



APPLICATION & PROCESS INFORMATION

**EPSRC Future Manufacturing Research Hub:
SUSTAIN - Strategic University Steel Technology and Innovation Network**

Scheme Type: Invitation for Proposals
Closing Date: No Closing Date – Applications accepted at any time
Related Themes: Carbon Neutral, Iron and Steelmaking and Smart Steel Processing

The [SUSTAIN](#) programme has funds available for individuals who would like to apply for funding that broadly supports the SUSTAIN [Grand Challenges](#).

- Funding Available:** Up to £20,000 per application is available. If greater funding is required, the Management Team will discuss initially, followed by the requirement of approval from the Operational Committee. It is expected that this funding will be leveraged by existing secured funding or collaborations with [SUSTAIN's academic partners](#).
- Match Funding:** It is encouraged that funds are leveraged with other potential funding programmes.
- Eligibility:** Applications are considered from academics within the wider SUSTAIN network, with a sufficiently good idea and low risk opportunity to scale up a technology applicable to SUSTAIN Grand Challenge.
- Equipment:** Funding for the purchase of capital equipment is not eligible, however exceptional circumstances will be considered. For access to specialist equipment please contact SUSTAIN via info.sustainsteel@swansea.ac.uk where your query will be passed to the relevant person.
- Scope:** For this particular scheme TRL 3.5 - 5 is applicable. Proposals should be novel and aim to support step-change improvements in one of the four Challenge areas through the development of a demonstrator, or translation of an existing technology from another application or industry, to steel. Ideas outside of the Challenge scope will also be considered if they are deemed to have significant potential impact upon the UK Steel Industry and the SUSTAIN Grand Challenges. The main scope should be focused upon significantly improving the UK steel industry's Carbon Footprint through direct changes and augmentation of systems and processes, the introduction of novel technology and provision of digital methods for tracking, improved supply chain management and closed loop recycling of products.

Applicants are advised to discuss their ideas with senior academics in their institution before submitting to SUSTAIN. Following this, if the idea is deemed applicable, a meeting with the industrial project partners will be facilitated. Industrial partners will be required to support the project in terms of defining applications, facilitate future trials and provide knowledge and resources to help demonstrate a potential pathway to manufacturing and exploitation. Applicable industry focused applications from non-core partners are welcome, as long as there is close integration with the SUSTAIN grand challenges.

Activity	Date
Funds available from	January 2021
Scheme Launched	May 2022
Closing date for applications	No closing date. Applications accepted anytime throughout the lifetime of SUSTAIN
Initial Evaluation of application by Programme Manager	Within 2 weeks of receipt of application

Sponsored by:



Academic Partners:





Feedback from potential industrial stakeholders	Before MT evaluation & approval
Evaluation and approval to next stage by MT Assessment Panel. Feedback / progress given to applicant	Aimed at 4 or 6 weeks of receipt of application, but may take longer due to complexity of the project concept
Approval by Operational Committee	Next quarterly meeting
Final Approval by SUSTAIN Director	After quarterly meeting
Project Update & Review	Project Mid Term if applicable
Final Update & Review	Project End

6. Process for the Applicant to follow for preparation and submission of proposal

The basic process for the application is illustrated in APPENDIX 1, and is summarised as follows:

- a. Applicant discusses idea with SUSTAIN PM
- b. Basic idea introduced from applicant by email to industrialists and other key stakeholders with potential further meetings being arranged if interest is forthcoming
- c. Applicant to gain support from their institution before making formal application to SUSTAIN
- d. Submit 1 page application form
- e. Application form reviewed by Management Team with comment / feedback provided if not accepted.
- f. Accepted application form reviewed by Operational Committee with comment / feedback provided if not approved.
- g. Final approval by SUSTAIN Director
- h. Applicant formally updated of success / failure
- i. Legal documents and payment terms supplied to institution

8. How to Apply

Please complete Appendix 2 - one page project proposal which includes:

- a. Your technology translation idea
- b. A clear statement of how the project matches the scope of the fund
- c. Evidence to support your idea, such as discussions that have taken place with applicable stakeholders from your institution and industry showing the outcome of such discussions
- d. Letters of Support are necessary from your institution and all concerned industrial partners
- e. How your research supports the SUSTAIN Grand Challenges / KPI's
- f. Funding required with breakdown of individual funding required.
- g. Start and end dates of your proposed project are to be included.

