

We're here to help you

The EU Energy Focus service is a free, Government-funded service that aims to ensure that UK companies, research institutions and other organisations are well informed and have every chance of success in applying for and securing European funding for energy-related projects. Our services include one-to-one discussion of proposal ideas, webinars on key subjects and review of draft proposals. Through this bulletin we aim to provide you with information on sustainable energy policy and funding in Europe and in the UK.

Statement on UK eligibility for EU Horizon 2020 funding following the referendum decision

Recognising the importance of science and innovation to society, productivity and economic competitiveness, the government has provided reassurance to UK participants of the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme with a commitment to safeguard funding for research and innovation projects.

The Treasury has confirmed that it will underwrite funding for approved Horizon 2020 projects applied for before the UK leaves the European Union. **As a result, British organisations have certainty over future funding and should continue to bid for Horizon 2020 Calls while the UK remains a member of the EU.** The Treasury will underwrite the payment of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU.

We have been working with the Energy National Contact Points from the other European countries that participate in Horizon 2020 to ensure the above message is being disseminated to relevant organisations so that UK organisations' continued eligibility for funding is widely known to allow consortia to be maintained and built. **Please let us know if you do come across European organisations that are not aware of the Treasury announcement.**

The position regarding **structural funds** is as follows - all structural and investment fund projects signed before the Autumn Statement on 23rd November will be fully funded, even when these projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. The Treasury is working with departments, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other relevant stakeholders to put in place arrangements for considering those structural fund projects that might be signed after the Autumn Statement but while the UK remains a member of the EU. These projects will need to address UK priorities and satisfy value for money criteria. Further details will be provided as soon as possible.

EU Energy Focus at RenewableUK Annual Wave & Tidal Conference & Exhibition, London (UK) 23rd February 2017

Helen Fairclough from the EU Energy Focus team will be attending the conference and is available for one-to-one meetings. **Please contact the EU Energy Focus team if you are attending the conference and would like to arrange to meet to discuss a proposal idea at the event.** Bookings for the event can be made at <http://events.renewableuk.com/events/wt17>

Horizon 2020 – see page 9 for background

Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Call for Proposals

2017 Call for Proposals launched

The 2017 Call was launched on 17th January 2017 and has a deadline of **20th April 2017**. The Call budget is **€116M**. Further details of the Call can be found at <http://www.fch.europa.eu/page/call-2017>. Please contact the EU Energy Focus team if you are interested in submitting a proposal to this Call.

European Information Day and Brokerage event for 2017 Call for Proposals – 2nd February 2017

An Information Day will be held in Brussels on 2nd February 2017. Details of the event and the registration page can be found at <http://www.fch.europa.eu/event/fch-ju-info-daybrokerage-%E2%80%93-call-2017>

Webinar on 2017 Call for Proposals

The EU Energy Focus team is arranging a webinar to take place in February. Details will be circulated once finalised.

2015 Call results and funded project example

A full list of projects funded by the FCH JU can be found at <http://www.fch.europa.eu/fchju-projects>.

UK involvement headlines for the 2015 Call are:

- **€19M** of the **€110M** budget allocated to UK organisations (17%)
- **9** of the **15** projects funded has UK involvement i.e. **60% of the projects** have UK involvement - positive news for the UK, benefiting from the learning in over half of the funded projects.

The **BIG HIT project** is an example of a funded project, details are:

- Spanish-led project with the **demonstration site on Orkney**
- **Partners:** involves 12 partners, including **6 from the UK** (Community Energy Scotland Limited, European Marine Energy Centre Ltd, ITM Power Ltd, Orkney Islands Council, Shapinsay Development Trust and The Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association Ltd).
- **EU funding:** €5M from the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking between 2016 and 2021.
- **Funding to UK organisations:** €3.6M
- **Aim:** to create a replicable hydrogen territory in Orkney by implementing a fully integrated model of hydrogen production, storage, transportation and utilisation for heat, power and mobility.

BIG HIT will absorb curtailed energy from two wind turbines and tidal turbines on the islands of Eday and Shapinsay, and use 1.5MW of polymer electrolyte membrane electrolysis to convert the energy into hydrogen. This will be used to heat two local schools, and transported by sea to Kirkwall in five hydrogen trailers, where it will be used to fuel a 75kW fuel cell (which will provide heat and power to the harbour buildings, a marina and three ferries when docked), and a refuelling station for a fleet of ten fuel cell vehicles. The project employs a novel structure to manage the hydrogen trading, and dissemination that includes a follower territory and associations of over 1640 isolated territories. Details of the project can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/jmerlhv>

Support available for H2020 February 2017 deadlines

The next 2017 Calls, in the areas of smart grids and smart cities, have deadlines in February 2017. The tables below show the topic areas and the budgets available for these Calls.

