

CS19312 Energy Catalyst Accelerator Programme

Description

UK Research & Innovation ("UKRI"), through its component Innovate UK intends to place a framework agreement for the Specialist suppliers to support and assist in the growth of the Energy Catalyst Accelerator Programme by means of Incubation Services.

Reliable energy services are crucial to human well-being and to a community's economic development. Yet 1.1 billion people globally go without access to modern energy services, and a further billion experience intermittent access. Most of these people live in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and South Asia (SA). Despite global investment in the power sector increasing almost 2.5 times during the past 15 years, generation capacity struggles to keep up with growing demand, let alone meet the needs of low-income communities. In many situations - traditional, centralised grid-based technology solutions are not feasible or affordable for the majority of unserved poor households.

Therefore, UK businesses have a role to play in bringing knowledge, experience and thinking to bear on the challenges of modern energy access in developing countries, and in commercialising innovative products and services to meet these challenges. This is acknowledged by Department for International Development (DFID) who have worked with Innovate UK since 2015 to incorporate UK businesses into its [Transforming Energy Access](#) (TEA) programme, via the UKRI Energy Catalyst.

UKRI, through Innovate UK's Energy Catalyst programme, has been helping UK businesses bring knowledge, experience and thinking to bear on the challenges of modern energy access in developing countries, and in commercialising innovative products and services to meet these challenges. To date, Energy Catalyst has provided £103m of public grant funding to 250+ projects delivered by 700+ organisations to support innovators through 6 rounds of their Energy Catalyst Programme. Rounds 1 –6 have been supported by EPSRC, BEIS and formally DECC, and DFID. DFID has provided £18m of co-funding through their TEA programme which has gone to support 94 projects looking directly at tackling the energy access challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Following this success, Innovate UK has secured an additional £15m from DFID and £45m of [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF) funding to run an additional two rounds, Energy Catalyst Round 7 & 8, of the programme along with bolstering non-grant support through collaboration building and incubation support for both the UK companies and international partners.

Specific Objectives of the programme are:

- Accelerate the commercialisation of Energy Catalyst project innovation
- Bring together a cohort of Energy Catalyst Round 7 & 8 grant recipients
- Facilitate cross project and cross country learning
- Provide opportunities to engage with investors, corporate organisations and follow on support programmes such as Climate-KIC and Shell Foundation
- Share learning between UK and overseas organisations operating in the energy sector
- Promote gender equality and social inclusion
- Disseminate the impact of the Energy Catalyst Programme

It is envisaged that this framework will be split into 3 specialist lots each providing a different service to the overall programme.

Lot 1 - Energy Catalyst Accelerator Programme (ECAP) – 1 Supplier

Lot 2 - Learning from Overseas – 1 Supplier

Lot 3 - Programme showcasing & Dissemination – 1 Supplier

The estimate value of this opportunity is £7,800,000 however due to the nature of the services and all grants not being fully known at various stages of the contract there will be no guarantee of spend under the contract.

This Prior Information Notice is being issued in order to undertake a market consultation exercise with regards to the requirements detailed above. UKRI would like to invite suppliers to attend this engagement session in order to assess the market's appetite, gather intelligence and view on the approach of procuring the work.

This will also provide an opportunity for suppliers to find out more about the aims of the project.

The supplier engagement day will take place on Thursday 24th October 2019 at The Engine Shed, Station Approach, Bristol BS1 6QH. Arrival at 10.30 for an 11.00 start.

If you are interested in attending a supplier engagement session, please confirm your attendance by emailing professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk stating your organisation and attendee's names. Your email should have the subject heading CS19312 Supplier Day. All requests to attend the supplier day must be received by Tuesday 22nd October 2019.

Space is limited on the supplier day, and attendance is restricted to 2 people per supplier. We request that attendance is restricted to key members of your organisation that would be able to add value to the discussions that will take place.

Prior to attending site, you will be issued with an agenda, we would request that where possible this is reviewed before attending site to ensure a productive and informed discussion can take place. The final procurement strategy is still subject to discussion and change. The key elements that we are looking to discuss will be around Lotting structure, Terms and Conditions and a deeper overview of the project and growth to date. There will be an opportunity for suppliers if they wish, to form a consortium bid.

UKRI may consider the information and responses received as part of the preliminary market consultation to help inform the specification and further decision making in relation to the planning and conduct of the proposed procurement.

For the avoidance of doubt, this notice is not a Call for Competition; a Contract Notice will be issued as a call for competition. Not registering an interest shall not prevent any supplier participating in a future procurement, nor is it intended that any information supplied as part of the preliminary market consultation shall place any supplier at an advantage in a potential procurement process.