

PENTA Cluster - UK organisations: eligibility and scope

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is the UK's funding agency for the EUREKA PENTA cluster competition 2019. EUREKA PENTA cluster projects are designed to be market-driven international R&D projects aiming to develop marketable products, services or processes.

Innovate UK is investing up to £2 million to fund UK businesses and research organisations participating in collaborative industrial research projects with partners from the EUREKA PENTA cluster participating countries.

Eligibility:

The eligibility conditions which UK organisations must satisfy to qualify for Innovate UK grant funding follow below:

- The consortium must include at least one UK-based SME and one partner from one of the EUREKA Network participating countries. Note: International partner (or partners) must be separate, non-linked legal entities to the UK partners.
- Research organisations, including RTO's and universities, are welcome to participate as partners, according to each country's funding regulations. For the UK, the following conditions apply:
 - Research organisations cannot lead an application
 - Research organisations (including RTO's and universities) in the consortium can share up to 30% of the total eligible UK project costs. If your consortium contains more than one research organisation, this maximum will be shared between them.
 - RTOs must be able to show how they will exploit the results of the project to grow the wider sector in the UK.

The funding is given in the form of a grant. Under the EUREKA Cluster calls, Innovate UK can fund a proportion of the industrial research project costs, this proportion depends on the size of your business:

- up to 70% if you are a micro or small business
- up to 60% if you are a medium-sized business
- up to 50% if you are a large business

Eligible project costs are defined in the general funding guidance.

This competition provides state aid funding under the General Block Exemption Regulation.

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Any UK business claiming funding must be eligible to receive state aid at point of award. It is your responsibility to make sure that your organisation is eligible to receive state aid. For further information please see the general guidance document.

EUREKA PENTA cluster will invoice an administration fee of 1.5% of funded amount to the organisation awarded the funding. This will be split equally for each year the project is active.

Subcontracting is allowed within EUREKA Cluster competitions up to a maximum 20% of the total eligible project costs of the UK partners.

Each partner must carry out the majority of their funded work within the country from which they receive funding (ie. the UK for Innovate UK funding).

Scope:

PENTA is a EUREKA Cluster with a mission to catalyse research, development and innovation in areas of micro and nanoelectronics enabled systems and applications.

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, is working with PENTA to deliver a 2019 call, with the objective of

- Supporting projects along the Electronic Components & Systems (ECS) value chain.
- Helping the formation of innovation “ecosystems” bringing together the best technologies in large enterprises, SME’s, RTO’s and Academia to form dynamic new teams that will extend the State of the Art with the potential of rapid subsequent commercial exploitation.

In all projects, partners from two or more EUREKA countries covering at least an essential section of the total value chain are required.

Broad PENTA scope:

Three European industry associations - AENEAS, ARTEMIS-IA and EPoSS - representing large companies, SMEs, universities and research institutes from across the entire Electronic Components and Systems (ECS) value chain have joined together to produce a common Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) 2018. This common framework for Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) identifies 10 chapters which addresses the 5 essential capabilities required to meet the 5 key application needs.

This ECS-SRA 2018 drives the PENTA & EURIPIDES² programmes in the following focus areas:

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PENTA seeks to support the creation of partnerships along the Electronics, Components and Systems value chain, enabling the transition from research to commercial exploitation (Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 2-8).

Innovate UK focus:

UK recognises Electronics, Sensors and Photonic as a broad spectrum of technologies and innovations that form an enabling 'platform', underpinning many application areas and vertical industries, such as Automotive, Manufacturing, Aerospace and Healthcare.

The UK PENTA call is open to companies across the UK Electronics Sensors and Photonics (ESP) stakeholder community. The UK focus is on innovation of products and solutions across the scope of the UK ESP community:

- Electronic components and systems
- Power electronics
- Large area electronics
- Sensors and sensor systems
- Photonics

Innovate UK will not consider projects where the innovation resides primarily in software.

The Innovate UK PENTA call encourages projects that deliver an advantage from an aspect of international collaboration, with specific benefits gained by working with one or more partners external to UK.

Applications will be accepted from applicants across the value system.

- End user
- Testing and verification service provider
- System integrator
- Subsystem manufacturer
- Component manufacturer

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In the event of oversubscription, Innovate UK reserves the right to adopt a portfolio approach in ranking. This will be aimed at achieving a balance across a range of:

- scope areas
- categories of research and development
- project costs, including demonstrating value for money

For the purpose of the PENTA call, Innovate UK aligns with the framework of the application areas as presented in the Strategic Research Agenda, as well as recent extension of Digital Industry to include digital farming in 2019 draft update,

The Strategic Research Agenda covers 5 key application areas.

- Transport and Smart Mobility
- Health and wellbeing
- Energy
- Digital Industry
- Digital Life

Useful links:

General competition guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/innovate-uk-funding-general-guidance-for-applicants>

The definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) used by Innovate UK:

<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/>

Eligible project costs are defined in the general funding guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-completing-your-application-project-costs-guidance>

ECS Strategic Research Agenda:

<https://ecscollaborationtool.eu/news-overview/news-press-release-ecs-sra-unveiled.html>

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