

Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund 2021 Discovery phase application questions

The assessors will assess your answers for questions 2 to 9.

Your answers to questions 1 and 10 are not assessed as they are for monitoring only.

Your answer to each question can be up to 400 words long. Do not include any URLs in your answers unless we have explicitly requested a link to a video.

Question 1. Applicant location (not assessed)

You must state the name of your organisation along with your full registered address. If you are working in collaboration you must also state the name and full registered address of all your partners. We are collecting this information to understand the geographical location of all participants of a project.

Question 2. Problem and opportunity

Define the problem the innovation is aiming to solve and the opportunity that could be realised in solving it.

Question 3. Project summary

Provide a short summary of your project and describe how it meets the scope of the competition.

Give details of the lead organisation and any project partner organisations you have named as subcontractors and why they are best placed to develop the idea further

- list the potential users of the innovation and your understanding of their needs in relation to the challenge
- download the slide template provided to create a single 'Project on a slide' plus a single slide 'Postcard from the future' which will be made publicly available.
- provide a link to a 60 second video which will be made publicly available

Upload the completed two-slide template as a PDF appendix to your answer to this question.

You must upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo. It must be no longer than 60 seconds.

Please ensure your video is 'unlisted' in the privacy settings. Give the link and any passwords required in your answer to this question. If we are unable to view your video or it is not hosted on Vimeo or YouTube, your application will be made ineligible. The video must remain available until 30 June 2022.

More information on how to create an unlisted video on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#).

If you cannot upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo, you must contact support@innovateuk.ukri.org at least 10 working days before the competition closes for advice or to ask permission to use an alternative platform.

In your video you must summarise the problem, your idea, and the opportunity for consumers to benefit.

Question 4. The big idea

How does your proposal address the aims described in the competition scope?

Provide a brief description of your proposed idea, technology or service.

Describe the current state of development or readiness of the idea and the current and proposed IP arrangements.

Question 5. Innovation justification

How have you researched similar projects elsewhere nationally and internationally?
What learnings have you gained?

Clearly demonstrate your idea is truly innovative and should not be funded elsewhere within the price control or considered as part of business-as-usual activities.

You can submit a single appendix as a PDF containing tables of similar projects, images and diagrams to support your answer. It can be no larger than 10MB and up to 2 A4 pages long.

Question 6. Impact and value for money

How will your idea deliver improved value to consumers including value for money?

How will your idea reduce CO₂?

How do you expect to quantify the market benefits of your innovation? Use indicative metrics where possible.

Using your chosen metrics, describe and explain, where applicable:

- economic benefits resulting from the project to your users and any other parts of the supply chain, broader industry, and the UK economy, such as productivity increases and import substitution
- impact on government priorities and any associated benefits with this
- environmental impacts, either positive or negative
- any expected regional benefits
- impacts on consumers of the whole energy system (both individuals, and collectively)
- quantitative measures you expect to use

Question 7. Project plan and milestones

What is your project plan? What are your milestones?

We expect you to be flexible in the delivery of each phase in line with an agile approach to working.

Outline your project approach:

- describe the main work packages of the project for phase 1, indicating the lead resource or subcontractor (where appropriate) assigned to each plus the relevant success criteria
- submit a risk matrix including identification of major constraints: regulatory, commercial, and technical constraints

You must submit a project plan and a risk matrix as appendices to support your answer.

These could contain images and diagrams illustrating your project approach, known barriers including regulatory or commercial or tables of similar projects, images and diagrams to support your answer.

Each of the appendices must be PDF, can be up to 1 A4 page long and no larger than 10MB in size.

This will be used to inform your deliverables to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, which will be set out in the project direction.

Question 8. Route to market

If your idea becomes viable after the beta phase of the project, how will you enable procurement and utilisation of your innovation across the UK and internationally?

How will your idea become business as usual within your network and across the other networks?

For each non-licensee project partner, please provide an indication of their need for investment either before, during or after the project.

Download the template and read the guidance included.

It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that all non-licensee partners review the investment need executive summary template and have completed it as applicable.

Upload all investment need executive summaries as a single PDF no larger than 10MB in size as part of your answer to this question.

Question 9. Costs and value for money

How much will the project cost and how does it represent value for money for the consumer?

In terms of the project aims, describe or explain:

- the total eligible project costs
- the funding you are requesting
- how each partner will finance their contributions to the project
- how it compares to what you would spend your money on otherwise
- the balance of costs and SIF funding across the project partners
- any subcontractor costs and why they are critical to the project
- how this is complementary to, and provides additional value over your business as usual activity

Question 10. Regulatory barriers (not assessed)

Are there any regulatory barriers which may affect your proposal?

If a known or perceived regulatory barrier exists, you can discuss such regulatory barriers with Ofgem's Innovation Link service (innovationlink@ofgem.gov.uk)

If yes, download the Ofgem Innovation Link 'Fast Frank Feedback Enquiry Form', complete it and upload as part of your answer to this question.