

Announcement of Opportunity

CEOI 15th Call for Earth Observation Technology and Instrument Development Proposals

1 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the UK Space Agency, the Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation (CEOI) is pleased to announce its Fifteenth EO Technology Call, with the aim to solicit new and innovative ideas for EO technology developments, and to further develop more mature technologies towards space-readiness. All proposals should be aligned with the objectives of the UKSA EO Technology Strategy [RD4]. Furthermore, technologies that have applications beyond climate monitoring and the environment (e.g., other civil applications, defence dual use) are also encouraged.

The CEOI has the objective to realise an excellent, internationally competitive, national Earth observation instrument technology research and development programme. It achieves this by building UK academic and industrial capability in EO, and by funding the development of advanced EO instrumentation through a series of themed and open calls.

Brief details of previous CEOI funded projects may be found on the CEOI website (ceoi.ac.uk).

The UK Space Agency funds the CEOI, which is a partnership of Airbus Defence and Space Ltd, QinetiQ Ltd, University of Leicester and STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

1.1 Reference Documents

The following documents contain information that is relevant to this Call:

- [RD1] National Space Strategy:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-space-strategy>
- [RD2] Companies House accounts guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-of-a-company-annual-requirements>
- [RD3] BEIS Guidance - Complying with the UK's international obligations on subsidy control: guidance for public authorities
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complying-with-the-uks-international-obligations-on-subsidy-control-guidance-for-public-authorities>
- [RD4] UK EO Technology Strategy:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-earth-observation-technology-strategy>
- [RD5] UKRI T&Cs and Guidance for Full Economic Costs (FEC) for academic Partners –
<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UKRI-291020-guidance-to-fec-grant-terms-and-conditions.pdf>
- [RD6] NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook, Edition Oct 2021 - 2.0
<https://www.ukri.org/publications/nerc-research-grants-and-fellowships-handbook-guidance-for-applicants/>

2 CEOI 15th EO Call Description

The total budget available for the Call will be in the order of £2.0M, with additional funding required from industrial bidders. The Call is released on 27th October 2022 with a closing date of Friday 16th December 2022 at noon. We note that the CEOI Management contract is in the process of being re-tendered. This means that bids will be collated by UKSA at EOIP@ukspaceagency.gov.uk and held until the new management consortium is in place, expected to be early in the New Year.

The Call will accept proposals against these themes:

Theme	Funding and Duration	Eligible Activities
New and innovative ideas for EO technology development	Pathfinder grants of up to £75k, expected to be up to 6 months duration. Fast Track grants of up to £250k, expected to be up to 9 months duration;	Feasibility studies Industrial research Experimental development
Flagship proposals for further maturation of recent technology innovations	Flagship grants from £500k to £1M are expected to be up to 24 months duration.	Industrial research Experimental development

The aims of this Call are to solicit new and innovative ideas for EO technology developments, aligned to the EO Technology Strategy [RD4], and in the case of Flagship activity, to further raise TRL of technologies towards spaceflight, up to and including airborne or In-Orbit Demonstration IOD subject to funding constraints above. The selection criteria will be innovation, scientific and technological excellence, sound project and risk management, value for money and strategic importance, including how well the project will position UK organisations in the global market.

Successful proposals will identify the timeliness of the development and the potential to generate scientific and/or commercial benefit with a substantial return on investment. They will identify implementation opportunities through a CubeSat, in-orbit demonstration or other space mission, where targeted investment will significantly improve the likelihood of adoption of the technology by the mission(s). Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate an urgent need for funding, justified, for example, by an identified near-term space mission opportunity.

Proposals will need to be aligned to the National Space Strategy [RD1], released in September 2021, and the UK EO Technology Strategy [RD4], which was updated by CEOI on behalf of the UK Space Agency in October 2019.

Of particular importance in the evaluation of proposals will be the track record of the applicants to manage projects successfully and their plans to ensure that the project will complete in line with the proposed timescale.

The CEOI Call is open to industry, HEIs and other research organisations based in the UK. Additional funding will be required from industrial bidders as defined by the Subsidy Control procedures. Eligible categories are limited to:

Pathfinder projects: Feasibility Studies, Industrial Research

Fast Track and Flagship projects: Industrial Research and Experimental Development.

Proposals for work categorised as Fundamental Research will not be considered.

Proposals from collaborative teams will be given preference and the CEOI encourages combined industrial/academic teams (any organisation type can lead). We will also welcome bids from teams including new entrants to the space technology field. Section 15 Table 2 (and accompanying note) define eligible collaborations and the increased intervention rates available for collaborative activities. We will only consider proposals for projects from non-collaborative single bidders, either academia or industry, if there is strong justification and funding is available.

