

Announcement of Opportunity

CEOI 11th 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 Eleventh EO Technology Call. In this Call we invite proposals to develop world-leading UK EO technologies for future operational or commercial missions, with a particular interest in technologies which will create export opportunities.

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 led by Airbus Defence and Space Ltd with 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 Policy:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-space-policy>
- [RD2] National Space Technology Strategy:
<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/national-space-technology-strategy/overview>
- [RD3] EC Definition of Small and Medium Enterprises:
<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/>
- [RD4] BEIS Guidance - State aid: general block exemption regulation:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-general-block-exemption-regulation>
- [RD5] UK EO Technology Strategy:
Available on request from CEOI
- [RD6] RCUK Guidance for Full Economic Costs (FEC) for academic Partners
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/fecfaq-pdf/>
- [RD7] NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook, Edition 2017 - 2.0
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/howtoapply/forms/grantshandbook/>

2 CEOI 11th EO Call Description

The total budget available for the Call is £3.35M, with additional funding required from industrial bidders. The Call is released on 14th November 2017 and will close on **17th January 2018 at noon**. Proposal selection will be conducted in early 2018 in anticipation of projects starting from March 2018.

The primary aim will be to solicit proposals for CEOI Flagship projects to advance world-leading UK EO technologies for future operational or commercial missions, with a particular interest in technologies which will create export opportunities.

Bidders should propose activities which advance the development of EO instrument technologies to between TRL 5 and TRL 9, including further development of previous CEOI funded technologies. Proposals will need to be aligned to the EO Technology Strategy, to be issued by CEOI on behalf of the UK Space Agency in the autumn [RD5].

Successful proposals will identify the timeliness of the development and expect to generate a substantial return on investment. They will identify implementation opportunities through an in-orbit demonstration or other space mission, where targeted investment will significantly improve the likelihood of adoption of the technology by the mission(s). Proposals that raise TRL through deployment on CubeSats, HAPS or airborne demonstration are acceptable under this Call.

Will CEOI provide grants for successful projects typically in the range £0.5M to £1M. Proposals requiring funding outside this range may be considered but strong justification will be required.

There is also a preference for projects that aim to complete by September 2019, although longer projects of up to 24 months duration will be considered if there is strong justification. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate an urgent need for funding for an identified near-term space mission opportunity.

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 is completed in line with the proposed timescale.

Projects preparing for operational EO missions for ESA and other agencies will be expected to construct their proposal to acknowledge the mission down-selection decision points, i.e. the proposed work should complete at these points, or be phased so that projects may be stopped if missions are deselected or cancelled.

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 State Aid General Block Exemption Regulation. Eligible activities are limited to Industrial Research and Experimental Development. Proposals for work categorised as Fundamental Research or as a Feasibility Study will not be considered. [RD4].

Proposals for projects which are from collaborative teams will be given preference and the CEOI encourages combined industrial/academic teams (any organisation type can lead). Annex D Table 1 and Note 1 define eligible collaborations and increased intervention rates available for collaborative activities. We will only consider proposals from 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 which 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 financial contribution to the CEOI project.

Projects which are conceived as part of a multi-stage development should outline the activities which 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.

3 NEW PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

To encourage bids from new partnerships, a partner pro-forma is available for any organisation that would like to be considered as a potential partner in a bid led by another organisation.

Such organisations should indicate what skills and/or capability they can offer and email the completed partner pro-forma, which is available on the CEOI website, to Mrs Lisa Finch, CEOI Technology Call Administrator at lf107@leicester.ac.uk by **17:00 hrs on 24th November 2017**.

The information will be shared on the CEOI webpage for prospective lead organisations and project partners to access.

4 NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO BID

The lead applicant should notify CEOI of their intention to bid by email to the CEOI Call Administrator Lisa Finch, lf107@leicester.ac.uk, by **12th December 2017 at noon**, using the pro-forma at Annex A.

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 10.

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 Sections defined in Table 5-1 must be supplied in the proposal.

