

# Industry challenge-led pump-prime funding scheme

Cambridge Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) colleagues are invited to apply for up to £20k of 'pump priming' funding for challenge-led activities, to support collaborative research between the University and industry. Individual projects within the £20k overall budget are suggested not to exceed £5k.

## Background

Meetings between the KEN community and the Pro-VC for Enterprise and Business Relations in 2017 have identified significant potential to increase collaborative research between the University and industry. The KEN community has various mechanisms to stimulate academic/industry interaction and collaborative project ideas, including workshops organised around defined research challenges for industry and other external stakeholders. However, in the absence of funding to help pump-prime these new collaborative ideas, the outcomes of such activities can be limited.

This centrally managed fund of £100k will add considerable value to the investment already being made by individual KEN colleagues in challenge-led activities. It will secure and strengthen interactions between KEN and industry and enable the University to respond to future funding opportunities through schemes where industry partners must be involved.

Subject to funding availability, the funding scheme is open for application each term. Please pay attention to further notice on the open and closing dates of each call for application.

## Industry challenge-led pump-prime funding aims to enable KEN to:

- a) Strengthen academic and industry interactions and to prepare for future industry engagement funding opportunities.
- b) Increase outcomes from University challenge-led initiatives with industry and other external stakeholders.

Important: please note that the pump-priming fund is not intended to fund individual research projects

## Example proposals:

- Up to four collaborative projects leading from an interdisciplinary workshop (with the workshop already funded).

- Costs of a challenge-led workshop and up to three subsequent collaborative projects.
- Up to four collaborative projects to develop proof of concept data to support a future collaborative funding bid.
- Testing of new models of working between KEN and business.
- An individual proposal providing evidence that the pump-priming funding leverages funding from industry and catalyses a new or longer-term relationship between the University and industry. This is not intended to fund individual research projects.

Please note that this is not a prescriptive list. Applicants are invited to use this opportunity to think creatively and to innovate but it is essential that you work in partnership with external organisations to design and deliver the project(s).

## Application process and important dates

Applications should be submitted by KEN colleagues as the lead applicant(s) and should be developed jointly with the industry partners. Applications should be submitted via the Qualtrics application form at:

[https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_423ZPKeMZOff5Wd](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_423ZPKeMZOff5Wd)

The following information should be provided in the application form in the space provided:

- Name and contact details
- Project title
- Description of what the funding will be used for
- Proposed outcomes and outputs
- Strategic fit with specific knowledge transfer and impact goals
- Budget and matched funding (matched funding will be viewed positively but is not essential)
- Review process for projects that may be funded by the awarded budget

The closing date for application in the Easter Term 2019-2020 is **Tuesday 26 May 2020**. The Review Panel, chaired by Dr Catherine Hasted, Head of Business Partnerships, will review all applications and shortlist projects that could potentially be funded. KEN colleagues submitting shortlisted projects will be invited to a review meeting to introduce their projects briefly, followed by a Q&A session. Projects which are not shortlisted will be given feedback and suggestions at the review meeting. The review meeting will be at **14:00-16:00 Wednesday 3 June 2020**. Final decisions will be informed shortly after the review meeting. The assessment is based on the criteria below.

## Evaluation criteria

- Strength of the proposal in terms of promoting and facilitating cross-sector, cross-company and/or interdisciplinary research or enabling new collaborations.
- Relevance to the strategic aims of the applicants' knowledge transfer goals.
- Importance and impact of the expected outcomes/outputs.

Applications are particularly encouraged where:

- More than one School is involved.
- Creative use of the money is demonstrated.
- Innovative approaches to industry collaboration are shown.

Applications will also be assessed to ensure:

- Balanced portfolio
- Value for money (e.g. leveraged/matched funding)
- New partnerships (e.g. enabling new collaborations)
- Added value over and above existing partnership

## Terms and conditions

- Total budget requested should not exceed £20k.
- Devolved review process for the individual projects must be clearly demonstrated.
- A brief half-year progress report must be provided within 6 months of receiving funding, describing the progress of the project and activities to date; impacts to date; how funding has been used/allocated; and planned activities in the next 6 months. A final report must be completed within 12 months of receiving funding, detailing the project results, outputs and outcomes from funded projects, the impact on all stakeholders, and the use of funding.
- All activities must be completed within 12 months. If initial budget applied for exceeds budget spent, remaining funds must be returned to the funding scheme pot for future calls.

## Questions

If you have any questions about the funding scheme please contact

[pumpprimingfund@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pumpprimingfund@admin.cam.ac.uk).