



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



Innovate
UK

1st UK – Switzerland bilateral call for Joint Innovation Projects

Deadline for submission – 26th July 2023

Scope/Purpose

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation and the **Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse)** are announcing a bilateral call for joint R&D project outlines. This call is open for all scientific disciplines.

The aim of this call is to support UK-Swiss international business-led innovation collaboration and thereby support their global growth prospects. The proposals must contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and / or technical services which have a significant market potential for UK and Switzerland. The projects should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two jurisdictions (e.g. increased innovation capability, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.) Innovate UK and Innosuisse have opted for a one-stage evaluation process and a coordinated ranking of the projects. An alignment of the common targets within the project consortia with the funding criteria of both agencies will increase the success rate for funding.

Eligibility

All proposals must meet following eligibility criteria to be qualified for evaluation:

- The project must have a maximum grant funding request to Innosuisse of CHF 400'000 /.-
- The project must last 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 UK or Switzerland.
- The participation of further research organizations and further commercial companies from both countries according to each country's funding regulations is welcome.
- The research organizations and commercial companies must comply with the regulations of their respective country.
- All businesses in a consortium must be separate legal and non-linked entities. This is to ensure that projects encourage genuine international collaboration, not internal company research. Linked companies are considered a single entity under the parent company. Any UK registered organisation that joins an application must be a separate legal entity which is not linked to the Swiss partners or vice-versa.
- If an organisation is not leading any application, it can collaborate in up to two applications.
- The project must demonstrate a relevant innovation content, added-value and benefit from the bilateral cooperation in both countries.
- Projects should have a balanced contribution of the total eligible project costs among the partners from the participating partner countries. **No more than 70% of the total project costs** can be claimed by any single partner or by all partners from a single participating country.
- Along with the proposal, the consortium is encouraged to present a draft agreement on the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), in order to reduce the negotiation time after the proposal has been approved and prior to the project starting date.
- Both agencies will only consider project costs, which arise in their country eligible for funding. Cross-border funding is not foreseen.

Only proposals meeting all eligibility criteria will be considered for evaluation. **There will be no opportunity to correct errors in the proposals after the application deadline.**

Please note that the inclusion of an ineligible partner in a proposal will result in the non-consideration of the entire proposal. For the definition of eligible partners, see the national regulations and contact your national contact person.

Call Dates

Publication / Launch of Call	17 th of March 2023
Opening date for submission	17 th of April 2023
Call briefing webinar	20 th of April 2023
Closing date for submission	26th July 2023
Decision communication	18 th September 2023

Call Brokerage Event and Partnering (optional)

The **search for project partners** in Switzerland will be supported and organized by Enterprise Europe Network EEN, and in UK by Innovate UK KTN.

[EEN Switzerland](#) and [Innovate UK KTN](#) will open an online business to match (b2match) platform with partner profiles to establish contacts between interested organizations. The platform will allow meetings among participants at any time until 26 July 2023. All questions related to partner search will be managed by your EEN Switzerland and Innovate UK-KTN contacts. Partners are requested to register their needs on the platform at the earliest possible stage in order to increase the chance to build a consortium.

An online event (**webinar**) for interested parties will be organized in April 2023 (20.April). The webinar will provide information on funding conditions, call process, partner search and other aspects of the call. Interested parties will have the opportunity to ask questions to representatives of Innosuisse and Innovate UK. The link and registration to the webinar will be provided on [b2match platform](#).

Application Submission

One full-application for each project must be submitted, before the submission deadline **26th of July 2023**. The completed full-application must be submitted to Innovate UK for UK partners and to Innosuisse for Swiss partners as follows:

- UK participants have to submit a formal Innovate UK application on their online portal. Please read the [guidance on applying for a call on the Innovation Funding Service](#) before you start.
- Swiss participants have to submit a Innosuisse application and the **joint call document** via the [submission portal of Innosuisse](#) (innolink.innosuisse.ch),
 - Please **select** the drop-down option “**United Kingdom**” under “*Bilateral Call / Please select the partner country of the bilateral call you intend to submit*” in the Introduction section.
 - Implementation partners with < 250 full time employees need to submit **the annual accounts of the past two years** as an annex to the full-proposal; start-ups without annual accounts submit a **business plan**. If an implementation partner with < 250 full time equivalents is requesting more than CHF 1 Mio. funding, Innosuisse will perform a due diligence. If Innosuisse has already checked the due diligence in the context of another initiative, the result will be considered in an appropriate way.

