

PETRAS 2nd SRF Call for Intent to Bid (Stage 1) – Frequently Asked Questions:

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Version: v1.6

General Enquiries

Where can I find the call's terms and conditions?

Please refer to section on “Grant Conditions” in the 2nd SRF Call Guidance document.

What format should my application be in?

All applications to be completed electronically via the following submission system by the call deadline: <https://submit.link/ygWeg> .

When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline for Intent to Bid applications is 09.00 BST on 9th September 2020.

I have a question that is not covered here, who do I ask?

Please submit your queries via email to Petras-proposals@ucl.ac.uk and clearly state that your query is in relation to the “2nd SRF Call”. The deadline to submit your 2nd SRF Call Stage 1 questions and queries is 3rd September 2020.

Questions from Current and Previous Calls

The following questions have been adapted from previous PETRAS call for proposals' enquiries as well as queries that are being submitted by enquirers to this call.

1. Collaborators

Multiple Bids

Is it possible to apply as a PI on one application to 2nd SRF call and a Col on another?

For the current stage of the call, the applicants are not being asked to provide Col details. However, it must be noted that, as part of a suite of demand management measures, to help alleviate pressure on all involved with our review process, eligible applicants may only apply once to this call, either as a PI or Col.

Are we able to name more than one PI and Col in our application? If yes, can one PI or Col be based abroad if the others are in the UK?

At the current stage of the call, the applicants are only required to provide details of a UK-based PI who is eligible to hold an EPSRC grant. For collaborative projects, where Cols (details are not required for this stage of the call) are also intending to request PETRAS funding through this call, both PI and Cols need to be UK-based and eligible to hold EPSRC grants. For further information on the eligibility of individuals and institutions to receive EPSRC funding, see the following EPSRC Guides:

Individuals:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/investigators/>.

Institutions:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/organisations/>.

Can more than one user edit an application, i.e. can a user give ‘editor access’ to a colleague who is also working on the proposal?

Unfortunately, this is not possible at the moment as each application is tied to the registered account. Therefore, it will be the responsibility of the main applicant (PI) to register on the

system, complete the application form and submit the application. A PDF of the Intent to Bid questions can be found here <https://petras-iot.org/funding-call/petras-2nd-srf-call/> , this may be helpful for potential project collaborators who are not the registered users.

Is there a limit for the number of applications we can submit from a university? We want to submit one in ... area and the other in ... area (from two different research institutes - different PI)?

There is no limit for number of applications that can be submitted from a single university. As stated in the call document, the submission number limitations apply to individuals named as PI and/or Col in proposals rather than their host universities/research organisations: “Individual applicants may only apply once as a PI or Col (i.e. an individual may not be involved in more than one proposal)”.

Am I allowed to be named in multiple proposals? e.g., one as a PI , another as a Co-I?

As part of a suite of demand management measures, to help alleviate pressure on all involved with our review process, applicants may only apply once to this call, either as a PI or Col.

I have a question regarding the PETRAS call: how many applications the lead applicant (University) and other contributors can submit?

There is no limit for number of applications that can be submitted from a single university. As stated in the call document, the submission number limitations apply to individuals named as PI and/or Col in proposals rather than their host universities/research organisations: “Individual applicants may only apply once as a PI or Col (i.e. an individual may not be involved in more than one proposal)”.

The PETRAS proposals system doesn't support multiple logins working on a proposal. Since PIs are notoriously busy, it makes sense if someone else actually does the work of entering the proposal (with a different email address from the PI). Please would you confirm that this is acceptable?

It is acceptable for other colleagues to create login details and undertake administrative tasks of preparing/submitting a proposal on proposed PIs' behalf. However, the PIs will have the ultimate responsibility and sign-off of their proposal submission before/by the call's deadline.

Collaborator Eligibility

We have a couple of collaborators for our proposal idea in mind but not all of them (including ourselves) are based at UK universities. Is it a requirement to have a UK institution involved?

Projects must be led by a UK-based PI eligible to hold an EPSRC grant. For collaborative projects, where to be proposed Cols (details are not required for this stage of the call) are also intending to request PETRAS funding through this call, both PI and Cols need to be UK-based and eligible to hold EPSRC grants. For further information on the eligibility of individuals and institutions to receive EPSRC funding, see the following EPSRC Guides:

Individuals:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/investigators/>.

Institutions:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/organisations/>.