We will also consider collaborative proposals that form part of a larger activity funded by one or more other organisations, provided that the proposed work falls fully within CEOI programme objectives. The CEOI proposed activity must form a self-contained programme of work that minimises dependencies on other programmes, with risks identified and mitigating action proposed. Note that other government and/or institutional funded programmes cannot be used as the matching financial contribution to the CEOI project.

Projects which are conceived as part of a multi-stage development should outline the activities that may follow and a roadmap to flight. If a project is successful in this Call and achieves its objectives, the project team may subsequently be invited to provide a bid for additional activities if funding should become available.

The CEOI will only award grants to proposals judged to be of sufficient quality. The CEOI reserves the right to re-issue the Call in a revised form if all allocated funds are not utilised.

We welcome enquiries from potential bidders for clarification of any aspect of the Call (See sections 3 and 11). Any significant clarifications or corrections arising will be published on the CEOI website.

2.1 CEOI 15th Call Themes

This call theme will accept proposals for Flagship, Fast Track and Pathfinder projects.

Flagship projects should address preparation of higher TRL technologies for a near-term or urgent space flight opportunity. We will accept proposals for airborne or in-orbit demonstration, provided that the work is in preparation for a full space mission and is within the Flagship funding envelope.

For Fast Track grants, preference will be given to high quality proposals that accelerate the development of innovative technologies for future scientific or commercial space missions. Proposals for Pathfinder Grants should be highly innovative and have strong enabling potential for future space activities.

Projects developing instrumentation for commercial applications are encouraged and the CEOI will welcome proposals that exploit the facilities and capabilities of the UK national space facilities. Projects which are conceived as the first stage in a multi-stage development should outline the activities that may follow.

Projects will be considered which introduce technologies which offer ‘disruptive’ or enabling potential to existing concepts, e.g., to improve performance, and/or improve system parameters such as cost, mass and resource requirements. Such technology-led projects must show a credible benefit to future commercial, operational, or scientific mission objectives. Proposals that include elements of technology demonstration would be welcome.

In addition to the usual EO technology developed in previous CEOI calls, the UKSA are interested in dual-use technologies that may be transferrable to domains other than the environment and climate monitoring, such as either civil and/or defence space-based remote sensing. For instance:

higher resolution systems, large aperture & deployable optics, novel wave bands, wide-band detectors for hyperspectral imaging, detector arrays covering the spectral band 0.4-2.5 μm , wide FOV compact optical systems, etc.

3 BIDDERS' BRIEFING

Telephone Briefing for Potential Bidders

There will be a briefing by virtual meeting from **10:00 to 12:00 on 17th November 2022** to provide more information about the objectives of the call and provide an opportunity to ask general questions. Although attendance is optional, you are encouraged to join this meeting. All answers will be publicly available.

If you wish to participate in the Bidders Briefing, please email a request to Ms Charlotte Moretti, CEOI Technology Call Administrator at cm738@leicester.ac.uk by **11th November 2022**.

4 NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO BID

Applicants are required to notify CEOI of their intention to bid by email to the CEOI Call Administrator Charlotte Moretti, cm738@leicester.ac.uk, using the pro-forma at Section 12, by **11th November 2022 at noon**.

The purpose of this is to gauge the size of the response and to inform the selection of reviewers. The notification and information therein will be held in confidence as described in Section 9.

5 GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING AN APPLICATION

Applications should take the form of a proposal in single-spaced typescript, minimum font size 12-point Times New Roman, minimum 1.5 cm margins all round, including diagrams and tables.

All Proposal Sections defined in the table and/or described in this section of the Announcement of Opportunity must be supplied in the proposal, unless indicated otherwise. Proposals that do not include all the Sections, unless explicitly indicated in Table 1 as optional, may be rejected. Should any part of the application overrun the specified page limit, the Assessment Panel will only consider material up to the designated page limit, in the correct format. No additional annexes or appendices will be considered.

Bidders should note that the Agency, University of Leicester or CEOI will not refund any costs associated with preparing proposals responding to the CEOI Call.

