**Advanced Fuels Fund**

**Window 3 (spring 2025)**

**Application form (version 3.0)**



**To be read in conjunction with the Advanced Fuels Fund guidance document.**

**Application form includes:**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST 3

SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS 4

SECTION 2: PROJECT RELEVANCE 7

SECTION 3: TECHNICAL APPROACH 13

SECTION 4: MAKING THE CASE: COMMERCIAL 19

SECTION 5: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION 22

SECTION 6: DECLARATIONS 29

6.1 Declaration of Honour 29

6.2 Declaration from Applicant 30

6.3 Data Protection 31

SECTION 7: SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION 33

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS UNDER WINDOW 3 IS 28 MARCH 2025, 16:00 hours (BST).**

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| **Please note:** For most questions there is a maximum word count. A shorter response may be adequate.  Assessors are unable to read lengthy supporting documents in addition to this application form. Each appendix that accompanies an application must be concise, with multiple pages compiled within a single pdf, and Applicants should make sure:   * Any pertinent information in the appendix is directly referenced within a question’s response in the application form. * The corresponding evidence within the appendix should also be labelled clearly with the corresponding question number wherever possible. |

# APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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| **Appendix Ref.** | **Please check and confirm before submission** | |
| **Appendix A** | Letters from all proposed partners confirming that they have agreed to be part of the consortium/alliance/partnership that will implement this project (to be completed by the applicant). | Yes  No |
| **Appendix B** | Evidence to support the choice of technology (to be completed by the applicant) including:   * Detailed technical specifications and project schematics for the proposed plant. * Identified (potential) suppliers for each key technology component. * Further evidence of lab testing/pilots/previous plants. | Yes  No |
| **Appendix C** | A summary of the overall work plan including governance plan of any consortium (to be completed by the applicant). | Yes  No |
| **Appendix D** | A detailed project budget for the grant funded activities (**template provided must be used**). | Yes  No |
| **Appendix E** | A projected cash-flow model for the proposed demonstration and/or first-of-a-kind (FOAK) commercial plant (**template provided must be used**). | Yes  No |
| **Appendix F** | Details of match funding from project financiers (where appropriate, to be completed by the applicant). | Yes  No |
| **Appendix G** | An outline risk assessment (**template provided must be used**). | Yes  No |
| **Appendix H** | A lifecycle GHG emissions estimate for your FOAK commercial plant’s fuel output (**template provided must be used)** with supporting evidence for assumptions used. A separate template must be used for any proposed demonstration plant. | Yes  No |
| **Appendix I** | Relevant documents to demonstrate the project’s current development status. These may include financial agreements, planning permission, permits, fuel off-take agreements, feedstock supply agreements, engagement with key equipment suppliers and engineering contractors, process safety assessments etc. (to be completed by the applicant). (See Appendix C of the Advanced Fuels Fund guidance document for reference) | Yes  No |

# SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

|  |  |
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| **1.1 Project title** | |
| **Project title** | *The title of the project will be used throughout the award process and any subsequent grant.* |
| **Details of Applicant** | |
| Registered Name |  |
| UK company/charity or other registration no. | UK company registration number (required):  UK charity registration number (if applicable):  Other registration number (if applicable):  Details of other registration number (if applicable): |
| VAT Registration Number |  |
| Legal status  (Please refer to the Guidance document) | Commercial organisation (large enterprise)  Commercial organisation (SME)[[1]](#footnote-2)  Academic institute  Other, e.g. Consortia, please specify: |
| Establishment date |  |
| **Address of registered office** | |
| Address line 1 |  |
| Address line 2 |  |
| Address line 3 |  |
| Local authority |  |
| Postcode |  |
| **Contact details for correspondence** | |
| Name of contact person |  |
| Address |  |
| Phone |  |
| E-mail | *Please ensure that the email address is entered correctly and remains active.* |
| Alternative contact and email address |  |

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| **1.2 The lead applicant** | |
| Is your organisation able to reclaim VAT? | Yes  No  *Organisations that cannot reclaim VAT on capital equipment through normal channels are allowed to count VAT in their total project costs.* |
| Please describe your organisation’s business/ aims. | ***Word limit:*** *50 words.*  *Give a short description of your aims in one or two sentences.* |
| Please describe any experience that you have that will benefit the project. | ***Word limit:*** *200 words.*  *Describe any experience you have of similar projects or activities (outside of your proposed project) that would support a decision to award a grant. This could be project management of similar projects or other low carbon energy activities.* |
| Are there any potential conflicts of interest? | ***Word limit****: 100 words.*  *Declare any potential conflicts of interest and describe how any conflicts of interest will be addressed.* |

|  |  |  |
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| **1.3 Partners (if applicable)** | | |
| Organisation | Legal Status (plc, charity, etc) | Registration number |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |
| 5. |  |  |

*Add additional rows as necessary*

|  |  |
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| **1.4 Partner details (if applicable)** *Please copy table 1.4 as many times as necessary to cover all partners.* | |
| Please describe partner’s business or activities. | ***Word limit****: 50 words.*  *Give a short description of the partner’s activities in one or two sentences.* |
| Please describe any experience that the partner has that will benefit the project. | ***Word limit:*** *150 words.*  *Describe any experience the partner has of similar projects or activities (outside of the proposed advanced fuels window 3 project) that would support a decision to award a grant. This could be project management of similar projects or other low carbon energy activities.* |
| Are there any potential conflicts of interest? | ***Word limit:*** *100 words.*  *Declare any potential conflicts of interest and describe how any conflicts of interest will be addressed by the project partner.* |

