

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (CASE): INFORMATION SHEET

Summary

CASE is an industry led research centre with a role to match industry research needs in sustainable energy with academic research offerings at Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster and the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute. CASE projects MUST be collaborative and involve at least three companies, the majority from Northern Ireland. Projects will receive up to 75% funding from Invest NI, this funding will pay for the academic research, with industry making up the other 25% of the cost of the project 'in-kind'. Companies will also pay a cash contribution toward the overall running costs of the centre (please see below). In-kind and cash contributions may be eligible for R&D tax relief from HMRC. All projects must align with the CASE Research Strategy, must have a real industry focus and drive, have the potential for significant impact (product commercialisation, jobs, growth, export potential etc) and would ultimately be beneficial to the Northern Ireland economy.

Whilst industry driven, the nature of the funding going direct to the academic institution means that we anticipate that applications for CASE funding will be prepared by the academic lead for the project in conjunction with the industrial consortium.

1. **Commitment**

Subject to a successful outcome of the application, all consortium members will be required to sign a project specific Collaboration Agreement where the elements noted within this Information Sheet will be clearly defined for your project.

2. **Project Budget**

The companies will work with the academic institutions to develop an agreed project budget during the preparation of the pre-proposal application.

In Kind Contribution: The value of the academic research is equal to 75% of the project budget. The other 25% will come as an in-kind contribution (mostly people's salaried time).

Cash Contribution: Companies will also be asked to pay 6.5% of the total of the academic cost of the project in cash and will be invoiced at agreed intervals throughout the project duration. This 6.5% cash contribution will be split amongst the project participants according to company size.

Example:

Project academic costs are £100,000 in total.

In Kind Contribution is £33,333 spread across the industrial participants.

Cash Contribution is £6,500 spread across the industrial participants (based on company size).

3. Project Industrial Champion

The consortium will be asked to nominate a lead company and a named 'industrial champion' from that company.

4. Academic Principal Investigator

Projects may involve academics from just one, two or, all three of the academic institutions in Northern Ireland. An academic lead (Principal Investigator) will be nominated as the main point of contact throughout the project.

5. Project Programme

A Project Programme is required to be developed during the pre-proposal application process. This programme will have milestones through which the project is monitored (should it be successful).

6. Evaluation Process

There is a two stage evaluation process for CASE applications:

Stage 1: Proposals must be received by the application cut-off point. They will be submitted to the Industrial Advisory Board for a preliminary review and score. Those with the highest scores, within the financial year budgetary limit, will be approved to move to the Full Proposal Stage.

Stage 2: Success at Stage 1 will result in an invitation to interview at the next CASE Steering Group meeting (these are held every 2 months). Consortia will be asked to provide more detail / clarity around their original submission and to finalise costs. They will also be provided with the opportunity to deliver a short presentation (3 slides) to the Steering Group on their project. The Steering Group will then vote on the projects.

Successful projects will receive a Letter of Offer from CASE to proceed.

7. Industrial Advisory Board

All participants in CASE Projects will obtain a place on the Industrial Advisory Board (IAB). The IAB acts in an advisory capacity to CASE and elects at least one member to the Steering Group. The IAB usually meets quarterly and has a role in the initial selection of future CASE projects.

8. Intellectual Property

The intellectual property in the output of the project will belong to the party that generates that result. Project partners will have preferential rights to negotiate the licensing of other project partners' intellectual property. Academic partners will have the right to publish the results of the project.

