

# Call Guidance

# Harwell and Sci-Tech Daresbury Campus Cross-Cluster Proof of Concept Grant Call and Connecting Space Clusters Highlight

## Key Information

- Funder: Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) as part of United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- Funding type: Grant
- Max Grant Award: £45,000
- Opening date: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2023
- Closing date: Wednesday 18th October 2023, 5.30.

## Description of the funding opportunity

There are two opportunities to secure funding from this call:

#### Main Call:

The main call aims to stimulate business engagement and collaboration with organisations associated with the Clusters at Harwell and Sci-Tech Daresbury.

- This call invites Proof of Concept projects from any area related to the clusters in Space, Energy Tech, Health Tech, Quantum, NW Health Tech, NW Space, and Digital Tech.
- Your project must be business-led, cross-cluster, and involve one or more project partner from a STFC Harwell or Sci-Tech Daresbury Campus Cluster. We are keen to support multi-disciplinary projects, although it is not a requirement of funding.

#### Connecting Space Clusters Highlight:

A partnership with Space North (North East Space Cluster and Space Hub Yorkshire), Space South Central Cluster, Space Scotland, and Westcott, aims to stimulate knowledge exchange and collaboration within the space communities around the UK and organisations in the space Clusters at Harwell and Sci-Tech Daresbury campuses.

• Your business-led project must be space-focused and involve one or more partner from Harwell or NW Space Cluster and one or more business from the partnering Space Clusters.

#### What we're looking for

The main funding opportunity aims to support business-led Proof of Concept projects that:



- Stimulate knowledge exchange, engagement and collaboration between businesses, research centres, facilities and other organisations in clusters
- Facilitate industry access to the excellent people, national facilities and diverse capabilities at Harwell and Sci-Tech Daresbury Campuses
- Boost knowledge and technology spill overs from publicly funded organisations at Sci-Tech Daresbury and Harwell to innovative companies across in the UK
- Drive the development or demonstration of novel concepts, technologies or services
- Demonstrate the feasibility of new technologies or capabilities, or a new application of existing technology
- Validate technologies and services in a systems context
- Support UK economic growth, helping high-potential businesses to progress new or novel ideas and secure follow-on-funding and investment.

The Connecting Space Clusters Highlight aims to support business-led Proof of Concept studies that:

- Stimulate knowledge exchange, engagement, and collaboration between businesses in space Clusters across the UK space ecosystem and the Harwell and NW Space Clusters.
- Facilitate industry access to the excellent people, national facilities and diverse capabilities at Harwell and Sci-Tech Daresbury Campuses
- Drive the development or demonstration of novel concepts, technologies or services
- Demonstrate the feasibility of new technologies or capabilities, or a new application of existing technology
- Strengthen connectivity across the UK space ecosystem and drive business growth
- Please see Annex 1 for further information about the partnering clusters for the Connecting Space Clusters Highlight

## Scope

In the main call, your project can focus on any area related to the clusters in Space, Energy Tech, Health Tech, Quantum, NW Health Tech, NW Space, and Digital Tech.

The Connecting Space Clusters Highlight encourages applications in the traditional space and new space market.



# Funding

A grant of up to £45k will be awarded per successful proposal. The grant must be match funded by the lead organisation and project team (cash / in-kind).

Costs are only eligible if they are incurred and paid between the project start and end dates. Claims may be subject to an independent audit. Applicants are permitted to request small items of equipment, providing they are essential to support the delivery of the project (and fully justified in the application form). For further information see **Annex 2**.

The Lead Organisation must have sufficient working capital to carry out the project, as funding is claimed in arrears upon receipt of a completed and approved Final Report.

All project work must complete by Monday 25th March 2024. You must submit your final claim for funding with your final report by Monday 25th March 2024, 5:30.

## Subsidy Control

The Grant being offered will count towards your Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Before we can consider your eligibility for a subsidy, we require written confirmation from you stating that receipt of the Grant will not exceed your organisation's MFA threshold of £315,000 cumulated over this current and the previous two financial years, as specified in section 36(1) of the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

You are required to keep written record of the Grant for at least three years beginning with the date on which the MFA was given.

## Projects we will not fund

We are not funding projects that:

- $\circ$  Do not meet the competition eligibility or scope
- Do not provide match funding (cash or in-kind)
- Resubmitted proposals from previous years

#### Who can apply

We will only fund collaborative projects.

