



Science & Technology
Facilities Council

STFC PROJECTS PEER REVIEW PANEL CAPITAL EQUIPMENT CALL 2018

Guidelines

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1. Introduction

We are inviting UK PIs to submit applications for capital equipment to support the STFC's PPAN programme as well as STFC's External Innovation capabilities. **The opening and closing dates for applications are 10th April 2018 and 12th June 2018 respectively.** Applications will be considered by the Projects Peer Review Panel (PPRP) at its meeting of 11th-12th September 2018. The outcome of the meeting will be announced in October 2018. Please note that proposals will not be peer reviewed by external reviewers; therefore, PI responses to reviewers will not be required. This is a one-off Capital Call and is not anticipated to be repeated in future years.

2. Aims

This capital equipment call is inviting two types of proposals;

- 2.1. To augment the current PPAN programme by underpinning the university infrastructure needed to sustain UK leadership in international R&D programmes and future projects, and enhance UK technology capability.
- 2.2. To develop external innovation capacity to realise the innovation capability of STFC's PPAN programmes to support economic and societal impact within the UK in areas such as, but not exclusive to, photonics, optics and advanced materials.

This call is for the request of equipment to support External Innovation activities that fit within STFC's remit and/or to support R&D activities within STFC's Astronomy, Nuclear Physics, Particle Physics and Particle Astrophysics Programmes. The equipment requested may also be relevant to a university department beyond a single programme. Cross disciplinary investments will therefore be considered, but the applicants are asked to discuss with the office ahead of submitting a proposal.

For proposals that support R&D activities within the PPAN remit, this call encourages proposals for strategic investment that support Consolidated Grant activities. Consolidated Grants have remained at flat cash since 2013 and maintaining support for them was noted as the highest priority in the [2016 Balance of Programmes review](#). In addition, some preference will be given to the scientific areas that were noted in the Balance of Programmes as requiring added support; Accelerator Physics Computing, Nuclear Physics and Particle Astrophysics.

For those proposals with an External Innovation focus, PPAN technologies have yielded many opportunities for commercialisation across a wide range of industry sectors, including grid computing and software, spectroscopy, stem cell research and decontamination technology. This call will support opportunities for innovation and

commercialisation through proof-of-concept type support with a focus on the challenge areas identified in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund ([ISCF](#)). The call will help those at the very early stages of turning research outputs into a commercial proposition. The proposals can request support for equipment for preproduction and early prototyping, or a full laboratory demonstration of an idea, and will look to enable the applicant to apply to the ISCF in future years.

This call is for university infrastructure equipment and not hardware components which are integral to a new detector or running experiment that would normally require Science Board approval. However, a piece of university equipment which is required to build the hardware for an experiment is acceptable where the applicant can demonstrate that the equipment has longer-term and/or wider application, and that it can be used to support future experiments.

This call does not invite requests for Tier 3 computing hardware.

3. Eligibility

The lead Research Organisation (RO) must be eligible to hold RCUK grants; i.e. be an approved UK Higher Education Institution (HEI), Research Council Institute (RCI) or Independent Research Organisation (IRO) eligible for RCUK funding. Full details of approved RCIs and IROs can be found on the [RCUK website](#).

All applicants must meet the STFC eligibility requirements for individuals as stated in the [Research Grant Handbook](#). As well as meeting STFC's core subject areas, lead applicants must also be employed within a Research Organisation group previously (within the last 5 years) or currently funded by the STFC core Science Programme as listed in the [Research Grant handbook](#) or employed within STFC Laboratories/Facilities¹. Applicants must show that the work proposed will develop technologies and expertise directly from this research.

In addition, proposals will be considered from consortia or university groups who are in receipt of an STFC Consolidated Grant or Institute award only.

Proposals for projects must clearly demonstrate the relevance and relationship of the science, technology and expertise to STFC's core Science Programme or the STFC national facilities and laboratories.

Project proposals should be submitted through a single Je-S application from the lead research organisation only. Funding for successful projects will be awarded to the lead institution named on each application. This institution will then be

¹ Applicants employed within STFC's Laboratories/Facilities must ensure the proposal is within the remit of STFC's core subject areas.

responsible for disbursing funds to other institutions/organisations named on that application.