Section	Details in Section:	Page count (max)
Cover letter	5.1	1 page
Application Form	Annex B	1 page
Project Summary	5.2	1 page including picture or diagram
Business/Exploitation Plan	5.3	4 pages
Technical proposal	5.4	8 pages
Management proposal	5.5	4 pages
Financial proposal	5.6	4 pages
Finance Table	5.7	Completed spreadsheet (One Sheet per Partner and one Summary Sheet)
Company and organisation background	5.8	1 page per organisation
Eligibility information	9	2 pages per organisation
Annex 1: CVs (all <u>key</u> team members)	-	1 page each
Annex 2: Work Package descriptions	-	1 page each
Annex 3: Letters of Support	-	1 page each

Table 5-1 Application Checklist

Proposals which do not include all of the mandated Sections 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.

5.1 The Covering Letter

To ensure ease and speed of placing the contract following selection, the bids must include a covering letter¹ containing:

- A committing offer to University of Leicester, who will contractually administer the CEOI grants on behalf of the Agency and CEOI;
- A statement of acceptance of the standard CEOI Terms and Conditions (T&Cs). A copy of these T&Cs 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&C's on behalf of your organisation. Please ensure that authorisation is obtained from your organisation;
- 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 bids will be assessed by the Review Panel (see Section 7), but the CEOI reserves the right to seek a customer reference, to be considered by the Panel;
- The completed Application Form.

5.2 The Project Summary

The project summary should provide a brief overall description of the project in a form suitable for publication should the project be funded (i.e. free of any commercially sensitive or IP material). This summary may be included in a press release and published on the CEOI and the Agency websites when any award is made.

5.3 Business/Exploitation Plan

Proposals must include a business and/or exploitation plan, which should include the following information:

- A description of the main exploitable products and/or deliverables from the project, including identification of the potential commercial breakthroughs (e.g. creation of new markets), and/or business innovations associated with the project.
- A description of potential and accessible market(s), with identification of key customers and competition.
- An exploitation roadmap detailing the potential space flight opportunity(s) , and the key commercial and marketing steps required to successfully exploit the project outcomes
- The expected economic growth, job creation and export opportunities which will result from the project

¹ Applicants should note that the University of Leicester will be administering the grant funding and hence the letter with the committing offer should be addressed to the University.

5.4 Technical Proposal

This section should provide:

- A description of the work to be undertaken, highlighting the innovative aspects of the project;
- An exposition of the science, commercial and/or operational need and drivers, showing the relationship of the work to UKSA EO Technology Strategy;
- Justification for why this technology should be developed and the benefits it offers over alternative solutions;
- A description of how the proposed work takes advantage of UK strengths, and further positions the UK for increased involvement in space and future growth;
- A description of any system-level benefits expected (e.g. cost, mass, size, resource requirement);
- A technology roadmap showing heritage, future evolution and also the start and end TRL of the proposed work;
- Information on collaboration between partner organisations and exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights.

5.5 Management Proposal

This section should provide:

- A project plan, including a summary of the work, a project schedule, and work break down structure. The plan should identify the measures which will be taken to ensure that the project completes on time;
- Work package descriptions shall be attached in an Annex (not included in the page count limit for this section);
- Deliverables for each work package; clearly identifying their scope and the delivery schedule;
- The makeup of the team and justification if there are no partners;
- 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;
- A list of the key individuals and their position in the project team;
- An assessment of the major project technical, schedule and commercial risks and the approach to tracking and mitigation of these risks. All applicants are required to complete the Risk Table provided in Annex C.

5.6 Financial Proposal

This section should provide:

- A financial summary showing the cost of each work package and the major items of expenditure by each Partner² (staff, travel, external contracts, procurements etc) with justification;
- Table of proposed milestone payments with description, amount and dates;
- A clear statement of the GBER State Aid Category and of any industrial or other private investment offered (see 5.2 below and Annex D).

