

# [News story: More efficient, high-quality buildings: apply for funding](#)

UK organisations can apply for a share of up to £12.5 million for projects to transform how the construction sector delivers new buildings.

The funding is provided by [UK Research and Innovation](#) and delivered through Innovate UK.

## **The need to transform**

There is a shortage of high-quality housing in the UK and we need more affordable, energy-efficient and healthier places to live and work. This is creating demand to produce buildings more quickly, safely and with lower emissions.

For this to happen there has to be a revolution in the construction sector. Currently it lags behind other industries for productivity – and hasn't changed much in more than 40 years.

So through the [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#) government is supporting a transformation of UK construction.

[Find opportunities for business and research to transform construction.](#)

The £170 million government investment, matched by £250 million from industry, will create new construction processes and techniques for building manufacture.

This £12.5 million funding competition is one element of the programme, which also includes funding for research, a new construction network and the creation of an active building centre and innovation hub.

It is a core part of the [Construction Sector Deal](#), which sets out its vision for a future-proofed sector that can provide affordable, energy efficient homes in days or weeks, rather than months, and at a third of the cost.

[Find out more about the Industry Sector Deals](#) and how they're supporting [the modern Industrial Strategy](#).

## **Tackling the construction lifecycle**

We are looking for projects that address the 3 main stages of the construction lifecycle. Specifically, they should focus on how we:

- design and manage buildings, such as using digitally-enabled performance

management systems

- construct high-quality buildings, taking a manufacturing approach
- power those buildings, for example, through the use of active energy components

The idea proposed should ultimately lead to cost savings, reduced delays and improvements in collaborations, productivity and outputs.

## **Delivering the modern Industrial Strategy**

To meet the objectives of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, projects must do one or more of the following:

- encourage the adoption of design approaches that favour pre-manufacturing and assembly
- increase productivity on construction projects
- develop scalable methods to speed up construction and provide greater certainty over budget and time
- develop integrated building components that generate, manage and store energy at lower costs
- reduce the construction and whole-life costs of built assets
- improve the whole-life value and safety of built assets, while reducing the carbon impact of that asset

Depending on the length, projects can be for feasibility studies, industrial research or experimental development.

## **Competition information**

- this competition opens on 23 July 2018, and the deadline for applications is midday on 19 September 2018
- a UK business must lead the project, working with other businesses, research, public sector or third sector organisations. At least one SME must be involved
- total project costs can be between £25,000 and £500,000 for projects that last 6 to 12 months, or between £250,000 and £1 million if they last 12 to 24 months
- you could attract up to 70% of your project costs
- projects must start by December 2018
- as part of the competition you can attend a briefing event, where you'll find out more about how to create and submit a quality application.

Register for:

- [London](#) or [an online webinar](#) on 23 July 2018
- [Bristol](#) on 24 July 2018
- [Birmingham](#) on 25 July 2018

[Find out more about this competition and apply.](#)