Lead Organisation (Both calls)	•	The Lead Organisation of a project must be a registered UK business of any size. The Lead Organisation must carry out its project work in the UK.
	•	The Lead Organisation must intend to exploit the results



Collaborating Partners (Both calls)	<ul> <li>from or in the UK.</li> <li>The Lead Organisation must not have exceeded your £315,000 limit of de minimis or minimal financial assistance funding during the current and the previous two fiscal years.</li> <li>To collaborate with the lead, your organisation must be one of the following UK registered:</li> <li>Business of any size</li> <li>Higher Education Institution</li> <li>Research Council Institute</li> <li>Charity</li> <li>Research Organisation</li> <li>Public Sector Research Establishment</li> <li>Non-profit Research and Technology Organisation (RTOs), including Catapult</li> </ul>		
	Main Call	Connecting Space Clusters Highlight	
Collaboration Rules	<ul> <li>Must be led by a registered UK business.</li> <li>Must have a Lead Organisation or Project Partner with a presence at Harwell or Sci-Tech Daresbury Campuses.</li> <li>Must have a Lead Organisation or one or more Project Partner that is associated with one of the Cluster areas (Space, Energy Tech, Health Tech, Quantum, NW Health Tech, NW Space, and Digital Tech).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Must be led by a registered UK business.</li> <li>Must be a collaboration between a business from either the Space South Central, Space Scotland, Westcott, North East Space Cluster, or Space Hub Yorkshire and an organisation within the Harwell or North West Space Clusters.</li> <li>May also involve non-business collaborators from the Space South Central, Space Scotland, Westcott, North East Space Clusters.</li> <li>May also involve non-business collaborators from the Space South Central, Space Scotland, Westcott, North East Space Cluster, Space Clusters.</li> </ul>	

# Number of Applications

Businesses can lead only one application.

All partners can collaborate on any number of applications.

# How to apply

To request a copy of the application form and supporting documentation, please contact <u>CrossClusterPOC@stfc.ac.uk</u>.



You are encouraged to discuss your project with a Cluster Development Manager, Call Manager, or STFC Business Development Managers. Please see **Annex 3** for contact details.

Your project must be a collaboration. The roles, skills and experience each partner contributes to the successful delivery of the project should be clear from your application.

It is the responsibility of the Lead Applicant to ensure that a collaboration agreement, that is acceptable to all parties, is in place before the project begins, to make sure that IP arising from the work can be managed effectively.

You must include a detailed and fully justified cost breakdown for you project. Outlining what costs will be claimed from the STFC-UKRI grant and what will be paid for using match funding (cash or in-kind) for the main work packages.

Letters of support can be included from other relevant parties not directly involved in the project but who support the objectives, for example, potential end users.

To be considered for assessment you must submit:

- A completed Application form
- **A completed Project Team form**, outlining details of the Lead Organisation and Project Partners (names, registered organisation name, addresses, company numbers)
- A completed Subsidy Control Declaration form (not scored by the panel)
- Letterhead of Lead Organisation, outlining registered organisation name, addresses, company numbers (not scored by the panel)
- A **one-page project plan or Gantt chart** (1-page A4, PDF format)
- A **one-page project cost table** (1-page A4, PDF format)

Anything other than the documents listed above (and optional letters of support) will not be accepted.

Application documents must be completed in full and submitted along with any supporting documentation to CrossClusterPOC@stfc.ac.uk by 5:30 pm on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Any applications or additional material received after the deadline will not be considered.

#### How we will assess your application

All eligible proposals will undergo peer review by an independent panel of experts, which includes specific subject matter experts.

Each proposal will be assessed on the following criteria:

• The quality of the proposal (in relation to originality and excellence in the field) and the timeliness of the proposed innovation (including the benefits it offers over existing innovations).



- The proposed approach to delivering the outputs and outcomes expected from the project and the nature of these (e.g., in relation to new knowledge, technologies, products or services).
- The appropriateness of the project team (in terms of roles, skills and experience relevant to the approach) and the strength of the collaboration between the Project Partners.
- The anticipated outcomes, impact and benefits of the project outside the project team (in terms of expected impact on the economy and society at the local and national level, contribution to economic growth).
- The approach to drive delivery of the impacts and benefits that will be realised beyond the lifetime of this project (in relation to progressing innovations along the TRLs or equivalents).
- Justification for whether resources, equipment and facilities are needed for the project are appropriate, including justifying costs, and how the team will access / deploy them.
- The extent to which the approach to project management and risk management is suitable, including if suitable and effective structures are in place.
- The extent to which the projects represent good value for money for the UK taxpayer, through measurable benefits.