Section	Further Information	Proposal Maximum Page Count			Marks
		Pathfinder	Fast Track	Flagship	
Cover letter	See 5.1	2 pages			Mandatory
Application Form	See 13	1 page			Mandatory
Project Summary, with picture or diagram	See 5.2	1 page			Mandatory
Technical Case	See 5.3	4 pages	8 pages	10 pages	30%
Exploitation Plan and Enhancement of National Capability	See 5.4	1 page	2 pages	4 pages	20%
Project Team	See 5.5	1 page	2 pages	2 pages	10%
<u>Annex A1</u> : Organisational background and track record		2 pages per organisation			
<u>Annex A2</u> :CVs		1 page each			
Project Management	See 5.6	2 pages	3 pages	5 pages	20%
<u>Annex B1</u> : Gantt Chart (landscape or portrait)	See 5.6	1 page	2 pages	2 pages	
<u>Annex B2</u> : Risk Table	See 14	1 page	1 page	2 pages	
<u>Annex B3</u> : Work Package Descriptions	CEOI template	1 page each			
Project Finances	See 5.7	4 pages			10%
CEOI Cost Schedule	Use CEOI Excel template	Separate Excel file; Summary sheet plus 1 sheet per partner			
Collaboration	See 5.8	0.5 page			5%
Grant Conformance	See 5.9 and 8	0.5 page			5%
Eligibility - supporting information (Proposal Annex C1)	See 8	2 page			
Letters of Support (Proposal Annex D)	See 0	1 page each			Optional

Table 1. Application Checklist

5.1 The Covering Letter

To ensure ease and speed of placing the contract following selection, the bids must include a covering letter containing:

1. A firm fixed price for the work to be carried out and committing offer to University of Leicester, who contractually administer the grants on behalf of the Agency and CEOI.
2. A statement of acceptance of the standard CEOI Terms and Conditions (T&Cs), defined in the CEOI Grant Agreement document which is available on the CEOI website. Bidders should note that these T&Cs will not be open to negotiation and that in submitting this statement, you are accepting the T&Cs on behalf of your organisation. Please ensure that authorisation is obtained from your organisation before submitting your bid.
3. Reference (Industry only): The name of at least one customer contact in the UK who may be approached, with whom you have recently undertaken similar work. The CEOI reserves the right to seek a customer reference for consideration by the Review Panel.
4. The completed Application Form.

The Main Proposal:

5.2 The Project Summary

The project summary should provide a brief overall description of the project in a form suitable for publication, if the project is funded (i.e., free of any commercially sensitive or IP material).

It should include a short plain-language description of the project, its objectives, and benefits to describe its purpose in a way that can be widely understood by non-experts. A relevant image, diagram or other graphic should be included, if possible, to enhance the description.

The project summary, plain-language description and graphic image may be included in a press release and published on the CEOI and the Agency websites when any award is made.

5.3 Technical Case (30% of assessment mark)

This section should justify the need for this technology development and describe the work to be undertaken. It should also provide an assessment of technical feasibility and innovation in the project and explain how the development fits into the wider technology development roadmap.

The section should include:

- An exposition of the science, commercial and/or operational need and drivers, including the relationship to relevant national space and EO strategies.
- A description of the technical work and the main activities to be undertaken.
- An assessment of the technical feasibility of the proposed work, identifying the technical risk and achievability vs. the novel and innovative aspects of the project.
- A description of any system-level benefits expected (e.g., cost, mass, size, resource requirement).
- A technology roadmap showing heritage, future evolution and the start and end Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the proposed work.

5.4 Exploitation Plan and Enhancement of National Capability (20% of assessment mark)

This section should provide an exploitation plan detailing how the project will lead to an enhancement of national capability and catalyse investment. It should identify all potential space flight opportunities and the key steps required, beyond the requested CEOI funding, to successfully exploit the project outcomes. It should describe how the project will result in enhancement(s) to national capability in EO technologies, with a particular focus on climate, environmental and societal applications.

The section should include:

- A description of the main exploitation opportunities targeted, together with an assessment of the potential and accessible market(s) (this may include civil and defence dual use), and identification of key customers in the global marketplace.
- A description of the main exploitable products and/or outputs from the project, including identification of the potential scientific and/or commercial breakthroughs, and future steps that will be taken to improve the probability of successful use of the results of the CEOI activities.
- A description of how the proposed work takes advantage of UK strengths and/or unique capabilities, and where and how the enhanced development in national capability will occur.
- An assessment of the national and international competition, showing the benefits this technology offers over alternatives, and the timeliness of the proposed work in relation to external opportunities and gaining a competitive advantage.
- The potential scientific or commercial return and the overall expected impact on UK national economic growth, job creation and export opportunities.

For projects targeting future operational or scientific EO missions, such mission(s) should be clearly identified, the possible route to achieving flight should be described, together with how the benefits for any related opportunities will be achieved.

In the case of projects targeting commercial opportunities, the proposal should include a brief business plan.

