

# [News story: Infrastructure systems for a better world: apply for funding](#)

*Updated:* 13 September is the deadline for application – not for registration as stated previously.

Innovate UK will invest in projects that stimulate innovation in infrastructure systems that provide critical services for the economy, environment and society, and create growth for UK businesses.

There is up to £5 million for projects that last between 3 and 12 months. Up to £10 million is available for projects that last up to 3 years, with costs between £100,000 and £5 million inclusive.

You can also apply into a [Knowledge Transfer Partnership](#) in infrastructure systems if you'd like to work with a recent graduate.

## **The opportunity**

Infrastructure systems are the backbone of:

- economic stability
- growth
- competitiveness
- productivity

They are vital for social wellbeing and environmental sustainability; especially so when you consider the growing number of people, particularly in urban areas, who rely on these systems.

There is £425 billion of planned public and private infrastructure investment in the UK to meet the challenges and make the most of our world-leading capabilities in this area.

This includes infrastructure solutions in:

- planning
- engineering
- architecture
- energy
- the intelligent mobility of people and freight
- communications

We also have a strong base of creative start-ups in the digital economy and excellent academic research to support this aim.

[Read about the opportunities in government's National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016–2021.](#)

## Our priority areas

We're particularly interested in projects in our priority areas for infrastructure systems. These are:

- smart infrastructure that improves whole-life performance and/or cost and resilience
- energy, including:
  - energy systems that flexibly match changing energy supply and demand profiles at local, regional or national scale
  - nuclear fission innovations that lead to major cost reductions, improved asset integrity and develop the supply chain
  - offshore wind innovations that result in significant reductions in the cost of energy
- connected transport that encourages more efficient transportation of goods and people across more than one mode
- urban living, addressing the challenges people face in urban areas

[Read more about our work in the infrastructure systems sector.](#)

## Competition information

- the competition opens on 10 July 2017, and the deadline for applications is 13 September 2017
- projects must be led by a UK business or research and technology organisation
- you may work alone if you are an SME and your project is under one year with costs of less than £100,000. Otherwise, you must work with partners, including at least one SME
- total project costs can range between £25,000 and £5 million, and last up to 3 years
- businesses can attract up to 70% of their eligible costs, depending on their size and the project type

[Apply for the infrastructure systems competition.](#)

---

## [News story: Infrastructure systems for a better world: apply for funding](#)

Innovate UK will invest in projects that stimulate innovation in infrastructure systems that provide critical services for the economy, environment and society, and create growth for UK businesses.

There is up to £5 million for projects that last between 3 and 12 months. Up to £10 million is available for projects that last up to 3 years, with costs between £100,000 and £5 million inclusive.

You can also apply into a [Knowledge Transfer Partnership](#) in infrastructure systems if you'd like to work with a recent graduate.

## The opportunity

Infrastructure systems are the backbone of:

- economic stability
- growth
- competitiveness
- productivity

They are vital for social wellbeing and environmental sustainability; especially so when you consider the growing number of people, particularly in urban areas, who rely on these systems.

There is £425 billion of planned public and private infrastructure investment in the UK to meet the challenges and make the most of our world-leading capabilities in this area.

This includes infrastructure solutions in:

- planning
- engineering
- architecture
- energy
- the intelligent mobility of people and freight
- communications

We also have a strong base of creative start-ups in the digital economy and excellent academic research to support this aim.

## Our priority areas

We're particularly interested in projects in our priority areas for infrastructure systems. These are:

- smart infrastructure that improves whole-life performance and/or cost and resilience
- energy, including:
  - energy systems that flexibly match changing energy supply and demand profiles at local, regional or national scale
  - nuclear fission innovations that lead to major cost reductions, improved asset integrity and develop the supply chain
  - offshore wind innovations that result in significant reductions in the cost of energy
- connected transport that encourages more efficient transportation of goods and people across more than one mode

- urban living, addressing the challenges people face in urban areas

## **Competition information**

- the competition opens on 10 July 2017, and the deadline for registration is 13 September 2017
- projects must be led by a UK business or research and technology organisation
- you may work alone if you are an SME and your project is under one year with costs of less than £100,000. Otherwise, you must work with partners, including at least one SME
- total project costs can range between £25,000 and £5 million, and last up to 3 years
- businesses can attract up to 70% of their eligible costs, depending on their size and the project type

---

## **[Press release: Patient benefits can clear way for Manchester hospitals merger](#)**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has been looking at the impact on the quality of healthcare services from the planned merger between Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CMFT) and University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust (UHSM).

UHSM operates Wythenshawe Hospital and Withington Community Hospital, and CMFT operates Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Altrincham Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, The University Dental Hospital and Trafford General Hospital.

In its provisional findings report today, the group of independent CMA panel members investigating the merger has found it could have some effect on competition and patient choice in the supply of elective services and some specialised services. The group will now look in detail at patient benefits the trusts claim will result from the merger to see if these outweigh any concerns.

