

# IDRIC Wave 2 Research Projects: Call for proposals

## Summary

Apply for funding for industry relevant research to support accelerated decarbonisation of UK industrial clusters.

You must:

- be based at a UK organisation eligible for funding
- meet individual eligibility criteria
- be able to deliver the work between now and end Jan 2024

Projects can be up to £500,000 at 100% full economic cost (fEC). We will fund 80% of the eligible full economic cost (fEC). The total fund value is £5.7M minimum @ 100% fEC.

Project duration will depend on the start date – all projects must be completed by end January 2024 (to allow necessary administrative and impact collection activities to take place before end March 2024). Bearing in mind timescales for review and award, projects of around 12 months are envisaged.

## 1. Who can apply

Standard UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) eligibility rules apply and 'Terms and Conditions' of the overall Grant will be flowed down to projects. Research grants are open to:

- UK higher education institutions
- research council institutes
- UKRI-approved independent research organisations
- eligible public sector research establishments

[Check if your institution is eligible for funding.](#)

### 1.1. Individual eligibility

You can apply if you are a resident in the UK and meet at least one of the conditions below:

- are employed at the submitting research organisation at a level equivalent to lecturer or above

- hold a fixed-term contract that extends beyond the duration of the proposed project, and the host research organisation is prepared to give you all the support normal for a permanent employee
- hold a UKRI, Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering or similar fellowship
- hold fellowships under other schemes (please contact IDRIC to check eligibility, which is considered on a case-by-case basis).
- an individual applicant can only propose to lead one bid to this call; however, they may be included as co-investigators on other project proposals

Holders of postdoctoral level fellowships are not eligible to apply for an EPSRC grant.

## 2. What we're looking for

IDRIC forms part of the [Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge](#) (IDC) and is funded by UKRI. IDRIC is designed as a multidisciplinary research and innovation programme, which currently does not exist at the scale required to accelerate the decarbonisation of industrial clusters in the UK. Through multidisciplinary research aimed at reducing costs, risks, timescales and emissions, and cross-cutting activities such as policy, economic, institutional and regulatory analysis, and knowledge exchange, it seeks to protect and bolster the UK's competitive advantage and ability to capture value. IDRIC aims to address the challenges faced by industrial clusters through its research and policy development functions, stimulating cross learning between clusters and providing a strong evidence base allowing them to make informed decisions about future decarbonisation options, policies and institutional reforms.

Within this funding, IDRIC supports 43 'Wave 1' projects commissioned in 2020 through a call for proposals and submitted as part of the full bid. The 'Wave 1' projects were requested to submit their proposals in relation to pillars and themes identified by the community in 2020. More information about 'Wave 1' projects can be found at <https://idric.org/research-programme/>.

This call announces funding available for a second tranche, 'Wave 2' of research projects.

### 2.1. Scope

The 'Wave 2' funding will support a single set of targeted projects, taking place largely concurrently. Related projects from Wave 1 can be considered for further funding from the Wave 2 process, but all proposals (i.e. 'new' and 'related') are subject to the same application process.

Wave 2 project proposals should focus on the following:

- Enable the IDC objectives
- Propose research which has the capacity for impact within the industrial clusters, which is in support one or more of the Thematic Areas outlined below

Following a period of broad stakeholder consultation, the Thematic Areas were identified and agreed by the IDRIC Management Board (MB) and endorsed by the IDRIC Independent Advisory Board (IAB).

The IDRIC Thematic Areas are:

1. Low carbon technologies
2. Systems and scale-up
3. Policy and regulation

4. Skills and training
5. Environment considerations
6. Social and economic aspects

Detail on the priorities which underpin these Thematic Areas, can be found in supplementary Annex A.

## 2.2. Funding and Duration

### 2.2.1. Proposal expectations

The minimum grant award will be £50,000 and the maximum £500,000 (@ 100% fEC), we will fund 80% of the eligible (fEC), However, we welcome proposals for larger projects, supported by in-kind and/or in-cash contributions. Due to the end date of the IDRIC Centre funding (end March 2024), the research will need to start as soon as possible after the award has been made and can finish NO LATER than end January 2024, i.e. 12 month projects are envisaged, if there are no delays to the timescale for review and award.