Related to the previous question: Are existing PETRAS members allowed to co-apply for funding calls as PI or Cols? How about PDRAs? Some of our collaborators would fall under that category.

For the current stage of the call, the applicants are not being asked to provide Col/PDRA details. However, for future reference, existing PETRAS researchers are allowed to apply for funding provided they are able to meet the eligibility criteria. In particular, all applicants and

(to be) named research staff must be able to meet the time commitment to the project as stated in the proposal. Time commitments of the PDRAs cannot exceed 1 FTE across. Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and CoIs as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and CoIs, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/CoIs as necessary. In either case, if successful, the applicants' institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & CoI time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing.

When applying to this call, is it beneficial to be an existing PETRAS member?

Existing involvement in PETRAS is neither beneficial nor an impediment to the success of applications. It is not considered during the review process of this call for proposals.

Is there a preference for named researchers to be targeted for hiring in the proposal?

At this stage of the call, this information is not required. However, as reference for future stages, there is no preference on this.

What are the User Partners being referred to in the 2nd SRF call guidance document?

A User Partner (aka project partner) is a collaborating organisation who will have an integral role in the proposed research. This may include in-kind or cash contributions such as expertise, staff time, use of facilities, etc.

User Partners cannot receive funding directly from the PETRAS 2nd SRF grant; the only exception to this is where a User Partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation. The User Partner cannot receive any other funds from the grant, such as travel and subsistence.

If there are User Partners collaborating on a research project, EPSRC requires a Letter of Support, which is not required for the 1st stage of the 2nd SRF call. However, this will be required from those applicants that will be invited to the future stages of the call. Well-written letters can significantly strengthen research proposals by demonstrating the benefits of the collaboration, and the potential impacts of the research. It also allows partners to highlight why they support the proposal, and what they hope to get out of it.

Please refer to EPSRC's project partners description for further details:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/preparing/writing/lettersofsupport/>

Can we apply collaboratively with other institutions?

Yes, you can submit individually or in conjunction as part of a team (with proposed contributions from a single institution or a consortium). In addition, all applicants will be expected to work with user partners in the development, and if successful, in the delivery of the proposed work.

In future stages of the call, for collaborative projects, where proposed CoIs are also requesting PETRAS funding through this call, both PI and CoIs need to be UK-based and eligible to hold EPSRC grants.

Is there a minimum/mandated level of commitment to be secured from the proposed User partners for our project?

There is no mandated level of commitment required to be secured from user partners, however the aspiration should be to get as close to "matched funding" as possible. This includes everything including cash contributions, provision of software, participation in-kind etc.

Can a new proposed User Partner be from outside the UK?

Providing PETRAS is not funding an overseas collaborator in any way, they are welcome to join the PETRAS activity as a User Partner.

Do you have a list of PETRAS user partners and contact details of the corresponding person at each organisation? And, is there a preference for a user partner to be participating in PETRAS? Or is there an option to get match funding from a user partner that is not in PETRAS?

Yes, there are existing PETRAS Centre User Partners. Please see the following web page for further details: <https://petras-iot.org/collaborate/>. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you individual contact details of the User Partners due to GDPR. However, if you have a specific institution in mind from this list that you would like to be put in touch with, please let us know and we will let them know of your interest. Please note PETRAS cannot guarantee that you will receive a response from user partners. Therefore, you are strongly advised to have alternative plans in place to ensure your application is completed and submitted on time as per the call guidance document specifications.

When applying to this call, you can choose to collaborate with existing or new user partners. There is no preference on this. New User Partner applicants are welcomed from any sector, including commercial businesses, charities, trade and advocacy groups, local and central government, law enforcement, and other government agencies.

Could you tell me if User Partners must come from the list of Petras partners here: <https://petras-iot.org/collaborate/>? We have several organisations interested in a potential proposal, but some are not on that list.

When applying to this call, you can choose to collaborate with existing or new user partners. There is no preference on this.

Is it mandatory to have partnerships between one HEI and one company? Or can a member of HEI submit a proposal without any company ?

Each project should involve at least one, ideally two or more, new or existing User Partner(s) from industry and/or public sector with strong background in the Centre's research programme. Proposals must be co-created with the User Partner(s) and be convincing in the depth of the partner commitment. Whilst matched contributions (cash and/or in-kind) from user partner(s) are not required, they are highly desirable. Although the Letters of Support from user partners are not required in Stage 1 (Intent to Bid submissions), all applicants will be asked to provide these in the next Stages (please refer to Overall Submission and Assessment Process section of the call guidance document for further details). Projects must be led by a PI from an EPSRC eligible UK research institution. They will be responsible for the development and delivery of the project, and for reporting on the outcomes and budget.

