**IBF Call 2 - Webinar 3rd June 2025**

1. **Is there a limit of 2 applications across IBF or is the limit referring to one application per track 1 and another application per track 2?**
Applications are limited across the IBF, not per track.
2. **Will track 2 applications be considered for projects with a higher TRL or more advanced state of technological readiness, but where the partnership is not an established one?**It is up to the applicant to make a case for why the funding requested supports the value for money and what the return is for the international partnership in the future.
3. **Is it a requirement that the established partnerships were previously developed with UKSA funding?**
No, the partnership does not need to have been previously funded by IBF or UKSA funding.
4. **Does the international partner need to provide match funding for their contributions?**
Yes. International partners are still required to comply with Subsidy Control Act 2022 requirements and should submit the appropriate level of match funding that corresponds to their status and size of organisation. This can include in-kind contributions.
5. **How will the technical feasibility criteria be applied for kickstart projects where relationship building is the main aim.**
The scoring guidance is applied across UKSA to ensure project feasibility. Whether the project involves technology, science, or other domains, the criteria is designed to prevent proposals that are unrealistic or lack technical credibility.
6. **Requirements for in-kind contributions. Is there a minimum percentage of cash vs in kind contribution?**
No, we have not specified this; the ratio is very much up to the applicant. However, we advise that you look at the value for money assessment criteria when considering the balance between cash and in-kind contributions.
7. **Who retains intellectual property?**
IP is vested with the grant recipient. Please see the terms and conditions set out in the Grant Funding Agreement.
8. **Can some funding be used for business development in the partner country or is the funding only for technical work?**
The list of eligible activities for the IBF is purposefully broad. However, applicants should carefully consider the assessment criteria; value for money and potential impact of the funding needs to be justified. Please also check the list of eligible and ineligible expenditures in the Grant Funding Agreement.
9. **On the 5 priorities, will proposals be accepted for areas that fall outside these priorities? Is launch within scope and will you consider apps from areas not focused on these priorities?**
Yes, we welcome applications on a variety of topics and have not restricted applications to specific areas. We advise you to look at the full call guidance document in the supporting information tab. Proposals must outline how their project delivers against the aims of the call, such as developing UK capabilities. Page 13 outlines the assessment criteria and weighting. All applications are assessed based on this criterion.
10. **The guidelines specify that international partners are capped at 30% of the total eligible project costs while subcontractors including international ones are capped at 50%. Could you please confirm:**
**whether the 30% end cap applies only to international partners and international subcontractor costs can be allowed up to 50%,**
**even when combined with international partner costs, and**
**even if they exceed the 30% threshold?**
Hypothetically, you can have an international subcontractor eligible to receive 50% of the total funding. However, we advise you to look at the value for money assessment criteria and ensure this is thoroughly justified.
11. **Where can I find the match funding requirement percentages?**Match funding requirement percentages can be found in the full call guidance. The definitions we use are defined by the Subsidy Control Act 2022.
12. **Do the MFA Subsidy Controls rules apply to international organisations?**
Yes, they do. The onus is on the applicant to ensure compliance of the wider consortia with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. We would suggest, where international partners intend to apply for full subsidy, using MFA provisions, that project leads are clear with all parties on the responsibility that entails.
13. **Can another space agency in another country be a partner?**
Yes. All partners should be justified and adhere to the wider eligibility requirements set out in the call guidance such as match funding and on UKSA’s eligibility page (noting that the requirement for a UK bank account only applies to the lead organisation who will be in receipt of grant funding for disbursement to project partners: [Find information on applying for grants from the UK Space Agency - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-information-on-applying-for-grants-from-the-uk-space-agency#are-there-any-eligibility-requirements-i-must-meet-to-receive-funding))
14. **As a small start-up reimbursement in arrears poses a cashflow challenge. Is there a possibility of payment in advance for the first work package?**
We are unable to offer payment in advance of need. Please do consider the structure of milestones and whether these can be broken down in a way that will help with cash flow. This should be explained and justified within the application.

1. **Is there guidance on defense or dual use focus proposals? Would defense applicable technology be within the scope of this funding? Is there a limit or position on that?**
UKSA has not restricted funding for certain areas, and the call is purposefully broad. UKSA is unable to comment on the merits of individual proposals. Full justification must be provided by the applicant, which will be assessed using the scoring criteria outlined in the call guidance alongside all other applications.
2. **Are Research Technological Organisations (RTOs) eligible for the call?**
Yes, RTOs are eligible. They will be treated as Public Sector Research Establishments (PSRE), so consider your application with reference to the call guidance in that context.
3. **What if a project is also supported by the European Commission?**We expect assurance from all projects that they are not being double funded. If a project has other funding, the proposal must clarify which parts UKSA is being asked to fund, its role in the project, and the added value of IBF funding.

1. **Does the lead applicant need to be a UK organisation?**
Yes

1. **The call mentions “partnerships with entities in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and the USA.” Are these countries considered a priority, or will proposals involving partnerships with entities in other countries also be taken into consideration?**
UKSA welcomes proposals with partners from all countries.
2. **Could you clarify whether there are any specific requirements or limits regarding in-kind versus cash contributions, e.g., is there a minimum percentage that needs to be covered by cash?**
We have not specified a minimum percentage or ratio of cash versus in-kind contributions - but would advise applicants to consider the value for money assessment criteria when considering this.
3. **Is there a requirement for co-funding?**
Applicants should read the call guidance carefully to ensure any requirements for match funding are met. In most circumstances, an element of match funding will be required, but it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the project is compliant with Subsidy Control Act 2022 requirements. UKSA does not specify that international partner space agencies should be contributing to co-funding.