The EU Energy Focus team will be reviewing draft proposals for these topics throughout January. Please contact the team by email if you would like to book a proposal review slot.

Opening	20th September 2016	
Deadline	14th February 2017	
Budget	€114.29M	
Evaluation procedure	Single stage	
Call topics (funding action), expected EU funding per project	Indicative budget (M€)	
<u>LCE-01-2017</u> : Next generation innovative technologies enabling smart grids, storage and energy system integration with increasing share of renewables: distribution network (RIA), €2M to €4M	19	
<u>LCE-04-2017</u> : Demonstration of smart transmission grid, storage and system integration technologies with increasing share of renewables (IA), €15M to €20M	65.29	
<u>LCE-05-2017</u> : Tools and technologies for coordination and integration of the European energy system (RIA), €2M to €4M (€0.5M to €1M for one element of topic)	30	

These topics were covered at an Information Day on 3rd October, the recordings of the presentations and the slides can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/events/2016-info-day-horizon-2020-smart-grids-and-storage>

Opening	4th October 2016	
Deadline	14th February 2017	
Budget	€69.5M	
Evaluation procedure	Single stage	
Call topics (funding action), expected EU funding per project	Indicative budget (M€)	
<u>SCC-01-2017</u> : Smart Cities and Communities lighthouse projects, €12M to €18M	69.5	

This topic was covered at an Information Day on 23rd September, the recordings of the presentations and the slides can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/events/2016-information-day-horizon-2020-smart-cities-and-communities>

Call summary document: the priorities and deadlines for all of the 2017 Energy Calls can be viewed in our Call summary document at http://docs.euenergyfocus.co.uk/H2020_Energy_Call_summary_2017.pdf

Support for UK organisations: We provide a free and confidential service to UK organisations on European funding for energy projects. We can help to facilitate UK involvement in these major European collaborative projects. We are available to discuss proposal ideas and review proposals.

Switzerland steps up research and innovation cooperation with the EU

Swiss researchers and organisations will now be able to fully participate in Horizon 2020 on equal terms with entities from EU Member States and other Associated Countries. This is because on 1st January 2017, Switzerland became fully associated to Horizon 2020. More information can be found at

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-hi-swiss-part_en.pdf

Horizon Prizes for energy innovation

The European Commission has launched three Horizon 2020 energy prizes, which will encourage innovations and finding solutions in the areas of great importance to European citizens, culture and health, and by this contribute to one of the key challenges of Energy Union, which is to put citizens at its core. These prizes will reward innovative approaches to integrating solar energy into historical buildings, using renewable energy in hospitals, and developing products that help cut emissions by reusing CO₂. **The total value of the prizes is €3.25M.** More information can be found at

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/horizonprize/index.cfm>

UK Technology Stakeholder Groups

Now is a good time for you to consider joining one of our sector stakeholder groups. These continue to play an important role in helping to shape UK input to discussions on future European energy technology development spending priorities. But in parallel, in the light of the EU referendum result, they will increasingly now focus on providing input to the UK's new, wider international energy innovation engagement priorities that are currently being developed and other possible activities related to international collaboration.

The UK Stakeholder Groups meet via conference call approximately four times per year. There are UK Stakeholder Groups for bioenergy, solar, wind, CCS, smart cities, smart grids, ocean and a group on energy efficiency is in the process of being set-up. Stakeholder group membership offers an opportunity to help influence policy at EU and UK levels; and to build your networks and knowledge to take advantage of the resulting opportunities

It's important to have representative groups made up of industry, academia and the public sector to help ensure feedback matches as closely as possible to UK priorities, strengths and interests. This should give UK organisations the best possible chance of success in securing EU funding and activity, along with wider international business opportunities against increasingly tough competition.

We are interested in hearing from organisations, particularly trade associations or industry, about joining the stakeholder groups. Please contact the EU Energy Focus team if you would like more information or would like to explore joining.

European Developments in the energy sector

Public Consultation launched - Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking Interim Evaluation

The European Commission has launched a public stakeholder consultation as part of the Interim evaluation of the Joint Undertakings operating under Horizon 2020. The consultation aims to collect the views of the public about the implementation of the Joint Undertakings (JUs) under Horizon 2020 for the period 2014 to 2016. The outcome of this public consultation will provide input to the currently ongoing interim evaluation of the JUs, covering the same period. The results of the interim evaluation will be used as a basis to improve the performance of the JUs. The public consultation will be open for three months, until **March 2017**. More information can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/JUsinterimevaluation>

New Call for Proposals for collaborative research and demonstration of solar technologies