Is it mandatory to talk with the existing PETRAS partners before submitting a proposal?

When applying to this call, you can choose to collaborate with existing or new user partners. There is no preference on this. New User Partner applicants are welcomed from any sector, including commercial businesses, charities, trade and advocacy groups, local and central government, law enforcement, and other government agencies.

I read that a project can involve either existing or new User Partners. Is there any preference from the Panel on which option is better?

When applying to this call, you can choose to collaborate with existing or new user partners. There is no preference on this.

We are planning to submit a proposal to this call, and will be collaborating with two companies as our partners, who are new to PETRAS. How can these companies become PETRAS User Partners (which is a requirement for the call I believe)?

A proposal needs to be led and submitted by an EPSRC eligible UK research institution. The lead partner needs to name their proposed user partners in the proposal and where required, provide what they will do in the proposed project. The proposed user partners do not need to register with PETRAS prior to putting an application in.

Those applicants that successfully secure funding from PETRAS through this call will become PETRAS members: The EPSRC eligible UK research institutions will be accessioned to the PETRAS Collaboration Agreement and their User Partners will be included to the Centre's User Partners list.

Please refer to the rest of the FAQ document for further information on User Partners, including a definition and what role they are expected to play in projects.

Could you please confirm if PDRAs can work together with academics (who are eligible to be PIs or Co-Is) on proposal writing and later are assigned with researcher Co-I or Co-I role if successful? I am currently fulltime working on an EPSRC-funded project as PDRA so I cannot be a named PDRA for another proposal full time. I want to double check if PETRAS allows PDRAs to be named as PIs/Co-Is (or researcher Co-Is) if they own the idea and contribute from the beginning like proposal writing? No other funding to be requested but cost for research time.

PETRAS follows EPSRC's Investigator Eligibility policies as detailed through the link below: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/investigators/>.

Please contact your institution's research grants office for further advice.

Is it essential to have an Industrial or Academic collaborator for the Stage 1– the Intent to Bid (ItB) proposal (2nd Strategic Research Fund application) or can the collaborator be added at later stage?

As you may have noticed, having User Partner(s) on board and involved in the preparation of the proposals, is part of the call's eligibility criteria. However, submissions to this stage of the call (Intent to Bids) will not be assessed and can be modified in Stage 2 (Outline proposals). Hence, if your User Partner information is not available for this stage, you may choose not to include User Partner related details in Stage 1, and provide them in Stage 2 (which by then will become mandatory information to be provided as part of your submission).

Principal Investigators

Are there specific requirements for the eligibility of PIs? Would they need to be current PIs or could it be someone at the post-doctoral level?

Any applicant with relevant background should be eligible to be an investigator on a PETRAS project proposal for this call if they are eligible to be an investigator/co-investigator on an EPSRC grant. There is no requirement for an applicant to have been involved in the PETRAS Centre/Hub activities to be able to submit an application. If your institution allows your post to be a budget holder, then you can apply as an investigator in your 2nd SRF project proposal. Please contact your institution's research grants office for further advice.

Can any academic from a UK-based institute submit a proposal to the call? Do they need to be on a permanent contract?

Any applicant with relevant background should be eligible to be an investigator on a PETRAS project proposal if they are eligible to be an investigator/co-investigator on an EPSRC grant. There is no requirement for an applicant to have been involved in the PETRAS Centre/Hub activities to be able to submit an application. If your institution allows your post to be a budget holder, then you can apply as an investigator in your 2nd SRF project proposal. Please contact your institution's research grants office further advice.

I am member of a core PETRAS Centre project. Am I eligible to be PI on an application to the PETRAS 2nd SRF call?

Yes, existing PETRAS researchers are allowed to apply for funding providing they are able to meet the eligibility criteria. In particular, all applicants and named research staff must be able to meet the time commitment to the project as stated in the proposal. Time commitments of the PDRAs cannot exceed 1 FTE across. Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and CoIs as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and CoIs, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/CoIs as necessary. In either case, if successful, the applicants' institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & CoI time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing.

I am from a university that is currently not a PETRAS Partner University. Could I apply as PI and if successful, would become a partner?