Where possible, applicants should seek to provide evidence of the total revenue and capital investment at stake because of CEOI funding. This could include:

- **How CEOI funding leverages other investment** – what investment and contracts does our funding directly unlock? This can be directly evidenced by organisations through match-funding agreements and letters of intent or other evidence from investors and customers.
- **Prospects for follow-on fundraising and commercial revenue** – what investment and future contracts will ultimately be realised by our funding and when? This will require market and investment projections based on an appreciation of market trends and the organisation's need for capital.
- **The strategic value of the technology being developed** – is the investment in a potentially game-changing space technology, or one with wide application outside the space sector? What is the risk, should the project not go ahead, that important technology or concepts would be developed by an overseas competitor?

5.5 Project Team (10% of assessment mark)

This section should describe the team that will be undertaking the work, highlighting the strengths of the project lead organisation and the capability that is offered by each Partner. Key individuals, their project roles and technical/management contributions should be identified.

The section should include:

- A description of the overall team structure, including justification for inclusion of each Partner organisation and justification if there are no partners.
- A brief summary description of each of the organisations involved with the project
- A list of the key individuals, their position, technical/management responsibility in the project team, effort required and confirmation of their availability for the required work.
- The track record of the applicants in managing similar projects successfully.

For each of the Partners, background information about the company/organisation should be provided in Annex A1 of the proposal, including diversity and inclusion policies. CVs of key staff should be provided in Annex A2 of the proposal.

5.6 Project management (20% of assessment mark)

This section should provide information about the approach to the management of the project, including planning, the actions that will be taken to maintain the schedule, and the assessment and control of risk. (“Risk” is defined here as the probability that the project will meet its stated technology and business objectives).

This section should include:

- A description of how the project will be managed and the management measures proposed to ensure on-time completion.
- A project plan, including a summary of the work, work break down structure and a project schedule.
- A table of outputs from each work package, clearly identifying their scope and the delivery schedule.
- A clear identification of which institutions and individuals will be performing which functions, the lead organisation for each task and the resources required for each task.
- An assessment of the major project technical, schedule and commercial risks and the approach to managing, tracking and mitigation of these risks.

The following information should be included as Annexes to the proposal:

- Gantt chart as Annex B1, of the proposal showing the scheduling of main work packages, their inter-dependencies and major project events (progress review meetings, technology development milestones). No template is provided for this.
- Risk Table as Annex B2 of the proposal using the CEOI template provided in Section 14. Where possible, the impact of a risk occurring should be expressed in terms of potential schedule slippage.
- Work package descriptions (WPD) as Annex B3 of the proposal (The WPDs should use the CEOI template or equivalent, with a one-page limit on each WPD).

For FastTrack and Flagship projects, if a project is successful, we will expect project teams to generate a full Project Management Plan (PMP) including a comprehensive Risk Management Plan at the project Kick-Off meeting. CEOI guidelines for the PMP are available on request from CEOI. We do not need the full PMP at proposal stage.

Bidders should assume a starting date in late Q1 2023 for the project schedule and finance spreadsheets.

5.7 Project Finances (10% of assessment mark)

This section will describe the project finances, summarising the cost of each work package, the major items of expenditure with justification and propose a milestone payment plan. It will allow an assessment of the value for money of the project and whether this is a good investment for the Agency.

This section should include:

- A financial summary showing the cost of each work package and the major items of expenditure by each Partner (staff, travel, external contracts, procurements etc.).
- A description and justification of the resources requested, including travel plans and other expenditure.
- Any equipment proposed for purchase must be listed separately as required by State Subsidy guidelines.
- Table of proposed milestone payments with description, related project outputs and/or significant events, amount and dates. See Section 6.1 for further information.

All applications are required to provide a Cost Schedule as a separate Excel file using the CEOI supplied Excel template.

The CEOI Excel Finance Table must be completed, using one worksheet (sheets P1-P8 in the Excel spreadsheet) for each Partner¹. Any support/consultancy/service to be procured should be itemised in the 'Direct Costs' section of the relevant Partner sheet. The template Excel spreadsheet is available on the CEOI website.

Note that CEOI Grants arising from this call are intended to fund a specific programme of work and should not be used for the procurement of equipment unless they can be shown to be necessary for a specific project. If you want further advice on large expenditures for equipment or other purposes, then please contact the CEOI.

5.8 Collaboration (5% of assessment mark)

This section should describe the collaborative nature of the project, or justification if there are no Partners.

