

Industrial Collaboration Programme and Materials Challenge Accelerator Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

A short Briefing Session was held on 11 August and a recording is available [here](#), the [slides](#) presented are also available for download.

How can I contact Royce about making an application for the ICP/MCAP?

Initial enquiries should be directed to info@royce.ac.uk. Our team of Research and Business Engagement Mangers can advise on access costs to Royce equipment at individual partners and can be contacted via the email address listed [here](#)

Why do any Royce funds need to be spent by the 31 March 2023? Can any 3rd party contribution be spent after the end of March 2023?

This is a stipulation of the funding from EPSRC due to need to close off accounts for the end of their internal financial year. However, the contribution from other sources (if applicable) can be spent after this deadline to extend the project.

How large is the funding pot and how many projects are you intending to fund for each scheme?

The final amounts available for these programmes have not yet been finalised.

Will information included in our submission be kept confidential?

Yes, all submission will be kept confidential to Royce and those on the assessment panel. All information collected will be stored until the close of the programme in 2023, kept for audit purposes and then destroyed.

What type of State Aid does this funding fall under?

This programme provides funding in line with UK's obligations and commitments to Subsidy Control. Further information about the UK Subsidy control requirements can be found within the [EU-UK Trade and Cooperation agreement](#) and subsequent [guidance](#) from the department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

EU State Aid rules now only apply in limited circumstances; see [guidance](#) from InnovateUK

Businesses must complete and submit a *Subsidy Control* declaration along with their application.

The limits on aid intensity are:

Type of collaboration	Size of lead business:	
	Small and Medium sized Enterprises	Large Enterprises
Fundamental research	80%	80%
Industrial research	80%	50%
Experimental development	80%	25%
Feasibility studies	80%	50%

Access to Royce facilities can be supported at full cost (100% FEC)

Where there is effective collaboration carried out jointly by a commercial entity and a university, there will usually be no indirect subsidy to the undertaking if at least one of the following conditions is met:

- The undertaking bears the full cost of the project;
- The results of the collaboration which do not give rise to IP may be widely disseminated and any IP resulting from the activities of the university is fully allocated to the university;
- Any IP resulting from the project and access rights are allocated between the collaborators so as to reflect adequately their work packages, contributions and respective interests;
- Any Royce partner receives compensation equivalent to the market price for the IP which results from its activities and which is assigned to the undertaking, or to which the undertaking is allocated access rights. The value of any contribution (financial and non-financial) of the commercial party to the costs of the university's activities that resulted in the IP, may be deducted from that compensation.

How will any IP generated by these projects be handled?

IP arrangements will need to be confirmed in the collaboration agreement, bearing in mind the type of collaboration for which funding is being sought

Can a PDRA (Post-Doctoral Research Assistant) be a Principal Investigator? Are PDRA costs eligible?

Only researchers with staff positions or with external Research Fellowships (e.g. Royal Society or RAEng Fellowships) are eligible to be a PI. PDRA costs are eligible as part of the staff time element of a project.

Can a PI from a Royce Partner be on multiple applications, and can there be two PIs from two Royce Partners?

A given PI can be the lead on only one application, but the researcher can be a Co-Investigator on other applications. For applications across multiple Royce partners one lead PI must be chosen for the overall application

Can a large company be included as a partner on an ICP/MCAP application, and can a large company be used as a subcontractor?

A large enterprise cannot be included as a partner on receipt of funding on a MCAP application. Exceptionally, for the MCAP, a large company could be subcontracted to provide services where it is not possible to deliver these through eligible the lead or eligible collaborators.

For the ICP application, a large enterprise can participate as a collaborator.

Can Royce facilities guarantee completion of projects by the end of March 2023 and what happens if there are delays or overruns?

The application should be made in consultation with the relevant Royce partner facility/ies managers and should account for likely risks to the project.

Which Royce Roadmaps are eligible for the MCAP?

Any of the Royce roadmaps or landscape documents (including subsequent published output) are eligible for projects. More information is available [here](#)

Does a Royce Partner need to be a partner on an MCAP application, and are letters of support required for this?

A Royce partner does not need to be included on an MCAP application. Letters of support are not required though the support of the host institution or company is an implicit element of the application.

What does the funding cover?

Industry costs including overheads are allowed. No element of profit or bonus can be included. A full list of eligible costs is given in a table in [the slides]. Applicants are required to give a breakdown of the total projects costs applied for.

Do we need to submit timesheets? What are the reporting requirements?

Royce does not require evidence to be formally submitted to it beyond the independent accountants report, which does include tracking of labour. However, evidence must be retained by the company in the event of an audit by EPSRC.

Is there a template for a collaboration agreement?

No, however agreements are anticipated to be based upon the [Lambert Agreement templates](#) provided by the Intellectual Property Office

How will the industry match funding be demonstrated and delivered?

The industry match funding can be made up of in-kind contribution of staff time on the project, and other similar costs or in monetary value. This will be demonstrated by including this in the budget submitted at the application stage. The industry element of the project can continue beyond the 31st of March deadline for grant expenditure.

Where can I find the finance form?

These are now available on the website, or to download here:

- [MCAP](#)
- [ICP](#)

What changes are allowed after submitting an Intention to Submit for the MCAP?

The intention to submit is to give us advance notice of the number and type of applications. The details can be changed in the application.

Can company staff use Royce facilities?

Yes, company staff can use Royce facilities directly. However, this will be arranged on a case-by-case basis in line with local facility access rules at each Royce partner.

What are the reporting requirements at the end of the project?

A publicly available case study will be required to show the public benefit arising from EPSRC funding. There will also be the requirement for a short summary report of outputs against the project objectives along with a financial summary on project costs.