The provisional findings report has found that significant financial pressures in the NHS along with local plans (in response to policies from commissioners and national regulators) which focus on greater collaboration and integration between healthcare providers, have dampened the role of competition between the trusts.

John Wotton, Chair of the Manchester hospitals merger inquiry group, said:

If we see convincing evidence of how this merger can benefit patients then we will look to clear it. We will now examine carefully the case put forward by the trusts before we come to a final decision on whether those benefits to patients will outweigh any loss of competition or choice.

Although the merger could reduce choice for patients and commissioners, we think the effects are likely to be limited. Recent developments both nationally – and in Manchester following devolution of health and social care – mean that in practice NHS providers are less able to act independently, which limits the extent to which they look to compete with each other.

In assessing the effect on patient choice, the CMA has been looking in detail at the elective (that is, non-emergency) procedures across a number of clinical specialties and maternity services provided by both trusts. It has also looked at certain specialised services commissioned by regional and national bodies, non-elective care and community services, all of which are also provided by the trusts.

The CMA has heard from local commissioners, the devolved health body in Manchester, NHS England and NHS Improvement, all of whom have expressed strong support for the merger. In particular, NHS Improvement has told the CMA that it will help deliver improvements for patients more quickly and at less cost than would be the case without the merger.

The provisional findings report has been published on [the case page](#) where all other information relating to this investigation is also available. The CMA must publish its final decision by 13 August 2017.

Patients and their representative groups, commissioning groups, other health providers, regulators, local authorities and any interested bodies are invited to give their views on the provisional findings (by 7 July 2017) and notice of possible remedies (by 29 June 2017), by email to [cmft.uhsm.nhs@cma.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cmft.uhsm.nhs@cma.gsi.gov.uk), or by post to:

Project Manager  
CMFT/UHSM merger inquiry  
Competition and Markets Authority  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
LONDON  
WC1B 4AD

## Notes for editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated

industries and enforcing competition and consumer law. For more information see the [CMA's homepage](#) on GOV.UK.

2. On 25 February 2015, the 37 NHS organisations and local authorities in Greater Manchester signed an agreement with the government to devolve health and social care expenditure in Greater Manchester. This followed the agreement between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and leaders of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) devolving new powers and responsibilities to Greater Manchester on 3 November 2014. As a result, the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership assumed control over the region's health and social care budget, which amounts to approximately £6 billion per year.
3. The test the group of CMA panel members is required to consider is whether the proposed merger may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in relation to the services the hospital provide. They provisionally found that, in relation to certain elective (including maternity) and specialist services, it would.
4. For CMA updates, follow us on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@CMAgovuk](#), [Youtube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
5. Enquiries should be directed to [press@cma.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press@cma.gsi.gov.uk) or 020 3738 6798.

---

## [News story: Interim Manager appointed to Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators](#)

The Charity Commission has appointed an Interim Manager to [Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators \(registered charity number 303167\)](#). The appointment comes as part of the regulator's inquiry into the charity, which began in August 2016.

The inquiry is examining a range of concerns, including the trustees' failure to comply with a previous action plan set by the Commission. A statement about the investigation is [available on GOV.UK](#).

The Commission has now appointed [Gordon Reid of Barlow Robbins Solicitors](#) as Interim Manager of the charity. He has been appointed to fulfil specific functions, including to consider the trustees' decision not to take action to recover a loss suffered by the charity when it granted an easement for access rights over charity lands at a significant undervalue. The Interim Manager will assess whether the trustees' decision was taken properly and was in the best interests of the charity. The charity's trustees remain responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity.

The Interim Manager was appointed on 31 May 2017.

The Commission's investigation continues. It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's registered number is 303167.

The charity has also published its [own announcement](#) regarding the appointment.

---

## [News story: Interim Manager appointed to Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators](#)

The Charity Commission has appointed an Interim Manager to [Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators \(registered charity number 303167\)](#). The appointment comes as part of the regulator's inquiry into the charity, which began in August 2016.

The inquiry is examining a range of concerns, including the trustees' failure to comply with a previous action plan set by the Commission. A statement about the investigation is [available on GOV.UK](#).

The Commission has now appointed [Gordon Reid of Barlow Robbins Solicitors](#) as Interim Manager of the charity. He has been appointed to fulfil specific functions, including to consider the trustees' decision not to take action to recover a loss suffered by the charity when it granted an easement for access rights over charity lands at a significant undervalue. The Interim Manager will assess whether the trustees' decision was taken properly and was in the best interests of the charity. The charity's trustees remain responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity.

The Interim Manager was appointed on 31 May 2017.

The Commission's investigation continues. It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's registered number is 303167.

The charity has also published its [own announcement](#) regarding the appointment.