Webinar: ISCF Enabling Research in Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging

11:00 – 12:30
Monday 10 February 2020
1. Welcome
Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introduction to ISCF Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Challenge
3. SSPP Challenge Activities
4. SSPP Enabling Research Call
5. Q&A
We work with the government to invest over £7 billion a year in research and innovation by partnering with academia and industry to make the impossible, possible. Through the UK’s nine leading academic and industrial funding councils, we create knowledge with impact.
Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

• The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund is part of government’s Industrial Strategy, the long-term plan to raise productivity and earning power in the UK.

• The fund is a core pillar in the government’s commitment to increase funding in research and development by £4.7 billion over 4 years to strengthen UK science and business.

• It will invest in the world-leading research base and highly-innovative businesses to address the biggest industrial and societal challenges today.
Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

AI and data economy
Putting the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution

Ageing society
Harnessing the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society

Clean growth
Maximising the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth

Future of mobility
Becoming a world leader in shaping the future of mobility
2. Introduction to the ISCF Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Challenge
Background to SSPP

**AIM**

To establish the UK as a leading innovator in smart and sustainable plastic packaging for consumer products, delivering cleaner growth across the supply chain, with a dramatic reduction in plastic waste entering the environment by 2025.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To unlock a significant overall increase in R&I spend (government and industry).
- To deliver R&I to support more sustainable plastic packaging in line with the UK Plastic Pact targets.
- To increase UK plastic packaging supply chain collaboration.

**TARGET**

[Image of UK Plastics Pact logo]

Underlying principle...
Pact Targets

- 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable.
- 70% of plastic packaging effectively recycled or composted.
- 30% average recycled content across all plastic packaging.
- Take actions to eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use packaging items through redesign, innovation or alternative (reuse) delivery models.
3. SSPP Challenge Activities
The SSPP Challenge

Core

A £2M investment to drive collaboration and systemic change

Enabling Research

An £8M investment in academic research to support industry needs

Dynamic R&D

An £50M investment in business-led R&D, including ‘first of a kind’ demonstrators
Projects out of Scope

We are not funding projects which:

- do not have plastic packaging as the primary focus
- encourage or facilitate the export of plastic packaging whilst still classified as a waste
- use or manufacture either a liquid fuel or a solid fuel, such as refuse derived fuel or solid-recovered fuel, as the primary product
4. SSPP Enabling Research call
Aim of the Enabling Research workstream

To support research that addresses widely understood problems in relation to plastic packaging, whose solutions are unknown today, but which if solved will unlock existing barriers to fundamental systems change and make an important contribution to achieving the objectives of the SSPP Challenge.
SSPP Enabling Research objectives

The specific SSPP programme objectives that apply to the Enabling Research workstream are:

▪ To deliver innovative R&I to support more sustainable plastic packaging in line with the UK Plastics Pact targets.
▪ To increase UK plastic packaging supply chain collaboration in order to improve sustainability.
▪ To increase understanding of environmental impacts of existing and new plastic packaging to inform new and improved design, technologies and processes.
▪ To increase understanding of behaviour on the sustainability of plastic packaging to inform new and improved design, technologies, processes and business models.
What we’re looking for

Your research should:

▪ be problem-led, addressing widely understood problems associated with plastic packaging for consumer products (e.g. food, household, cosmetics, medical etc.)

▪ be framed in the context of its impact on activities and environmental consequences across the plastic packaging supply chain

▪ draw upon relevant expertise from across multiple academic disciplines, where appropriate to the proposed research

▪ where relevant, engage with project partners from the business community and third sector organisations to co-create research questions and collaborate with on research activities

▪ consider implications and outcomes for relevant actors across the plastics supply chain
Indicative research themes

Indicative research themes that span the packaging supply chain include:

▪ Behavioural insights (consumer and business)
▪ Supply chain, and business and economic models
▪ New plastic packaging designs,
▪ New recyclable materials,
▪ Recycling technologies and processes
▪ Environmental impacts of existing and new plastics
Funding available

To fund a breadth of research projects from across the plastic packaging supply chain that addresses current knowledge gaps hindering transformation of the plastic packaging system.

- Up to £8m (80%FEC) is available. UKRI anticipates supporting around 10 projects.
- A range of projects lasting between 18 – 36 months will be supported to develop a balanced portfolio.
- Projects lasting 36 months are expected to start from 1 November 2020.
Eligibility

This call is open to **UKRI eligible** research organisations fitting the criteria below:

- UKRI grants may be held at approved UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), approved Research Council Institutes (RCIs) and approved Independent Research Organisations (IROs).
- Non-academic organisations such as businesses, NGOs, local and national policymakers are encouraged and should be recorded as Project Partners.
- Investigators may participate as a Co-I or a PI in a maximum of two proposals submitted to this call and only one of these may be as the lead Principal Investigator (PI).
- IIASA Co-investigator eligibility rules apply to this call. Further details are available at: [https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/application/eligibility/](https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/application/eligibility/).
Application and Assessment timelines

**Application**
- Outline proposal closing date: 16:00 17th March 2020
  - *Submitted using the Research Councils’ Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S)*
- Full Proposal closing date: 16:00 16th June 2020
  - *Submitted using the Research Councils’ Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S)*

**Interview panel:** w/c 14th September 2020

**Assessment**
- Outline Proposals will be assessed by an independent interdisciplinary panel.
- Full Proposals will be peer-reviewed with selected proposals invited to interview panel. Applicants will receive the external reviewer comments to help prepare for the interview. PIs will not have the opportunity to send a written response prior to the panel.

**Contact:** plastics@nerc.ukri.org
Application Requirements and Criteria – Outline Proposals

Application includes:

- Completed Je-S form
- Case for Support – no more than 4 sides of A4, including:
  - the proposed research, its context and how it addresses the assessment criteria
  - a track record of the team
  - the contribution of any project partners

Assessment Criteria

- Fit to Scheme
- potential for Excellence
Application Requirements – Full Proposals

Application includes:

- Completed Je-S form
- Case for Support – up to 8 sides of A4, including:
  - an outline of the project and anticipated outcomes that describes the proposed work and how it address the assessment criteria
  - a track record of the team
  - the contribution of any project partners
- CVs
- Justification of resources
- Outline data management plan
- Letters of support – for project partners ONLY
Assessment Criteria – Full Proposals

Scientific Excellence

- Demonstrate the originality and quality of the proposed research
- Potential to address the problem(s) in relation to plastic packaging as appropriate to the Enabling Research workstream
- Extent to which solutions will unlock existing barriers to fundamental systems change

Fit to scheme

- Contribution towards delivering systemic changes that support UK Plastics Pact targets
- Potential to deliver sustainable environmental, societal and/or economic benefits
- Complementarity with UK research already funded in the area across the UKRI portfolio
- Complementarity with institutional strengths
- Potential for collaboration across the plastic packaging supply chain, where appropriate.
- Potential to leverage match funding from project partners, where relevant.
# Key dates

The key dates for this call are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outline proposal deadline</td>
<td>17 March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outline assessment panel</td>
<td>w/c 20 April 2020</td>
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<td>Invitation to submit full proposals</td>
<td>w/c 27 April 2020</td>
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<td>Full proposal submission deadline</td>
<td>16 June 2020</td>
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<td>External peer review</td>
<td>July – mid-August 2020</td>
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<td>Full proposal interview panel</td>
<td>w/c 14 September 2020</td>
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<td>Funding decision communicated</td>
<td>End September 2020</td>
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<td>Grant start date</td>
<td>1 November 2020</td>
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Thank you