# SECTION 2: PROJECT RELEVANCE

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| **2.1 Summary project information** | |
| 2.1.1  Clearly describe the objectives of the proposed project, describing your vision, its relevance to the Advanced Fuels Fund, and the case for UK deployment and benefits. | ***Word limit:*** *500 words.*  *State here the aims of your project and give clear, measurable objectives, explaining how these will be tracked. Bear in mind that, should your application be successful, this summary project information text may be made public, for example in press releases.* |

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| **Eligibility criteria** | |
| Confirm the fuel(s) you will produce and their ability or potential to be blended with jet A-1. | ***Word limit:*** *50 words (further details to be provided in Question 3.3.1).*  *Using the eligibility criteria set out in the Advanced Fuels Fund Guidance document for “Main fuel output”, please indicate which case applies to your project (i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii) in your answer. Further details of ASTM qualified pathways can be found in the Advanced Fuels Fund guidance document, Appendix A. A more complete answer with evidence will be required for Question 3.3.1.*    *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration project and the FOAK commercial project.* |
| What are the predicted GHG emissions of the fuel from the planned plant (and a commercial plant if different) in the first full calendar year of operations? | ***Word limit****: 50 words (further details to be provided in Question 3.4.1).*  *FOAK commercial scale plants must demonstrate they will deliver a biofuel, nuclear fuel or renewable fuels of non biological origin (RFNBO) output with lifecycle GHG emissions not exceeding 31 gCO2e/MJ LHV in their first full calendar year of operation. The separate threshold trajectory for any recycled carbon fuel consignment of a FOAK commercial plant is set out in Appendix E of the Guidance document.*  *Demonstration plants do not have to meet these requirements but must estimate their expected GHG emissions and demonstrate how a future commercial plant would meet the relevant threshold in its first full calendar year of operations. This means that applicants looking to develop demonstration scale plants must provide GHG emissions values for both the demonstration plant as well as a future FOAK commercial plant.*  *If fuel is generated from a mix of feedstocks, GHG results should be provided separately for each feedstock. If feedstocks are used that have a blend of renewable and non-renewable components (e.g. refuse derived fuel), both the renewable consignment and the non-renewable consignments must be separately reported. All consignments must meet the eligibility requirements.*  *Copy figures from your response to Question 3.4.1 below.*  *(****Demonstration plant, if applicable – first full calendar year of operations*** ***:***  *Consignment #1      :       gCO2e/MJ LHV*  *Consignment #2      :       gCO2e/MJ LHV*  *Consignment #3      :       gCO2e/MJ LHV*  ***FOAK commercial plant – first full calendar year of operations*** ***:***  *Consignment #1      :       gCO2e/MJ LHV*  *Consignment #2      :       gCO2e/MJ LHV*  *Consignment #3      :       gCO2e/MJ LHV* |
| What is the current TRL of the technology you intend to deploy? | ***Word limit****: 50 words (further details to be provided in Question 3.1.1).*  *The proposed technology must already be at least TRL 5 (operational pilot plant), and must not be at TRL 9 (fully commercialised). Please see the Advanced Fuels Fund Guidance document for more information on defining TRLs. Note that this is typically the lowest common denominator across the component TRLs. It is also the TRL of your technology as it stands today, not based on expected start-up of facilities, nor is it based on competing technology developer activities.* |
| What is the predicted TRL once the plant is operational? | ***Word limit****: 50 words (further details to be provided in Question 3.2.1).*  *The proposed plant must achieve Technology Readiness Level 6-8 (small demonstration, large demonstration or First-Of-A-Kind commercial scale). Pilot plant projects (TRL 5) are not eligible for support.*    *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration project and the FOAK commercial project.* |
| List the proposed feedstocks and confirm they comply with the feedstock eligibility requirements. | *Word limit: 400 words.*  *List the feedstocks that will be used in the plant and their proposed annual amounts (tonnes/yr and GJLHV/yr). Confirm that these proposed feedstocks, and hydrogen used, will meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Advanced Fuels Fund Guidance document.*  *If your process converts an intermediate fuel into a final fuel, answer this question based on the original feedstocks used to generate the intermediate fuel at the start of your supply chain.*  *Please note that there is no guarantee that projects supported through the Advanced Fuels Fund will produce fuels that are eligible for future RTFO or SAF mandate support, nor is it a guarantee that any hydrogen used will meet the UK’s Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard once facilities are operational.*    *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration project and the FOAK commercial project.* |
| Please confirm the location of the proposed plant will be in the UK. | *The proposed plant must be located in the UK. If the proposed plant location is not yet confirmed, then candidate sites must all be within the UK.*  Yes  No  Proposed location (if known):  *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration project and the FOAK commercial project.* |
| Please confirm the lead applicant is a UK registered company and that you have provided a UK company registration number. | *The project lead must be a UK registered company.*  Yes  No |
| Please confirm the lead applicant acceptance of the terms and conditions of the supplied Example Grant Offer Letter. | *Consortiums must have completed a legal or commercial review of the example grant offer letter in order to confirm acceptance of the proposed terms and conditions of future grant funding.*  *The applicant must agree to the grant terms & conditions as proposed by the Secretary of State for Transport. Negotiation of the grant terms & conditions is not possible – only annexes containing project-specific grant conditions (e.g. milestones, stage gates) will be subject to negotiation. The example grant offer letter is available to potential applicants on the fund website.*  Yes  No |
| What is the project’s current lifecycle stage, and what lifecycle stages of the project will the Fund support during the Funding Period? | ***Word limit:*** *100 words.*  *The Advanced Fuels Fund is open to provide grant funding to UK advanced fuel production facilities at the “Procurement of Main Equipment”, “Detailed Design”, “FEED” and “Pre-FEED” stages of a typical project’s development lifecycle. Please see Appendix C of the guidance document for further details.*  *Ineligible activities include Feasibility, Construction, Installation, Commissioning, Start-up and Operations. The project must not have already commenced Construction.*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *Fund Financial Year* | *Project Lifecycle Stage(s)* | | *Current status* |  | | *Summer 25 – March 26* |  |   *Please describe whether your proposed activities will cover the whole of the stage(s) listed, or just the start, end and/or middle of the stage(s).*  *Given the limited time available, you are encouraged to not to try and fit too many project lifecycle stages within the available time.*  *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please duplicate the table above, and fill in one for the demonstration project and one for the FOAK commercial project.* |
| Please confirm the planned activities have not been previously funded by DfT (or other public-sector funding). | *It is possible to apply or to have applied for other grant scheme funding so long as Subsidy Control rules are not breached. This may mean a single eligible project applies for grants from two or more schemes up to the maximum subsidy control intensity, or that grants are applied to different elements of a project, so long as the base eligible costs do not overlap (further details to be provided in question 5.7.2-4).*  *In particular, projects previously or currently being supported under Window 1 & 2 of the Advanced Fuels Fund, the Green Fuel, Green Skies (GFGS), Future Fuels for Flight and Freight Competition (F4C) or the Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition (ABDC) are required to demonstrate how funding through this competition will directly support different work even if for the same plant development project.*  *Please refer to the guidance document for more information.*  Yes  No |
| Please confirm that it has not been possible to fund proposed project activities solely from private sector investment on reasonable commercial terms. | *Advanced Fuels Fund grant funding can only be provided for project work that cannot be financed on reasonable commercial terms by the private sector (further details to be provided in Question 5.7.2).*  Yes  No |
| Please confirm that all Advanced Fuels Fund grant funded elements of project activities will complete by 31 March 2026. | *The overall project duration may exceed 31 March 2026, but funding is only available for work taking place during the Funding Period up to this date. Please confirm that the Advanced Fuels Fund elements will be completed within the Funding Period (further details to be provided in Question 5.4.1).*  Yes  No |