A proposal needs to be led and submitted by an EPSRC eligible UK research institution. Any applicant with relevant background should be eligible to be an investigator on a PETRAS project proposal if they are eligible to be an investigator/co-investigator on an EPSRC grant. There is no requirement for an applicant to have been involved in the PETRAS Centre/Hub activities to be able to submit an application. If your institution allows your post to be a budget holder, then you can apply as an investigator in your 2nd SRF project proposal. Please contact your institution's research grants office further advice.

Is it permitted to change the Principal Investigator (to another EPSRC qualifying person) after the ItB submission and before the Outline Proposal Submission, please?

It is not permitted to change the Principal Investigator (PI) named in Intent to Bid applications in later stages of this call for proposals. The same PI named in Stage 1 (Intent to Bid) will need to be retained for future stages of this call for proposals.

The PETRAS proposals system doesn't support multiple logins working on a proposal. Since PIs are notoriously busy, it makes sense if someone else actually does the work of entering the proposal (with a different email address from the PI). Please would you confirm that this is acceptable?

It is acceptable for other colleagues to create login details and undertake administrative tasks of preparing/submitting a proposal on proposed PIs' behalf. However, the PIs will have the ultimate responsibility and sign-off of their proposal submission before/by the call's deadline.

2. Dissemination

I am applying for an 18-month project. I want to include in that dissemination which will take place a few months after the end of the project. Is that okay or does all the work including the dissemination have to be carried out within the 18-month period if it's an 18-month proposal?

The proposed project work and associated expenditure will need to take place between the project's start and end dates, which cannot exceed 18 months.

3. Eligibility

We are interested in putting in a proposal to PETRAS 2nd SRF call, however we need to establish whether, being a public body, we would be eligible for funding? If it is the

case that we are not eligible, and we partner with a University, would our proposal then be acceptable?

At the current stage of the call, the applicants are only required to provide details of a UK-based PI who is eligible to hold an EPSRC grant. For collaborative projects, where CoIs (details are not required for this stage of the call) are also intending to request PETRAS funding through this call, both PI and CoIs need to be UK-based and eligible to hold EPSRC grants. For further information on the eligibility of individuals and institutions to receive EPSRC funding, see the following EPSRC Guides:

Individuals:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/investigators/>.

Institutions:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/organisations/>.

If you are not eligible to receive EPSRC funding, you should consider partnering with established research institutes. We encourage proposals involve collaborations between researchers and user partners.

After reviewing the relevant documents, we are not sure that as a private, non-profit institution of higher education we are eligible to apply?

At the current stage of the call, the applicants are only required to provide details of a UK-based PI who is eligible to hold an EPSRC grant. For collaborative projects, where CoIs (details are not required for this stage of the call) are also intending to request PETRAS funding through this call, both PI and CoIs need to be UK-based and eligible to hold EPSRC grants. For further information on the eligibility of individuals and institutions to receive EPSRC funding, see the following EPSRC Guides:

Individuals:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/investigators/>.

Institutions:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/organisations/>.

If you are not eligible to receive EPSRC funding, you should consider partnering with established research institutes. We encourage proposals involve collaborations between researchers and user partners.

Could you let me know if research proposals that are currently under review with other funding bodies are eligible for submission to this call?

Yes, though of course the proposal will need adapting to fit our submission formatting requirements. Also, you will need to state this on your application form for future stages of this call. Should you be successful, we will require confirmation that you are not taking up funding for the same project from other funding bodies.

I had an invitation to potentially be involved in someone else's project. Can I be involved in more than one project? I did see that a PI can not submit more than one proposal, but can a researcher commit to more than one project as long as it does not exceed 1 FTE?

For the current stage of the call, the applicants are not being asked to provide researcher details. However, as reference for future stages, a PDRA researcher can commit to more than one project proposal. In particular, all applicants and named research staff must be able to meet the time commitment to the project as stated in the proposal. Time commitments of the PDRAs cannot exceed 1 FTE across. Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and CoIs as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and CoIs, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/CoIs as necessary. In either case, if successful, the

applicants' institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & Col time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing.

Is it essential to have an Industrial or Academic collaborator for the Stage 1– the Intent to Bid (ItB) proposal (2nd Strategic Research Fund application) or can the collaborator be added at later stage?

