

News story: Leading UK aerospace designs: funding for projects

The UK's aerospace sector is among the best in the world, with a [turnover of £35 billion and hosting 123,000 direct employees in 2017](#). To remain at its peak, the UK needs to explore emerging opportunities and markets.

Organisations are invited to express an interest in a competition worth £150 million a year with their innovative ideas for future aerospace design and manufacture. The best projects will then be invited to apply for grant funding.

The investment is part of the £3.9 billion [UK Aerospace Research and Technology \(UKART\) programme](#), a partnership between government and industry, managed by Innovate UK, the [Aerospace Technology Institute \(ATI\)](#) and the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#).

Moving up

This competition provides funding for industrial research or capital investment projects that align with the [UK Aerospace Technology Strategy](#).

Priority areas include whole aircraft design and integration, aerostructures, advanced systems and propulsion technologies.

Project themes are detailed in the UK Aerospace Technology Strategy, and include:

- improving UK whole-aircraft design and system integration
- future-proofing advanced systems technologies in the UK – specifically, smart, connected and more electric aircrafts
- securing the UK's world-leading position in large, complex aviation structures, particularly wings
- developing more efficient propulsion technologies, including large turbofans

Competition information

- the competition will open on 3 June 2019, and the closing date is 19 June 2019
- UK-based business, research and technology groups and academic organisations can be the project lead, depending on the project type
- businesses could get up to 70% of their costs for industry-led research projects, or up to 50% of their costs for capital investment projects
- organisations must sign up to the [ATI framework agreement](#)
- an online briefing event will be held on 10 June 2019 where organisations can find out more about the competition and applying