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Offshore Wind Growth Partnership

OWGP Webinar
9th October 2019

Funding Call FAQs

1 General Funding FAQs

1.1 What do you class as an SME?

The OWGP uses the European Commission definition of an SME which can be found [here](#) and in the Strand D Scope and Guidance Document. The SME requirement only applies to lead applicants for the Strand D Call.

1.2 We are not an SME as we are part of a group, so we cannot lead but can we be part of a consortium with an SME lead?

Absolutely, for both calls we encourage companies to be looking outwards and to be working with other organisations that bring in the right skills to deliver a successful project.

1.3 Is this private sector funding? Are there any state aid implications?

Currently, all OWGP funding comes from the Private Sector and therefore there are no State Aid implications.

1.4 Is it possible to combine OWGP funding with other funding sources (e.g. Third-party private investment)? Or is it only "in-kind + OWGP"?

Absolutely, this is encouraged. We are keen to receive applications that demonstrate contribution from the company itself, but also from other organisations, showing a broader commitment to the success of the project. So, if there are contributions from other partners in the form of funding or in-kind support, please do include this in the application.

1.5 If you currently receive funding from Scottish Enterprise or RDEC does this impact the eligibility to receive OWGP funding?

As OWGP is private funding, this does not impact companies receiving public funding i.e. From Scottish Enterprise or RDEC. There are no state aid implications.

1.6 Is the £200k a total pot or is this available to each company?

The total funding pot available is £400K – £200K for Strand B and £200K for Strand D. Please refer to the Scope & Guidance Documents for total eligible project costs.

1.7 Will it be possible to select an assessor? Or rule out certain assessors who may gain competitive advantage due information contained within an application?

Assessors will be recruited as independent evaluators with knowledge of the sector. They will score the applications based on the criteria outlined the Scope & Guidance and in the Webinar. Assessors will not be selected by the applicants.

1.8 Is the stipulation “Could not take place without OWGP support” limiting? Perhaps better to say “Project would be enhanced by OWGP support...?”

OWGP funding should be considered as a means to maximize benefit and impact. The OWGP do not wish to fund projects or activities that would be taking place anyway without additional support. Companies are asked to justify the additionality of the OWGP funding within the application; detailing how this support could make a significant difference in terms of outputs and impact.

1.9 If project proposals are successful can the supplier gain access to ORE Catapults’ Demonstration Turbine?

There is no automatic access to ORE Catapult test/demonstration assets, however the OWGP would like to see successful projects in this round continue into future phases. If testing on ORE Catapult facilities or other operational assets is a logical next step in the commercialisation process, then the OWGP would look to support this.

1.10 What about Stands A and C? Are they being handled separately?

Strand A is delivered through bilateral engagement between Developers and supply chain companies, so OWGP does not have a hands-on approach to this. However, we are looking to kick off activity around Strand C and cross-sector engagement early in the new year.

1.11 How can Strand A developers be contacted?

This is part of an ongoing discussion with OWIC. Once there is a process in place to engage with Developers as part of Strand A this will be announced.

1.12 What are the key submission dates?

The submission date is the same for both calls: Closing Date is Thursday 7th November 2019 at 5pm. Applicants will be notified on Friday 29th November 2019. Please download all call documents from the website <https://owgp.org.uk/about/funding-opportunities/>

1.13 When does the project need to start by?

We request that projects are ready to go live by 1st February 2020.

1.14 What would happen if the project does not go live, would the funding be required to be refunded?

We do not foresee any position where OWGP funding would be refunded. OWGP propose 30% of the payment to be made upfront, and the remaining 70% to be made based on achieving an agreed set of milestones as per the grant agreement. If companies do not hit agreed milestones or provide evidence of expenditure, then remaining funds would not be awarded.

1.15 In the cost break down in the application, is this for the full product development or the pilot phase of such a development?

The cost breakdown is specifically for the project for which funding is being requested. In the application we want to understand the next steps but not asking for this to be costed up. At this stage we are only asking for a breakdown of the costs for the project you are asking OWGP to fund.

1.16 Is there any information on future calls yet?

Not at this stage. We have issued questionnaires to companies who have registered on the OWGP website and are currently reviewing the responses we have received so far to better understand the challenges. We will do further consultation on these in due course. We are also looking into successful initiatives across other sectors to see examples of structured programmes that could be introduced in combination with future calls.