4. Support available

The amount of total capital available is around £2M - £3M for the period up to 31st March 2019. The panel will review proposals that support PPAN R&D activities separately to applications for building External Innovation capabilities. However, the balance of awarded projects will be reviewed to ensure the balance across the two areas is adequate. A consortium or university group will only be able to request a maximum of five items or a maximum total bid of £250k (50% cost to STFC).

Proposals will be reviewed by the Projects Peer Review Panel (PPRP) at the September 2018 meeting with awards being announced in October 2018.

5. Submitting applications

Applicants should refer to the [Research Grants Handbook](#) and [JeS helpdesk](#) (including [Case for Support and Attachments](#) guidance) for guidance on rules when preparing submissions including permissible font styles and size. You are advised to read the guidance carefully and to discuss with your institution's administration department. Applications not conforming to the submission rules will be rejected.

All applications should be submitted online using the Je-S system via the Je-S [login screen](#). Applicants must select the following options:

Council:	STFC
Doc Type:	Standard Proposal
Scheme:	PPRP
Call:	PPAN/EI Capital Call 2018
Peer Review Reference:	PPRP*

*Selected once within the Je-S form

If awarded, we will liaise with the institution over the start date. Funds must be spent before the end of the financial year, 31st March 2019.

Please note it is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that their institution's administration department submits the application **before 4pm on the closing date**. Proposals submitted after the closing date **will not** be considered.

In the event of any query relating to your Je-S application, please email the Je-S helpdesk at JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk or telephone 01793 444164.

6. Application process

Case for support

A case for support must be provided for all items of equipment requested and must be no greater than 2 pages per item. The case for support should provide a technical justification related to the programme of research it is intended to support, set out the full cost of the equipment with the RO's proposed contribution and an indication of when the equipment is needed. For proposals aimed at enhancing External Innovations, proposals must clearly demonstrate that the science, technology and expertise involved originated from STFC core science programme.

Applicants must show that the equipment is not already available within the host institution, or other accessible location, and that all other reasonable options have been considered. Furthermore, proposals must demonstrate that the applicants have the resource available to use the purchased equipment.

Proposals will be assessed on;

- Strategic value within the STFC programme
- Science excellence
- International competitiveness
- Societal and economic impact
- Scientific linkages

The assessment criteria in the [Research Grants Handbook](#) will also be considered by the Panel.

Data Management Plan

For proposals that aim to utilise the requested equipment to generate data, a data management plan attached to the Je-S submission form will be mandatory. The plan should be no longer than two pages of A4. The plan, together with any costs associated with it, will be considered and assessed by the normal peer review process. The data management plan should explain how the data will be managed over the lifetime of the project and, where appropriate, preserved for future re-use.

For those proposals that will not generate data, a data management plan will not be required by the applicant. In this instance, a dummy data management plan (blank document) should be attached to the Je-S form.

More information on completing the Data Management Plan can be found on the STFC [web site](#).

Pathways to Impact

A Pathways to Impact document (of a maximum of two pages) is required as part of this call. The Pathways to Impact document should be specific to the purchased equipment and resulting, or benefitting, projects. Therefore, proposals should clearly demonstrate the potential of the purchased equipment to directly, or indirectly, bring about economic and societal impact. The document will be considered and assessed by the normal peer review process.

Further information on completing a Pathways to Impact document can be found in the [Research Grants Handbook](#).

Requesting resources

This is an equipment only grant round and applicants should refer to the [Research Grants Handbook](#) and Je-S helpdesk for guidance on equipment rules when preparing submissions.

In particular, it should be noted that:

- Equipment means any individual items of equipment costing £10k (inclusive of VAT) or more.
- Research organisations (ROs) will be expected to make a contribution towards the total cost of the equipment of at least 50%. The contribution requested from STFC should be the amount entered on the Je-S form.
- Individual items of minor research equipment below £10k (inclusive of VAT) **cannot** be requested as part of this equipment round.

The consortium or university group must show that they have at least 50% financial support from their university and that they have the resource available to use the purchased equipment. Equipment costs associated with instrument development (e.g. construction of new detectors) that may sometimes be funded by STFC in full (i.e. at 100%) will not be supported on this call.

All costings should be at current prices, inclusive of VAT and other taxes where applicable, with no allowance for inflation. Further guidance on equipment rules can also be found on the [RCUK website](#).

7. Contacts

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Useful links:

[Peer review framework](#)

[Researchfish.](#)

[Equality of opportunity](#)