

REWIRE Open Call for Power Semiconductor Innovation

Application Guidelines

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1. Introduction to REWIRE and the Funding Call

REWIRE is an £11m Innovation and Knowledge Centre (IKC) funded by UKRI developing pioneering power semiconductor technologies and new electronic power devices to accelerate the UK’s net zero ambitions. This is set to be achieved by transforming the next generation of high voltage electronic wide and ultra-wide bandgap (WBG/UWBG) compound semiconductor devices. REWIRE works closely with industry to drive research projects and technology transfer from academic to industry.

This call is to support short projects with funding of up to £50K. This funding is for **ground-breaking research and proof-of-concept projects** that will **advance the understanding of WBG/UWBG semiconductor devices and packaging**, with the ultimate ambition of progressing to commercialisation. These projects will **expand the REWIRE partner network**, creating new links within the UK semiconductor community.

2. REWIRE’s goals

- Advance cutting edge WBG/UWBG power semiconductor research
- Accelerate commercial impact from WBG/UWBG power semiconductor research
- Form long lasting networks between industry and academic institutions
- Promote EDI best practices to create an inclusive and diverse innovation ecosystem

3. Application guidance

Eligibility for call

- Industry and academic organisations, charities, Government organisations such as research agencies or Catapults, including current industry partners of REWIRE are all eligible to apply. Non-UK organisations can apply so long as the projects have clear benefit for the UK. Projects which have collaborators or partners who have not yet worked with REWIRE are preferred. As are projects from SMEs and early career researchers.
- Existing REWIRE academics and their research groups cannot receive funding in the initial rounds of the call but can be non-funded partners in applications.
- It is an advantage for projects to have match funding or in-kind contributions beyond the minimum percentage contribution detailed below. Larger and medium company/organisation can apply for funding, it is expected they add match funding or in-kind donations to the project.

Timelines:

- Submission deadline: 30th April 2025
- Successful applicants contacted: 30th June 2025
- Projects to start within three months of receipt of the award letter
- This is an open call; submission date for the next award panel will be announced shortly after the previous call has closed.

Project length

- Projects length is up to 12 months, it is expected most projects will be 3-6 months in length.

Funding

- The maximum funding available for a project is £50,000, with most projects expected to fall within the £25,000 to £50,000 range. Please refer to the Funding and Gantt Excel file for examples of eligible costs. The REWIRE Flexible Fund will support projects by covering a percentage of costs based on the type of organisation applying.

For Businesses (Eligible Cost Model), funding will cover a percentage of eligible costs as follows:

- Large businesses: Up to 50% of eligible costs
- Medium-sized businesses: Up to 60% of eligible costs
- Micro or small businesses: Up to 70% of eligible cost

If you are unsure about company size, please use [this link](#) to make an assessment.

For Universities and Research Organisations (FEC Model), funding will cover a percentage of Full Economic Costs (FEC) as follows:

- Higher education providers as [defined by EPSRC](#): 80% of FEC
- Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), charities, not-for-profit organizations, public sector organisations, or other research organizations: 100% of FEC
- Note: Higher education providers and research organisations can only claim FEC, no additional overheads, see Funding and Gantt Excel file for further details.
- Cost model for overseas research organisation will follow the above model at the funders discretion. Please contact REWIRE to discuss before applying.
- Funding payments: 90% of the funding will be paid at project kick off and 10% on completion of a satisfactory final report.

Eligible project costs

The award will cover directly incurred (DI) costs and directly allocated (DA) staff costs incurred by the awardee in respect of the project, up to the maximum amount of the funding. Applicants are encouraged to keep DA costs to a minimum. For consumables or equipment, single item costs equal or greater than £10k are non-eligible. See costs form for further information.

Project leads will submit an estimate projects cost form as part of the application (see Funding and Gantt Excel file) and a full financial account at the end of the project.

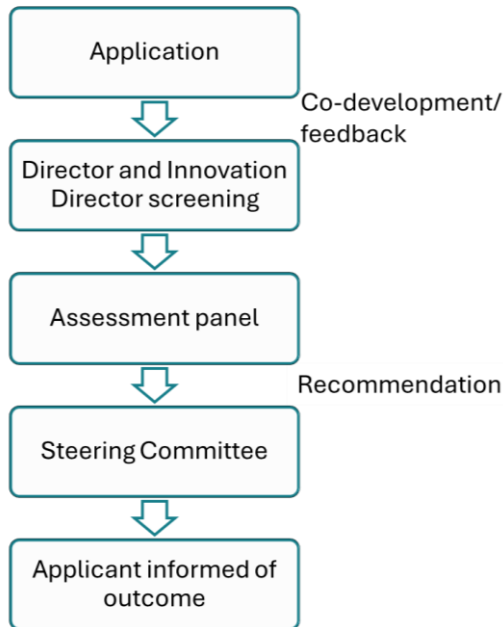
Further information

- It is strongly encouraged to contact the REWIRE team (rewire-ff@bristol.ac.uk) before submitting a proposal to discuss and develop project ideas.
- To facilitate swift kick off, a standard award letter will be used (see website). All applicants must ensure they are comfortable signing up to these terms before they apply.
- [Trusted Research and Responsible Research Innovation \(RRI\)](#) – Parties awarded will have the legal responsibility to ensure Trusted Research and RRI rules are followed.
- Successful applicants will be expected to have regular communication with REWIRE, including a kick-off meeting, mid-term update and an end of project report (3-4 pages, including a public facing summary).