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| **2.3 Clarity of the project objectives and relevance to the fund objectives** | |
| 2.3.1  Explain how your project will align with the fund objectives. | ***Word limit:*** *200 words.*  ***Suggested format:*** *Bulleted sentences*  *The objectives of the Advanced Fuels Fund have been set out in the guidance document available at* [*https://ee.ricardo.com/aff*](https://ee.ricardo.com/aff) |
| 2.3.2  Explain the objectives of planned project activities during the Funding Period. | ***Word limit:*** *300 words.*  ***Suggested format:*** *Bulleted sentences*  *List the key activities planned during the Funding Period to 31 March 2026, and the objectives of these activities.* |
| 2.3.3  Outline the monitoring and evaluation activities you will implement to ascertain that the project is on track and has achieved its intended objectives. | ***Word limit:*** *150 words.*  ***Suggested format:*** *Bulleted sentences*  *List the data sources and success indicators (measurable outcomes) you will monitor to ensure the project is on track and has achieved its intended objectives at/after completion. Explain how you will ensure the evidence is measurable, robust and unbiased.* |

# SECTION 3: TECHNICAL APPROACH

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| **3.1 Credibility of the technological approach, clarity of the project data and justification with relevant plant data** | |
| 3.1.1  Technology and current TRL: Provide a description of the technologies that your proposed plant will use. Clearly describe the key component technologies and their current TRL levels, and the current TRL of the overall system. | ***Word limit:*** *1000 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullets, tables.*  ***Use of Appendices:*** *Place the supporting technical information for the proposed plant in* ***Appendix B*** *as a single combined PDF. Depending on the project lifecycle stage, this may include:*   * *process flow diagrams and piping and instrument diagrams;* * *heat and mass balances;* * *equipment specifications/sizing;* * *process philosophies and basis of design;* * *process yields of aviation fuel and co-products;* * *energy, utilities, chemicals and catalyst consumption datasets;* * *Other documentation outlined in Appendix C of the Advanced Fuels Fund guidance document*   *At a high-level, summarise in this application form what types of information are provided in* ***Appendix B****. Clearly state the provenance of the information within* ***Appendix B*** *(e.g. based on development planning estimates, feasibility studies, pre-FEED, FEED studies). Where possible applicants should highlight the specific areas relating to this question within these appendices, and label them with the question number.*  *Divide your answer in this form into sections, with one section describing the overall plant, and subsequent sections describing the individual technologies.*  *For clarity, this answer should focus on your current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) as it stands today, not based on expected start-up of facilities. Answers to question 3.2.1 should demonstrate the planned progression from the current TRL. Note that your TRL is* ***not*** *based on competing technology developer activities, and your overall TRL will almost always be the lowest common denominator across your component TRLs (not an average).*  *If you have already chosen key equipment suppliers for your project, please make these explicit. If you are still to choose suppliers for certain key components, provide your current shortlist or a list of potential suppliers. To demonstrate the current TRL of the technologies you will be using, provide credible evidence regarding your and your suppliers’ pilot/demonstration plant operations.*  *Outside of your proposed plant site, please also provide details regarding any upstream feedstock pre-processing (or intermediate fuel production), and/or any downstream upgrading technologies that will be required to convert your project’s outputs into a finished fuel. State where and how these other steps will be provided, and their TRL status, and who will be providing these other steps (either chosen third parties/partners, an identified shortlist or list of potential options).*    *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration plant and the FOAK commercial plant.* |
| 3.1.2  How much fuel will be produced, and is this at an appropriate scale for the fuel type and in line with the fund objectives? | ***Word limit:*** *250 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Bulleted text*  *Quantify how much fuel (in GJLHV, tonnes and litres) will be produced in each year of the plant’s operation. Also specify the quantities of co-products produced, where relevant. Please ensure these values match the yearly totals given in your* ***Appendix E*** *template.*  *Explain how the amount of fuel produced is sufficient and appropriate for commercial sales, demonstration testing, fuel qualification or other relevant purposes, and how this aligns with the Advanced Fuels Fund and project objectives.*    *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration plant and the FOAK commercial plant.* |