The response should include:

¹ 'Partners' are defined as entities/organisations which share and/or retain the Intellectual Property generated by the project. Industrial Partners will also contribute to the project costs in line with the Subsidy Control procedures. This is in contrast to 'Suppliers' and 'consultants', who supply goods and/or services to one of the Partners.

- Declaration of the team, listing the academic and industrial partners
- Justification if there are no partners
- Information on collaboration between partner organisations and exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights.

5.9 Grant conformance (5% of assessment mark)

This section should provide the information required to show that the project finances conform to the BEIS Subsidy Control regime.

The section should include:

- A clear statement of the Subsidy Control Category (see Section 15).
- Level and justification of any industrial or other private investment offered
- A statement on eligibility of each partner to receive Subsidy funds and the financial viability of all the project Partners. See Section 8 for further information.

Supporting eligibility information should be provided as Annex C1 to the proposal.

5.10 Letters of Support (Optional)

Letters of Support (maximum one page each) may be included if appropriate, to show the interest of external organisations in the proposed development and/or its impact. Bidders should note that including letters of support is not mandatory. Any letters should be included in Annex D1 of the proposal.

6 CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

Award(s) will take the form of a contract, **expected to be between the new management entity's contract department**. The lead organisation will be expected to place contracts to flow down the Grant finance to its Partners, with terms and conditions similar to the main CEOI Grant contract.

This CEOI activity has been assessed by HMRC as outside the scope of VAT, because no taxable supply to the UK Space Agency or to CEOI is taking place. The IPR will not in the normal course of events pass to the Agency or the CEOI.

All relevant costs, including any taxes on procurements, must be included within the total amount of the grant application. Note that a direct procurement for services from another organisation implies that they are not a Partner.

Bidders should note that Grants cannot be provided to the project lead or dispersed through the project lead to companies in financial difficulties.

Subsidy Control

Before awarding subsidies, the CEOI must ensure that the subsidy scheme meets the terms of the principles as determined in the UK-EU Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA), as explained in [RD3]. The principles are that:

- subsidies should pursue a specific public policy objective to remedy an identified potential market failure or to address an equity rationale such as social difficulties or distributional concerns (“the objective”).

- subsidies should be proportionate and limited to what is necessary to achieve the objective.
- subsidies should be designed to bring about a change of economic behaviour of the beneficiary that is conducive to achieving the objective and that would not be achieved in the absence of subsidies being provided.
- subsidies should not normally compensate for the costs the beneficiary would have funded in the absence of any subsidy.
- subsidies should be an appropriate policy instrument to achieve a public policy objective and that objective cannot be achieved through other less distortive means.
- subsidies' positive contributions to achieving the objective should outweigh any negative effects, in particular the negative effects on trade or investment between the Parties.

To ensure this competition provides funding in line with the UK's obligations and commitments to Subsidy Control:

1. The intervention rates detailed in Chapter 15 shall apply. It is NOT possible to apply under the Small Amounts of Financial Assistance Allowance (SAFA, previously known as de-minimis under State Aid).
2. Bidders must identify the work proposed, and this must be consistent with the work programme described in the technical case. Note that the company size defines the maximum 'Intervention' rate (and hence the minimum required PV level) that is permitted (see Chapter 15). Bidders will be expected to justify the category of work selected.
3. Bidders must ensure that they supply the correct information that allows UK Space Agency to award grants within the scheme. It is the responsibility of the grant funder to ensure compliance with the relevant Subsidy Controls rules and the bidder to assist the funder in doing this by acting within the terms and conditions of the scheme.

Further guidance about subsidy control is available on the gov.uk website [RD3].

6.1 Payment plan

The payment plan should be constructed so that no more than 20% is paid at/soon after kick-off against one or more outputs such as a Project Management Plan, and no less than 20% at the final review acceptance. Other milestone payments should be included, which should reflect major project stages and intermediate outputs. Please indicate if you could make a quick start before 31st March.

6.2 Grants to Industry - Funding Contribution

Industry in receipt of a CEOI Grant as Project Lead or as a Partner in the team is required to provide a contribution to eligible project costs in accordance with the Subsidy Control requirements. Note that other funds from public sources are not eligible as a source of these contributions.

Bidders must identify and justify the Subsidy Category type of the work proposed, and this must be consistent with the work programme. Note that the type of activity and company size defines the maximum 'Intervention' rate (and hence the minimum required contribution level) that is permitted for that activity (see Section 15). There are concessions for collaborative activities.

Bidders must ensure that they supply the correct information that allows CEOI to award grants within the scheme and it is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure compliance with the relevant Subsidy Control requirements. Further guidance is available on the BEIS website [RD3].