The SOLAR-ERA.NET launched the first Cofund Joint Call on 5th December 2016. Eleven countries will participate in this Call - Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. The overall funding budget is around 19M€. The deadline for pre-proposal submission is **20th February 2017** at 17:00 CET. More information including details of a brokerage webinar which took place on 12th December can be found at <http://www.solar-era.net/>

FORESEA Programme Launches Second Call for Applications

The FORESEA (Funding Ocean Renewable Energy through Strategic European Action) Programme's second Call for support package applications was opened on 9th November 2016. The main objective of FORESEA is to help North West Europe (NWE) enterprises working in low carbon technology to test their technologies in real sea environments and to enable power to be economically extracted from the ocean. For this purpose, the project consortium, which includes four test sites in the NWE region (specifically in Scotland, the West of Ireland, West of France and the Netherlands), has announced the second Call for Applications for access to test sites to perform tests and validation of low carbon technologies. The deadline for application is **28th February 2017**. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hsmjz5e>

New assistance scheme to support the development of bankable investment programmes

The European Energy Efficiency Fund (eeef) is an innovative public-private partnership dedicated to mitigating climate change through energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy in the member states of the European Union. It focuses on financing energy efficiency, small-scale renewable energy, and clean urban transport projects (at market rates) targeting municipal, local and regional authorities and public and private entities acting on behalf of those authorities. The Fund has now set up a new assistance scheme to support ambitious public beneficiaries in developing bankable sustainable energy investment programmes. The technical assistance facility aims to bridge the gap between

sustainable energy plans and real investments through supporting all activities necessary to prepare investments into sustainable energy projects. Regional authorities, city councils, universities, public hospitals and other public entities located in the Member States of the European Union are eligible to submit applications. The deadline for the submission of the applications is **31st January 2017, 17:00 (CET)**. More information can be found at <http://www.eeef.eu/how-to-apply-as-ta-beneficiary.html>

Call for Expressions of Interest - Clean energy technology studies

The European Commission Joint Research Centre has launched a Call for Expressions of Interest for clean energy technology studies. The Call for Expressions of interest is divided into 3 fields:

- assessment of the status of development of energy supply technologies and their trend including wind, PV, ocean, geothermal, hydropower, CCS, hydrogen and fuel cells and many others
- integration of energy supply technologies in the energy system
- assessment of technology markets and industrial development intelligence for energy supply technologies

As a first step, interested parties are invited to submit an expression of interest by providing their full contact details and by listing the specific fields of interest. More details can be found at

<https://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/callsfortender/index.cfm?action=app.tender&id=3519&error=nochoises>

UK news from the energy sector

£15 million to deliver transformational innovations with potential for impact on the UK economy

Innovate UK is to invest up to £15 million in innovative research and development projects that will turn innovation excellence into economic impact for the UK. The aim of this competition is to help businesses develop new products, processes and services with commercial potential. Proposals should demonstrate disruptive and/or cutting-edge innovations. Businesses should demonstrate evidence-based ambition and potential for return on investment, growth and scale-up, preferably with access to global markets. To be in scope, total costs for the project must be between £25,000 to £1 million. Projects should last between 6 months to 36 months. Applicants must register their intent to submit by midday on **1st February 2017**. All proposals must be submitted by midday on **8th February 2017**. More information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-competition-open-programme-round-2-2016>

£15 million to develop innovative solutions to challenges in infrastructure systems

Innovate UK is to invest up to £15 million in projects to stimulate innovation that creates UK business growth in infrastructure systems. The funding will support businesses to collaborate to develop new integrated solutions and new business models. Projects may include technical feasibility, industrial research or experimental development activity. Projects are expected to range in size from total eligible costs of £25,000 to £5 million. Projects should last between 3 months and 3 years and must show significant innovation in one of the following priority areas:

- 'smart' infrastructure
- energy systems
- connected transport
- urban living

Proposals must improve business growth, productivity and/or create export opportunities for at least one UK small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) involved in the project. Applicants must register their intent to submit by midday on **15th March 2017**. All proposals must be received by midday on **22nd March 2017**. More information, including details of information and brokerage events around the UK, can be found at

<https://ktn-uk.co.uk/funding/innovation-in-infrastructure-systems-round-2>

Joint UK-China Offshore Renewables Energy (ORE) Call for Proposals

This is the second of three Calls planned under the "UK-China Joint Programme in Low Carbon Innovation" Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council in the UK and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). Applications are invited focusing on one or more of the following areas:

- Array infrastructure and network resilience
- Integrated offshore natural resource systems
- High efficiency ORE-to-wire design with scaled modelling
- Building resilience against extreme events into ORE systems
- Natural resource characterisation to support development of large ORE arrays