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| **3.2 Level of innovation and progress as a result of the proposed plant** | |
| 3.2.1  What is innovative about the project and what TRL will be achieved by the proposed plant?  Describe the main technical challenges of each of the technology components and how these will be overcome in the proposed plant. | ***Word limit:*** *750 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points, tables, use of diagrams to aid descriptions*  ***Use of Appendices:******Appendix B*** *and* ***Appendix H*** *may be used to support your answer. Where possible applicants should highlight the specific areas relating to this question within these appendices, and label them with the question number.*  *Describe what is innovative about the proposed plant. Describe how the proposed plant will lead to a demonstration or first-of-a-kind commercial application of the technology (and the resulting TRL of 6, 7 or 8 as per the Advanced Fuels Fund guidance document Appendix B).*  *List the key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be used to demonstrate the advancement of the technology and of the TRL level. Describe the envisaged progress in these KPIs during the plant operation, clearly stating the current values of these indicators (with evidence for where these values come from, e.g. which pilot plant), and the expected values achieved during the plant operation.*  *For illustrative purposes only, KPIs might include: yields/efficiencies, availability, equipment lifetime, specific capital costs, staffing intensity, intermediate contamination levels, fuel quality characteristics, or a new feedstock being proven over a certain number of operating hours, amongst others.*  *The applicant must clearly demonstrate in depth knowledge of potential technical barriers, with a concise description of how these barriers will be overcome in the proposed plant.*  *For clarity, this answer should focus on how the proposed plant will result in progression from the current TRL. Answers to question 3.1.1 should focus on the current TRL as it stands today.*    *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration plant and the FOAK commercial plant.* |

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| **3.3 Level of progression of the fuel pathway through ASTM qualification process** | |
| 3.3.1  Confirm the level of progression of the proposed fuel pathway through the ASTM qualification process. | ***Word limit:*** *300 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Bulleted text*  *Expand on your answer to Question 2.2.1.*  *If your pathway is not already qualified by ASTM (you fall within options ii or iii in Question 2.2.1), describe the further steps that will be undertaken so that the fuel will move through the evaluation process, how long this will take and how will this be funded. Evidence should be provided of the fuel’s future potential to be blended with jet A-1.*  *If your FOAK commercial project is not going to be producing a fuel that can be blended with jet A-1 (options iv or v in Question 2.2.1), provide evidence of the technical potential and your commercial strategy to retrofit the project to produce >45% jet A-1.*  *If your demonstration project is not going to be producing a fuel that can be blended with jet A-1 (options vi or vii in Question 2.2.1), provide evidence of the technical potential and your commercial strategy to modify the technology to be able to produce >45% jet A-1 in future facilities (retrofit to the demonstration plant is not required).* |

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| **3.4 Level and evidence of GHG emissions of the proposed plant** **(and a future FOAK commercial plant if applicable)** | |
| 3.4.1  What are the predicted fuel lifecycle GHG emissions from the proposed plant in the first full calendar year of operations, and at commercial scale in the first full calendar year of operations if you are proposing a demonstration-scale plant? | *Answers must be provided using* ***Appendix H.***  *Provide an estimate and justification of the predicted lifecycle GHG emissions (gCO2e/MJ LHV) of fuel for your proposed plant* ***in the first full calendar year of operations****.*  *Methodology*  *For all pathways, the GHG methodology given in the RTFO & SAF Mandate Technical Guidance should be followed.*  *For recycled carbon fuels, please use the “RCF counterfactual” tab in* ***Appendix H*** *to provide more evidence of the counterfactual used.*  *Carbon capture and sequestration/utilisation credits are only allowable within the calculations if allowable under the RTFO & SAF Mandate Technical Guidance methodology for your fuel type, and all the necessary requirements in that guidance will be met. Any evidence is to be provided in the “Additional Evidence” tab of* ***Appendix H****. Any emissions benefit claimed should be highlighted.*  *Any estimated values for key parameters (such as process energy and material demands, conversion yields) should be clearly stated. Detailed assumptions should be given, with references to research studies or empirical evidence, including pilot or demonstration activities. Supporting evidence should be attached in* ***Appendix B****, along with your completed GHG emissions calculations Excel workbook in* ***Appendix H****.*  *For any supply chain component consuming grid electricity, the grid GHG intensity trajectory in the Assumptions tab of* ***Appendix H*** *should be used, choosing the grid factor corresponding to the first full calendar year of plant operations.*  *System boundary*  *Include a flow diagram of your supply chain, showing the GHG system boundary to be assessed for each of your feedstocks, and the main inputs and outputs across the system boundary. Describe carefully if any processes or units are situated on the conversion plant site, but not included within the system boundary, and the rationale for this.*  *GHG emissions should be estimated for each supply chain step, with each step clearly explained (e.g. transport distance and mode):*  *•* *(for RCF feedstocks consignments only, the displaced emissions from diversion of the feedstock from the counterfactual use),*  *•* *feedstock collection,*  *•* *feedstock transport,*  *•* *(if applicable, pre-processing, then intermediate transport),*  *•* *conversion (including any CCS or CCU benefits),*  *•* *(if applicable, product transport, then upgrading),*  *•* *fuel distribution,*  *•* *fuel storage,*  *•* *aircraft/vehicle refuelling.*  *Number of results to be reported*  ***For any projects using multiple or mixed feedstocks, you should report the GHG emissions of the different fuel consignments separately and provide a separate Appendix H Excel workbook for each consignment.***  *The GHG emissions for each consignment should be reported below. Results should be copied into Section 2.2.2 above.*  *Copy-paste the following results from the Summary tab of your* ***Appendix H*** *Excel workbook(s) (illustrative numbers only).*      ***If your Advanced Fuels Fund******project is only for a demonstration scale plant (TRL 6-7), then repeat the whole process for a future FOAK commercial scale plant*** *producing fuel for its first full calendar year of operations, copy-paste the results into this form and also submit this second* ***Appendix H*** *template****.*** *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please submit separately completed* ***Appendix H*** *templates. Further details about the number of Excel workbooks to provide are given in the Guidance Tab of* ***Appendix H****.*  *Please then output your GHG emissions figures into the following format, specifying the feedstock or feedstock fraction used in each consignment. Add further (or delete unnecessary) consignment rows if required:*  *(****Demonstration plant, if applicable. First full calendar year of operations =*** ***:***  *Consignment #1      : GHG emissions =       gCO2e/MJ LHV fuel*  *Consignment #2      : GHG emissions =       gCO2e/MJ LHV fuel*  *Consignment #3      : GHG emissions =       gCO2e/MJ LHV fuel*  ***FOAK commercial plant. First full calendar year of operations =*** ***:***  *Consignment #1      : GHG emissions =       gCO2e/MJ LHV fuel*  *Consignment #2      : GHG emissions =       gCO2e/MJ LHV fuel*  *Consignment #3      : GHG emissions =       gCO2e/MJ LHV fuel* |