What to Include:

- **Cover page** – 1 page
 - Project title
 - List of the partners for the project, their affiliations, contact details and their role in the project. Including details of the person at each organisation who is authorised to sign the offer letter.
- **Main text** – 2-3 pages
 - Vision – What is it you want to do? And why do you want to do it? Please keep in mind the aims of this call when writing this section.
 - Approach – How are you going to do it? Include any major risks and mitigation.
 - Alignment – How will the project drive the goals of REWIRE and benefit the UK semiconductor industry.
 - Delivery – Why is the Team you have put together the right one to successfully deliver the proposed work?
 - [Trusted Research and Responsible Research Innovation \(RRI\)](#) – please consider if the project has potential trusted research and/or RRI aspects and how they will be addressed.
 - Sustainability planning – What is the long-term impact of the project and plan for continuation of the work?
 - As these are proof-of-concept projects, it is likely that there will be scope for the work to continue beyond REWIRE funding. Please consider options for continuation of the work including plans to access other funding sources.
- Further documents
 - **Project Plan** – in Funding and Gantt Excel file
 - Details of the project plan using the Milestones and Tasks tabs for the Gantt Chart in the Funding and Gantt Excel file.
 - **Costings** – in Funding and Gantt Excel file
 - A completed copy of the costing form with the costs for the project.
- Ensure the [equality, diversity and inclusion form](#) is filled in and submitted ([link](#)), see Section 5 for more information.
- Practical guidelines
 - Applications must be submitted as pdf with font not smaller than single-spaced Arial 11 font or similar-sized sans serif typeface with 2 cm margins.
 - Applications should be submitted to the REWIRE flexible funding mailbox (rewire-ff@bristol.ac.uk).

How Applications will be Assessed



Left: Schematic showing the procedure for approval of flexible funding projects

Applications will initially be screened for suitability for this call by REWIRE's Director and Innovation Director.

The applications which pass the initial screening will be submitted to a panel of four who will consider the applications against the assessment criteria (see below). The scoring will then be reviewed by the REWIRE Steering Board for the final decision.

4. Assessment Criteria

The projects will be assessed against the criteria below:

- Innovation and originality
- Strategic relevance to the IKC
 - Alignment with the goals of REWIRE with a clear outcome.
- Project partners
 - Appropriate project partners to meet the goals of the project
 - It will be considered an advantage if the project includes partners that are new to REWIRE and/or Early Career Researchers (ECRs).
- Feasibility and methodology
 - Feasible project goals and outcomes, with a clear methodology.
- The impact on industry and society
 - Ensure that there is a clear plan to deliver impact from the project, including potential outputs, next stages for the project such as access to other sources of funding to continue the work.
 - Detail how impact will be measured.
- Need for work
 - Clearly described need for the project including justification of the objectives and the research base for the project.

- Matched funding/significant in-kind contributions are an advantage as it clearly demonstrates support.

5. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

REWIRE fully supports the UKRI principals for promoting and support equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), please see the [UKRI guidance](#) for more information. The named EDI lead is Prof. Rachel Oliver, REWIRE EDI Director.

Applicants are asked to fill in a [form](#) which includes questions about equality, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI). The information will not be used in the approval of the application. It will be used to determine the diversity participants we are reaching and inform how we can improve participation among underrepresented groups in future calls. The form will not be accessible to any of the referees of submissions.

EDI Bursary

There is a fund of up to £500/project available to aid participant with additional needs. This is additional to the maximum project funding. For example, funding can be used for addition travel and subsistence costs related to accessibility or to support care for dependents. Successful applicants requiring assistance should send the form in the Appendix directly to the REWIRE EDI director, Prof. Rachel Oliver, rao28@cam.ac.uk. After review, limited information will be provided by the EDI director to allow the funding to be provided.

6. Subsidy Control- Minimum Financial Assistance (MFA) Requirement

All businesses must comply with the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022, specifically adhering to the Minimum Financial Assistance (MFA) rules. Under the MFA exemption, the total amount of public financial assistance an enterprise may receive must not exceed £315,000 over the current and previous two fiscal years. This includes all forms of public support, including grants, subsidies, and other financial aid from public authorities.

If your application is successful, you will be required to:

- Declare all public financial assistance received under the MFA threshold over the past two fiscal years and the current fiscal year.
- Provide accurate and complete records of public funding received, as required under the Subsidy Control Act 2022.
- Sign a declaration form confirming compliance with the MFA requirements.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your funding being withdrawn.

7. Data Protection Regulations

Applicants, including partners and collaborators, consent to the University of Bristol and UKRI (or any agent thereof) processing personal data relating to them for the purposes of assessing, awarding, and managing the impact award scheme, and to ensure compliance with any applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Copies of projects will be made available to the REWIRE Panel and Steering Board, who will use information provided in the application for processing the proposal, the award of funding, and for the payment, maintenance, and review of the project funds. See the [University of Bristol's Privacy Policy](#).

Applicants, including partners and collaborators, agree to abide at all times by the provisions of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, Data Protection Act 2018 in relation to any processing by them of the personal data of others.

As funding comes from the UKRI, to meet the Research Councils' obligations for public accountability and the dissemination of information, details of awards may also be made available on the Research Councils' websites and other publicly available databases, and in reports, documents and mailing lists.

The Data Controller – The University of Bristol is the Data Controller and is committed to protecting the rights of individuals in line with Data Protection legislation. University of Bristol's Data Protection Officer can be contacted via email at: data-protection@bristol.ac.uk

Appendix

Addition Assistance

Name and Project Title
Amount of funding required
Brief description of additional funding requirement and justification