

Infrastructure Call 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are organisations from Northern Ireland eligible to apply?

A. Yes, organisations based in Northern Ireland (i.e. their registered place of business is in Northern Ireland) and who meet the eligibility criteria under section 4 of the *Guidelines for Applicants* are eligible to apply. Please also refer to section 8 of the *Guidelines* for the grant-aid rates that apply for the different types of organisations.

Q. What are the co-funding requirements?

A. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and other private organisations have to provide 25% of the total eligible costs, as grant-aid is 75% maximum. Higher education institutes and other public research bodies have to provide 10% of the total eligible costs, as grant-aid is 90% maximum.

Q. What are the rules governing the availability of the equipment for the National Equipment Pool?

A. The rules are to be determined at a future date, as the *National Equipment Pool* has to be established yet. Applicants have to confirm whether or not the equipment will be made available. Charges in relation to access will also have to be determined. Please note that applicants who will not provide access will score lower under this evaluation criteria (criteria 4), as specified in the *Guidelines for Applicants*.

Q. When will the equipment have to be made available to the National Equipment Pool?

A. The timeline to establish the *National Equipment Pool* is currently not known, but is anticipated to take at least two years. At the application stage all applicants need to confirm is whether, or not, they will make the equipment available once the *National Equipment Pool* is operational.

Q. Can an applicant submit more than one application?

A. Yes, the Guidelines do not preclude multiple applications by the same applicant (i.e. an individual Principal Investigator).

Q. Can the same organisation submit more than one application?

A. Yes, multiple applications from the same organisation may be submitted – there is no limit on the number of applications an organisation can submit.

Q. Why are partnerships between organisations not permitted?

A. This relates to the ownership of the equipment. With a single organisation as the Grantee the ownership of the equipment is clear and unambiguous.

Q. Can a start-up company submit an application?

A. Yes, applications from small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are particularly encouraged.

Q. For a Higher Education Institute, can staff costs for an existing technician to setup and maintain the equipment be included as part of the total budget costs?

A. Yes, existing technical staff costs are an eligible cost.

Q. Can Principal Investigator or researcher staff costs be included?

A. No, PI and researcher staff costs are not eligible. Only technical staff costs are eligible.

- Q. *If the supplier provides a discount on the equipment, can this be included as part of the organisations contribution to the total costs?*
- A. No, as the cost is the net cost excluding any discount. Successful grantees will have to submit backup documentation to show the full 100% costs paid, and we then reimburse 90% or 75% (as appropriate depending on the grantee) of these costs.
- Q. *The equipment is very specialist, and I am unable to get three quotes, as there is only one supplier for this type of equipment. What do I do?*
- A. If there is only one supplier you will need this supplier to provide a letter stating that they are the sole supplier for this equipment.
- Q. *What is the maximum period that costs for technical staff can be included?*
- A. The timescale is 12 months for technical staff. Please note that if successful the technician will be required to keep timesheets, which will have to be submitted as part of the financial report. For reimbursement (final payment) these costs will have to have been incurred and paid.
- Q. *What assistance and help is available?*
- A. The Marine Institute's Office of Research and Development can provide clarifications on the rules and help with any other queries. Please send your requests by email to funding@marine.ie. Please title the email subject as "Infrastructure Call 2017".

Applications must be submitted via the Marine Institute's online grant management system (RIMS):

<https://marine.smartsimple.ie/>

Email rims.support@marine.ie to register on RIMS.

The closing date for applications is 15th June 2017 (16:00).