# SECTION 4: MAKING THE CASE: COMMERCIAL

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| **4.1 Level of progression towards construction of a FOAK commercial plant as a result of the funded activities** | |
| 4.1.1  Please clearly describe how Advanced Fuels Fund support will provide critical funds for progressing your project towards the construction of a FOAK commercial plant. | ***Word limit:*** *1000 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points, tables, use of diagrams to aid descriptions.*  *Link the project directly to planned activities, dependencies, financial considerations and potential challenges by;*   1. *Describing clearly how the funded activities are a critical element of a commercialisation strategy for the project.*      1. *Describing how the funded activities will contribute to the next stage of progress towards or including construction of a FOAK commercial plant.*      1. *Detailing what steps and activities follow on from the funded activities to achieve construction of a FOAK commercial plant including when the proposed plant is expected to have completed construction and commissioning?* |

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| **4.2 Potential and case for economic benefits of the proposed plant during construction and operation, including costs, revenues and jobs created** | |
| 4.2.1  Assuming the plant is deployed, describe the potential and case for economic benefits of the proposed plant during construction and operation. | ***Word limit:*** *1200 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  ***Use of Appendices:*** *Applicants must complete* ***Appendix E.***  *Applicants should consider the following in their answer:*   * *What UK SMEs will be involved in the project and how they will benefit from the project?* * *What specific UK IP will be developed and how it will be of economic value?* * *How many direct jobs will be generated? Please define using units of FTEs, clearly separated into temporary jobs generated during construction, and permanent jobs generated during steady state operations. Direct jobs include partners and subcontractors working on the project, but exclude indirect or induced jobs, and does not factor in any displacement effects.* * *Provide details of the skills required and developed, training that will be conducted, and/or any apprenticeships that will be offered.* * *Anticipated revenues, profits and UK tax payments per year (e.g. income tax, National Insurance Contributions, VAT, corporation tax etc.) from the project?* * *Which project materials and equipment components will be manufactured/fabricated in the UK? Which will be imported?*     *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration plant and the FOAK commercial plant.* |
| 4.2.2  Other potential impacts of your plant | ***Word limit:*** *600 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  *Applicants should consider the following in their answer:*   * *Have you conducted a market analysis of the local availability for your proposed feedstock (giving current and projected volumes if known), and how secure are your feedstock volumes (giving the status of any contracting or sourcing strategy)?* * *How much water will be consumed and waste water produced by the plant each year, and how do these volumes compare to the local availability of water at the plant site (if known)? Will the plant be located in a water stressed region of the UK?* * *Are there any particular concerns or conditions imposed with regards to local air quality impacts around your plant?* * *Are there any additional risks or other wider environmental impacts that will arise from the construction or operation of your plant?.*   *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please answer separately for both the demonstration plant and the FOAK commercial plant.* |