1. **Should the consortium's match requirements be set by the main grant lead, or must each entity meet the requirement individually (which seems unfair for SMEs with a large organisation leading)?**

Match funding requirements for Subsidy Control Act 2022 compliance are determined by the size of each entity involved. It is not the case that the lead organisation determines the match funding requirement for all partners.
Small companies who are partnering on industrial research projects will only be required to provide the match funding required for their organisation as per the guidance.

1. **The project guidance says: "Projects should demonstrate strong international buy-in from international partners; we encourage applications to evidence commitments to contributions (cash or in-kind) from international partners or agencies where possible", are in-kind contributions allowable from UK lead or partner organisations as well as international partners?**
Yes, for this call, in-kind contributions are allowable on the UK side as well as for international partners.
2. **Our prospective international partner is headquartered in one of the named priority countries but works globally and it is expected that the IBF pilot project with them would centre on EO applications in a non-priority country. Is that a problem?**
UKSA welcomes proposals with partners from all countries.
3. **During the assessment of applications, will you be scoring objectively across all bids and categories? Specifically, the direct potential economic growth from an outreach programme is likely to be on a different level from a commercial project.**
All bids submitted under the call will be marked to the same criteria.
4. **Does track 2 require that the established partnerships were previously developed with UKSA funding?**
No, it does not need to have been previously funded by IBF or UKSA.

1. **The eligibility criteria state that "All organisations must be registered in the UK." Does this mean that projects or startups headquartered in other countries should not apply?**
The lead applicant for funding must be UK based, with international collaborators.

1. **Could UKSA clarify how emerging space nations are being assessed for track 2 proposals? Is there flexibility to partner with emerging markets beyond the top priority list where strong UK capability and export pathways can be demonstrated?"**
UKSA welcomes proposals with partners from all countries.
2. **Could you confirm that track 2 proposals can be focused on capability building, skills development, and partnership frameworks, even where they are not directly funding new R&D?"**
The call guidance is downloadable under the 'supporting information' tab which outlines examples of the types of projects we can fund. Proposals must justify how they respond to the call aims and objectives.
3. **Can I just confirm that the long form GFA provided in the call documents would be used for the track 2 proposals, and short form for track 1?**
Our long form GFA is in use for any grants over £100,000 - below that, we would be able to use a shorter form GFA.
4. **Do Minimum Finance Assistance rules apply for IBF?**
Yes - Minimum Financial Assistance is available for this call. It is the applicant's responsibility to check any previous MFA subsidies they have received and ensure they aren't breaching the total limit.
5. **Can projects have partners from several different countries?**
Yes. The benefits of this model must be justified in the application.
6. **How do we find out the information of what the match funding requirement by partner is? Is this published? Is the algorithm for this simply based on size of the organisation or is it more specific to the nature of the institute (academic, industrial, etc.)?**
This is set out in the call guidance, including how small, medium and large organisations are defined.
7. **How will UKSA balance geographic priorities (partner country choice) against technical merit and UK export potential in assessing proposals?**
Each assessment criterion has its own weighting. Full details of this and the assessment process is available in the guidance.
8. **Is there an easier way to see the online application form questions and any word/character limits for answering those questions? Currently you have to provide answers to each question in the online portal before seeing the next question.**
Applicants can move through the entire application form on Find a Grant, question content remains subject to your amendment until the point of final submission. Alternatively, the application call guidance also details the proposal questions.
9. **Can more than one person from an organisation work on the application in the GOV.UK portal as it seems to only allow individual access.**

Accounts can be shared if set-up via a shared mailbox. Otherwise, the lead applicant is the only individual who can access and amend the data within your application form.

1. **Would UKSA view the export of a proven UK innovation model (for example, an incubation or commercialisation framework) to an international partner as a good fit for Track 2?**

UKSA has not restricted funding for certain areas, and the call is purposefully broad. UKSA is unable to comment on the merit of individual proposals. Full justification must be provided by the applicant, which will be assessed using the scoring criteria outlined in the call guidance alongside all other applications.

1. **Could UKSA clarify expectations on what constitutes strong commercial or industrial outcomes for track 2 — would capacity building that enables UK SMEs to access new markets be considered within scope?**

UKSA is unable to comment on the merit of individual proposals. Full justification must be provided by the applicant, which will be assessed using the scoring criteria outlined in the call guidance alongside all other applications.

1. **Could you confirm if UKSA expects formal MoUs and Letters of Support with international partners to be in place at submission stage, or is clear intent to develop these during the project sufficient?**

Proposals must outline how their project delivers against the project aims and objectives using the assessment criteria in the call guidance. There is no strict requirement for letters of support specifically, but applicants should demonstrate how their project responds to international partner priorities and has suitable support.

1. **Is there any intention to fund projects establishing collaboration in the field of planetary exploration?**

UKSA has not restricted funding for certain areas, and the call is purposefully broad. UKSA is unable to comment on the merit of individual proposals. Full justification must be provided by the applicant, which will be assessed using the scoring criteria outlined in the call guidance alongside all other applications.