**INCUBATION FUNDING CALL 2017/18**

The space sector is a UK success story, with growth averaging over 8% per annum over the last decade, a turnover in excess of £11bn per annum and ambitious plans to achieve 10% of the global space market by 2030. Much of this growth is anticipated to come from companies using space-derived data or services in a broad range of different sectors (the “downstream”).

This call supports the aims outlined within the space sector’s Innovation and Growth Strategy: Space Growth Action Plan[[1]](#footnote-1), published in 2013, which highlighted the need to grow space in the regions by providing a supportive business environment to assist entrepreneurs to grow and develop small companies. One method of doing this is through expanding support for business incubation centres across the UK.

This call is aimed at business incubation centres who wish to support start-up companies across the breadth of the space sector through providing funded places, providing access to facilities and resources and collaborating on events and initiatives with other business incubators. The overriding aim is to extend the network of business incubators supporting space companies across the UK, deliver an effective national capacity for space company incubation and ensure shared best practice. The call is deliberately flexible to reflect and build upon the varying local offers for business incubation. Applicants should clearly indicate:

* How the funding will be used to help them to support start-up companies
* How the applicant will target start-ups from the space sector
* How many companies will benefit from Agency support
* How the applicant will ensure these companies are appropriately linked into local and national support programmes (including space-specific activities)

We would expect applicants to demonstrate that they provide the following services before they would be considered for grant funding:

* A robust and defined selective application process for incubated companies
* A diverse business support offering including business planning and strategy, IP protection and exploitation, financial management, marketing and market entry strategies
* Strategic opportunities for investor presentations
* Individual coaching and mentoring opportunities
* Incubated companies are engaged in a community both within and external to the centre
* High quality accommodation

It is recommended that where possible applicants should supply letters of support from their Local Enterprise Partnership (England), Devolved Administration (Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland) or a local University with their application, outlining any alignment that their region’s local plan has to business incubation and local investment.

Successful applicants will be required to join a self-managed network of incubators focused on sharing best practice and offering value-added support across the network’s members and may be required to host one quarterly incubator meeting during the term of their agreement.

The UK Space Agency will award grants of up to £50k to each successful applicant. This will be the **only** open call during the financial year 2017/18.

***N.B. Incubators who are in receipt of funding from previous business incubation calls are ineligible to apply for funding from this call.***

Quarterly reporting on key performance indicators will form part of the contract with the successful applicants. Grants must be claimed in full **no later than** 28 February 2019 on the successful delivery of the deliverables outlined in the grant agreements, banking details will be required prior to the signing of the contracts. Payments will be made following the satisfactory receipt of completed quarterly reports and delivery of agreed objectives.

Please include an outline in your application the amounts and the approximate dates you anticipate drawing upon the grant funding, as the agreement covers two financial years - 2017/18 and 2018/19.

**Please complete ALL of the following sections**

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| **Contact Details**Name (inc title)Position Company NameAddressPost TownPost CodeCountyTelephone NumberMobile NumberEmail address |

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| **Amount of funding requested (up to £50k total)**F/Y 2017/18 :– F/Y 2018/19 :- |

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| **Proposition****Fully** outline below your proposition for the funding requested, including what will be funded, anticipated impacts and timescales. |

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| **Performance metrics, including deliverables, costings and timescales**Please outline your deliverables, costings and timescales below |
| **Deliverables** | **Costings** | **Timescales** |
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| Supporting documentation submitted\* (Please delete) **Yes/No** |

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| --- | --- |
| Signature | Date |

\*It is recommended that applicants should supply letters of support from their Local Enterprise Partnership (England), Devolved Administration (Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland) or local University with their application, outlining any alignment that their region’s local plan has to business incubation and local investment.

Any questions should be sent to Helen Roberts no later than **Friday 27 October 2017** via email helen.roberts@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk and applications **must be** submitted electronically using this application form **no later than 9am Tuesday 31 October 2017**. Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be made via email, if acknowledgement has not been received within 48 hours of submission please contact Helen Roberts.

Following a shortlisting process, if your application is successful it will then go on to be judged by a panel of experts on 6 November 2017. This will take place at the UK Space Agency HQ in Swindon, where you will be required to appear in person to respond to any questions posed by the panel.

1. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/298362/igs-action-plan.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)