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| **4.3 Potential and case for benefits of future deployment of the technology within the UK, and benefits from export markets** | |
| 4.3.1  Beyond the proposed plant, what is the future commercial potential of the technology, and how scalable is it? | ***Word limit:*** *750 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Bullet points, with tables and diagrams where necessary. Divide answer into three sections, as per the points (i) to (iii) below.*  *i) Assuming the project is successful, describe your plans for future commercial plants in the UK and abroad, giving scales, production volumes and timings for at least 10 years following the end of the Funding Period (31 March 2026).* ***Clearly separate the UK from non-UK production projections****, giving tonnes/yr and GJLHV/yr of feedstock requirements and fuel outputs.*  *If the roll-out plans rely on any parallel development or funding of multiple projects, or rapid company scale-up, provide evidence (if available) regarding feasibility, e.g. that your staff resource, risk and financial constraint assumptions; licencing assumptions or assumptions regarding access to local CCS infrastructure are realistic.*  *GJ LHV per year of fuel*  *GJ LHV per year of co-product 1 (if applicable)*  *GJ LHV per year of co-product 2 (if applicable)*  *tonnes per year of       (Feedstock 1)*  *tonnes per year of       (Feedstock 2)*  *tonnes per year of       (Feedstock 3)*  *ii) Clearly describe which feedstock resources and countries will be targeted for commercial roll-out.*    *iii) Clearly describe your plans for integrating your liquid fuel into the fuel market, and which geographies will be addressed. If producing a fuel that is not yet qualified for use in the intended market, describe how the process to modify your process and achieve qualification might impact on timings for the roll-out of your fuel.*    *Applicants that can demonstrate a realistic roll-out plan, using widely available feedstocks, producing qualified fuel will be scored highest in this question.* |
| 4.3.2  What is the future potential economic impact of the commercialisation within the UK? | ***Word limit:*** *500 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, with tables and diagrams where necessary. Divide answer into sections as necessary.*  *Using the same metrics from Question 4.2.1, and the UK deployment projections from Question 4.3.1, please provide details as to how future UK plants (as part of the commercialisation strategy) will benefit UK SMEs, further the development of UK IP, create jobs, revenues and tax income, and the extent to which UK manufacturing will be used.* |
| 4.3.3  If applicable, how will future export benefits/markets for the technology or fuel be secured, and how significant are they? | ***Word limit:*** *500 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, with tables and diagrams where necessary. Divide answer into sections as necessary.*  *Clearly describe the proposed steps to secure future export benefits/markets for the technology or fuel.*    *Using the same metrics from Question 4.2.1, and the non-UK deployment projections from Question 4.3.1, please provide details as to how future plants abroad (as part of the commercialisation strategy) will benefit UK SMEs, further the development of UK IP, create jobs, revenues and tax income, and the extent to which UK manufacturing will be used.* |

# SECTION 5: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

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| **5.1 Credibility of current status of project and readiness to proceed with funded activities** | |
| 5.1.1  Please describe the current development status of the overall project both in relation to the funded activities for the Funding Period, and (if different) in relation to the proposed plant. | ***Word limit:*** *1500 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points, tables and diagrams where necessary.*  ***Use of Appendices:*** *Applicants should use* ***Appendix I*** *to support their written answer.**Documents should be combined within a single PDF and applicants must clearly highlight the specific areas relating to this question within the appendix and label them with question number.*  *Please provide a brief summary of progress to date regarding engagement with financiers, project partners, planning permission, permits, process safety assessments, fuel off-take agreements, feedstock supply agreements, engineering contractors, and engagement with key equipment suppliers. Divide your answer into sections for each of these activities, add additional sections if necessary.*  *Clearly explain how this demonstrates readiness to proceed with the activities for which you are applying for funding.*  *Explain how this progress is expected to evolve over the Funding Period, including when key agreements are expected to be signed and highlighting any risks.* |

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| **5.2 Confidence in skills and experience of the project team** | |
| 5.2.1  Explain how the project team has the appropriate skills and experience to deliver the funded activities with clearly defined roles and responsibilities and time committed to the project. | ***Word limit:*** *500 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  *Please provide a short summary of skills and experience per project team member, alongside the structure of the project team (roles, responsibilities), time commitment.* |
| 5.2.2  Detail your organisation's track record in delivery. Give examples of previous projects in this and related topic areas. | ***Word limit:*** *750 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  *Summarise examples of projects that demonstrate that your organisation is able to successfully execute the activities for which you are applying for funding, as well as any planned construction and operation of the plant itself.*  *Previous DfT competition grantees should not rely on the assumption that the assessors are familiar with their project and full details should be provided.* |

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| **5.3 Appropriateness of project management and governance structure and partners roles** | |
| 5.3.1  Demonstrate the organisation is able to deliver the funded activities. | ***Word limit:*** *500 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  *Please explain how the project team outlined in 5.2 will be supported by the wider organisation to deliver the funded project. How can they access the necessary resources and support to deliver the funded project?*  *How will you ensure that any skill/resource gaps are addressed during the funded activities (e.g. ongoing support/training/opportunities to gain qualifications for delivery team, covering for staff absence etc)?* |
| 5.3.2  Please provide a description of your commercial and governance structures, including partner and stakeholder relationships. | ***Word limit:*** *150 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *bullet points, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  *Please provide diagrams summarising the commercial and governance structure you are proposing and the roles of partners.*  *Clearly show the ownership structure of the UK entity and the ownership of individual supply chains steps, including where partners play a role. Explain the necessary partner and stakeholder relationships appropriate for the delivery of the funded activities.* |
| 5.3.3  Explain how intellectual property will be managed. | ***Word limit:*** *500 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *bullet points, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  *Clearly explain who owns the intellectual property rights of each individual technology component of the process.*  *Your response should also include where appropriate;*   1. *the capture and formalisation of IP generated by the project;* 2. *commercial management of IP* 3. *the processes for ensuring that the applicant has all the technology licences required to complete the project.* |