9. Assessment Process / Criteria

Submissions will be considered initially by the SUSTAIN Management Team, followed by approval from the SUSTAIN Operational Committee (a panel consisting of SUSTAIN Industrial Partners & Management Team) with final approval from the SUSTAIN Director, to ensure a fair and unbiased process. In order of importance, the evaluation criteria for applications will be:

- a. **Fit to Scope:** Does the proposal address one or more of the topics outlined in the call scope and is the proposal at an appropriate TRL?
- b. **Novelty:** Does the proposal contain genuine novelty in the context of industrial implementation and current commercially available technology? Is it being addressed elsewhere (internationally)?
- c. **Relevance:** Is the proposal relevant to the interests of industrial partners or represent the opportunity to significantly improve the U.K.'s manufacturing capability?



- d. **Ambition:** Does the proposal offer suitable levels of challenge, ambition and risk? It is expected that risk mitigation is given careful thought, especially where industrially based demonstration or experimentation is proposed.
- e. **Impact:** Is the approach credible and will the team be able to deliver? If feasibility is demonstrated is there potential for developing a larger collaborative project at higher TRLs or privately financed commercialisation of the technology?
- f. **Planning:** How well has the proposal been planned? Are the requested resources appropriate to deliver the proposed programme within the timeframe and have they been fully justified?



10. Equality & Diversity

The University is committed to supporting and promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities. We aim to establish an inclusive environment and welcome diverse applications from all protected characteristics. We particularly encourage applications from women, as this cohort is under-represented in engineering across academia and industry.

11. Terms & Conditions of the award

Successful applications, if not already subject to an existing contractual agreement with Swansea University, will be required to enter into a legal binding agreement that will incorporate the [UK Research and Innovation standard terms and conditions](#) of the grant.

12. GDPR

The data you provide will be utilized and deleted in alignment with GDPR requirements, by following the [SUSTAIN Privacy Policy](#).

13. Contacts

Applicants are asked to consult their university's research office ahead of submitting a proposal to this call, in order to be clear of the requirements for meeting the deadlines set out in page 1 of this document. The award is contractually and financially from Swansea University to the University in question. If you have further questions, please e-mail info.sustainsteel@swansea.ac.uk

Completed forms must be submitted electronically in **PDF format** to:

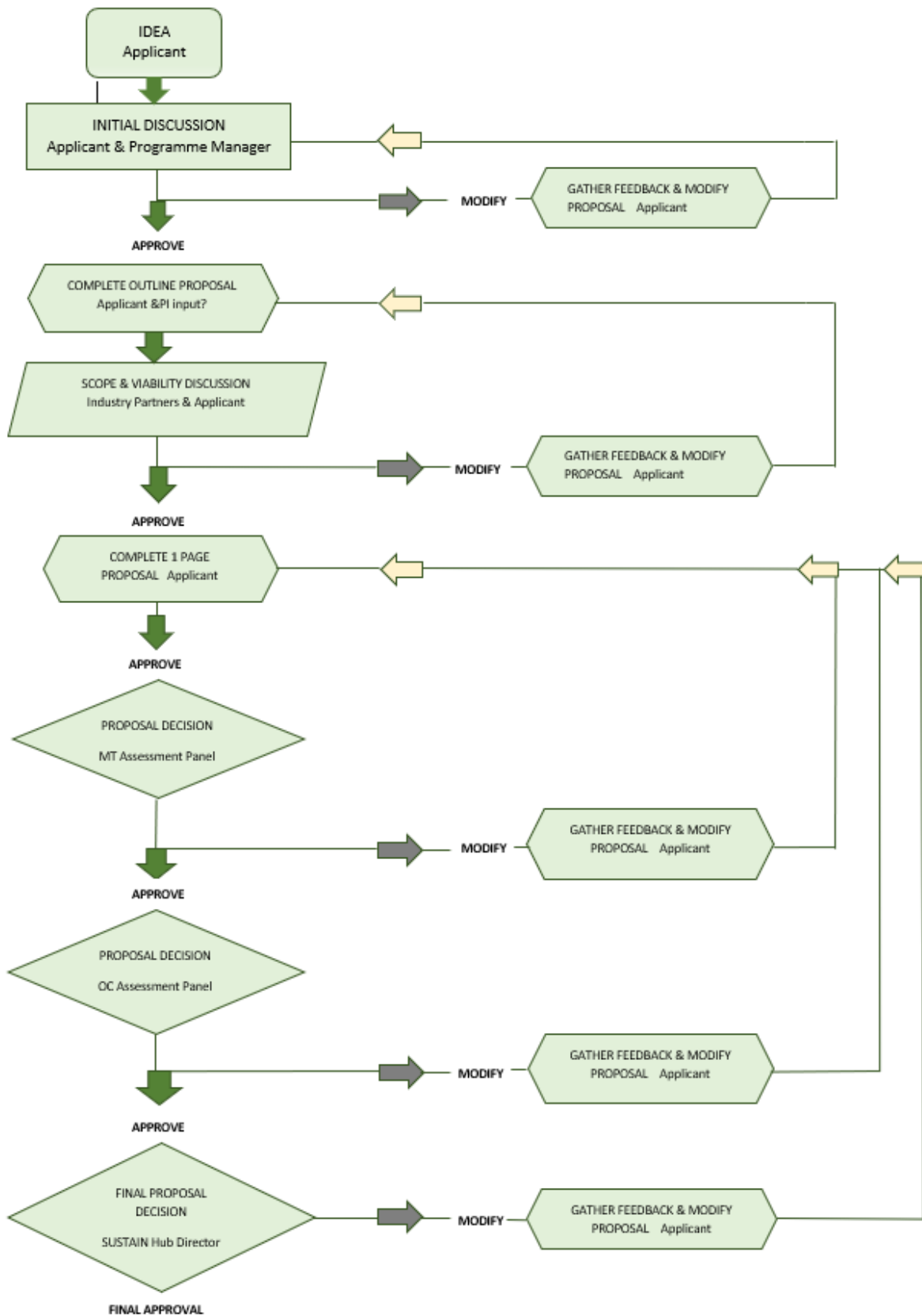
info.sustainsteel@swansea.ac.uk

The SUSTAIN team will acknowledge receipt of each proposal, assign a unique number and advise an estimated date for the outcome of their application.

14. **Application Form:** Please submit a one-page project proposal in PDF format to:

info.sustainsteel@swansea.ac.uk

APPENDIX 1 – TECHNOLOGY TRANSLATION FUND PROCESS FLOW



APPENDIX 2 - APPLICATION FORM



Technology Translation Fund Application	
Name & Date	Organisation
Name of Technology Translation Fund Idea	Amount of funding requested
Start Date of Proposal	End Date of Proposal
A clear statement of how the project matches the scope of the fund (Maximum 100 words)	
Evidence to support your idea, such as discussions that have taken place with applicable stakeholders from your institution and industry showing the outcome of such discussions (Maximum 500 words)	
Please list Letters of Support included in this application from your institution and all concerned industrial partners. Please attach Letters of Support to the end of your application.	
How your research supports the SUSTAIN Grand Challenges / KPI's (Maximum 100 words)	
Funding breakdown	



TOTAL PROJECT COST:
STAFF COSTS:
TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE:
CONSUMABLES:
OTHER:

END