As you may have noticed, having User Partner(s) on board and involved in the preparation of the proposals, is part of the call's eligibility criteria. However, submissions to this stage of the call (Intent to Bids) will not be assessed and can be modified in Stage 2 (Outline proposals). Hence, if your User Partner information is not available for this stage, you may choose not to include User Partner related details in Stage 1, and provide them in Stage 2 (which by then will become mandatory information to be provided as part of your submission).

4. Finance and Project setup

What are the costs allowed for our project budget? Can we add staff time to our budget for the PI and each Col named in our proposal for their time? How about the research fellows?

Costs under a new project may include UK-based staff time for PIs and Co-Investigators (Cols) (see below for further details) and postdoctoral research associates (PDRA), associated indirect and estates costs, travel and subsistence, and consumables and equipment for the project, all subject to EPSRC rules and requirements. Smaller items of equipment (up to 10% of the value of the grant, or under £10,000 (incl. VAT), whichever is the lesser), are allowable. Resources to fund User Partners are not allowable (this includes sub-contracting to a User Partner).

Time commitments of the PDRAs cannot exceed 1 FTE across. Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/Cols as necessary. In either case, if successful, the applicants' institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & Col time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing.

Is there a set allocation of funding/budget for an 18-month project under this call?

No, there is not a set allocation per project. The total PETRAS funding available for the 2nd SRF call is £4.5 M Full Economic Cost (fEC), or £3.6 M @ 80% fEC. We expect to fund approximately 15-20 projects. For future stages of the call, the applicants will be asked to state the funding required for their proposed research projects.

We have started preparing a draft budget for our application. Can we use the project budget to buy out our time and also to hire a research associate, if it is within the available budget?

For the current stage of the call, the applicants are not being asked to provide any budgetary information. For future stages of the call, all applicants should cost their projects using the same process as they would cost an EPSRC grant. Please see the following reference material for EPSRC funding guide and UKRI T&Cs for Research Council fEC Grants:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/> and <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>.

We would anticipate that your research support office will be able to advise on this.

Time commitments of the PDRAs cannot exceed 1 FTE across. Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/Cols as necessary. In either case, if

successful, the applicants' institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & Col time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing.

We are working with colleagues to develop a proposal for the PETRAS 2nd SRF call deadline in September 2020. I wanted to double check that eligibility of costs that could be requested would be the same as EPSRC proposals (i.e. publication costs are not eligible)?

For the Intent to Bid stage of the call, the applicants are not being asked to provide a budget for their projects. For future reference, all applicants should cost their projects using the same process as they would cost an EPSRC grant.

Costs under a new project may include UK-based staff time for PIs and Co-Investigators (Cols) (see below for further details) and postdoctoral research associates (PDRA), associated indirect and estates costs, travel and subsistence, and consumables and equipment for the project, all subject to EPSRC rules and requirements. Smaller items of equipment (up to 10% of the value of the grant, or under £10,000 (incl. VAT), whichever is the lesser), are allowable. Resources to fund User Partners are not allowable (this includes sub-contracting to a User Partner).

Time commitments of the PDRAs cannot exceed 1 FTE across. Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/Cols as necessary. In either case, if successful, the applicants' institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & Col time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing.

In the call guidance document, you state that a project should last no longer than 18 months. Can I confirm that this is for conduct of the research itself? Is it acceptable that preparation, analysis and writing up would be either side of the 18-month period (completing the research in 24 months)?

The proposed project work and associated expenditure will need to take place between the project's start and end dates, which cannot exceed 18 months.

Could you confirm if admin time is an eligible cost on this call? I can't see anything in the guidance regarding admin time, but we have previously included this in another application to PETRAS.

Normally admin time is not an eligible cost on this call, which is expected to be covered by the indirect costs of your project budget.

Regarding the PI and Co-I time to the project, it says "Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/Cols as necessary". Could you please explain in detail what does "with collaborative socio-technical focus" mean?

The spirit of the 0.1/0.3 FTE difference is to encourage collaborative socio-technical research projects and consortia. For an application to qualify requesting additional funding for PI/Col time up to 0.3 FTE, the proposal must include research work (and academic applicants with relevant backgrounds) both from traditional STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines and from other disciplines that are often not represented in traditional discussions of IoT systems cybersecurity, such as Creative & Performing Arts, Digital humanities, Economics, Education, History, Human geography, Law & legal studies, Literature, Management & business studies, Philosophy and ethics, Political Science International Studies, Psychology, Social anthropology, Social policy, Social statistics, and Sociology. With this approach, PETRAS aims to encourage applications that will bring

onboard both social and technical expertise to deliver well-balanced collaborative research projects.

