

TRDF: Transformative Research Technologies for the Detection and Diagnosis of Plant and Animal Diseases

Guidance notes

Application deadline

8 October 2020, 4pm

Summary

Novel technologies continue to revolutionise life sciences research. The 2020 TRDF call aims to pump prime **the next generation of cutting-edge enabling research technologies** with the potential for **transformative impact in biosciences research**. It will support applications for early stage technology development and research into the development of novel techniques and technologies that have the potential to enable transformative step changes in research capability.

The 2020 TRDF call has a **strategic highlight on transformative research technologies for the detection and diagnosis of plant and animal diseases, and in particular infectious agents with zoonotic potential**. It is expected that these technologies will lead to a step change in the ability of researchers to investigate UK plant and animal health problems caused by endemic or emerging pathogens or pests. Applications not related to the detection and diagnosis of plant and animal diseases will be considered out of the scope of the 2020 TRDF call.

The call has an indicative total budget of up to £2.75M, subject to the quality of the applications received. The budget includes significant co-funding from UKRI-EPSRC. Applications must be between **6 and 18 months** duration and are not expected to exceed **£150K (£187K 100%FEC)**.

This call will be funded by a streamlined process to focus on the transformative impact of the research technology. There are a reduced number of documents to prepare and a fast-track peer review process to enable researchers to respond rapidly to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Please note: we anticipate that the 2020 TRDF call may receive a high level of interest. Prospective applicants are invited to consider carefully whether their application is within the remit and scope of the call, and should clearly articulate how the proposed project addresses the scope of the call. If in doubt, applicants are strongly advised to contact the office to discuss their proposed project.

Eligibility

Standard eligibility criteria, as set out in the [UKRI-BBSRC Grants Guide](#) Section 3, apply. Institutions and researchers normally eligible for UKRI-BBSRC funding include:

- HEIs
- Strategically funded institutes
- Eligible Independent Research Organisations (IROs)

Applications from organisations and/or individuals that are not eligible will be rejected without reference to peer review.

Further information is available in the [UKRI eligibility guidance](#).

For queries about eligibility, please contact us before submitting your application:
eligibility@bbsrc.ukri.org

Research technical professionals

UKRI-BBSRC recognises the value of technical expertise to the UK research workforce. The potential for staff development and training (including post-docs, technical and support staff) will be assessed by the panel. UKRI-BBSRC particularly supports recognition of the contributions of research technicians and technology and skills specialists, and encourages applicants to cost them appropriately on applications. Please refer to the UK Research and Innovation statement of expectations for technology/skills specialists and see our page: [Research technicians and technology and skills specialists](#).

How to apply

BBSRC is piloting a different approach to proposals for this call. Please consult the detailed guidance below on how to apply for full details of the attachments required:

We are asking applicants to **only** submit:

- Case for Support – Up to 8 pages including workplan
- Justification of Resources – Up to 2 pages
- Capability to Deliver – Up to 2 pages

Applications must be submitted using the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system by **16:00 on 8 October 2020**. This deadline is system generated and applications cannot be accepted after this time.

Applicants should follow the options from the drop-down menus:

- Log into the Joint Electronic System ([Je-S](#))
- Select New document
- Select Council: UKRI-BBSRC
- Select Document Type: Standard Proposal
- Select Scheme: Standard
- Select Call/Type/Mode: 2020 Tools and Resources Development Fund
- Select 'Create Document'

Applications involving two or more Research Organisations should be **submitted via a single, shared Je-S form**.

We advise applicants to read the [UKRI-BBSRC Grants Guide](#) and the [UKRI grant terms and conditions](#) before completing their application and to consult all call guidance and FAQs for detailed guidance specific for this call..

General information

- Standard guidelines for research grant applications apply, as described in the [UKRI-BBSRC grants guide](#) and the [Je-S Helptext pages](#).
- Standard font (size: 11 point - we recommend the use of Arial, Helvetica or Verdana typeface) and margin sizes (not less than 2 cm) must be used for all forms (excluding text on diagrams and the use of mathematical symbols). A minimum of single line spacing and standard character spacing must be used. Applications that do not adhere to these guidelines may be withdrawn from consideration.
- We recommend that where a document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams, etc.), the document is converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.
- The New Investigator, Industrial Partnership Award and LINK schemes do not apply to this call for proposals. First time Principal Investigators (PIs) should note that, if successful, being the PI on a grant which includes funding for Postdoctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) staff support costs will subsequently exclude them from being a New Investigator in Responsive Mode.
- PhD students should not be included on applications to the TRDF call.

UKRI-BBSRC reserves the right to reject applications, without reference to peer review, which are deemed to fall outside the remit and scope (including the financial scope) of this call. If required, expert advice from at least two members of the panel will be sought regarding fit to scope, noting that this will not be an assessment of the quality of the proposal.