#### What happens if you are successful

All successful applicants will be notified by Friday 17th November 2023.

The Lead Organisation will receive a Grant Offer Letter from STFC-UKRI, which must be signed and returned within 30 days to secure the Grant.

You must not start the project until you are in receipt a Grant Offer Letter.

A member of the STFC-UKRI Cluster and Campus Development Team will work with you throughout the project. This will involve up to three meetings between the project and STFC-UKRI during delivery: a preliminary Kick-Off meeting within the first weeks of the project commencing, an interim meeting mid-way through the project, and a final review in the last few weeks of the project. STFC-UKRI are not responsible for project management.

You must submit a Final Report to STFC-UKRI (CrossClusterPOC@stfc.ac.uk) by Monday 25th March 2024, 5:30 to claim your funding. Further details will be discussed at the Kick-Off meeting.

After conclusion of your project, STFC-UKRI may continue to engage with successful applicants to highlight the outcomes of their project, achievements of their organisation and to demonstrate the impact of the Proof of Concept programme. This may involve requests to participate in a webinar, asking for quotes or input on case studies. No material will be disseminated outside of STFC-UKRI without prior approval from the project partners.



As STFC-UKRI is part of UKRI, UKRI may be required to report on the performance and impact of the Proof of Concept Programme and individual investments within the portfolio to UK Government.

### Checklist for documents to be submitted with application:

- A completed Application form.
- A completed Project Partners details form, outlining details of the Lead Organisation and Project Partners (names, registered organisation name, addresses, and company numbers)
- A completed Subsidy Control Declaration form (not scored by the panel)
- Letterhead of Lead Organisation, outlining registered organisation name, addresses, company numbers (not scored by the panel)
- One-page project plan or Gantt chart (1-page A4, PDF format)
- One-page project cost table (1-page A4, PDF format)
- Optional: Letters of support



# **Connecting Space Clusters Highlight – Cluster Details**

## Space North

### North East Space Cluster:

Space North East England is an established community of over 30 businesses working in collaboration with all five universities – Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teesside. We currently have a mix of long-established companies as well as businesses who are seeking to diversify and are new to the sector. Some of the primes within the region include Raytheon NORSS, Leonardo and Airbus and R&D capability investment from Lockheed Martin.

As a region we are highly experienced in manufacturing and engineering in automotive, subsea, energy especially offshore wind, and a fast-growing digital sector with special focus on games, immersive technologies, Fintech and life sciences. The region is also home to Europe's largest process/chemical cluster.

The key focus market focus areas as a cluster are centred around:

- Resilient connectivity RF and optical communications
- Space sustainability space situational awareness, in-orbit manufacturing, sustainable materials, manufacturing, and processes
- EO for climate change

We also have a number of key adjacent sectors within the region which include advanced manufacturing, defence, digital, AI and machine learning as well as telecommunications and semiconductors.

Contact: (Lisa.Mullen@durham.gov.uk) and (Elaine.Scott@durham.gov.uk).

#### Space Hub Yorkshire:

Supporting the growth of the UK's Space industry in Yorkshire, the SHY consortium brings together our universities, local authorities, government agencies, and commercial partners across the region.

Our reputation for innovation and research from our 12 universities is world leading. With 150 businesses in the space sector and over 350 space relevant businesses we are keen to forge connections, increase collaboration, grow inward investment and exports, and champion innovation bringing space expertise to other sectors

Our strengths include significant capability in Earth Observation, Resilient Connectivity (RF and optical comms), Quantum, Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Manufacturing (we are home to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre). We are also leading on GreenSpace, an initiative to connect Earth Observation capability to Green Finance to underpin the sustainability agenda.

If you would like to be connected to our businesses, world leading academics, our cluster experts or just want to find out more please contact: **Contact:** (spacehubyorkshire@leeds.ac.uk) or follow us on linked in https://www.linkedin.com/company/spacehubyorks



# Space South Central:

The UK's largest regional space cluster, Space South Central champions the thriving space sector of Hampshire, Surrey and the Isle of Wight, which accounts for nearly 20% of the UK's  $\pm 17.5$  billion space industry and employs around 10% of its workforce.

