

QUESTION NUMBER	DATE RECEIVED	QUESTION	RESPONSE	DATE RESPONDED
1	09/09/2024	Will the slides and a recording of the briefing from the 9 September 2024 be made available?	A recording of the session will be made available via the competition page on the Innovation Funding Service website in the next day or two. All links mentioned in the briefing can be found on the competition page.	11/09/2024
2	09/09/2024	Can we submit our proposal to just one of the requirements if we can only provide a part of it? Can a solution benefit for more than one KS? Can you choose to do Key Stage 2 Maths and English solutions?	Your proposal must cover 1 stage (as indicated in question 1) and 1 subject (as indicated in questions 2 or 3).	11/09/2024
3	09/09/2024	Are there restriction on where the applicant must be registered as an organisation? Can non-UK (EU-based) companies apply?	Please see information in the brief, also below:  Contracts for Innovation competitions are open to all eligible organisations that can demonstrate a route to market for their solution. Under current regulations, Contracts for Innovation contracts are open to applications from organisations registered in the UK, European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA).  The majority of the project work and key deliverables must be completed by the lead applicant and be carried out in the UK.	11/09/2024
4	09/09/2024	In the briefing session you said "you will provide code optimised for use with LLMs"? Please can you clarify this? Are you referring to the prompts?	In the briefing session, we outlined that the library will include but is not limited to, the National Curriculum in England, T-Levels, 16-19 programmes of study guidance and the EYFS. These will be available in optimised codified format. Quality assured systems prompts derived from evidence-based recommendations such as the Education Endowment Foundation guidance will also be available.  Faculty Technical Report which provides an example of how optimised content and code can support:  - AI functionality aligned with the National Curriculum in England - good teaching and learning practice  Please see the live competition.	11/09/2024
5	09/09/2024	How many applications are you looking to fund?	Please see the live competition and also below: This competition has a funding budget of up to £994,000, so we may not be able to fund all the proposed projects. Projects can range in size from total costs of £50,000 up to £200,000, inclusive of VAT.	11/09/2024
6	09/09/2024	Will any educational content be made available that can be used to train / build on?	Please see the live competition and also below: If successful, you will have access to a quality assured library of educational content and code optimised for use with large language models, to use to train your tool.  The library will include but is not limited to, the National Curriculum in England, T-Levels, 16-19 programmes of study guidance and the EYFS. These will be available in optimised codified format. Quality assured systems prompts derived from evidence-based recommendations such as the Education Endowment Foundation guidance will also be available.  The Faculty technical report demonstrates how codified content can improve educational performance of AI models	11/09/2024
7	09/09/2024	Is there any restriction on the start time and/ or duration the project?	Please see information on the competitions page. Also below. Projects must:  start by 11 November 2024 end by 31 March 2025 last up to 5 months	11/09/2024
8	09/09/2024	An integrated AI application for identification and assessment of academic stress is eligible?	Please see the live competition but also below: The aim of this competition is to develop tools which use generative AI to support teachers with assessing progress and providing feedback, known as formative assessment.	11/09/2024
9	09/09/2024	In the Maths example on the potfolio approach what happens if your solution can be used for any subject, but you are using Maths in order to build the initial product?	Your proposal must cover 1 stage (as indicated in question 1) and 1 subject (as indicated in questions 2 or 3).	11/09/2024
10	09/09/2024	We are a team based outside of the UK. Can we apply for this? What are the constraints we need to be aware of?	Please see information in the competiton information, also below:  Contracts for Innovation competitions are open to all eligible organisations that can demonstrate a route to market for their solution. Under current regulations, Contracts for Innovation contracts are open to applications from organisations registered in the UK, European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA).  The majority of the project work and key deliverables must be completed by the lead applicant and be carried out in the UK.	11/09/2024
11	09/09/2024	Can our solution be suitable for all education levels or is there a limit/restriction?	Please information in the competition brief online and also below: The application must cover a specific education stage (as selected in question 1) and specific subject as indicated in question 2 or question 3.	11/09/2024
12	09/09/2024	What technology readiness level (TRL) do we need to be at to be eligible? What TLR does the product need to be at at the end of the project?	Please see information in the competiton brief online and below: For this competition your project will develop a solution and produce a prototype solution in line with Technology Readiness Levels 6-7 by March 2025.	11/09/2024