6.3 Academic contribution

Academic Partners will be funded at no more than 80% of Full Economic Cost (FEC). Refer to [RD5] for further information on FEC.

Grant applications for Academic partners should use the same method for calculating eligible costs as is used by the Natural Environment Research Council. This includes the rules regarding equipment purchases and sub-contractors. Bidders with Academic partners should ensure that their financial bid conforms to this approach. The reference document is the most recent published edition of the NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook [RD6].

6.4 Type of Award

The award will be made on a firm fixed price basis.

6.5 Intellectual Property

The IP generated during the course of the project will belong to the originators.

6.6 Contractual Pre-conditions

If the project is selected for grant offer, the following conditions must be met before the CEOI will initiate preparation of the contract:

- The company size and Subsidy Category are correctly defined.
- The source and amount of additional funding is fully defined.
- The financial viability of all members of the project consortium and funding sources are established through a due diligence process.
- The consortium is judged by the UK Space Agency to be eligible to receive a Grant from UK government under HM Treasury regulations and Subsidy Category requirements.

7 PROJECT MONITORING AND REPORTING

Following an award and completion of contractual formalities, the CEOI will assign to the project an experienced coordinator drawn from CEOI partner organisations. The coordinator will oversee the projects with the following methodology:

- The coordinator will initiate the project, by preference at a face-to-face meeting at the lead contractor's site. If a timely face-to-face meeting cannot be arranged, the kick off meeting can take place through a video or telephone conference.
- The lead contractor's project manager will report on progress to the coordinator using the CEOI report template at the end of every month by email. Any issues arising will normally be addressed by the coordinator by telephone or email.
- There will be a progress review every 3 months, by preference face-to-face, with one of these designated as the mid-term review, held at an appropriate site. Where feasible, the reviews should be synchronised to significant project events and/or delivery of some of the project objectives.
- There will be close attention to progress against the agreed project schedule to ensure timely completion and to the effective application of the risk mitigation process.
- Following project completion, consortia shall report annually to the nominated UKSA project monitoring and evaluation function, on outcomes attributable to the CEOI project investment. This shall be continued for at least 5 years. Note that consortia that fail to

perform this function may be penalised in future rounds. A report proforma will be available at project KO. KPIs will include:

- TRL status
 - Training achieved
 - Publications and presentations
 - Jobs – creation and stabilisation
 - Leverage – investment and new contracts
 - Commercial outcomes
- At the end of the project, a Final Report and Executive Summary both suitable for publication will be produced. The project final report should contain the above KPIs at project completion, to set a baseline for the above post-project reporting.
 - The Executive Summary should include a short plain-language description of the project, its objectives, and benefits to describe its purpose in a way that can be widely understood by non-experts. There will be a formal project final review and there may also be a CEOI project final presentation day in which each of the projects will present a summary of work and achievements.

8 ELIGIBILITY

We welcome bids from a variety of organisations including academia, industry and government research institutes based in the UK. The details of some organisations may not be known by the UK Space Agency or the CEOI, especially for newer entrants. Such applicants should provide brief and relevant background information for the organisation, including areas of expertise and contact information including registration and official address.

Only those organisations in the proposed team, which have not previously received a grant from CEOI or the Agency, need provide this information in their bid. Organisations that have previously received a grant should provide a title and date of a relevant previous award.

Following receipt of bids and before award of any contract, new entrants may be required to provide additional eligibility details:

- It would normally be expected that 3 years of audited accounts are available for all project Partners. In the absence of 3 years of company accounts the bid response should provide details of the specific measures that will be taken to protect the UK Space Agency's grant investment.
- Evidence of company legitimacy and financial solvency, supported by e.g., company Annual Reports.
- Details of company quality processes and accreditation.
- Track record, supported by reputation or by statements from referees and customer testimonials.
- Micro SMEs and single-person (Sole Trader) companies will need to show robust risk mitigation against single point resource failure and the measures in place to protect the grant investment.

It is possible that some consortia bidding for projects may need to involve non-UK entities. This is allowable in principle subject to the following conditions:

- The UK must lead the consortium.
- The UK work must represent the significantly greater proportion of the whole project.
- The consortium must demonstrate that the proposed non-UK capability is essential and not available in the UK.

The rules can be relaxed if the non-UK entity is supplying PV, capability, or resources on a no-exchange-of-funds basis. Full details of the non-UK participation must be provided in the bid, appended to the eligibility statement.

