

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 will be fully funded, even when these projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. The Treasury will work 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.

Horizon 2020 – see page 7 for background

First 2017 Horizon 2020 Energy Call deadline imminent

The first of the 2017 Calls, in the area of low carbon energy, has a stage 1 proposal deadline of **29th November 2016**. The table below shows the topic areas and the budgets available for this Call. A total of €94.5M is available to fund projects low carbon technologies including PV, ocean energy, wind energy, hydropower, geothermal energy and biofuels.

Opening	29th July 2016	
Deadline	29th November 2016 (stage 1), 22nd August 2017 (stage 2)	
Budget	€94.5M	
Evaluation procedure	Two stage	
Call topics (funding action), expected EU funding per project	Indicative budget (€M)	
<u>LCE-06-2017</u> : New knowledge and technologies, €2M to €4M	20	
<u>LCE-07-2017</u> : Developing the next generation technologies of renewable electricity and heating/cooling, €2M to €5M	64.5	
<u>LCE-31-2017</u> : Social Sciences and Humanities Support for the Energy Union, €2M to €4M	10	

These topics were covered at a virtual Information Day on 20th September, the recordings of the presentations and the slides can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/events/h2020-energy-research-virtual-info-day>

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

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_2016_17_v4.pdf

European Information Days on the 2017 Calls for Proposals

Information Days on the 2017 Calls were held in Brussels in September/October, links to the recordings of the presentations and the slides can be found below:

- Energy Efficiency Information Day <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/horizon-2020-secure-clean-and-efficient-energy-info-day>
- Smart Cities and Communities Information Day <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/events/2016-information-day-horizon-2020-smart-cities-and-communities>
- Smart Grids Information Day <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/events/2016-info-day-horizon-2020-smart-grids-and-storage>

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.

Public stakeholder consultation for the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation

The European Commission is holding a public consultation as part of the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020. The objective of the consultation is to collect information from a wide audience on different aspects of Horizon 2020 implementation. Contributions are particularly sought from researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators and all types of organisations that have participated in Horizon 2020. The results of the public stakeholder consultation will feed into the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 and the Commission will publish a Staff Working Document, including a summary of the results of the consultation, by mid-2017. The deadline for contributions to the Interim Evaluation is **15th January 2017**. The consultation questionnaire can be accessed at

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_h2020_2016/consultation_en.htm

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

European Technology and Innovation Platform on Wind Energy launches Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

On 27th September 2016, the wind energy community handed over its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) to the Vice President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič. The SRIA names the priority areas for research and innovation (R&I) to help Europe maintain its global leadership on wind energy. The next step will be to continue the dialogue between key decision-makers in political institutions and the wind sector in order to coordinate research and innovation actions for the next Horizon 2020 Strategic Framework Programme and other Multiannual Framework Programmes. ETIPWind encourages all stakeholders to take the SRIA into consideration both during dialogue with national political decision-makers as well as when developing internal R&I strategies and timelines. More information, including the publication, can be found at <https://etipwind.eu/news/strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda-launched/>

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>

European Institute of Innovation and Technology public consultation

A public consultation has been launched to help shape the future of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The general public and stakeholders in innovation, research and education are invited to share their views of the EIT and on how the EIT's work might be improved. **The consultation is open until 20th November 2016.** Details can be found at <http://eit.europa.eu/newsroom/not-long-left-have-your-say-eit>

UK news from the energy sector

Launch of the pilot phase of the Heat Networks Investment Project

In November 2015, the Government announced that it was making available £320m of funding to support investment in heat networks over the next five years. This is expected to draw in up to £2 billion of additional capital investment and lead to the construction of hundreds of heat networks in England and Wales. The investment support aims to increase the volume of heat networks being built to deliver cost effective carbon savings, whilst protecting consumers and helping to create the conditions necessary for a self-sustaining heat network market to develop. The first competitive funding round of the scheme is a pilot. This will be a single funding round in this financial year. The Pilot Scheme is open to local authorities and other public sector bodies excluding central Government Departments. The application window for the pilot opened on 17th October 2016 and the application process will be split into two stages.