The region boasts more than 50 years of space heritage, a rare mix of end-to-end capabilities and a global reputation for research and innovation excellence. Space South Central's role is to boost further collaboration, investment and growth locally, nationally and internationally.

Representing its three partner universities of Portsmouth, Southampton and Surrey, and more than 130 space-related companies, Space South Central connects industry and academic expertise, funding and investment opportunities and offers tailored business support to accelerate innovation and growth.

To find out more, visit <u>spacesouthcentral.com</u>.

Contact: Dan Smith – Business Development Manager: (daniel.smith@port.ac.uk)

## Westcott:

Westcott Space Cluster is a continually expanding commercial space cluster based at Westcott Venture Park, a privately owned park in the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, including 650 acres of companies from various industries establishing and scaling their operations.

The cluster is based off an entrepreneurial, innovative, and multifaceted culture, with an exciting and ever-changing commercial focus. The businesses within the cluster are developing the focus for the UK's space propulsion R&D activities. The cluster's key focus areas are:

- Business Support
  - Including an Incubator and Accelerator programme
- Manufacturing
  - Allowing companies to expand capabilities into new-purpose-built facilities as well as growing capabilities utilising experts in the areas of robotics, manufacturing, in-orbit operations, and much more.
- Connectivity
  - Including the Future Networks Development Centre for testing solutions, Westcott Innovation Centre for prototype and manufacturing, and a network of support for growing businesses.

#### General Cluster Contact: (westcottinfo@westcottspacecluster.org.uk)

## **Space Scotland**

Space Scotland is a not-for-profit company set up in 2021 to provide an environment that enables the development of the Scottish space sector and its various clusters through active engagement with industry, academia and government representatives. An industry-led initiative, Space Scotland actively supports the entirety of Scotland's rare 'end-to-end' space ecosystem and value chain, to reinforce the wider UK proposition.

The organisation consists of an Executive Delivery team, guided by a Council that is open to all Scottish space companies, supported by voluntary working groups and a Board of Directors to deliver on priorities identified. We aim to enable sectoral growth by promoting, coordinating, connecting and acting as a guide for Scotland's industry, whilst encouraging initiatives with adjacent sectors to ensure it's positive impact is felt as widely as possible. The



industry Stakeholder Council works in alignment with the Scottish Government Space Group and Scottish Space Academic Forum, forming a 'Team Scotland' approach to space sector growth.

**Contact:** Christina MacLeod – Cluster Development Project Manager (christina@spacescotland.org)

## **General Contact Details**

If you would like to learn more about the Connecting Space Clusters Highlight Call or are a business that is interested in exploring potential collaboration opportunities with the cluster communities and at Harwell or Sci-Tech Daresbury, please contact the **call management** at:

(<u>CrossClusterPOC@stfc.ac.uk</u>)

Alternatively, please contact the Harwell and Daresbury Space Cluster Development Managers if you would like advice on, or to be connected with, organisations within the Campus Space Clusters:

#### Gemma Wilson, Harwell Space Cluster Development Manager

o (Gemma.Wilson@stfc.ac.uk)

#### Alan Cross, NW Space Cluster Development Manager

• (<u>Alan.Cross@stfc.ac.uk</u>)



## Costing

Expenditure should be directly incurred for your project and only that project and supported by an auditable record. Costs are only eligible if they are incurred and paid between the project start and end dates. Claims may be subject to an independent audit.

#### Personnel Costs

• The payroll costs of researchers, technicians and other support staff, full or part-time, who work on the project, and whose time can be supported by a full audit trail may be included. The need for such staff should be justified in the justification of resources attachment.

Travel and subsistence

- Reasonable travel costs for journeys that are an essential part of the project and are directly related to the research project can be claimed as a direct cost.
- Travel and subsistence costs must be commensurate with the scale of the project. Please note all travel and subsistence costs will be reviewed by the assessment panel with regards to suitability and justification.

#### Equipment

• Small items of equipment can be claimed for, providing they are essential to support the delivery of the project.

Other eligible costs, for example:

- Consumables
- Specialist publications or publication costs such as technical reports
- Field work / fees
- Access costs for workshops or research infrastructures
- Consultancy fees

The following costs are not eligible on your grant

- Patent costs, and other IPR costs such as those relating to licensing agreements and the establishment of spin out companies
- Redundancy costs for staff
- Depreciation on equipment or facilities
- Time preparing the proposals together with time spent on dissemination after a grant has ended.

