



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation
Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency



Innovate
UK

2nd UK – Switzerland Bilateral Call for Joint Innovation Projects

Deadline for submission of applications – 01 May 2024

Scope/Objectives

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, and Innosuisse (the Swiss Innovation Agency) are launching their second bilateral call for applications for joint R&D projects. This call is open only to UK and Swiss collaborators and encourages innovation in, but not limited to, the following technologies:

- Life sciences
- AI
- Semiconductor applications
- Quantum

The aim is to support UK and Swiss collaborations and capabilities in emerging fields, thereby enhancing their global growth prospects. Proposals must contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and / or technical services with significant market potential for the UK and Switzerland. Projects should have a clear benefit and added value from the collaboration between participants from both countries (e.g. increased innovation capability, commercial advantage, access to R&D infrastructure, new application, etc.). Aligning the common objectives of project consortia with the funding criteria of both agencies will increase the success rate of funding.

Eligibility criteria

All proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria in order to be considered:

- The maximum funding request (per project) to Innosuisse must **not** exceed CHF 450,000.-.
- The duration of the project must be between 18 and 36 months.
- The project consortium must include at least **one business entity** from each country (UK, Switzerland) and **one research institute** from either the UK or Switzerland. If the Swiss applicant is an individual start-up (pre-market and <50 FTE), the research institute requirement is waived.
- Participation of other research organisations and other commercial companies from both countries is welcome in accordance with the funding regulations of each country.
- The research organisations and commercial companies must comply with the regulations of their respective countries.
- To ensure that projects promote genuine international collaboration rather than internal company research, associated companies will be considered as a single entity under the parent company. Any UK registered organisation involved in an application must be a separate legal entity, not linked to the Swiss partners or vice versa.
- If an organisation is not leading an application, it may collaborate on up to three applications.
- The project must demonstrate a relevant innovation content, added value and benefit from the bilateral cooperation in both countries.
- No partner may contribute **more than 70% of the total person-months** to the project. Person-months is the measure of the time in months that staff will devote to the project.
- A draft consortium agreement, including intellectual property rights (IPR), must be submitted with the proposal.
- Both agencies will only consider project costs incurred in their country as eligible. Cross-border funding is not foreseen.

Only proposals meeting all the eligibility criteria will be considered for evaluation. **There will be no opportunity to correct errors in proposals after the application deadline.** Please note that the inclusion of an ineligible partner in a proposal will result in the entire proposal not being considered.

Call dates

Publication of the call	17 Jan 2024
Call briefing webinar	29 Jan 2024
Opening date for submission	05 Feb 2024
Closing date for submission	01 May 2024
Notification of decision	09 Aug 2024
Earliest project start date	01 Nov 2024

Call Brokerage Event and Partnering (optional)

The **search for project partners** is supported and organised in Switzerland by Enterprise Europe Network EEN, and in the UK by Innovate UK EDGE.

[EEN Switzerland](#) and [Innovate UK EDGE](#) will set up an online business-to-business (b2match) platform with partner profiles to facilitate contacts between interested organisations. The platform will allow participants to meet at any time until 15 April 2024. All partner searches will be managed by your EEN Switzerland and Innovate UK-EDGE contacts. Partners are encouraged to register their needs on the platform as early as possible to increase the chances of building a consortium.

An online event (**webinar**) for interested parties will be organised on 29 January 2024. The webinar will provide information on funding conditions, the call process, partner search and other aspects of the call. Interested parties will have the opportunity to ask questions to representatives from Innosuisse and Innovate UK. The link and registration for the webinar will be made available provided on the [b2match platform](#).

Submission of applications

Each project must submit a full application before the submission deadline of **01 May 2024**. The completed full application must be submitted to Innovate UK for UK partners and to Innosuisse for Swiss partners as follows:

- UK participants must submit a formal application to Innovate UK via their online portal. Please read the [guidance on applying for a call on the Innovation Funding Service](#) before starting.
- Swiss participants must submit a *Bilateral Cooperation Application* via the [Innosuisse submission portal](#) (innolink.innosuisse.ch), together with the mandatory documents listed below:
 - The title of your project must match the title provided by your UK partners in their respective national application to Innovate UK and the title in the common proposal.
 - Please **select** the “**United Kingdom**” drop-down option under “*Bilateral Call / Please select the partner country of the bilateral call you intend to submit*” in the Introduction section.
 - The completed **common proposal** must be uploaded as part of the application.
 - The Consortium Agreement (CA) is mandatory for international projects. A draft CA must be uploaded as an attachment to the application.
- Documents for financial check:
 - Implementation partners with < 250 FTE are required to submit **the annual accounts for the last two years** as an annex to the full proposal. If annual accounts are not available, the financial Excel spreadsheet available on the [Innosuisse website](#) should be sent to bilateral-cooperation@innosuisse.ch.
 - If an implementation partner with < 250 FTE applies for more than CHF 1 Mio., Innosuisse will conduct a due diligence (additional documents will be requested later). If Innosuisse has already carried out a due diligence in the context of another initiative, the result will be taken into account in an appropriate way.

Evaluation

Applications are evaluated separately by both agencies and ranked jointly. In order to be funded and to continue as a viable project, the proposal must be successful on both sides of the consortium.

Subsidy control

Innosuisse cannot award grants to organisations that are considered to be in financial difficulty. After the application phase, Innosuisse carries out eligibility checks (entry in the Swiss Commercial Register; not on [SECO's sanctions list](#)) and financial viability checks (has the financial means to bear the planned own contribution, to complete the project and to implement the project results).