Up to £4 million is available to support UK researchers for up to five awards of up to £800,000 (80% FEC), with a duration of three years. It will be matched with NSFC funding of up to 3M RMB per project to support Chinese researchers. All joint proposals must be received via both the NSFC e-submission system by **16:00 Beijing Time**, and the Research Councils' Joint e-System (Je-S) by **16:00 GMT on 2nd March 2017**. An Expression of Interest must be submitted to EPSRC or NERC before **16.00 on 10th February 2017**; applicants that do not register with their intent will have their applications rejected. More information can be found at <https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/jointukchinaoffshore/>

Energy Technologies Institute publishes "Housing Retrofits – A New Start"

A new and targeted approach is needed to retrofit selective parts of the UK's housing stock to allow it to contribute to a cost-effective decarbonisation strategy, according to a report published by the ETI. The report says that although deeper retrofits of houses are technically feasible, their cost could be potentially similar to rebuilding the entire UK housing stock, so a more targeted approach is needed. More information including the report can be found at

<http://www.eti.co.uk/news/retrofitting-should-have-a-targeted-role-in-the-decarbonisation-of-uk-heat-eti-report>

Round 5 of Energy Entrepreneurs Fund open

The Energy Entrepreneurs Fund is a competitive funding scheme to support the development of technologies, products and processes in energy efficiency, power generation and storage. Round 5 of the scheme was launched on 30th October. The scheme particularly aims to assist SMEs, including start-ups, and those companies that are selected will receive additional funding for incubation support. A total of £9 million is available for projects. There are two opportunities to enter:

- Phase 5a – the expressions of interest deadline has now passed;
- Phase 5b - expressions of interest are required by 5pm on **20th January 2017** and the deadline for applications is noon on **3rd February 2017**.

More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-entrepreneurs-fund-phase-5>

Forthcoming events

Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Action Information Day, London (UK) 25th January

The UK Research Office (UKRO), in its capacity as UK National Contact Point for the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), is holding an information event for organisations interested in applying to the 2017 MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Action (RISE) Call. RISE supports projects which promote international and/or inter-sectoral collaboration through staff exchanges and the sharing of knowledge and best practice. The scheme involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors, organisations based in Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside of Europe (third countries). More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hc39kl5>

RenewableUK Annual Wave & Tidal Conference & Exhibition, London (UK) 23rd February 2017

Delegates at this event will hear from leading developers, financial and innovation funding experts, technical and safety professionals, regulators and government stakeholders representing the range of interests across the UK, and wide international marine energy supply chain. More information can be found at <http://events.renewableuk.com/events/wt17>

Helen Fairclough from the EU Energy Focus team will be attending the event and is available for one-to-one meetings. Please contact the EU Energy Focus team if you are attending the conference and would like to arrange to meet to discuss a proposal idea at the event.

Background to the EU energy innovation funding programmes

Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the European Commission's research and development funding programme. The first H2020 Calls were launched on 11th December 2013. The total budget allocation is understood to be around €70.2B. Energy is likely to receive 7.7% of the available budget for H2020, over €5B for the period 2014-20. This compares to €2.35 billion under the previous programme, Framework Programme 7. More information can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

The SET-Plan

The Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) outlines, from a European perspective, what needs to be done in terms of technology development, demonstration and deployment, to achieve the EU's 2020 energy and emission targets and its 2050 vision. This includes ensuring security of energy supplies and retaining the EU's competitiveness in world markets. In terms of status, it is a statement of EU energy technology policy, endorsed by Ministers and the Energy Council. The Plan puts a strong emphasis on the pooling of national innovation efforts into wider European co-operation.

In addition to supporting the development and deployment of energy efficiency technologies, the SET-Plan's priorities are split between a group of technologies identified as most likely to enable the EU to achieve its 2020 targets, and those that are important for it to achieve its 2050 vision. The technologies identified for 2020 are: 2nd generation biofuels; CO₂ capture, transport and storage; wind, particularly off-shore wind; photovoltaic and concentrated solar power; smart grids; more efficient energy conversion and end-use devices and systems in buildings, transport and industry, for example poly-generation and fuel cells; and nuclear fission, including long-term waste management solutions. The technologies currently further away from deployment, but expected to have an important role in the EU meeting its 2050 vision are: energy storage; hydrogen fuel cell vehicles; generation IV nuclear fission; fusion; trans-European energy networks; and new technologies for energy efficiency, including materials, nano-science, information and communication, bioscience and computation. These priorities will be reviewed as necessary in line with technology developments to ensure that they remain the most appropriate and they will increasingly drive decisions on what technologies receive support under H2020 Energy grant funding and other relevant EU programmes. <http://setis.ec.europa.eu/>