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| **5.4 Appropriateness and credibility of the project work plan** | |
| 5.4.1  Outline the milestones and deliverables for the funded activities. This should include a detailed delivery plan with associated timelines (including a Gantt chart) which identifies various activities, milestones, go/no-go decisions and forecast grant claim values. | ***Word limit:*** *250 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *bullet points, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  ***Use of Appendices:*** *Applicants may reference* ***Appendix C****,* ***Appendix D*** *and* ***Appendix E****. Applicants must clearly highlight the specific areas relating to this question within the appendix and label them with question number.*  *Summarise key points describing your project management approach and explaining how the planned activities will be delivered within the funding period.* |
| 5.4.2  Outline the timeline of your intended monitoring and evaluation activities in relation to milestones and deliverables. | ***Word limit:*** *150 words.*  ***Suggested format:*** *bullet points or Gantt chart.*  *Summarise key points describing your approach to monitoring and evaluation, clarifying how the planned activities will be delivered within the funding period. Specify any evaluation activities intended to gather evidence of wider impacts after the funding period.* |
| 5.4.3  Describe why the identified delivery plan is structured as it is and any key dependencies within it. | ***Word limit:*** *150 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *bullet points, with tables and diagrams where necessary.*  ***Use of Appendices:*** *Applicants may reference* ***Appendix C****. Applicants must clearly highlight the specific areas relating to this question within the appendix and label them with question number.*  *Summarise key points here.* |

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| **5.5 Detailed understanding of the project risks and their management** | |
| 5.5.1  Clearly explain the key project risks and how they will be managed in a way that will allow for successful delivery of the funded activities by 25 March of each financial year within the funding period. | **Word limit:** 300 words  **Suggested format:** Prose, bullet points  Please provide your answer in the form of a risk register, **Appendix G**.  Ensure all significant risks, including Health & Safety, are accounted for and how you will ensure that the funded activities will be completed within the given timescales. Please refer to appropriate project team members where possible.  Summarise key points here. |

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| **5.6 Credibility of detailed project costing for the funded activities** | |
| 5.6.1  Please complete the costing appendix detailing all relevant costs for the funded activities. | ***Word limit:*** *350 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points*  *Please provide your answer in the form of* ***Appendix D****.*  *Costing should take into account timelines, the eligible costs detailed within the guidance document (Appendix D), and provide an accurate forecast of claims for the duration of the project.*  *Applicants are encouraged to use the space provided here to explain why the costs are appropriate (e.g. why a certain level of staff/expertise is required for a given task, why specific purchases are required etc). Summarise key points below.* |

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| **5.7 Strength of case for DfT funding, including level of match funding leveraged and status of securing funding** | |
| 5.7.1  Confirm the total project costs and minimum grant request from the Advanced Fuels Fund. | ***Word limit:*** *100 words*  *One of the criteria used for selecting projects to support is value for money. Applicants must decide the minimum amount of grant funding that is necessary to enable the project to succeed. In addition, DfT will only fund those projects that have been unable to obtain private sector funding for the activities on reasonable commercial terms.*  ***Total Costs During Funding Period (1 June 2025 to 31 March 2026)***   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | ***£m*** | ***Pre-FEED*** | ***FEED*** | ***Detailed Design*** | ***Procure Main Equip\**** | ***Total*** | | *Grant Request* |  |  |  |  |  | | *Match Funding* |  |  |  |  |  | | *Total Cost* |  |  |  |  |  |   ***All rows must contain only eligible costs –*** *the match funding row* ***cannot*** *contain any ineligible costs. See the competition guidance document for a full list of eligible & ineligible costs.*  *If there is work proposed in this application on both demonstration and FOAK commercial projects, please duplicate the table above, and fill in one for the demonstration project and one for the FOAK commercial project (clearly marking these separate projects).*  *Please ensure your total costs match those given in the* ***Appendix D*** *template.\* If claiming Procurement of Main Equipment costs, separate tabs in* ***Appendix D*** *need to be completed with more details.* |
| 5.7.2  Outline the steps taken to secure additional funding for the proposed activities and activities carried out to date – from both private and/or public sector. | ***Word limit:*** *450 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points*  *Please provide details of efforts to secure any additional public or private sector funding for the proposed plant to date and (if applicable) why these have been unsuccessful if known. Key points from feedback from prospective investors should be provided where available.*  *Where offers have been received for funding that have not been accepted by the project, please provide brief details of these offers and reasons why they were not accepted.* |
| 5.7.3  Where relevant, please confirm the match funding you have in place to cover the total costs that are not being provided by the Advanced Fuels Fund and provide evidence of how this match funding has been secured. Append any necessary supporting information to your application. | ***Word limit:*** *250 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose, bullet points*  *Detailed evidence is required to show that, subject to securing the grant, you have adequate finance to invest in the project, and cover any potential cost over-runs. In this section, please briefly explain the monies that will come from each source and attach any relevant screenshots/emails/letters explaining the level of engagement and commitment to date. Evidence should be combined into a single pdf document as* ***Appendix F****.*  *Some examples of evidence you may provide could include (although different applications may use different financing routes):*   * *For projects that will use some of the entities’ own resources, a Board or Steering Committee approval letter or memorandum,* * *For equity investors letters of support,* * *For bank finance strong letters of support* * *For other grants you have applied for, evidence this grant is ready to be drawn.*   *Note that the DfT may conduct due diligence on the funding sources detailed within your application, including a credit (or other financial) check on your organisation, and the DfT may request additional information during this process. Applicants must satisfy these due diligence, financial and organisational checks required prior to receiving public funds.* |
| 5.7.4  Clearly explain the need and role for grant funding from the Advanced Fuels Fund in the commercial development of the technology. | ***Word limit****: 1200 words*  ***Suggested format:*** *Prose*  *Please consider the nature of supporting evidence to be provided. Assessors are unable to read lengthy supporting documents in addition to this application form. If your answer refers to evidence in the appendices, please explicitly state where the evidence can be found within the document(s) and preferably highlight the relevant information within the appendices.*  *Make a robust case for why the proposed activities would benefit from Advanced Fuels Fund support. Provide appropriate evidence to support arguments.*  *If you have received other grants for pilot and demonstration activities or work on this project, you need to demonstrate the additionality of receiving funding from the Advanced Fuels Fund (i.e. what additional benefits will this funding achieve over and above that already received?).* |