1. Pre-qualification: an online self-declaration form consisting of eligibility questions to determine if a project is eligible and ready to progress to submitting a full application. Pre-qualification applications will be open until **18th November 2016**.
2. Full application: online form asking applicants to reconfirm eligibility and provide additional data, including upload of project documentation that will inform scoring. The full application window will be open until **28th November 2016**.

More information can be found at <https://hnip.salixfinance.co.uk/>

Round 5 of Energy Entrepreneurs Fund launched

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 - expressions of interest are required by 5pm on **25th November 2016** and the deadline for applications is noon on **9th December 2016**;
- 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>

Invitation to tender – carbon capture technology techno-economic investigation

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), wishes to appoint a specialist supplier to investigate the techno-economics of novel UK carbon capture innovation. The UK has supported the research and development of novel carbon capture innovation to the point where they can be assessed and benchmarked to the current state-of-the-art capture technology and other novel capture innovation being developed internationally. BEIS requires evidence based analytical and technical studies on State of the Art and next generation capture technologies to inform future innovation spending programmes and to shape the future policy direction for capture technologies in the Power and Energy Intensive Industries respectively. The deadline for submission of proposals is **10th November 2016**. More information can be found at

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/97201dda-3722-4bba-82a2-40a7c025d812>

Feasibility Study in Energy Research

The EPSRC Energy theme is inviting eligible UK academics to submit proposals for a number of feasibility studies to carry out underpinning science and engineering energy research. Up to £3M is available for this call, with a maximum of £200k (£200k at 80% fEC) for each feasibility study submitted.

Proposals should examine a topic within EPSRC's Energy remit, review past and current activity, and identify key research challenges that need to be addressed. The proposed research must be novel, innovative, have the potential to lead to high impact outcomes and strengthen the UK's position in within the international energy community. Submissions towards this call must also demonstrate collaborations with established energy groups/organisations (academia, industry, non-governmental organisations, Government etc.) who are willing to support the research proposal and provide a potential route for exploitation.

Applicants must register their intent to submit by 16.00 on **8th December 2016**. All proposals must be received by 16:00 on **5th January 2017** via the Research Councils' Joint electronic System. More information can be found at

<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/energyresfeasibilitystudy17/>

Emerging and enabling technologies: opportunity to apply for innovation funding

UK businesses are invited to apply for a share of £15 million to develop the innovative products, services and industries of the future. Innovate UK is investing up to £15 million in projects that will stimulate the new products and services of tomorrow. These new innovations will have the potential to unlock billions of pounds of value to industry and disrupt existing markets. The competition opens on Monday 3rd October 2016, the registration deadline is Wednesday 30th November 2016 and the application deadline is **Wednesday 7th December 2016**. More information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emerging-and-enabling-technologies-apply-for-innovation-funding>

Forthcoming events

Innovate 2016, Manchester (UK), 2nd and 3rd November 2016

Organised by the Department for International Trade and Innovate UK, this event will showcase the UK's world-beating innovations. It is an opportunity for delegates to connect with research partners, export opportunities and investors who can help businesses to scale and grow. More information can be found at <https://www.events.ukti.gov.uk/innovate-uk-2016/>

3rd UNI-SET Energy Clustering Event - Universities in the Energy Transition: Focus on Smart Energy Systems and Communities, Bucharest (Romania), 21st to 23 November

The main objective of the event is to mobilise the European university community within the specific priority called "Smart Energy Systems with the Consumers at the Centre", in the SET-Plan. The agenda covers smart cities, smart grids, the role of consumers in the energy transition, sessions on multidisciplinary research and more. The event is free and registration is open until 7th November. More information can be found at <http://www.eua.be/activities-services/events/event/2016/11/21/default-calendar/3rd-uni-set-energy-clustering-event?tab=programme>

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/>