Please note this is not an exhaustive list. If you have any questions about costing, please contact <u>CrossClusterPOC@stfc.ac.uk</u>.



# Key Contact Details

For all queries about this call and to request a copy of the application form and supporting documentation, please contact: <u>CrossClusterPOC@stfc.ac.uk</u>.

### **Call Management**

If you would like to learn more about this call or explore our Campuses, national facilities and other collaborative opportunities, please contact one of the team:

- Jessica Brush, Cluster Development Officer (jessica.brush@stfc.ac.uk)
- Lee Glassbrook, Campus Development Manager (lee.glassbrook@stfc.ac.uk)
- Zoe Dale, Graduate Cluster Development Officer

(zoe.dale@stfc.ac.uk)

### **Cluster Development Managers**

If you would like advice on the most appropriate cluster organisation to work with, or would like to be connected to a cluster organisation, please contact one of the Cluster Development Managers:

- Gemma Wilson, Harwell Space Cluster Development Manager (Gemma.Wilson@stfc.ac.uk)
- Emma Southwell-Sander, Harwell Energy Tech Cluster Development Manager

(Emma.Southwell-Sander@stfc.ac.uk)

- Adrian Hill, Harwell Health Tech Cluster Development Manager (<u>Adrian.hill@stfc.ac.uk)</u>
- Phil Carvil, NW Health Tech Cluster Development Manager (<u>Philip.carvil@stfc.ukri.org</u>)
- James Bedford, Digital Tech Cluster Development Manager (james.bedford@stfc.ac.uk).
- Alan Cross, NW Space Cluster Development Manager (<u>Alan.Cross@stfc.ac.uk</u>)



### Facilities, Centres, and Campus Capabilities at Hartwell and Sci-Tech Daresbury

If your project partner is a facility, centre or capability at Harwell or Sci-Tech Daresbury you must discuss and agree all roles and responsibilities, and how intellectual property rights and ownership will be addressed in advance of submitting your application. Please contact the named individual below:

#### Harwell:

- ISIS Neutron & Muon Spallation Source (<u>graham.appleby@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- o Central Laser Facility (sneha.banerjee@stfc.ac.uk)
- Research Complex at Harwell (please contact the call coordinator)
- ESA ECSAT (please contact the call coordinator)
- Diamond Light Source Elizabeth Shotton (<u>industry@diamond.ac.uk</u>)
- RAL Space (<u>charles.haire@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- Satellite Applications Catapult (<u>Businessengagement@sa.catapult.org.uk</u>)
- Medical Research Council Mary Lyon Centre (<u>i.sahin@har.mrc.ac.uk</u>)
- UK Health Security Agency (<u>Simon.Bouffler@phe.gov.uk</u>)
- STFC Technology Department (<u>Alexandra.Bromhead@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- UKAEA Culham (please contact the call coordinator)
- STFC ITAC (joe.bennett@stfc.ac.uk)
- The Faraday Institute (please contact the call coordinator)
- The Rosalind Franklin Institute (<u>laura.holland@rfi.ac.uk</u>)
- STFC Scientific Computing Department (please contact the call coordinator)
- NQCC (geoff.barnes@stfc.ac.uk)

#### Sci-Tech Daresbury:

- The Hartree Centre (<u>simeon.clow@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- ASTeC (<u>helen.cattell@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- The Cockcroft Institute (<u>rachel.james@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- Campus Technology Hub (<u>emmanuel.dupuis@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- Virtual Engineering Centre (<u>Andrew.Levers@liverpool.ac.uk</u>)
- SuperSTEM (please contact the call coordinator)
- STFC Daresbury ITAC (<u>emmanuel.dupuis@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- STFC Technology Department (Engineering Technology Centre, Detector Systems Group, Nuclear Physics Group) (<u>ian.lazarus@stfc.ac.uk</u>)
- Innovation Agency NWC (<u>Lindsay.Sharples@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk</u>)



To support business looking to improve productivity and scale up their production, either as part of a Cross Cluster Proof of Concept Project or as a follow-on collaboration, the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) are enabling access to their Manufacturing Support Service, Product Manufacturing Incubator and Digital Manufacturing Accelerator. Please contact the call coordinator at <u>CrossClusterPOC@stfc.ac.uk</u> for more information and to be linked with the MTC.



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