The 2020 TRDF call has an indicative budget as detailed in the call information. We encourage research organisations to consider the scope and eligibility of potential applications to the call, and prioritise appropriately, prior to submission. We do not seek to implement an institutional cap for proposals but will take such measures if required to moderate demand to a manageable level.

Application procedure

Required documents

We are committed to improving the way we support the very best people, ideas and projects through strengthening best practice, identifying innovative approaches and being responsive to new opportunities and changes in the landscape. We want to ensure UKRI makes the best possible investment decisions and free-up those we invest in to focus on their work of creating new knowledge and delivering social, cultural, and economic benefits.

Therefore, this call will be funded by a streamlined application process to focus on the transformative impact of the research technology. There are a reduced number of documents to prepare and a fast-track peer review process will operate to enable researchers to respond rapidly to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The **only** documents required for application are:

Document	Max. page length (A4)	Guidance
Case for support (including	8 pages	See below.

Diagrammatic Workplan)		
Capability to Deliver	2 Pages	See below and the application download 'Capability to Deliver Guidance'.
Justification of Resources	2 pages	All resources requested (directly incurred, directly allocated, staff costs, PI and Co-I time) must be fully justified. Please list values requested alongside the justification. Items that would ordinarily be found in a department, for example non-specialist computers, should include justification both for why they are required for the project and why they cannot be provided from the research organisation's own resources (including funding from indirect costs from grants).

Case for Support (maximum of 8 sides of A4)

The Case for Support should be a self-contained description of the proposed work with relevant background, and should not depend on additional information. Applicants must not include URLs to web resources in order to extend their Case for Support. Panel members will base their assessment only on the written information contained within the form. UKRI-BBSRC reserves the right to withdraw proposals that contain links to additional information extending the Case for Support.

It should include the following:

- Descriptions of the work proposed in the application, including the proposed project, approaches and methods.
- Clear articulation of how the proposed project addresses the scope of the call.
- Descriptions of how the technology would have the potential for a broader impact on both the bioscience community and wider societal impact.
- A diagrammatic workplan for the proposed project, typically in the form of a Gantt chart, outlining the key steps to be taken and milestones to be reached to realise the project outcomes.

If your study involves the use of animals, please refer to section 4.13 – 4.39 of the grants guide for information on how this should be incorporated into your proposal.

The Case for Support should **not** include a track record as this information will be captured in the Capability to Deliver document (see below).

References should be included in the page limit and appear in a list at the end of the Case for Support and be linked to relevant text. We strongly encourage references to be given as DOIs to allow additional space for the scientific case. Within the list of references, URL links to relevant publications or online resources are permissible.

Capability to Deliver (maximum of 2 sides of A4)

This should be a narrative explaining the applicants' relevant experience and expertise to demonstrate their ability to successfully deliver the proposal. In demonstrating their skills and experience, applicants should draw on a breadth of examples to show how they have contributed to new ideas, hypotheses and tools, as well as how they have contributed to teams and collaborations, the research community, and to wider society.

All teams should describe contributions across the levels below, including where applicable how the team has worked together across these levels to deliver impact. The relative size of each section will vary depending on the relevant skills and experience of each applicant. Additionally, the current position of each PI and Co-I on the grant should be stated indicating how they meet eligibility criteria as outlined within the [UKRI-BBSRC Grants Guide](#).

- 1) Contribution to the generation and flow of new ideas, hypotheses, tools or knowledge
- 2) Contribution to research teams and the development of others
- 3) Contributions to the research community
- 4) Contributions to broader society
- 5) Additional information

Further detailed guidance is provided in the application download 'Capability to Deliver Guidance'.

Other Information

A Data Management Plan will be required for all funded applications, but is **not** required for an initial application. However, where applications may include data-intensive activities and the sharing of this data has directly relevant information to the assessment of the proposal then this information should be included as part of the Case for Support and associated costs fully detailed and justified in the Justification of Resources. If your application is recommended for funding the office will be in contact to provide additional information and guidance on submitting a completed Data Management Plan.

Although a cover letter is not required for this call, you **must** contact the office development.fund@bbsrc.ac.uk if you have any conflicts of interest to declare as outlined in [UKRI Guidance on Declarations of Interest](#). Additionally, please contact the office with concerns regarding conflicts for members of the community who may be asked to sit on the review panel.

Equipment quotations and facility access forms should only be included where they are necessary as indicated in the [UKRI-BBSRC grants guide](#).

UKRI-BBSRC reserves the right to reject applications that do not include the required attachments or include attachments not specified in this guidance.

Post award

- UKRI-BBSRC will decide the final funding value of each grant.
- A sample of successful proposals may be audited.
- Grants will be awarded under UKRI Standard Grant Terms and Conditions.

Contact

Please provide as much information as possible in your email to ensure a rapid response.

For call-specific queries, please contact: development.fund@bbsrc.ac.uk

For Je-S system queries, please contact:

- Email: JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org
- Tel: +44 (0) 1793 44 4164