13	09/09/2024	Can schools/sixth form college apply/bid?	Any organisation that is a legal entity can apply.  Contracts for Innovation contracts are open to applications from organisations registered in the UK, European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA). Developments are 100% funded and focused on specific identified needs, increasing the chance of exploitation.  Contracts will be awarded to a single legal entity only. The majority of the project work and key deliverables must be completed by the lead applicant and be carried out in the UK	11/09/2024
14	09/09/2024	If applying for secondary education, would it be advised to focus on one subject area rather than a project with a broader approach to multiple subjects?	Please see information in the competition brief online and also below: The application must cover a specific education stage (as selected in question 1) and specific subject as indicated in question 2 or question 3	11/09/2024
15	09/09/2024	Would use of subcontractors be an issue?	Subcontractors can be used, but only for specialist skills.  The majority of the project work and key deliverables must be completed by the lead applicant.	11/09/2024
16	09/09/2024	Do you need to be on any government frameworks to participate?	No, this competition is open to all organisations.	11/09/2024
17	09/09/2024	Should the full scope of work be delivered by one organisation or is it acceptable to have multi organisations delivering parts of the the project scope	Contracts will be awarded to a single legal entity only. The majority of the project work and key deliverables must be completed by the lead applicant and be carried out in the UK. Subcontractors can be used, but only for specialist skills.	11/09/2024
18	09/09/2024	Can you submit more than one proposal?	Organisations may submit 1 application for this competition. The application must cover a specific education stage (as selected in question 1) and specific subject as indicated in question 2 or question 3. We will only consider your first application.	11/09/2024
19	09/09/2024	As these contracts are for several months only, what is the intention for the project after this time? Is there an intention to make projects more permanent?	Please see the competition online and also below: There may be a potential for future funding to allow successful projects to undertake piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions. Please note that question 12 in the application asks for details on the commercial potential of your project including your expected route to market.	11/09/2024
20	09/09/2024	Can one company apply for more than 1 project, such as 1 application with solution for key stage 1, 1 project for key stage 2, etc?	Organisations may submit 1 application for this competition. The application must cover a specific education stage (as selected in question 1) and specific subject as indicated in question 2 or question 3. We will only consider your first application.	11/09/2024
21	09/09/2024	What is the tie breaker?	In the event of a tie, the score on question 7 will be used to break the tie, then if necessary question 8.	11/09/2024
22	09/09/2024	What is the maximum participation of sub contractors?	The majority of the project work and key deliverables must be completed by the lead applicant.	11/09/2024

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23	09/09/2024	We have an existing tool that meets the key deliverables already. Can we use this funding to improve/change the tool within your deliverables and also use the data store? If we have already have a commercial product that already uses LLM for UK education, can the project be an extension to the current product e.g. to solve issues and refine it	Please see the live competition but also below: Your project can involve the substantial adaptation or development of an existing tool where activity is at least 50% R&D, or development of an entirely new tool.	11/09/2024
24	09/09/2024	Can you confirm where exactly can we apply the application	<a href="https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2024/overview/736647cd-6147-4a68-884e-">https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2024/overview/736647cd-6147-4a68-884e-</a>	11/09/2024
25	09/09/2024	Could you elaborate more on the IP and ownership of the product if we go for funding?	Please see the live competition but also below: As part of the Contracts for Innovation conditions, successful applicants retain background and foreground IP, but the funder (DfE) receives royalty-free rights to foreground IP, for example, the IP developed during the funded project in the Contracts for Innovation funding. This ensures the funding is not classified as a subsidy as both funder and successful applicants gain benefit from the funding.  We welcome proposals from applicants on how these royalty-free rights may be deployed for public good, including options such as discounts on products for a fixed	11/09/2024
26	09/09/2024	Can a schools be subcontractors?	Yes subcontractors can be used, but only for specialist skills. So if the school has specialist skills which are justifiable.	11/09/2024
27	09/09/2024	I have asked two questionsneither of which have been addressed. When and where can I expect an answer	Please see the live competition and also below: DfE will collate all questions and publish them in a log on a regular basis. This log will be available via contracts finder. Clarification questions will be accepted until 9am on the 30th September. Final responses will be published by close of business on 2nd October.	11/09/2024
28	09/09/2024	Where can I find the list of subjects?	Please see questions 1,2 and 3 of the live competition.	11/09/2024