Evaluation

The full-application is evaluated separately by both agencies and jointly ranked by mid of September 2023. In order to receive any grant funding and continue as a feasible project, the project proposal must be successful on both sides of the consortium.

Subsidy control

Innosuisse is unable to award organisations that are considered to be in financial difficulty. We will conduct financial viability and eligibility tests to confirm this is not the case following the application stage.

Evaluation criteria – Innosuisse, Switzerland

Project Quality

- Clear and well defined project
- Realistic goals and milestones
- Justification of proposed procedures and resources.

Project Consortia

The project partners should demonstrate:

- Complementary technological excellence, expertise
- Added-value of international cooperation
- Strong base of partnership and aim for continuing collaboration even beyond the project duration
- Management ability to successfully carry out the project and implement the results
- Mutual advancement of R&D through the transfer of knowledge and expertise

Innovation Degree

The innovation aspect of a project **must go beyond the international state of the art**. The innovation project should be science-based, targeting to achieve advances in technology or service aspects. The main objectives in terms of performance of the product, process or service and cost issues (with regard to competitive ability) shall be presented in a comprehensive way.

Market Value Creation:

The project is targeting to establish a new, or to integrate into an existing value chain. A **market and implementation plan** must exist for the planned product, process or service.

Evaluation criteria – Innovate UK

More information on the assessors assess your innovate UK application can be found [here](#).

Main evaluation criteria

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

Funding rules

The applications have to be in line with the rules of Innovate UK and Innosuisse as explained below. On request, partners will be instructed in detail by the contact persons of the two agencies on how to apply for funding. Each country will fund its eligible participants according to their national procedure and funding rules. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary between UK and Switzerland. However, **the bilateral joint cooperation between the partners and its added value is an important aspect to be considered within the evaluation**. Successful applicants must submit a **common consortium agreement** (including an IPR agreement) signed by all partners to Innovate UK and Innosuisse **prior to start of the project**. A failure to submit this document would make the application ineligible.

The projects are funded by the national funding agencies (Innovate UK and Innosuisse) following the order of the joint ranking list. The funding agencies will fund as many projects as their funding allocation will allow. Up to £2.0 million from Innovate UK and up to CHF 2.0 million from Innosuisse, has been allocated to fund innovation projects in this bilateral call.

Switzerland - Innosuisse funding regulations:

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

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

Funding rate for Research institutions:	100% of eligible costs
Funding rate for Start-up's:	max. 70% of eligible costs
Funding rate for SME's 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

- If the commercial entity is a Start-up in Switzerland, the requirement for a research institute in the project consortium is exempted
- The implementation partners must cover **at least 30% of the total project costs** of the Swiss partners

Eligible costs:

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

Project reviews, reporting:

Innosuisse experts can request reviews or intermediate reports on the project progress, contents and time schedule where necessary. At the end of the project, a plan must be presented showing how the results will be implemented. For more details, please refer to the [Innosuisse webpage](#).

UK – Innovate UK funding regulations:

UK - commercial organisations: The following funding request limits apply for all commercial and economic activity 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 which 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: The research organisations undertaking non-economic activity as part of the project can share up to 30% of the total grant request. If your consortium contains more than one research organisation undertaking non-economic activity, this maximum is shared between them. Of that 30% you could get 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
- 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”)
- Any relevant information submitted and produced during the application process concerning your application can be shared by one agency with the other, for its individual storage, processing and use
- This means that any information given to or generated by one agency in respect of your application may be passed on to the other agency. This would include, but is not restricted to:
 - the information stated on the application, including the personal details of all applicants
 - scoring 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 their holding and processing of your information, including any personal data and confidential information. Data is held in accordance with their own policies. Accordingly, Innovate UK, and Innosuisse will be data controllers for personal data submitted during the application.

Contacts for Details and Partner Search Requests

Contacts for Call details	
Innovate UK https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/ Clara King Tel: +44 77 1464 1132 clara.king@iuk.ukri.org	Innosuisse https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home.html Prabitha Urwyler Tel: +41 58 469 17 67 prabitha.urwyler@innosuisse.ch
Contacts for Partner Search Requests	
Innovate UK KTN https://ktn-uk.org/ Tel: +44 33 3340 3250 enquiries@iuk.ktn-uk.org	EEN EEN Switzerland Ladina Schubert Tel: +41 58 465 35 95 ladina.schubert@innosuisse.ch