Could we use maximum of £10k to purchase software for the project?

Unfortunately, we are not able to comment on individual project budgets/expenditures at this stage as the applicants are not being asked to provide any budgetary information in Stage 1 of the call. For future stages of the call, all applicants **should cost their projects using the same process as they would cost an EPSRC grant.**

Please see the following reference material for EPSRC funding guide and UKRI T&Cs for Research Council fEC Grants:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/> and <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>.

We would anticipate that your research support office will be able to advise on this.

If funded, what's the latest date our project could start?

As stated in the call document (see Table 2, last line), expected start date of awarded projects through this call needs to be between July-September 2021 the latest.

The 2nd SRF call guidance document says that “Applicants must seek approval from their organisation prior to submission” on page 7, could you please give more details what kind of approval is required (for the first, second stages submission)? Is it only for eligibility check or a letter is required?

Your university needs to be aware of your application and are content with it to be submitted. The approval processes might differ from one organisation to another, and may involve departmental, faculty, or university level approval. We do not need the applicants to provide PETRAS with any confirmatory letters/notes on this. For Stage 1 of the call, there is no budgetary information requested. For the subsequent stages, applicants will be asked to provide budgetary information, which will need to be checked and approved by their institutions as well.

As part of a UK-based university, we are preparing, with partners, a bid to the PETRAS 2nd SRF Call. The call guidance document states; “*Eligible costs: Costs under a new project may include UK-based staff time for PIs and Co-Investigators (Cols)(see below for further details) and PDRAs, associated indirect and estates costs, travel and subsistence, and consumables and equipment for the project, all subject to EPSRC rules and requirements. Smaller items of equipment (up to 10% of the value of the grant, or under £10,000 (incl. VAT), whichever is the lesser), are allowable. Resources to fund User Partners are not allowable (this includes sub-contracting to a User Partner). Under normal circumstances PETRAS will cover up to 0.1 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols as part of a project with mainly technical or social focus. The applicants will be allowed to apply up to 0.3 FTE equivalent combined staff time for PIs and Cols, for projects with collaborative socio-technical focus to enable joint inputs from suitable PI/Cols as necessary. In either case, if successful, the applicants’ institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & Col time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing.*”

Does this mean that only 50% of Col or PI time that we might spend on the project would be funded by the call (if successful in the bid)? Therefore, we would have to find 50% of Col / PI staff costs elsewhere?

The PI and Col staff time allocated for the proposal (for those components being requested to be funded by PETRAS) would be expected to be matched by the applicant's institution. For example, if an applicant's budget included a staff time for PI at 0.1FTE, then another 0.1FTE would have to be provided elsewhere/by applicant's institution.

Is there any budget restriction for each project? For example, a project cannot be more than £300K etc.?

No, there is not a set budget allocation per project. The total PETRAS funding available for the 2nd SRF call is £4.5 M Full Economic Cost (fEC), or £3.6 M @ 80% fEC. We expect to fund approximately 15-20 projects. For future stages of the call, the applicants will be asked to state the funding required for their proposed research projects.

Is the EPSRC the funding awarding body, and are the conditions identical to other EPSRC funding calls? Would we be eligible to match the FTE time with funding from IUK (InnovateUK) income sources?

The centre is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) on behalf of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through its Strategic Priorities Fund. The 2nd SRF call has its own conditions as stated in the call document: <https://submit.link/ygWeg>.

All applicants should cost their projects using the same process as they would cost an EPSRC grant. Successful proposals will receive 80% fEC of their budget from PETRAS. It must be recognised that an application to this call requires a commitment to provide the remaining 20% of fEC from their own resources. All costs should be inclusive of VAT and/or any other applicable tax. A guide of fEC and the EPSRC's position on its payment is available at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/> and <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>.

Successful applicants not already party to the PETRAS Centre Collaboration Agreement will join by accessioning to the PETRAS Centre Agreement, which imposes EPSRC/UKRI conditions on the consortium. They will be expected to participate in Centre activities and duties, including reporting, dissemination and communication activities.

If successful, the applicants' institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & Col time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing as part of this call (please see the Eligible costs section in the call document for further details).