29	09/09/2024	What email should we use to ask questions?	Please note that clarification questions relating to the scope of requirements or specification will be managed by DfE. Any emails will be directed to DfE for response. You can contact DfE directly via email to <a href="mailto:dorcas.marshall@education.gov.uk">dorcas.marshall@education.gov.uk</a> .  DfE will work with Innovate UK to answer your questions. DfE will collate all questions and publish them in a log on a regular basis. This log will be available via contracts finder. Clarification questions will be accepted until 9am on the 30th September. Final responses will be published by close of business on 2nd October. Please include the following reference in the subject line of your email: A-1008 - AI Tools for Education: competition	11/09/2024
30	09/09/2024	your website mentions that no incremental adaptations will be funded to existing services, what if it is a major step change in the service?	Yes major steps are OK, if there is significant (atleast 50%) research and development.	11/09/2024
31	09/09/2024	Can you please give an example of how the foreground gov. IP (intellectual property) rights might work in a future commercial project.	An example of this could be if the solution developed is later procured by the challenge holder for the competition, the challenge holder may receive a discount. This is because the challenge holder receives royalty-free rights to the foreground IP. If the solution were procured other costs would be paid for, for example, operating costs. The clauses are available in the draft contract which is available through IFS. The clauses are fairly standard and have been used for public sector funding and pre-commercial procurement and across europe. They essentially provide access to the IP generated only during this project to the challenge owner. This means that in future if a solution were to be procured, the challenge holder is not paying for the privilege to use that IP again. Please see the competition brief. As part of the application in question 12, we have asked applicants to outline how they would deliver this value. We welcome proposals on this	12/09/2024
32	09/09/2024	Where can we find the content library during the application process?	The content library is under development. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.	12/09/2024
33	09/09/2024	Can a library developed by our company be used in the scope of the program to support quality assured educational content?	You may use your own resources and content for the development of the tool. Tools must use the DfE content store as well. You must have the right permissions for any content that you have used in the development of your own tools.	12/09/2024
34	09/09/2024	Can you elaborate a little more on the pupil free writing aspect of the assess	Your project must develop a formative assessment or feedback tool which is based on generative AI or large language model capability.  This must be based on free-text pupil or student work. This could include, for example, showing working in maths. However, assessment of multiple choice or single numerical answers are not in scope.	12/09/2024
35	09/09/2024	How does the competition define a successful formative assessment tool? Are there specific features or outcomes that will be prioritized?	Please see scope section. Must align with appropriate guidance for key stage etc.	12/09/2024
36	09/09/2024	The dataset you're preparing (high quality and AI optimised) will it be available in advance/so we can assess before preparing scope/submitting application? Or shall we assume will be ready at some point?	The content library is under development. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.	12/09/2024
37	09/09/2024	Will companies already working in this sector be at a big advantage.	All applications will be judged on their own merits.	12/09/2024
38	09/09/2024	Assume the suppliers will develop the tool using their own development infrastructure/environment. Is this the correct understanding?	Yes.	12/09/2024
39	09/09/2024	In the application it says that 50% must be spent on R&D. 1. What is considered R&D? 2. What can the other 50% be spent on?	One of the key principles for Contracts for Innovation is to make sure that we are not making incremental changes to existing projects. We need to see a demonstration of R&D as part of the project. For example you can't include marketing. There is some guidance on the UKRI website and this is linked in the application. Commercialisation, for example marketing, can't contribute towards that 50%. If you have questions on specific activities, please send them through to us.	12/09/2024
40	09/09/2024	Use of any powerful LLM (GenAI) tools requires credits, which could result in continuous costs for any solutions. is this an important factor to consider? Even if the proposed solutions use open-source tools, they would still require GPU servers, which would also incur ongoing costs.	You should consider this into the development costs and should feed into the plan for commercialisation of the project.	12/09/2024
41	09/09/2024	Will the content store include awarding organisation exam specs, past papers, mark schemes, examiners' reports?	The content library is under development. At present we have no specific agreements with exam boards or awarding organisations so you should not assume that this content will be available. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.	12/09/2024
42	09/09/2024	How are different questions weighted in the evaluation process?	This can be found on the evaluation criteria available through the application portal	12/09/2024
