm midday (GMT)- Stage One Deadline.
- By **Friday 2nd October** - Notification of Stage One Outcomes.
- **Wednesday 11th November**, 12:00 midday (GMT) - Stage Two Deadline.
- By **Wednesday 16th December** - Notification of Stage Two Outcomes.
- By **Thursday 1st April 2027** - Negotiations & Grant Agreements Completed.
- By **End of March 2030** - Projects Conclude.

Application Process – Stage One



In both stages, applications must only be submitted by the lead organisation.

- Applications must be submitted by 12pm midday GMT on **Monday 7th September 2026**.
- Applications submitted after this time will not be considered.
- Applications must submit the Stage One Form.
- The Stage One Form can be submitted either via MS Forms or by submitting the Word document form via email to UKSA.Satcoms@dsit.gov.uk.
- Assessment criteria guidance is available on the gov.uk page.
- Outcomes and feedback will be provided no later than **Friday 2nd October 2026**.

Application Process – Stage Two



In both stages, applications must only be submitted by the lead organisation.

- Only applicants who pass Stage One will be invited to submit a Stage Two application - you will be informed via your Stage One outcome email if you have been invited to submit a Stage Two application.
- Applications must be submitted by **12pm midday GMT on Wednesday 11th November 2026.**
- Applications submitted after this time will not be considered.
- Applications must submit the following:
 - Stage Two Form.
 - Annex A: Budget Sheet.
 - Annex B: National Security.
 - Annex C: Overheads Template.
 - Annex D: Grant Applicant Checklist.
- Assessment criteria guidance is available on the gov.uk page.
- Outcomes and feedback will be provided no later than **Wednesday 16th December 2026.**

Engagement Opportunities



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology



Funding call specific
guidance on gov.uk



Email in any questions
– all answers will be
published on gov.uk



In-person Consortium
Event – 6th August

[Summary - C-LEO Funding Opportunity & Consortium Building Workshop](#)

Further questions?

Join our mailing list:



Email us at:

UKSA.satcoms@dsit.gov.uk