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# SECTION 6: DECLARATIONS

## 6.1 Declaration of Honour

I, the undersigned, on behalf of [ ] the Lead Applicant,

(1) declares that the Applicant :

1. is not bankrupt or being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
2. is in compliance with all its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established, with those of the country of the contracting authority and those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
3. is not a subject of an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or failing to supply this information, or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts covered by DfT's budget; and

(2) further declares that the Applicant has not, and none of its directors or officers have :

1. been convicted of an offence concerning professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority which has the force of res judicata;
2. been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any lawful means which DfT can justify including by decisions of the UK Government, European Union or any other international organisation; and
3. been the subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity.

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| **An officer of the relevant organisation possessing the authority to enter into agreements on its behalf should sign the hard copy of this declaration.**  **It must be a different person to the main contact given in SECTION 1 – Administrative Details.** | | | | | |
| Signed: | |  | | | |
| Title: |  | First name: |  | Surname: |  |

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| Position in organisation: |  |

## 6.2 Declaration from Applicant

The Applicant declares that:

* To the best of its knowledge this application requests grant support only for eligible costs and complies with the rules on public funding as described in the Advanced Fuels Fund guidance document.
* The information given on this application form and in any other documentation that supports this application is true and accurate.
* It understands that, where any materially misleading statements (whether deliberate or accidental) are given at any stage during the application process, or where any material information is knowingly withheld, this could (at the discretion of the Department for Transport) render its grant application invalid and any grant funds received may be liable for repayment.
* The grant scheme falls within its governing document (e.g. constitution, set of rules, trust deed, or memorandum and articles of association).
* It has the power to accept a grant subject to conditions, and the resources to repay the grant in the event of the grant conditions not being met (in the opinion of the Department for Transport).
* The original wording and structure of this application form is as it was originally provided and has not been altered, deleted or added to in any way.
* It will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that grant funds received will not be misused or misappropriated in any way. In the event of fraud, it understands that the Department for Transport will take legal action to recover any misappropriated funds.
* It has sufficient funds available to meet the requirement of private funding and to undertake the work which is the subject of this proposal.

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| **An officer of the relevant organisation possessing the authority to enter into agreements on its behalf should sign the hard copy of this declaration.**  **It must be a different person to the main contact given in SECTION 1 – Administrative Details.** | | | | | |
| Signed: | |  | | | |
| Title: |  | First name: |  | Surname: |  |

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| Position in organisation: |  |

## 6.3 Data Protection

**Fair Processing Notice**

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

The Department for Transport is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete the Advanced Fuels Fund application forms. Ricardo Energy & Environment (a trading name of Ricardo-AEA Ltd) and ERM (a trading name of Environmental Resources Management Ltd) are The Department for Transport’s appointed agents for the purposes of administering the scheme until the start of April 2025, and they will process the data on The Department for Transport’s behalf when answering applicant enquiries and collating the applications. DfT are yet to appoint a delivery partner for the application assessment and awardee monitoring phases.

The Department for Transport and its appointed agents will use your personal data for the purposes of administering and analysing applications and grant awards and subsequent monitoring, including site visits, of successful projects under the fund. Some information will be shared with other Government Departments, their agencies and appointed agents to enable the detection of fraudulent applications to the fund and other grant schemes.

The Department for Transport may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, the Department for Transport will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality, nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

The Department for Transport or its appointed agents may use the name, address and other details on your application form to contact you in connection with occasional customer research aimed at improving the services that the Department for Transport provides to you.

**What non-personal information will the Department for Transport** **make publicly available?**

***Details of applications***

During the assessment stage, the number of applications received will be disclosed on request.

***Details of grant-funded projects***

It is important to the aims of the scheme that the grant-funded projects should act as encouragement for others. Once the applications have been determined, summary details of the successful projects will be published and disseminated widely, including being published on The Department for Transport’s website and in press releases. Summary details may include:

* The name of the project;
* The names of the organisations, companies etc who are members of the project;
* Location of the project;
* Expected annual fuel output from the future proposed plant;
* Expected carbon saved;
* Estimated investment cost;
* Grant allocated to the projects under the Advanced Fuels Fund;
* Total public support from all sources;
* Proposed plant commissioning date;
* Brief description of the project, including any key technical features (as supplied by applicants).

Section C of the guidance document explains the progress reports that projects are required to submit during the life of the grant agreement. The final report which describes the benefits and performance of the project, the difficulties encountered, and lessons learned, may be published in full. Interim reports may also be published.

I confirm that I have read and agree to the above data protection statement.

SIGNATURE:       NAME:

# SECTION 7: SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

**Submission:**

Please send a **Microsoft Word** electronic version of your application and all necessary appendices to [AFF@ricardo.com](mailto:GFGS@ricardo.com). If you are concerned about file sizes and email attachment limits, please contact the email address above, well in advance of the deadline, to agree a secure method of transferring your application files.

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT IS 16.00 HOURS (BST), 28 MARCH 2025.**

**Receipt will be acknowledged.**

**It is not possible to accept late entries.**

1. An SME is any organisation that has fewer than 250 employees and a turnover of less than €50 million or a balance sheet total less than €43 million. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcdo-small-to-medium-sized-enterprise-sme-action-plan/small-to-medium-sized-enterprise-sme-action-plan#what-is-an-sme [↑](#footnote-ref-2)