43	09/09/2024	Will the student work be in a digital format or does the solution need to cater for the ingestion of paper hand written inputs?	Teachers must able to use these tools in educational establishments. Some pupil work is created online and some is handwritten. It is up to you to decide what your tool will build.	12/09/2024
44	09/09/2024	How will the National Curriculum run in tandem with the different board examination councils supervised by Ofqual especially if looking at the science curriculum for KS4? Schools may use either OCR, Edexcel or AQA for their KS4 science examination which can different focus area to test pupils. Will DfE is assisting in any public information to assess please? Can we select a board examination to use as the model for the project or alternatively, do we have to analyse all three board examinations please?	The content library is under development. At present we have no specific agreements with exam boards or awarding organisations so you should not assume that this content will be available. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.	12/09/2024
45	09/09/2024	Are there any constraints on model selection or tech stack?	You must ensure that tools developed are safe, and compliant with relevant equality data protection and IP law	12/09/2024
46	09/09/2024	How critical is data protection for the contract? Will the solution be allowed the be hosted in a public cloud? Is using OpenAI allowed?	Your must ensure that tools developed are safe, and compliant with relevant equality data protection and IP law.	12/09/2024
47	09/09/2024	If the project is estimated to cost more than the amount we'd want to bid is it okay to self-fund the remaining costs?	For the purposes of the application, you need to consider this as a project. You can frame the project with £200,000 as the upper limit. If you are going to complete further work to add value, then specify this. View the £200,000 as the upper limit to a distinct individual project.	12/09/2024
48	09/09/2024	Where can we access the content store to see how we would leverage it?	The content library is under development. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.	12/09/2024

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49	09/09/2024	When will further information regarding what is contained in the content store be shared?	The content library is under development. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.	12/09/2024
50	09/09/2024	Can you save an application whilst in progress and come back to it?	Yes you can. If you click the green 'done' or 'save' buttons. You can go in and re-edit. You can revisit your proposal once submitted.	12/09/2024
51	09/09/2024	for EU-based entities, would the VAT still be calculated at 20% by IFS? the VAT rate may be different	EU and EEA based organisations can apply. Please get in touch with the Innovate UK support team. They can support you to use the IFS platform to calculate VAT. You can contact them via 03003214357 or via email support@iuk.ukri.org	12/09/2024
52	09/09/2024	Can a library developed by our company be used in the scope of the program to support quality assured educational content?	Same as 7	12/09/2024
53	09/09/2024	How important are customization and scalability?	Scalability related to the question relating to question 12 <i>what is the commercial potential of your project</i> . We would expect you to outline a route to market in this question.	12/09/2024
54	09/09/2024	again Q7 is optional so isn't there a built in problem using that as a tiebreaker.....	Q7 is mandatory. You can provide an optional appendix as part of the answer to this question.	12/09/2024
55	09/09/2024	Can you clarify what you mean (in Question 12) by: "Challenge owners (DfE) will be granted free usage rights to foreground IP developed during the project." Does that mean that DfE will then make what we create freely available to schools – which would prevent commercialisation? Or does it simply mean that DfE staff (not schools) would have free access to it?	Please see the live competition but also below: As part of the Contracts for Innovation conditions, successful applicants retain background and foreground IP, but the funder (DfE) receives royalty-free rights to foreground IP, for example, the IP developed during the funded project in the Contracts for Innovation funding. This ensures the funding is not classified as a subsidy as both funder and successful applicants gain benefit from the funding.  We welcome proposals from applicants on how these royalty-free rights may be deployed for public good, including options such as discounts on products for a fixed period.	12/09/2024
56	09/09/2024	If sub contracting to another organisation, does this need to be organised (e.g. agreed in principal) prior to submitting the application?	You can see the strict timeline we are working to on the live competition. You'll need to be confident that your subcontractor can be in place for when you need them to be to deliver to the timelines that's set out in the competition information online. There is no flexibility for when you can go live so you need to make sure you can have them in place.	12/09/2024
57	09/09/2024	Can you clarify what you mean (in the Description section) by "Successful applicants will have access to a quality assured library of educational content and code optimised for use with large language models." Does this mean that you will be providing successful applicants with such a library of educational content and code, or that applicants will create such a library within their project? If you are providing the library, can the successful applicant produce/provide additional content to be used alongside the library that you provide.	The content library is under development and successful applicants will have access to it. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.  You may use your own resources and content for the development of the tool. Tools must use the DfE content store as well. You must have the right permissions for any content that you have used in the development of your own tools.	12/09/2024