9 CONFIDENTIALITY

The procedure for handling and assessing the bids and notifications will be as follows:

- Bids will be submitted to the University of Leicester administrator who will act on behalf of the CEOI. The administrator will hold all bids in confidence and will not propagate the bids internally in the University or elsewhere.
- For this Call only, the bids will be temporarily archived by the UKSA pending award of a new management contract, which is currently under tender.
- Copies of the notifications of intention to bid sheets will be provided to the CEOI Director and to the CEOI Technology Programme Director, who will retain these and handle them as confidential information.
- Following establishment of the new management entity, electronic copies of the bid documents will be distributed to independent assessment panel members, to the new Director and to the Technology Programme Director. The UK Space Agency confidentiality rules will apply.
- Bids not recommended by the Panel will be destroyed. They will not be visible to the wider Leadership Team or to any others.
- Bids recommended by the Panel will be visible to the CEOI appointed project co-ordinator and to the CEOI Leadership Team.
- Bids selected for funding will remain confidential (i.e., will not be visible to staff of any of the CEOI Partners other than the project co-ordinator and the CEOI Leadership Team).

The CEOI Director, the CEOI Technology Director and the CEOI appointed project co-ordinator will monitor the funded project through regular project reports and reviews. A standard CEOI Non-Disclosure Agreement can be used if required, to cover information exchange between the project participants and CEOI staff at any stage during the bid or contract. A copy is available on the CEOI website.

10 TEAMING AGREEMENT

Should an award be made, the contracted consortium will be required to establish a Teaming Agreement (TA) between its Partners, prior to the commencement of work. The TA should establish agreements regarding how the results of the work, including IPR and spin-outs, will be exploited by the consortium members. A model agreement is available from the CEOI website.

11 SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Only the lead institution should submit an application. Bids should be submitted to the UK Space Agency mailbox by Friday 16th December 2022 at noon, as follows:

- Electronically in PDF format. **The bid should be contained in single PDF file (apart from the separate Excel format Finance Table).**
- In submitting a proposal, bidders accept that all information supplied as part of the bid will be handled under the procedures defined in Section 9, irrespective of any confidentiality markings.

The electronic submission should be sent by email to the UKSA mailbox at EOIP@ukspaceagency.gov.uk.

For further information and formal enquiries contact:

Dr Nicolas Leveque	Tel: 01438 773116
CEOI Technical Director	Mob: 07528 984315
Airbus Defence and Space Ltd	Email: nicolas.leveque@airbus.com
Gunnels Wood Road	
Stevenage SG1 2AS	

For a timely response when Dr Leveque is unavailable, contact:

Mr Chris Brownsword	Mob: 07825 762527
CEOI Director	Email: cbrownsword@QinetiQ.com
QinetiQ Building, A8 Room 1004,	
Cody Technology Park,	
Ively Road, Farnborough	
GU14 0LX	

12 Intention to Bid Pro-Forma

This form should be emailed, before the date and time specified in Section 3, to Miss Charlotte Moretti, CEOI Technology Call Administrator at cm738@leicester.ac.uk

Title of the project	
Lead organisation	
Short description of the project	
Estimated Grant request (ROM value)	
Project Type	Pathfinder/Fast Track/Flagship <i>(delete as applicable)</i>

13 Application Form

The completed Application Form should be included with the Cover Letter when the full bid is submitted.

Title of Project		
Lead Organisation and Grant Requested for Lead		£
Project Partners and Grant Requested for each Partner		£ £
Address of Lead Organisation including postcode		
Lead Contact – Contractual (Name and e-mail)		
Lead Contact – Technical (Name and e-mail)		
Subsidy Control Category (see Section 15)		
Total Grant Funding Requested (£ and % of Total Project Cost)	£	%
Academic Contribution (£ and % of Total Project Cost)	£	%
PV Contribution (£ and % of Total Project Cost)	£	%
Total Project Cost (£)	£	100%
Proposed start date and duration		
Project Type	Pathfinder/Fast Track/Flagship <i>(delete as applicable)</i>	
Titles and dates of related projects or proposals to CEOI, NSIP, NSTP, ETP or other UKSA programmes	<i>(List on separate sheet if necessary)</i>	

14 Risk Table Template

Please use this table in your proposal.

