

UK-SG CR&D - SUSTAINABILITY & NET ZERO

Call for Proposals for Singapore and UK Companies

From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale.

Developing and deploying new sustainable technologies that can help reduce emissions is crucial to restoring our environment and to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. As the recovery of our ecosystem is a complex and multi-faceted challenge, collaboration is key to innovate towards a more sustainable future.

As such, Enterprise Singapore (“EnterpriseSG”) and Innovate UK are announcing the call for proposals between entities from Singapore and the United Kingdom that will contribute to achieving a net-zero emissions future.

1. Call Timeline

Activity	Date
Call Opens	14 August 2023
Submission Deadline	6 December 2023
Announcement of Approved Projects	1 March 2024
Commencement of Approved Projects	1 June 2024

2. Project Scope

This call seeks solutions that directly address Sustainability and Net Zero challenges in key technology areas, for example:

Tech areas	Examples (non-exhaustive)
Agrifood Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions that maximise food production efficiency, minimise resource requirements or waste outputs
Clean Energy & Renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions involving new ways to improve yields and handle intermittency of renewables Solutions that push boundaries of what can be achieved via energy storage technologies Solutions contributing to net zero in energy production such as green hydrogen Solutions that can capture and store carbon at scale
Green Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions that can further drive renewables adoption for built environment in dense, high rise urban city environment such as Singapore

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions that reduce the embodied carbon in new construction or asset enhancement of existing buildings
Sustainable Manufacturing & Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions that support materials and manufacturing organisations to become significantly more resource efficient Solutions that enable technologies like digital twins, sensors and controls in manufacturing processes – including transformative low-temperature processes, planning optimisation, waste heat capture and recovery systems
Urban Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions that enable autonomous net zero maritime, electric vehicles or batteries Solutions that reduce carbon emissions in transportation
Water Environment & Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions on high-performance, low-emissions wastewater treatment Solutions that better manage waste and contribute to a circular economy including sustainable packaging, solid waste and recycling
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions that improve tracking and management of carbon

3. Partnership Requirements

R&D projects which involve consortiums comprising at least one research performer and one business from UK and one research performer and one business from Singapore are preferred.

The support parameters and requirements are as follows:

Grant funding	<p>UK: UK applicants can apply for a maximum of £750,000 in funding per project, and the proportion of self-financing and applied grants is dependent on the size of the company involved (50:50 large, 40:60 medium, 30:70 small).</p> <p>SG: Eligible Singapore SMEs may receive up to 70% reimbursement of eligible costs while non-SMEs may receive up to 50% reimbursement. There is no cap on the maximum total funding amount.</p>
Consortium composition requirements	<p>A project consortium must minimally comprise of 1 UK company and 1 SG company, both independent of each other.</p> <p>Although not mandatory, research performers from academic / research institutions are encouraged to join the consortium, but they cannot work alone.</p>

Special conditions

Regardless of the number of researchers in the consortium, the budget allocated to research performers must not exceed 30% of the proposed total cost of the project.

Research performers from Singapore who wish to participate in the project can do so as subcontractors / consultants to the main Singapore company applicant. They will not qualify as direct recipients of funding, and funding will be disbursed through the main applicant.

4. Project Requirements

The project proposals must comply with the following guidelines:

- The project should focus on the development of new products, services or processes of industrial application leading to commercialisation in the domestic and/or global markets.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- The project should demonstrate a balanced technological contribution between the partners from both countries. Each partner should contribute no more than 70% of total project contribution, in terms of person months and total budget of the project.
- The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialisation strategy of the product and process.
- The collaboration period should be no less than 24 months and no more than 36 months.

Any partners whose joint R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the current call for proposals in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

5. Eligibility Criteria

- **For UK Companies**

UK applicants can apply for a maximum of £750,000 in funding per project, and the proportion of self-financing and applied grants is dependent on the size of the company involved (50:50 large, 40:60 medium, 30:70 small).

The UK partner must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be a UK registered business of any size

- b) Collaborate with a Singapore registered business, which must be a separate non-linked entity to the UK partner(s)

UK-based companies may refer to <https://www.apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/> for more information on eligibility.

- **For Singapore Companies**

Singapore applicants may refer to <https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/cip> for more information on the Co-Innovation Programmes.

The Singapore partner must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be a business entity that is registered and physically present in Singapore
- b) ≥ 30% local equity held directly or indirectly by Singaporean(s) / Singapore PR(s), determined by the ultimate individual ownership and;
- c) Be financially able to see the project through to completion

6. Submission Guidelines

- **For UK Companies**

Interested UK companies should refer to Innovate UK's [Innovation Funding Service](#) for information regarding eligibility criteria and the application process.

- **For Singapore Companies**

To apply, Singapore companies should submit your request to EnterpriseSG via this link: <https://go.gov.sg/uksgpreliminterest> as soon as possible (by 15 November 2023). Thereafter, EnterpriseSG will be in touch to inform on the application process.

Singapore companies must complete the application along with the following supporting documents via the Business Grant Portal as advised by Enterprise Singapore by **6 December 2023, 18:00 (SGT, GMT +8)** to be considered for funding:

- a) Latest ACRA business profile (retrieved within six months from application date)
- b) Latest and previous two years audited financial statements or official management accounts
- c) Relevant key quotations (e.g. equipment & software, materials & consumables, professional services)
- d) Any Letter of Intent

7. Evaluation of Project Proposals

All applications are assessed against the eligibility criteria of the call before being put forward for the national assessment according to the national evaluation criteria.

EnterpriseSG and Innovate UK will carry out independent national assessments and will select the eligible projects to be financially supported in accordance with their national laws and regulations. Only projects that are selected and approved by both EnterpriseSG and Innovate UK will receive funding support under this call.

8. Announcement of Approved Projects

Both UK and Singapore partners whose projects have been selected will be informed of the results and the amount of funding for the successful projects by their respective funding agencies by March 2024.

9. Main Contact Points

For further queries regarding this joint call, please contact the country representatives below:

Enterprise Singapore

Ms. Low Shin Ler

Email: low_shin_ler@enterprisesg.gov.sg

Innovate UK

Mr. David Campbell-Molloy

Email: david.campbell-molloy@innovateuk.ukri.org