

# [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.](#)

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## **Policy paper: Litter strategy for England: progress reports**

This report sets out what the government and others have been doing to reduce litter in England since we published our [litter strategy](#). The report includes case studies and updates provided by members of the Litter Strategy Advisory Group.

It also sets out some further activities we plan to carry out over the next year.

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## **Notice: Competition guidance: SBRI Perth Smart Energy Network project**

This is a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition. It is open to organisations of any type and size, from any sector. 100% funding is available to successful applicants.

Please read the [full competition scope](#) before you make your application.

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## **Policy paper: Charging Infrastructure Investment Fund**

*Updated:* Update to text following closing date

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced at Budget 2017 that the government would, in partnership with the private sector, establish a new electric vehicle charging infrastructure investment fund.

The aim of the fund is to catalyse the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is required to support the electrification of vehicles, by providing greater access to finance on a commercial basis.

The deadline for the request for fund managers has closed. We are now in the

process of carrying out the necessary due diligence and engaging with the relevant parties, ahead of selecting the preferred bidder(s). Further updates will be provided in due course.

#### **Contact us**

All questions should be submitted to: [ciif@ipa.gov.uk](mailto:ciif@ipa.gov.uk)

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## **[News story: Committee on Radioactive Waste Management visit to Sellafield](#)**

The visit gave the committee the chance to observe progress on decommissioning progress first hand. Sellafield Ltd currently manages roughly 60% of the UK's waste inventory by volume and will be a key stakeholder for any potential UK Geological Disposal Facility.

The committee received updates on Sellafield Ltd projects and organisational structure. Committee members visited the site, observing ongoing decommissioning projects such as the First-Generation Magnox Storage Ponds (FGMSP), the Windscale Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (WAGR) boxes, and the Highly Active Liquor Evaporation and Storage (HALES).

The Committee observed significant progress in decommissioning and remediation since their [last visit on 5 October 2017](#).