Evaluation criteria – Innosuisse, Switzerland

Project Quality

- Clear and well-defined project
- Realistic and quantifiable objectives and milestones
- Justification of the proposed approach and resources

Project consortia

Project partners should demonstrate:

- Complementary technological excellence, expertise
- Added value of international collaboration
- Strong partnership base and commitment to continue working together beyond the duration of the project
- Management capacity to successfully complete the project and implement the results
- Mutual enhancement of R&D through the transfer of knowledge and expertise

Degree of Innovation

The innovation aspect of a project **must go beyond the international state of the art**. The innovation project should be scientifically based and aim to achieve advances in technology or service aspects. The main objectives in terms of product, process or service performance and cost issues (in terms of with competitiveness) must be presented in a comprehensive manner.

Market Value Creation:

The project aims to create a new value chain, or to integrate into an existing one. There must be a **market and implementation plan** for the proposed product, process or service.

Assessment criteria – Innovate UK

For more information on how the evaluators will assess your innovate UK application, click [here](#).

Key assessment criteria

- The business need, technological challenge, or market opportunity behind your innovation
- The approach and focus of the innovation
- The project team, resources and their roles
- Target market and market awareness
- Outcomes and route to market
- Wider impact outside the project team
- Added Value

Funding rules

Applications must comply with Innovate UK and Innosuisse guidelines, as explained below. Detailed guidance on how to apply for funding is available to partners on request from contacts at both agencies. . Each country will fund its eligible participants in accordance with its national procedures and funding rules. Funding

conditions and eligibility criteria may vary between the UK and Switzerland. However, **the bilateral joint cooperation between the partners and its added value will be an important aspect to be considered in the evaluation.** Successful applicants will be required to submit a **common consortium agreement** (including an IPR agreement) signed by all partners to Innovate UK and Innosuisse **prior to the start of the project.** Failure to submit a draft (unsigned) consortium agreement at the application stage will result in the application being disqualified.

Projects will be funded by the national funding agencies (Innovate UK and Innosuisse) in the order of the joint ranking list. The funding agencies will fund as many projects as their budgets allow. Up to £4.0 million from Innovate UK and up to CHF 3.0 million from Innosuisse, have been allocated to fund innovation projects in this bilateral call.

Switzerland - Innosuisse funding regulations:

Innosuisse is responsible for promoting science-based innovation in Switzerland. One of its main tasks is to help bring innovative products and services to the market for the benefit of the Swiss economy. Swiss implementation partners receive a non-exclusive right to exploit the project results in their specific business area.

- Innosuisse covers a **maximum of 70%** of the total Swiss project costs as follows:

Funding rate for research organisations:	100% of eligible costs
Funding rate for start-ups* and SMEs or other implementation partners < 250 FTE	max. 50% of eligible costs
Funding rate for large companies or other implementation partners > 250 FTE	max. 25% of eligible costs

**Swiss start-ups that have not yet entered the market and that only collaborate with foreign companies can receive up to 70%*

- If the commercial entity in Switzerland is a single start-up (before market entry and <50 FTE), the requirement for a research institute in the project consortium is waived.
- The implementation partners must cover **at least 30% of the total Swiss project costs.**

Eligible costs:

Only costs necessary for the proper execution of the project are eligible. These include personnel costs (salaries + employer's social contributions), material costs, coordination costs (management of the consortium, if not covered by personnel or material costs), travel costs (covers international travel to project partners) and overheads (only for research institutions).

Project reviews, reporting:

Innosuisse can request reviews or interim reports on project progress, content and schedule as needed. At the end of the project, a plan must be submitted showing how the results will be implemented. More details can be found on the [Innosuisse webpage](#).

UK – Innovate UK funding regulations:

UK - Commercial organisations: The following funding application limits apply to all commercial and economic activities of the project.

For feasibility studies and industrial research projects, eligible project costs can be funded:

- up to 70% if you are a micro or small organisation
- up to 60% if you are a medium sized organisation
- up to 50% if you are a large organisation

For experimental development projects that are nearer to market, eligible project costs can be funded:

- up to 45% if you are a micro or small organisation

- up to 35% if you are a medium sized organisation
- up to 25% if you are a large organisation

UK - Research Organisations: Research organisations undertaking non-economic activities as part of the project can share up to 30% of the total grant requested. If your consortium includes more than one research organisation undertaking non-economic activity, this maximum will be shared between them. Of that 30% you could receive funding for your eligible project costs of up to:

- 80% of Full Economic Costs (FEC) if you are a JE-S registered institution such as an academic institution
- 100% of your project costs if you are an RTO, charity, not-for-profit organisation, public sector organisation or research organisation

Data Sharing

This bilateral call is jointly operated by Innovate UK, and Innosuisse (each an “agency”).

All relevant information submitted and generated during the application process may be shared by one agency with the other for their individual storage, processing and use.

This means that any information provided to or generated by one agency in relation to your application may be disclosed to the partner agency and vice versa. This includes, but is not limited to:

- the information provided in the application, including the personal details of all applicants
- evaluation and feedback on the application
- information received during the management and administration of the grant

Innovate UK and Innosuisse are directly accountable to you for the holding and processing of your data, including all personal data and confidential information. Data will be held in accordance with their own policies ([Innovate UK’s Privacy Policy](#) / [Innosuisse’s Data Protection Policy](#)). Accordingly, Innovate UK, and Innosuisse will be the data controllers of personal data submitted as part of the application process.

Contacts for details and Partnering enquires

Contacts for Call details	
<p>Innovate UK https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/</p> <p>Sophie Mifsud Tel: +44 7849 310405 sophie.misfud@iuk.ukri.org</p>	<p>Innosuisse https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home.html</p> <p>Prabitha Urwyler Tel: +41 58 469 17 67 bilateral-cooperation@innosuisse.ch</p>
Contacts for Partner Search Requests	
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