The applicants' host institutions will be expected to provide complimentary FTE of investigator time (PI & Col time) to match the FTE PETRAS is providing as part of this call (please see the Eligible costs section in the call document for further details).

PETRAS is unable to comment on the usage conditions/eligibility of other funders' grants. Please contact your other funders' post-award teams for further advice.

Can we use an hourly paid lecturer at the university as a Col in our application or does it need to be a full time employee of the university?

PETRAS follows EPSRC's Investigator Eligibility policies (including Cols) as detailed through the link below:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/investigators/>.

Please contact your institution's research grants office for further advice.

5. Format of submissions

For a proposal that involves more than one academic partner institution, how should the applicants complete the Intent to Bid application form?

The lead applicant must complete the online form on behalf of their consortium (electronically via the submission system: <https://submit.link/ygWeg>). A PDF of the Intent to Bid application questions can be found here <https://petras-iot.org/funding-call/petras-2nd-srf-call/> (not editable), which can be shared with the consortium members to coordinate their inputs. The lead applicant will be responsible to complete and submit the joint application through the online system by the call's deadline.

Is there a template for stage 1 Intent to Bid applications and what is the maximum length?

The call guidance document provides a PDF copy of the Intent to Bid application form, which shows the info/sections needed with relevant word/page limits (see **further info section**). You can also find the same information on the following site once you register: <https://submit.link/ygWeg>.

I note in the first instance the PETRAS 2nd SRF call has an Intent to Bid stage due 9th September, with submission through an online form. Please could you clarify as to what information needs to be provided as part of the Intent to Bid application?

The call guidance document provides a PDF copy of the Intent to Bid application form, which shows the info/sections needed with relevant word/page limits (see **further info section**). You can also find the same information on the petras.submit.com site once you register.

I noticed that the online application form includes five sections. Should we add any bio info in some of the three sections about the PI? Would it be possible to have some guidance about the contents expected in the "Brief Description Of Bid" section? E.g. how to structure the description?

At this stage of the call, the submission form and the information it intends to capture are aimed to be concise; more details will be captured at the next stage of the call. For the intent to bid submission form, the applicants are not required to provide PI's bio, and they can decide what content they may provide under the "brief description of bid". As stated in the call document, the Intent to Bids received will serve as a mechanism to enable applicants to proceed to the Stage 2 of the call. The Intent to Bid submissions will not be assessed and can be modified by applicants at the Stage 2.

The PETRAS proposals system doesn't support multiple logins working on a proposal. Since PIs are notoriously busy, it makes sense if someone else actually does the work of entering the proposal (with a different email address from the PI). Please would you confirm that this is acceptable?

It is acceptable for other colleagues to create login details and undertake administrative tasks of preparing/submitting a proposal on proposed PIs' behalf. However, the PIs will have the ultimate responsibility and sign-off of their proposal submission before/by the call's deadline.

We are working on a submission to the 2nd Strategic Research Fund (SRF) : Call for Intent to Bid (Stage 1). If we submit the current version, will the system then allow us to go back and edit it afterwards (subject to the deadline)?

Once you submit your application for the Stage 1, it cannot be modified for this stage.

Is it essential to have an Industrial or Academic collaborator for the Stage 1– the Intent to Bid (ItB) proposal (2nd Strategic Research Fund application) or can the collaborator be added at later stage?

As you may have noticed, having User Partner(s) on board and involved in the preparation of the proposals, is part of the call's eligibility criteria. However, submissions to this stage of the call (Intent to Bids) will not be assessed and can be modified in Stage 2 (Outline proposals). Hence, if your User Partner information is not available for this stage, you may choose not to include User Partner related details in Stage 1, and provide them in Stage 2 (which by then will become mandatory information to be provided as part of your submission).

For the Intent to Bid submissions, is the references word count included in the 1500-word limit or is it exclusive?

At this stage of the call, the submission form and the information it intends to capture are aimed to be concise; more details will be captured at the next stage of the call. For the intent to bid submission form, the applicants can decide what content they may provide under the

“brief description of bid” section, which has a word limit of 1500 words. As stated in the call document, the Intent to Bids received will serve as a mechanism to enable applicants to proceed to the Stage 2 of the call. The Intent to Bid submissions will not be assessed and can be modified by applicants at the Stage 2.

I was wondering if there is any particular structure for the Intent to Bid (ItB) submissions, please? The ItB submission form only says BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BID (Max 1500 words). Does it include a project description, partners, timeline, costing, etc?

