

News story: More efficient, high-quality buildings: apply for funding

UK organisations can apply for a share of up to £12.5 million for projects to transform how the construction sector delivers new buildings.

The funding is provided by [UK Research and Innovation](#) and delivered through Innovate UK.

The need to transform

There is a shortage of high-quality housing in the UK and we need more affordable, energy-efficient and healthier places to live and work. This is creating demand to produce buildings more quickly, safely and with lower emissions.

For this to happen there has to be a revolution in the construction sector. Currently it lags behind other industries for productivity – and hasn't changed much in more than 40 years.

So through the [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#) government is supporting a transformation of UK construction.

The £170 million government investment, matched by £250 million from industry, will create new construction processes and techniques for building manufacture.

This £12.5 million funding competition is one element of the programme, which also includes funding for research, a new construction network and the creation of an active building centre and innovation hub.

It is a core part of the [Construction Sector Deal](#), which sets out its vision for a future-proofed sector that can provide affordable, energy efficient homes in days or weeks, rather than months, and at a third of the cost.

Tackling the construction lifecycle

We are looking for projects that address the 3 main stages of the construction lifecycle. Specifically, they should focus on how we:

- design and manage buildings, such as using digitally-enabled performance management systems
- construct high-quality buildings, taking a manufacturing approach
- power those buildings, for example, through the use of active energy components

The idea proposed should ultimately lead to cost savings, reduced delays and improvements in collaborations, productivity and outputs.

Delivering the modern Industrial Strategy

To meet the objectives of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, projects must do one or more of the following:

- encourage the adoption of design approaches that favour pre-manufacturing and assembly
- increase productivity on construction projects
- develop scalable methods to speed up construction and provide greater certainty over budget and time
- develop integrated building components that generate, manage and store energy at lower costs
- reduce the construction and whole-life costs of built assets
- improve the whole-life value and safety of built assets, while reducing the carbon impact of that asset

Depending on the length, projects can be for feasibility studies, industrial research or experimental development.

Competition information

- this competition opens on 23 July 2018, and the deadline for applications is midday on 19 September 2018
 - a UK business must lead the project, working with other businesses, research, public sector or third sector organisations. At least one SME must be involved
 - total project costs can be between £25,000 and £500,000 for projects that last 6 to 12 months, or between £250,000 and £1 million if they last 12 to 24 months
 - you could attract up to 70% of your project costs
 - projects must start by December 2018
 - as part of the competition you can attend a briefing event, where you'll find out more about how to create and submit a quality application.
- Register for:

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[Find opportunities for business and research to transform construction.](#)

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[Find out more about the Industry Sector Deals](#) and how they're supporting [the modern Industrial Strategy](#).

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Register for:

- [London](#) or [an online webinar](#) on 23 July 2018
- [Bristol](#) on 24 July 2018
- [Birmingham](#) on 25 July 2018

[Find out more about this competition and apply.](#)

Policy paper: Litter strategy for England: progress reports

This report sets out what the government and others have been doing to reduce litter in England since we published our [litter strategy](#). The report includes case studies and updates provided by members of the Litter Strategy Advisory Group.

It also sets out some further activities we plan to carry out over the next year.

News story: Energy Minister Claire Perry hails success story of offshore wind in Newcastle today

Meeting staff from the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult today in Newcastle ahead of the meeting of Regional Cabinet, Energy and Clean Growth Minister Claire Perry said:

We are witnessing an unprecedented global transformation to a low carbon economy.

This change creates enormous economic opportunities. Bloomberg New Energy Finance predict that of the \$11.5 trillion of investment they expect to be invested in new power generation assets globally out to 2050, 86% is expected to be in low carbon, and 73% to wind and solar.

We want the UK to continue to be a leader in this global transition, and a leading destination for clean investment. Since 1990 the UK has cut emissions by more than 40%, while growing our economy by more than two-thirds, the best performance in the G7.

But cutting carbon and capturing clean growth is an ongoing challenge. Government policies have already led to rapid growth in the deployment of renewables. This has led to substantial investment by offshore wind suppliers into UK-based services and manufacturing, creating thousands of skilled jobs and delivering hundreds of millions of pounds worth of investment.

Offshore wind is a success story for the UK – and we're the world leader with over 7 gigawatts installed and operational. The scale and breadth of our ambition has driven innovation and evolution through initiatives like this catapult; in partnership with industry.

This in turn has in turn sharply decreased costs. A strike price of £57.50 per megawatt hour for offshore wind was unimaginable a few years ago, rapidly driving down subsidy costs for new projects.

The UK has helped to realise this extraordinary coming of age for the global sector, and are poised to reap the reward in new export markets. And we want to continue to build on our successes at home.

Today we're announcing that the next auction for Contract for Differences Auction will open by May next year. And we plan to set out the parameters of

the next auction later this year.

But we understand that to make meaningful long-term investments, industry needs clarity over years, not months. That is why we are also announcing the intention to run subsequent auctions around every 2 years after that, using the £557 million that we have already announced.

Depending on the auction prices, this could see 1-2 gigawatts of new offshore wind every year in the 2020s – powering millions more homes a year and we will look at ways to manage the auctions to ensure smooth delivery of low carbon generation. In return we expect the offshore wind sector to continue cutting costs and reducing household bills whilst growing UK manufacturing.

In giving companies long-term visibility, we should rightly expect long term commitments from them, and I look forward to working with the sector in the coming months to explore their ambitious plans to invest in the UK supply chain.

In recent years total UK content in the offshore wind sector has increased to 48%. And I am committed to upping the scrutiny of developers and their supply chains and ensure this number keeps growing.

For the last decade the Offshore wind industry has been a great British success story: increasing productivity, raising earnings and improving lives in communities across the UK. Today, the sector gets the certainty it needs to build on this success through the next decade.

Press release: Foreign Secretary visits Berlin

Mr Hunt met with German foreign minister Mr Heiko Maas to discuss a range of issues of shared interest – including the UK's exit from the EU, and UK-German co-operation on foreign policy issues such as NATO, the Western Balkans, Iran, and joint work at the UN Security Council, which Germany will join as a non-permanent member next year.

Ahead of the meeting, the Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

Germany is one of Britain's most important allies in every field, from trade to European security to counter-terrorism. Our two countries work side-by-side to defend the rules-based international system on which our safety and prosperity depend.

We are striving together to preserve the Iran nuclear deal, uphold the Paris Climate Change Treaty, strengthen NATO, combat terrorism,

improve cyber security and stabilise the countries of the Western Balkans.

We will also discuss the UK's exit from the EU. I will reassure my German counterpart that we want to continue to work alongside our European friends and allies, in defence of our shared values. But I will also be clear that our European partners must show much more flexibility and creativity in negotiations if we are to avoid a 'no deal by accident' scenario.

Further information