

Exploration Education and Outreach Announcement of Opportunity

Closing Date: 12 noon, 14 July 2017

Introduction

The UK Space Agency is making up to £140K available to organisations that are seeking to run schemes that support the education and outreach aims and objectives of the UK Space Agency's exploration programme.

Background

The UK Space Agency [Education and Skills Strategy](#) supports the aims of the UK Space Agency (set out in the [UK Civil Space Strategy](#)) by encouraging the use of space as an inspiring context for learning as well as by addressing the skills needs of the space sector and by raising awareness of the UK's space programme.

The UK Space Agency's exploration programmes provide a range of opportunities for inspiring learning and interest in UK space activities and science in general.

Purpose of the AO

The purpose of this AO is to support the Agency's education aims and objectives and to build upon the Agency's investment in two areas:

- The ISS and SciSpacE programmes for human spaceflight and microgravity research
- The Aurora programme for robotic exploration of Mars

Proposals for human spaceflight and microgravity research may link to any element of these areas, including:

- Tim Peake's flight
- Human spaceflight and exploration in general
- Scientific research that utilises the International Space Station
- Scientific research that uses other space environments and analogues.

£140K is available in total in the scheme. We expect to award between 3 and 6 grants.

Projects may be targeted at specific audiences and may include:

- Delivery of curriculum enrichment activities
- Delivery of activities to promote careers in the space sector

Successful projects must:

- Support the education aims of the UK Space Agency
- Include a comprehensive evaluation strategy.
- Be completed by 31 March 2018

Details of the Grant

- Grants **may** cover all types of expenses, including:
 - contributions to salaries
 - costs of materials
 - travel and subsistence.

- Grants **may not** cover:
 - fees for people already in paid employment where the proposed work could be reasonably undertaken as part of their normal duties
 - unclear costings and those which do not appear to be based on valid estimates
 - expensive items (e.g. equipment or buildings) unless they are intrinsic to the success of the project
 - projects that would go ahead even without UK Space Agency funds.

- Grants awarded will be subject to standard BEIS grant terms and conditions.

Criteria and Review

Proposals will be judged by a review panel led by the UK Space Agency and supported by representatives of the UK space community. The review criteria will include:

- The impact of the project
- The size of the audience that will be reached
- The validity of the evaluation strategy that will be used
- The extent of alignment of the project to the UK Space Agency's education and outreach aims and exploration programme
- Value for money
- Track record of previous related projects

Judges will look favourably upon projects that leverage other sources of funding.

Proposals will be referred to a Review Panel, who will score each proposal against the set criteria and rank the proposals according to their scores. The Review Panel will meet to discuss and finalise marks and to allocate funds, with the top ranking awards most likely to be funded.

How to Apply

Applicants should complete the **application form** and a **full proposal** and send both to the UK Space Agency **no later than 12 noon on Friday 14 July**.

All applications received will be reviewed and successful applicants will be notified.

The full proposal must be no more than 10 sides of A4, with a font size no smaller than 11pt, and in .doc or .pdf format. There is no prescribed form or document template, but proposals should include:

- A description of your project plans, including delivery mechanisms
- Sources and status of other funding
- Budget breakdown
- Evidence/reasoning for audience figures
- Schedule
- Evaluation strategy
- List of any partner organisations

Submitting your application:

Please complete and submit the Exploration Education Grant Scheme application form **and** your full proposal to **Susan Buckle** either by e-mail (**susan.buckle@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk**) or by post to:

Susan Buckle
UK Space Agency
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1SZ

Any other material submitted will not be included in the grant assessment.