

Supplier Engagement Day- The UK Research and Innovation

CR19090- Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Evaluation Framework and Baseline

Background Information

The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) board are committed to collecting evidence to understand the impacts of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging (SSPP) Challenge. Bids are invited for an evaluation framework and baseline report pertaining to the SSPP Programme, which will be applied to gain insight into the outcomes and impact of the delivery plan aims.

The ISCF aims to improve the performance of our whole science and innovation system and is essential to realise the R&D ambitions of the Industrial Strategy. The aim of the SSPP Challenge is:

To establish the UK as a leading innovator in smart and sustainable plastic packaging for consumer products, delivering cleaner growth across the supply chain, with a dramatic reduction in plastic waste entering the environment by 2025

The SSPP programme will tackle the challenge of plastic pollution in the environment through strategic leadership and a co-ordinated programme of research and innovation across the entire value chain. These innovative solutions will be conceived to deliver both a positive environmental benefit and be economically viable compared with current systems in both the short and long-term, delivering:

- new, recyclable materials;
- new designs for consumer-friendly packaging, with improved functionality and sustainability
- new/improved recycling technologies and processes to recover packaging after its use;
- new/improved supply chain and business models based on the above;
- improved understanding of environmental impacts of existing and new plastics to inform the above; and
- improved understanding of consumer requirements and behaviours to inform the above.

The objectives of the SSPP programme are:

1. To prompt innovations in the search for novel polymers suitable for packaging that minimise the environmental impact and are sustainable and viable economically;
2. To facilitate the innovation of novel sustainable polymers and packaging solutions that add value by being smart, for example indicating the freshness of food, or enabling their identification and selective sorting by sensors in a recycling operation;
3. To innovate new ways to reduce the environmental impact of current polymers that are sustainable and viable economically;
4. To support innovative business models that aim to prevent plastic waste or facilitate their collection after discard – for example, refillable bottles, deposit return systems.

Evaluation of the SSPP Challenge will be split into three phases:

- **Phase 1** lays the groundwork for the evaluation, namely (a) the **evaluation framework** and (b) the **baseline study**

- **Phase 2** involves evaluation during the course of the Programme. As such it will run from the end of Phase 1
- **Phase 3** will be a longer-term continuation of the evaluation, beyond the end of the Programme.

This invitation to tender covers Phase 1 of the evaluation only. Phases 2 and 3 will be commissioned separately.

Evaluation Framework

The aim of the Evaluation Framework is to set out the intended approach to evaluation in detail. The scope of the evaluation framework and baseline project will comprise the UK plastic packaging supply chain. This will include plastic packaging used in both business to business and business to consumer applications.

The evaluation will consider each strand of the Programme in detail, as well as the overall impact of the combined Programme. Identifying the specific impact of the Programme, its additionality, is seen as key to delivering a successful evaluation and underlines the importance of the establishing the baseline.

The evaluation will consist of both impact (including societal and economic) and a process evaluation.

Baseline Study

As part of the evaluation process, a baseline study is required to establish a set of performance indicators and metrics for the UK plastic packaging supply chain as a baseline by which the success of the SSPP Challenge will be monitored and evaluated at both Project and Programme level. The baseline study must include all three workstreams of the SSPP Challenge.

The scope of the baseline study will comprise the UK plastic packaging supply chain. This will include plastic packaging used in both business to business and business to consumer applications. The objectives of the baseline study are to:

- Develop a set of baseline indicators and performance metrics for the SSPP Programme that reflect the objectives and planned benefits of the Challenge and the practicality of i) constructing a robust baseline and ii) repeating (and/or updating) the assessment at future dates.
- Populate the baseline using 2018/19 (or most recent) data.
- Develop a protocol for measuring additionality / attributing impact of future changes to the baseline (where possible) to SSPP Programme activity.
- Highlight any data gaps and making recommendations as to how the SSPP Programme could fill these gaps.

Due to the nature of the plastics industry and heightened concern about the environmental impact of plastics in packaging, it will be hard to separate the impact of the Challenge from other changes happening independently – attributing the additionality/impact of this challenge. Bidders should indicate how they will capture, and where possible, quantify additionality.

Indicative Activities and Outputs

Activity	Timing
Project inception meeting / workshop with key Programme stakeholders	December 2019
Project proposal amended to reflect any changes agreed at inception meeting	January 2020
Draft Evaluation Framework report in MS Word format to include outputs of above requirements.	31 March 2020
Final Evaluation Framework Report in MS Word format following client feedback.	31 May 2020
Draft Baseline Report	30 April 2020
Final Baseline Report	30 June 2020

Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Evaluation Framework and Baseline Supplier Engagement Day Agenda

Date: Tuesday 12th November 2019

Time: 13:00

Location: Jurys Inn Swindon, Fleming Way, Swindon SN1 2NG

Time Duration	Agenda Item
13:00	1. Welcome & coffee
13:30	2. Challenge overview
13:45	3. Evaluation framework requirements
14:00	4. Baseline study requirements
14:15	5. Break
14:30	6. Reporting requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duration of contract• Reporting milestones
14:45	7. Data availability and confidentiality
15:00	8. Key dates
15:05	9. Questions and Answer
15:30	Close

Please contact UK SBS on Research@UKSBS.co.uk to confirm your attendance to the pre-market engagement day.

The pre-market engagement sessions will be used for information gathering only, to inform the procurement process and strategy, and to aid in the development of the specification and tender documentation. Responding to this notice does not commit the contracting authority or respondents to a future procurement, nor provide any process exemptions or preferential treatment to any parties expressing an interest. The Contracting Authority will not be liable for costs incurred by any interested party in participating in this exercise.

Depending on the outcome of this pre market engagement day BEIS and UK SBS will be looking to issue this tender W/C 18th November 2019.

The total contract duration is still being agreed, however this is likely to be 6 months and the expected budget is £100,000.00 ex VAT.