5.7 Finance Table

The CEOI Excel Finance Table must be completed, using one worksheet (sheets P1-P8 in the Excel spreadsheet) for each Partner. 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.

5.8 Company and organisation background

For each of the project Partners, this section should provide brief background information about the company/organisation and the relevant track record.

² '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 GBER regulations. This is in contrast to 'Suppliers' and 'consultants', who supply goods and/or services to one of the Partners.

6 CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

Award(s) will take the form of a contract between University of Leicester and the project's lead organisation. 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.

6.1 Payment plan

The payment plan should be constructed so that no more than 20% is paid at kick-off, and no less than 20% at the final review acceptance. Other milestone payments should be included, which should reflect major project stages and intermediate deliverables.

6.2 Grants to Industry - Additional 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 European State Aid General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) requirements. Note that EC grants or other funds from public sources are not eligible as a source of these contributions.

Bidders must identify and justify the GBER 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 Annex D). 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 State Aid legislation. Further guidance is available on the BEIS website [RD4].

6.3 Academic contribution

Academic Partners will be funded at no more than 80% of Full Economic Cost (FEC). Refer to [RD6] 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 NERC Research Grants and Fellowships 2017 [RD7].

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 GBER category under EU State Aid rules 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 under EU State Aid rules.

7 ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS

The Review Panel will consist of independent Agency approved reviewers drawn from academia, industry, Government or the Research Council Review Colleges. It will assess the proposals against the Gateway questions and according to the criteria listed below, taking into account the commitment of the organisations, in particular the lead organisation, to the success of the project and the financial viability of all the project Partners.

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Business plan assessment (30%)** *Is this a strong and innovative business opportunity? What is the likelihood of a successful outcome?*
 - Strength of the business opportunity and quality of the business plan (value chain, target customers)
 - Credible and substantial return on investment likely to result (size of the market and proposed commercialisation strategy)
 - Contribution to exports, economic growth and ability to stimulate job creation.

- **Technology Excellence (30%)** *What are the advantages of this technology and why do it now?*
 - Technological excellence of the work, degree of innovation and likelihood that a step-change in technological capability will be achieved
 - Need for this technology development, its potential applications and the benefits it offers over alternatives technologies
 - Timeliness of the proposed work in relation to external factors.
 - Alignment of the work to the UK EO Technology Strategy [RD5]

- **Quality of project planning and management arrangements (20%)** *What qualifies the team and will they deliver the project successfully?*
 - Quality, completeness and realistic timescales of the project plan, including management measures proposed to ensure on-time completion
 - Capability and track record of the team members - ability of the team to deliver the outcomes within the timelines proposed.
 - Quality of risk analysis and the mitigation proposed. “Risk” is defined as the probability that the project will meet its stated technology or business objectives.
 - To align with the CEOI objective to support collaborative teaming, one quarter of this mark is assigned for good quality collaborative teams.

- **Value for money of the proposed work including assessment of PV (20%)** *Does the project represent good value for money and does the PV offered conform to State Aid rules?*
 - Cost appropriate for the work proposed and represents a good investment for the Agency
 - Level and justification of PV commitment, and consistent with State Aid rules

8 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 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.
- At the end of the project, a Final Report and Executive Summary both suitable for publication will be produced. 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.

9 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 a substantial 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 or capability, and 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.

10 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.
- 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 as confidential information.
- When the bid period completes, electronic copies of the bid documents will be distributed to the independent assessment panel members, to the CEOI Director and to the CEOI 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 CEOI 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 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.

11 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.

12 SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Only the lead institution should submit an application. Bids should be submitted to the University of Leicester administrator, who will act on behalf of the CEOI, as follows:

- Electronically in PDF format. **The bid should preferably 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 10, irrespective of any confidentiality markings.
- In addition, a single printed and signed copy of the full bid should be posted on or before the closing date. Note: The date of the postmark or other proof of posting will be considered sufficient to prove that it is posted on time.