Funding is available for the following:

- One lead investigator
- Co-investigators
- Researcher
- Consumables
- Equipment (under £10k), see <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>
- Travel (to cover both research specific travel and for attending centrally organised IDRIC events and workshops)
- Academic project partners (where 80% fEC costs would be supported by the award)
- Non-academic project partners involved in skills, policy, EDI or public engagement relevant to the research may be considered for funding – but we do not anticipate providing funds to specific industry partners. It will be important to provide clear justification in the proposal of the need to provide funding to non-academic partners. Please also be aware that costs may have to be reimbursed by the lead organisation at 100% OR a co-finance model agreed with that partner)

### 2.2.2. Responsible innovation and including international collaborators

Responsible Innovation is a process that seeks to promote creativity and opportunities for science and innovation that are socially desirable and undertaken in the public interest.

Innovation is a collective responsibility where funders, researchers, and interested and affected parties, including the public, all have an important role to play.

Applicants are expected to consider responsible innovation during planning and throughout the duration of their project and to work within the [EPSRC Framework for Responsible Innovation](#).

International collaborators can be involved in the work and we would encourage applicants to ensure that they would build their work on existing research from across the global research community where feasible. However, it will not be possible to provide direct funding to international collaborators.

### 3. How to apply

Applying for this funding opportunity will include the following stages:

- Intention to submit (used to gauge demand, NOT part of the assessment process)
- Full proposal

#### 3.1. Intention to submit

In order to streamline the process for managing demand of this call and sourcing independent reviewers, proposers have to submit an 'intention to submit' form during the call phase (**24<sup>th</sup> October by 4pm**, via the IDRIC website), prior to submission of the full application. The intention to submit will require you to provide the following information:

- Title of project
- Lead investigator
- Lead institution
- Other research institutions which you are seeking to include in the proposal
- Other partners (i.e. industrial, policy, skills, trade) you are seeking to include in your proposal
- Thematic Areas and Priorities the proposal seeks to address
- A short statement on expected impact in the UK clusters (200 words)
- Approximate total cost of proposal
- Start and end date of proposed project

Information on how to submit the full proposal will only be provided to those who complete an 'intention to submit' form.

#### 3.2. Full proposal (7 pages)

A template has been developed for you to complete and submit your proposal (which is available to download from the IDRIC website). Your proposal must be submitted no later than the **7<sup>th</sup> November by 4pm**. Information will be required under the following headings:

##### 3.2.1. General Information (proforma sections – NOT within the 7 page limit)

We will require the following general information included in the relevant sections of the template.

- Project Title
- Proposed start date
- Duration of the project (months)
- Project PI
- Main Contact Organisation
- School/Department
- Total cost (100% fEC)
- Information on the primary Thematic Area and priority which the proposal seeks to address and the option to include a secondary Thematic Area and priority
- List of project partners and short statement on the planned commitment and involvement of each (to demonstrate expected impact).
- List of academic collaborators and their planned role

##### 3.2.2. Case for support (4 pages)

The case for support should describe the proposed research and its intended outcomes. It should cover the context, importance, methodology and all the associated work and activities you

propose to carry out that will make this a high-quality research project. This document is the principal opportunity to explain to reviewers why this proposal should be financially supported.

The case for support will require the following information:

- Short summary (250 words) – to be made publicly available if funded.
- Background, Objectives and Innovative aspects.
- Proposed impact in the clusters (see details below).
- Short description indicating the primary Thematic Area which the proposal seeks to address and, where relevant, noting an additional secondary Thematic Area which will be addressed.
- Data sharing and IP considerations.
- Description of activities proposed, linking to the Gantt chart and project deliverables, milestones and KPIs.
- Risk management (1/2 page maximum for a risk register table plus narrative).

#### *Proposed impact in the clusters*

It is crucial that the research proposed has been developed with a view to its impact on decarbonising the UK industrial clusters and that it demonstrates this potential in the proposal. Impact should be integral to the proposal, not an add-on activity, please focus on providing the following information:

- describe how your project will *Accelerate* or *Create* impact;
- summarise what the impacts and the outcomes of the activity will be;
- identify beneficiaries and impact of the project activities (including which of the seven clusters);
- describe when impacts will be realised; and
- describe how stakeholders will be engaged.

Please note it is not necessary for a stakeholder or beneficiary of the impact to be a partner in the project, however it is important to elaborate on how you will engage with stakeholders, if this is a new or existing relationship and/or who the users of the research will be and how. The information provided in your proposal should include a summary of any letters of support received and how this support adds value (see also section 3.2.6).

Where a stakeholder or beneficiary (i.e. including potential industry partners in the clusters) is involved as a partner to the project, please demonstrate clearly how they will aid in the delivery of the work and are providing an in-kind or in-cash contribution.

#### 3.2.3. Project delivery plan (1 page)

Gantt chart and associated narrative outlining the activities, linking to the text in the case for support.

#### 3.2.4. Project deliverables, milestones and KPIs (1 page)

One page maximum which outlines the intended deliverables, milestones and KPIs including dates.