At this stage of the call, the submission form and the information it intends to capture are aimed to be concise; more details will be captured at the next stage of the call. For the intent to bid submission form, the applicants can decide what content they may provide under the “brief description of bid” section, which has a word limit of 1500 words. As stated in the call document, the Intent to Bids received will serve as a mechanism to enable applicants to proceed to the Stage 2 of the call. The Intent to Bid submissions will not be assessed and can be modified by applicants at the Stage 2.

We are intending to bid for the Stage 1 of this Call. We were wondering what should be in the document. In addition to what we intend to investigate and details of our partners, do we need to add, at this stage, past work in the areas we wish to investigate (including of ours and of others) or details of past work in the area(s) may be left to the Stage 2?

At this stage of the call, the submission form and the information it intends to capture are aimed to be concise; more details will be captured at the next stage of the call. For the intent to bid submission form, the applicants can decide what content they may provide under the “brief description of bid” section, which has a word limit of 1500 words. As stated in the call document, the Intent to Bids received will serve as a mechanism to enable applicants to proceed to the Stage 2 of the call. The Intent to Bid submissions will not be assessed and can be modified by applicants at the Stage 2.

6. Suitability

Can you comment on the suitability of my project/research for funding?

Unfortunately, we are unable to comment on individual projects and their suitability. However, we would draw your attention to section on “Themes for the 2nd SRF Call”: Proposals are encouraged which include themes that address IoT systems research challenges at the intersection of any two (or more) PETRAS Centre ‘Lens’ and ‘Sector’ descriptors, and which include emerging technologies (e.g., AI and ML) that support IoT deployed at the ‘edge’ of the internet. PETRAS embodies a socio-technical approach to cross-cutting challenges, so (without exclusivity), proposals are welcomed that take a cross-disciplinary viewpoint. However, those that address purely technical or social dimensions are also strongly encouraged. Without losing sight of strong technical requirements that underpin IoT and Edge security, PETRAS would like to capitalise on the range of social science contributions that clearly need to be made in this space. In all cases, proposals should embody a cybersecurity perspective. Hopefully this will assist you in the assessment of your project’s suitability.

We have recently been turned down for a 3-year EPSRC grant application – can we apply to PETRAS for a pilot of the same study?

Yes, however, applicants must ensure their proposed programme of work meets the 2nd SRF eligibility criteria stated in the call guidance document.

At the concept level the project will be somewhat related to several of the call themes but do not necessarily fall squarely under one theme. Can feedback be provided on whether proposals should strictly be aligned with a theme focus or if there is a certain flexibility.

Unfortunately, we are unable to comment on individual projects and their suitability. However, we would draw your attention to section on “Themes for the 2nd SRF Call”: Proposals are encouraged which include themes that address IoT systems research challenges at the intersection of any two (or more) PETRAS Centre ‘Lens’ and ‘Sector’ descriptors, and which include emerging technologies (e.g., AI and ML) that support IoT deployed at the ‘edge’ of the internet. PETRAS embodies a socio-technical approach to cross-cutting challenges, so (without exclusivity), proposals are welcomed that take a cross-disciplinary viewpoint. However, those that address purely technical or social dimensions are also strongly encouraged. Without losing sight of strong technical requirements that underpin IoT and Edge security, PETRAS would like to capitalise on the range of social science contributions that clearly need to be made in this space. In all cases, proposals should embody a cybersecurity perspective.

The themes listed in the call guidance document are indicative, and not exclusive. The Centre will consider other themes relating to proposers’ research interests or those of user partners, where these pertain to themes not covered in the existing suite of PETRAS Centre and Hub projects (<https://petras-iot.org/projects/>).

7. Miscellaneous

Are there lists of previously funded projects from PETRAS Centre and the Hub?

Details can be found on our website:

- PETRAS Centre projects: https://petras-iot.org/projects/?_sft_status=current
- PETRAS Hub projects: https://petras-iot.org/projects/?_sft_status=complete.

Do we have to fill in timesheets?

There is no requirement to complete timesheets.

What happens with IP resulting from any research project funded by PETRAS?

With respect to IP which might result from any research project funded by PETRAS, the Centre follows EPSRC policies. Please follow the link below, which sets out these policies in detail: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/files/funding/how-to-apply/funding-basics/intellectual-property-commercialisation/>