The electronic submission should be sent by email to the CEOI Technology Call Administrator, Mrs Lisa Finch at lf107@leicester.ac.uk

The printed copy of the proposal, including the financial information and a formal signed financial offer to University of Leicester should be sent to:

Mrs Lisa Finch
CEOI Technology Call Administrator
Department of Chemistry
George Porter Building
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Telephone: +44 (0) 116 229 7681
Fax: +44 (0) 116 223 1710
Email: lf107@leicester.ac.uk

For further information and formal enquiries contact:

Mr Chris Brownsword
CEOI Technology Director
QinetiQ Building, A8 Room 1004,
Cody Technology Park,
Ively Road, Farnborough
GU14 0LX

Tel: 01252 393918 (land line)
Mob: 07825 762527 (mobile)
Email: cbrownsword@QinetiQ.com

Annex A – Intention to Bid Pro-Forma

Title of the project	
Lead organisation	
Project partners	
Short description of the project	
Estimated Grant request (ROM value)	

This form should be emailed, before the date and time specified in Section 4, to Mrs Lisa Finch, CEOI Technology Call Administrator at lf107@leicester.ac.uk

Annex B – 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 - Commercial (Name and e-mail)		
Lead Contact – Technical (Name and e-mail)		
GBER State Aid Category (see Annex D)		
Total Grant Funding Requested (£)	£	
Academic Contribution (£ and % of Total Project Cost)	£	%
PV Contribution (£ and % of Total Project Cost)	£	%
Total Project Cost (£)	£	
Proposed start date and duration		

Annex C – Risk Table Template

Risk Description	Type	Impact	Probability	Overall Rating	Month retired	Mitigation Strategy
Short description of risk and potential consequences	Technical, Commercial or Managerial	1-5	1-5	L/M/H		(1) Actions to be taken to avoid occurrence and/or minimise impact (2) Actions to be taken during project if risk arises

Impact and Probability 1 = Low; 5= High
 Overall rating Impact x Probability
 where 1<Low<6; 8<Medium<12; 15<High<25

Annex D - State Aid intervention levels

Bidders should ensure their proposal is compliant with the relevant State Aid legislation. European regulations allows State Aid to companies for technology R&D activities via the General Block Exemption Regulations (GBER), with intervention rates (i.e. maximum % grant offered) depending on the type of activity, the type of organisation, and the size of the company as follows:

- **'fundamental research'** means experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view;
- **'industrial research'** means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of components parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation;
- **'experimental development'** means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services;

Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes.

Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements;

- **'feasibility study'** means the evaluation and analysis of the potential of a project, which aims at supporting the process of decision-making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success;

Fig 1 EC definition of the various company types [RD3]:

Enterprise category	Headcount: Annual Work Unit (AWU)	Annual turnover	or	Annual balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ €50 million <small>(in 1996 € 40 million)</small>	or	≤ €43 million <small>(in 1996 € 27 million)</small>
Small	< 50	≤ €10 million <small>(in 1996 € 7 million)</small>	or	≤ €10 million <small>(in 1996 € 5 million)</small>
Micro	< 10	≤ €2 million <small>(previously not defined)</small>	or	≤ €2 million <small>(previously not defined)</small>

Anything above the limits for a medium sized company is designated as a large company.

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

This table summarizes the GBER State Aid categories and maximum allowable intervention rates.

State Aid Category	Intervention rate		
	SME	ME	LE
Fundamental Research	100%	100%	100%
Feasibility study	70%	60%	50%
Industrial research	70%	60%	50%
Industrial research projects involving collaboration/ dissemination ¹	80%	75%	65%
Experimental development	45%	35%	25%
Experimental development projects involving collaboration/dissemination ¹	60%	50%	40%

Note 1 Collaborations between businesses and research organisations where the research organisation bears at least 10% of the costs & have the right to publish their own research, or business to business collaborations which involve more than one member state of the EU/ EEA or involve at least one SME, provided that no one business partner carries more than 70% of the project costs. Procurement/supplier relationships do not qualify.