Risk No.	Risk Description	Type	Impact	Potential Schedule impact	Probability	Overall Rating	Month retired	(1) Avoidance Strategy	(2) Mitigation Strategy
	Short description of risk and potential consequences	Technical, Commercial or Managerial	1-5	In months	1-5	L/M/H	mm/yy	Actions to be taken to avoid occurrence and/or minimise impact	Actions to be taken during project if risk arises
R1									

Impact and Probability 1 = Low; 5= High

Overall rating Impact x Probability
 where 1<Low<6; 8<Medium<12; 15<High<25

15 Subsidy Control

15.1 Introduction to Subsidy Control (and State aid where relevant)

UKSA supports UK based businesses to invest in research, development and innovation. The support we provide is consistent with the UK's international obligations and commitments to Subsidy Control. These include:

- [WTO rules](#)
- the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), (see EU-UK TCA summary and [BEIS \(Dept. for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy\) guidance](#))
- in certain circumstances (e.g. under the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#)) EU State aid regulations may also be applied
- other bilateral [UK FTAs](#) (Free Trade Agreements) where relevant

15.2 What is a subsidy?

For the purposes of UK international commitments, a subsidy is a measure which:

1. Is given by a public authority. This can be at any level; central, devolved, regional or local government or a public body.
2. Makes a contribution (this could be a financial or an in-kind contribution) to an enterprise, conferring an economic advantage that is not available on market terms. Examples of a contribution are grants, loans at below market rate, or a loan guarantee at below market rate or allowing a company to use publicly owned office space rent-free. An enterprise is anyone who puts goods or services on a market. An enterprise could be a government department or a charity if they are acting commercially.
3. Affects international trade. This can be trade with any World Trade Organisation member or, more specifically, between the UK and a country with whom it has a [Free Trade Agreement](#). For example, if the subsidy is going towards a good which is traded between the UK and the EU this could affect trade between the EU and the UK. It is not necessary to consider whether the subsidy could harm trade, just whether there could be some sort of effect. Subsidies to very local companies or a small tourist attraction are unlikely to be a problem as this is unlikely to affect international trade.

The BEIS Subsidy Control regime (or where relevant EU State aid regulations) are designed to prevent unfair advantages and distortion of trade: [Complying with the UK's international obligations on subsidy control](#).

More information on the principles of awarding subsidies can be found in the [BEIS guidance](#).

15.3 Subsidy Control Categories and Intervention Thresholds

Table 2 summarises the maximum intervention thresholds allowable level of support under this UKSA grant call for Financial Year 2021/2022.

Table 3 summarises the UK definition of what constitutes an SME, in line with the Companies Act 2006. To qualify for any category, the company must meet at least two of the conditions (staff headcount, Turnover or Balance sheet total) within both the current financial year and the year previous. Anything above the limits for a medium sized company is designated as a large company. For more information on company sizes, please refer to the company accounts guidance. This is a change from the EU definition².

Other sources of public funding are not eligible as a Private Venture (PV) / match funding contribution.

Academic partners will be funded in all cases at 80% of Full Economic Cost (FEC).

Table 2. BEIS Subsidy Control categories and maximum allowable intervention rates

Subsidy Category	Allowable Level of Support		
	SE	ME	LE
Feasibility study	70%	60%	50%
Industrial research	70%	60%	50%
Industrial research projects involving collaboration/ dissemination*	80%	75%	65%
Experimental development	45%	35 %	25%
Experimental development projects involving collaboration/dissemination*	60%	50%	40%

**NOTE: Collaborations between businesses and research organisations where the research organisation bears at least 10% of the costs and have the right to publish their own research. Procurement/supplier relationships do not qualify.*

Table 3. Definition of company types [RD2]

Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium sized	< 250	≤ £36 m		≤ £18 m
Small	< 50	≤ £10.2 m		≤ £5.1 m
Micro	< 10	≤ £632,000		≤ £316,000

² If an application engages the Northern Ireland Protocol then the applicant should revert to the EU definition of SMEs.

15.4 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and EU de minimis awards

NOTE: The text below is generic. It is NOT possible to apply to the CEOI 15th Call under SAFA. This section is relevant if the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) is engaged. More information is available from [RD3].

The [UK-EU Trade & Cooperation Agreement](#) (TCA) has provision relating to Small Amounts of Financial Assistance (SAFA).

For organisations applying under SAFA, the total subsidy which can be given to each organisation is up to a maximum of 325,000 SDR over a rolling 3 fiscal year period. This threshold is subject to change and grant recipients should consult the [subsidy control guidance](#) for regular updates.

When calculating eligibility for the application of the SAFA provision bidders must include cumulation of EU State aid de minimis grants under the EC's de minimis regulation for the same 3 fiscal year period. The maximum total under the EC regulation is €200,000. This is for all project types and for most purposes, including operating aid.

This guidance is not a substitute for taking independent legal advice on your eligibility status, before applying for funding. Every applicant is responsible for securing their own independent legal advice to ensure they are lawfully eligible.

Please note the CEOI is unable to award organisations that are considered to be ailing and insolvent companies.