



Call for Expressions of Interest in Response to Defined Call Topics

Call Launch Date: Friday 27th May 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

List of Questions and Answers: Last updated on 23rd June 2016

The following is a short list of frequently asked questions on the detail of this call. Where other issues arise that need clarification arise, this document will be updated and made available to applicants that have expressed interest in the call.

Who is eligible to apply?

This is an open call to national and international applicants in research organisations. All researchers including staff on contract in 3rd level institutions and non-profit research organisations may apply.

When is the Closing Date?

The closing date is 5pm on Friday 8th July, 2016. Late applications will not be eligible. Applications must be received by the IERC by this deadline. A confirmation of receipt will be provided to the lead applicant.

Can a researcher on contract be a Principal Investigator on a proposal?

Yes, but the proposal must be signed off by a relevant permanent member of staff (e.g. Head of Department or Research Centre Director in the Institution). If the proposal is successful then the institute will need to agree to extend the PI's contract for the project period for which they will be funded.

What if my contract is due to end before the project is completed?

In instances where a researcher's contract terminates prior to the completion of the project, the IERC will fulfill its contractual obligations and continue to support the project subject to the renewal of the researcher's contract to at least the end of the project or relevant project stage.

What will happen to research staff when work described in this call finishes?

The management of the IERC and the industry members intend to build a centre of international scale. The IERC anticipates the development of sustainable research programmes incorporating new projects funded through the IERC or other mechanisms subject to ongoing support of relevant industry members. We expect researchers who have worked with us to have the opportunity to engage with us on future programmes.

What is the expected value of the call?

It is anticipated that the indicative budget to address individual project themes 1, 2 or 3 will be in the range of €500,000 (this represents 100% of the research cost of RPOs not including overheads of up to 30%). Following EOI review, a selection of applicants will

be invited to meet with industry partners and if successful a full scoping and costing of the project will be completed at that stage.

Is there a source of funds to pay capital costs for potential demonstrator sites? (who has to procure the equipment and how quickly this can be executed).

Funding required to access or support demonstration sites will need to be scoped at proposal development stage. It is anticipated that industry partner contributions will contribute the majority of capital costs associated with any demonstrator.

Will the management of the demonstrator sites stage rest with the RPO irrespective of the selected demonstrator site?

Yes. The IERC recognises its role in facilitating close collaboration between the industry and research partners of the centre and the owners of associated demonstration sites.

As this is call from an industry led technology centre, do I need to have an industrial partner?

Yes. This is an expression of interest call to Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) who have the support of 2 or more industry partners willing to join the IERC as members and support a minimum of 35% of the cost of the research project through membership fees and In Kind support of the project. Industry cash and in-kind contributions to all IERC projects will be managed directly by the Centre through its membership model.

Who will manage the identification and engaging of companies in the research project expected to arise as a result of this call?

This is a PI led initiative in the first instance. IERC Management will work with the successful PI and industry team to fully scope and cost any resulting projects.

Are international contributors welcome in my proposal?

The International Energy Research Centre seeks to leverage existing expertise and build new capacity in Ireland to establish a world-class center for integrated energy research. The IERC welcomes opportunities to collaborate with international experts to supplement current national expertise as deemed necessary.

Are the Northern Irish RPOs considered international collaborators?

Yes. They are also eligible to apply as Principal Investigators.

What information do I need from my international collaborator?

Where a PI intends to collaborate with an international person or group, a letter of support must be submitted with the application. The letter should detail the level and type of collaboration involved, the contribution by the partner, and whether (and what part of) that will be delivered inside the Republic of Ireland.

Can Masters or PhD researchers be supported under this call?

Given the nature of the research and the potential for change in both direction and funding of the project, this is not a suitable fund to support either Masters or PhD students. Please note that Masters and PhD fees will not be considered an eligible expense.

When will I know the outcome of my application?

Applications submitted to this call will be subjected to a thorough review process. The outcome of that review will be notified to all applicants by Monday 25th July 2016 at the latest.

Will I get feedback on my application?

Yes, feedback will be provided to applicants of both successful and unsuccessful projects. This feedback will be based on the comments provided by the evaluators from their evaluation of the EOI.

Am I free to publish the outcomes of my research if successful with this call?

Publications from the research will be encouraged, subject to prior agreement of the IERC Management. This is to ensure that any confidential information provided by the companies to the researchers or generated during the course of the research project is not released into the public domain. It will be the researcher's obligation to inform the IERC of their intention to publish in advance of the submission of any papers; this includes any internal or external seminars, workshops or conferences. The full set of terms and conditions around confidentiality will be defined in the IERC's Collaboration and Intellectual Property Agreement which will need to be reviewed and signed by the successful applicant(s) and corresponding institutions.

Is there a guide to the scoring of the application for external reviewers available to applicants?

The evaluation criteria for external and internal reviewers are as outlined in the EOI document.

Is it possible to apply for other funding opportunities leading out of this technology developed (such as Enterprise Commercialisation funding) while being funded by this IERC call?

The IERC Collaboration and Intellectual Property Agreement (CIPA) has conditions relating to the use and exploitation of foreground IP arising from IERC funded projects. The further leverage of IERC research outcomes through applications to additional funding streams is encouraged with due consideration of terms and conditions agreed during contract negotiations.

As an applicant, may I get a copy of the CIPA to ensure that it will be acceptable to my institution?

If requested, and for applicants that have confirmed their interest in the call, the IERC Collaboration and Intellectual Property Agreement (CIPA) will be provided.

What are the considerations for size/scale of SME's involved?

The industry cash and IK contributions (minimum of 10% cash and 25% IK) can be shared across the partners to the project. While this does not necessarily need to be an even split, the balance of contributions will depend on the partners involved. Agreement will need to be reached by all partners and the IERC on that balance which will be outlined in a project specific cooperation agreement (heads of agreement) in line with the the IERC Centre Level Collaboration and Intellectual Property Agreement (CIPA).

Do industry partners need to pay all costs upfront?

Industry partners engage with IERC projects through the Centres Industry membership model. A membership fee is payable upfront – this fee depends on the nature of the membership requested ie Full or Associate membership. Associate members pay less for upfront membership but will be invoiced separately for project participation fees which will depend on the scale and scope of the project. For more details on the industry membership model please contact info@ierc.ie

Who owns the equipment and data when the project ends?

This will need to be addressed by the partners on a case by case basis. All actual and anticipated IK donations of equipment and data to the project will be detailed in the Project Cooperation Agreement before the project starts. Proposed equipment purchases for project delivery will be detailed in the proposal document and is subject to external peer review and approval of the IERC CSC.

For any further questions please contact:

info@ierc.ie

Tel: +353-21-234 6949