58	09/09/2024	Do you favour certain subject areas or age groups over others (i.e. is there a weighting in terms of your portfolio approach in terms of what you're looking for in particular)?	There are no favoured subject areas or age groups. The portfolio approach will work as follows: if two applications produce tools which address similar or identical areas of focus e.g. KS4 maths, we reserve the right to only award the highest scoring of the two and then proceed to award to the next highest scoring candidate.	12/09/2024
59	09/09/2024	How would the content store data be accessed? Would it be via API or would we be given the data?	The content library is under development and this will be confirmed. It is likely that successful applicants will be granted API access.	12/09/2024
60	09/09/2024	Where is the technical doc for the content store?	Links are in the competition information online. Please see the Faculty Technical Report.	12/09/2024
61	09/09/2024	Are we allowed to use our educational content (which has been created in line with the specification of UK exam boards)?	You may use your own resources and content for the development of the tool. Tools must use the DfE content store as well. You must have the right permissions for any content that you have used in the development of your own tools.	12/09/2024
62	09/09/2024	Is there more context around the individual projects and what they are trying to achieve? We are a technology provider with good AI capability but would be providing an 'out the box' type of solution	You can find more information in the scope section of the competition brief.	12/09/2024
63	09/09/2024	Can we claim legal fees for patent, user agreements, etc. associated with the solution?	Please see the guidance listed on IFS for what you can claim in relation to finances. This guidance covers what you can and can't claim. If unsure please contact Innovate UK customer support service.	12/09/2024
64	09/09/2024	Please could you direct me to the technical details of the data sets you are offering. I realise that you said they are still in progress but how are they being presented.	The content library is under development and successful applicants will have access to it. The technical report linked in the competition brief sets out what it will look like. We have also set out some of those documents we think will be in there. As the content store is a work in progress, it would be helpful for applicants to set out what documents they expect or hope to draw from. At a minimum we are looking at key government guidance and a limited amount of pupil work.	12/09/2024
65	09/09/2024	Do we need to have a solution in place when we apply or having a right team of people we can clarify and discuss our solution before we build a prototype?	You need to give us a proposal however you will not have to have a prototype developed for the time you apply. Your proposal will outline what you intend to do.	12/09/2024
66	09/09/2024	Are we able to put in a cost for someone we haven't hired yet?	Yes, you could consider them in the same way as subcontractors although you won't have a contract in place when you submit the application. You can see the strict timeline we are working to on the live competition. You'll need to be confident that they can be in place for when you need them to be to deliver to the timelines that's set out in the competition information online. There is no flexibility for when you can go live so you need to make sure you can have them in place.	12/09/2024
67	09/09/2024	Are projects that make use of pre-existing IP held outside of the UK permissible?	You may use your own resources and content for the development of the tool. Tools must use the DfE content store as well. You must ensure that tools developed are safe, and compliant with relevant equality data protection and IP law. You must have the right permissions for any content that you have used in the development of your own	12/09/2024
68	09/09/2024	Are there scenarios where a higher cost is justified by exceptional innovation?	Please see the competition brief. The maximum funding available is £200,000	12/09/2024
69	09/09/2024	Can you clarify exactly what you mean by text based tool...	This should assess written or transcribed work.	12/09/2024
70	09/09/2024	Does the focus need to be England? Or Wales and Scotland also possible?	The tools should be focused on England. Schools in England are funded by the Department for Education.	12/09/2024
71	09/09/2024	There are many Patents around development of this type of solution now who is responsible that no Patents are being broken?	You must ensure that tools developed are safe, and compliant with relevant equality data protection and IP law	12/09/2024
72	09/09/2024	Does the target age group of the solution also include FES students (adults) as well?	Your project must develop a tool to support a specific subject in either Early Years, KS 1, KS2, KS3, KS4, 16-19 study programmes or T-Levels.	12/09/2024
73	09/09/2024	How would the content store data be accessed? Would it be via API or would we be given the data?	You may use your own resources and content for the development of the tool. Tools must use the DfE content store as well. You must have the right permissions for any content that you have used in the development of your own tools.	12/09/2024