1.17 Can support from OREC be included?

The Programme Management of OWGP is delivered by ORE Catapult. However, ORE Catapult does not have a specific role within these funding calls.

1.18 Is there a conflict of interest about including OREC in consortia?

Whilst ORE Catapult delivers the Programme Management of the OWGP, there is no other direct involvement with the programme. OWGP can only foresee ORE Catapult involvement in future funding call applications if there is a specific need for the unique facilities that the Catapult can offer. OWGP is using independent assessors to ensure the appropriate level of scrutiny and avoidance of conflict throughout the process.

1.19 Can different options be offered in a single submission, i.e. for £50k we could achieve outcome A or for £25k we could achieve outcome B?

The applicant needs to determine the total project costs and detail the cost breakdown in the Finance Summary. Assessors will not assess multiple cost options within a single application.

2 Strand B – Business Competitiveness FAQs

2.1 On Strand B can you explain what you mean by Delivery Partners? If a company has an engineering issue that needs technical expertise would this be eligible for the funding?

For Strand B, the OWGP would like to see companies bringing in external specialist support to help them overcome specific challenges/barriers with manufacturing/fabrication and help to improve their competitiveness. Delivery Partners can include RTOs, other Catapults, Academia, Manufacturing Advisory Services, Consultancies and many other specialist service providers to support the delivery of the project outcomes.

2.2 On Strand B are the Delivery Partners required to be new third-party companies not used before, or could third-party specialists/experts that are already engaged by the company be used?

It is not a requirement that the Strand B Delivery Partners are new to the lead applicant. What is important is that the lead applicant selects the most appropriate Delivery Partner(s) with the right skills, capability and expertise to deliver that particular project. Companies are free to decide who they wish to partner with but be prepared to justify this in the application.

2.3 Can RTOs take part as the lead applicant, only in-support or not at all?

The aim of the OWGP is to support UK businesses. We would be delighted to see RTOs involved but we envisage their role to be Delivery Partners, particularly for Strand B. RTOs are welcome to participate but not as lead applicants.

2.4 Is a University considered to be a delivery partner?

Yes. UK-based academic organisations could be considered delivery partners.

2.5 Are non-technical, technology start-ups which service the sector by providing finance and efficiency in business processing eligible?

Companies that can provide support to existing businesses in the supply chain could be considered Delivery Partners for the Strand B call, however, could not lead on an application. The eligibility of a Delivery Partner will depend on the specialist skills, knowledge or expertise they can bring to the project to overcome the challenge - this should be clearly justified within the application.

3 Strand D - Supply Chain Futures FAQs

3.1 Do you consider on-line monitoring to fit in IoT category?

Please refer to sections 2.1 and 5 in the guidance document for details of the Strand D scope. It is intentionally broad, but solutions must be innovative.

3.2 In Strand D - Supply Chain Futures you mentioned that first stage is 'proof of concept', would steps required to enable commercialization be an acceptable project?

When considering the size of funding available, we see this most likely supporting projects at the concept stage. However, if there are projects which are further up the TRL scale, moving towards commercialisation, we would be happy to accept applications. The key thing is to explain why funding is needed and why the project wouldn't go ahead without OWGP support.

3.3 Is there any restriction on sharing of the UK-generated IP? If project IP is generated in the UK, but the project is part-funded by third-party private investment, can the IP be shared with the third party? Does it matter if the third party is non-UK based?

The intention is for OWGP to support the development of new IP that can be exploited within the UK. There is a strong sense that by building up UK-based IP this will support long-term sustainability of the sector. Please contact us directly if you have a specific enquiry on generated IP.

3.4 Does the OWGP accept SMEs to partner with non-SMEs on the project?

Absolutely. The lead applicant for Strand D needs to be an SME, however it is important to bring in the right partners that will enable the project to be a success. We are not excluding any companies or RTOs that could provide support to the lead SME.

3.5 We have a prototype product to go on the jacket foundation of an offshore wind turbine. Is this within the remit of Strand D's "new product"? To discuss further would an NDA be required?

Strand D is focused on helping companies develop new products and services for the offshore wind sector. This call is focussed around innovation in advanced communication, IoT and sensor technology, so any product being developed would need to fall within this scope. All applications will be treated confidentially and will only be shared with the independent assessors who will be under contract and have confidentiality agreements in place. If an applicant wishes to have a separate NDA due to particular sensitivities around an innovation, then we are happy to discuss this.