### 3.2.5. Costings and Justification of Resources (1 page narrative, not including cost table)

This section of the template will ask for more detailed information on the resources needed to support the research and justification for the inclusion of each item. Please follow EPSRC guidelines for allowable costs and use Full Economic Costing (fEC): <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/resources/> . Projects can be up to £500k at 100% fEC, we will fund 80% of the full economic eligible costs.

Please, note the following when you consider planning your resources:

- Please include a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £2000 of your budget for travel and subsistence **to attend centrally organised IDRIC meetings**.
- **In addition** to the travel funds above, please include any costs for travel and subsistence specifically **needed to deliver the research**.
- Equipment over £10,000 in value (inc. vat) **is not available through this call**. Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000) should be in the Directly Incurred - Other Costs heading. For more information on equipment funding, please see: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>
- The addition of project Co-Investigators is at the discretion of the project PI and this will need to be justified.
- The work of all project Co-Investigators will be coordinated, overseen and administered by the project PI. The funds allocated to the project shall similarly be administered by the project PI.
- It will be the responsibility of the project PI to provide reports on a quarterly basis on activity, as well as liaising with their relevant finance contacts to provide narrative in relation to quarterly finance reports.

### 3.2.6. Letters of support

Supporting letters could be from either those planned to be directly involved/engaged with during the work or those expected to directly benefit from the outcomes or impact derived from the project.

Supporting letters can be used to demonstrate the following:

- **Project partner support during the project:** Inclusion of a project partner, i.e. an organisation which is integral to an applicant's plans, the letter could therefore demonstrate the project partner's commitment to delivering the aims of the proposal, including proposed in-kind or cash co-finance
- **Stakeholder engagement support during the project:** Demonstrate where stakeholders are already engaged and on-board with your plans for dissemination and impact during the project duration
- **Expectation of user need:** Evidence of the potential impact of the project, i.e. the value from a user perspective

If included, project partner supporting letters must be signed, dated (no more than six months before the opportunity closing date) and on letterheaded paper. They should be up to one page in length each.

## 4. How we will assess your application

### 4.1. Assessment process and criteria – call document

Once submitted the proposals will be reviewed by independent assessors, drawn from academia and industry, and selected to ensure that they have the required level of expertise and no conflicts of interest. Each proposal will be sent for review to up to 5 assessors and a minimum of 3 reviews will be needed for each proposal. The proposals will be assessed against the following criteria, which will lead to an overall aggregated score for each proposal.

Criterion	Weighting	Indicators
Research Excellence	25%	<p>Relevant indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambition and innovation</li> <li>• Appropriateness of activities</li> <li>• Expertise and track record</li> <li>• Breadth and depth of consortium</li> <li>• Achievability in the timeframe available</li> </ul>
Industrial Cluster Decarbonisation Impact	50%	<p>Relevant indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact and relevance of the research to the UK industrial clusters</li> <li>• Engagement with industry and other stakeholders and/or users</li> <li>• Relevance of non-academic project partners</li> <li>• Demonstration of one or more of the following, with supporting letters where relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project partner support during the project (including in-kind or in-cash funding)</li> <li>○ Stakeholder engagement support during the project</li> <li>○ Expectation of user need</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Impact of proposed stakeholder engagement and embedding of impact in the proposal</li> <li>• Likelihood of the impact being realised</li> </ul>
Resources & Management	25%	<p>Relevant indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness of the proposed planning and management</li> <li>• Management of risk</li> <li>• Value for money, including appropriateness and affordability of the estimated resources</li> <li>• Consideration of EDI in research and engagement activities</li> </ul>

### 4.2. Portfolio Approach

We want to fund a variety of projects across our 6 Thematic Areas and underpinning priorities as well as consider other factors important to delivering impact in the UK industrial clusters; we call

this a portfolio approach. The IDRIC MB, supported by the IAB is responsible for making sure that the funds are allocated across the Thematic Areas and other criteria identified.

The following portfolio design criteria are considered in this call (note the order does not indicate an order of importance):

- Balance of proposals across the Thematic Areas
- Geographic spread of proposals (i.e. in relation to industrial clusters and/or across UK institutions)
- Potential for impact in decarbonising UK industrial Clusters
- Involvement of Early Career Researchers
- EDI considerations

#### 4.3. Feedback

Feedback will be provided on request, consisting of reviewers comments.

### 5. Contact details

Details on the call process are available on the IDRIC website [add URL](#), however if you have any queries, please contact [info@idric.org](mailto:info@idric.org) .

