

## **FAQs for Collaborative Research Grants:** **Industrial Partnership Awards and 'stand-alone' LINK grants**

These FAQs are to assist on the common questions usually asked by the community when applying for Industrial Partnership Awards (IPAs) or 'stand-alone' LINK grants. If you have any queries not covered by these FAQs or you require further information please contact Jo Holborn ([industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk) tel. 01793 413339).

### **Both schemes (IPA and LINK)**

#### ***“When can I apply for an IPA or LINK grant?”***

Both schemes operate within the responsive mode framework, so the same deadlines apply, as published at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/deadlines.aspx>.

#### ***“Can I have industrial partners who are based overseas?”***

The primary aim of the 'stand-alone' LINK scheme is to benefit to the UK research base and UK economy. Therefore, the collaborating companies should have an R&D or manufacturing site in the UK. However, where a suitable company cannot be found in the UK, an overseas company may be used. Such collaborations are judged on a case by case basis and clear justification must be provided. You should contact BBSRC before applying to discuss any international collaborative partners. [industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk) tel: 01793 413225

#### ***“What attachments do I need to provide when I apply?”***

IPAs and LINK projects require two additional attachments. Firstly, all industrial partners should provide a **letter of support**, confirming their contribution to the project and justifying the value of any in-kind contributions. It is expected in the case of multiple companies collaborating that each provides a separate letter. It is helpful if these letters also explain why the company wants to work with the specific research organisations on this specific project and how the company and sector will benefit from the research.

Secondly, the research institution **technology transfer office** (or equivalent) should provide a letter stating that they are aware of the collaboration and should it be funded, and appropriate collaboration agreement will be reached. The letter should consider management of IP and its distribution and should be signed off by the budget holder or equivalent of the collaborating company.

#### ***“What goes in the collaboration agreement?”***

BBSRC is not prescriptive in what a collaboration agreement should entail and the research institution and their collaborators are best placed to manage these agreements on a case by case basis. However, many guides and model agreements exist to facilitate these sometimes difficult negotiations. BBSRC encourage the use of the Lambert tool kit for collaborative research (<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/lambert>).

The collaboration agreement must be submitted to BBSRC within 3 months of the proposed start time of the project.

### ***“How do I flag my application as IPA/LINK in Je-S?”***

The grant type can be selected via a classification option in Je-S.

- Select Council: 'BBSRC'
- Select Document Type: 'Standard Proposal'
- Select Scheme: 'Responsive Mode'
- Select Call/Type Mode: 'Responsive Mode **DEADLINE**'
- In the Document Menu select 'Classifications' and then 'Grant Type'
- Select the appropriate classification (Industrial Partnership Award, LINK, etc.)

If you have any further difficulties using Je-S, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or [JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk) (staffed Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm UK time, excluding bank holidays and other holidays).

### **'stand-alone' LINK grants**

#### ***“What contributions do I need from industry for a LINK project?”***

In order for an application to be eligible under the LINK scheme, at least 50% of the full economic cost must come from industry. This can be either cash- or in-kind. The applicants can request the remainder of the costs from BBSRC. If successful, 80% of the remaining costs will be awarded, with an expectation that 20% of the remaining costs be met by institutional core funds.

Example figures:

LINK Scheme	Total cost of the whole project (academia and industry)	Minimum industry contribution (cash and / or in-kind)	Maximum amount requested from BBSRC	If successful, amount awarded by BBSRC (80% of that requested)	If successful, amount expected from institutional core funds (20% of that requested)
Percentages	100%	50%	50%	40% (80% of 50%)	10% (20% of 50%)
Example figures	£1,000,000	£500,000	£500,000	£400,000 (80% of £500,000)	£100,000 (20% of £500,000)

#### ***“Is it true that cash contributions count twice as much as in-kind contributions?”***

If the industry partners are willing to invest cash in a LINK project, the cost of the work conducted at the academic institution(s) can be greater than 50% of the full economic cost of the project. However, the institution finance office must subtract the cash contribution from the cost of the work before requesting the remainder (a maximum of 50% of the full economic cost of the project) from BBSRC.

Using the example figures above, if the industrial partner was contributing £250,000 cash and £250,000 in-kind, the academic researchers could conduct work to a total cost of £750,000. This value can be broken down into the industry contribution of £250,000 and £500,000 requested from BBSRC.

### ***“How are LINK applications assessed?”***

LINK applications are assessed within the responsive mode framework using the standard assessment criteria. However, referees and committee members acknowledge that LINK applications are often more applied than standard responsive mode grants. LINK applications are ranked with all responsive mode applications. After the ranking, LINK applications receive a significant uplift. However, grants must still be internationally competitive to receive funding.

Applications must be within BBSRC remit and must be submitted by BBSRC-eligible academics. BBSRC has strict criteria regarding the necessary financial contributions (see above).

### ***“What are acceptable in-kind contributions?”***

Eligible in-kind contributions include:

- The salaries of the personnel working directly on the project;
- Materials consumed in the course of the project;
- Capital equipment purchased or constructed for the project, less its estimated value to the business at the end of the project;
- Sub-contract charges and consultancy fees and cost of equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity, bought from outside sources project management costs such as travel, office space etc. that are addition to those normally involved;
- An allowance for reasonable overheads;
- Reasonable costs associated with any losses incurred by the industry partner.

Please note that access to data should be provided free of charge.

If you have other in-kind contributions in mind but are not clear whether they meet BBSRCs guidelines, the office will be happy to discuss them with you. It is expected that industrial partner justifies the value attributed to the in-kind contributions in their letter of support.

## **Industrial Partnership Awards (IPAs)**

### ***“How are IPA applications assessed?”***

IPA applications are assessed within the responsive mode framework using the standard assessment criteria. However, referees and committee members acknowledge that IPA applications are often more applied than standard responsive mode grants. IPA applications are ranked with all responsive mode applications. After the ranking, IPA applications receive a modest uplift. However, grants must still be internationally competitive to receive funding.

### ***“What contributions do I need from industry for an IPA project?”***

In order for an application to be eligible under the IPA scheme, at least 10% of the full economic cost must come from industry as a cash contribution. The applicants can request the remainder of the costs from BBSRC. If successful, 80% of the remaining costs will be awarded, with an expectation that 20% of the remaining costs be met by institutional core funds.

Example figures:

IPA Scheme	Total cost of the whole project (academia and industry)	Minimum industry contribution (cash only)	Maximum amount requested from BBSRC	If successful, amount awarded by BBSRC (80% of that requested)	If successful, amount expected from institutional core funds (20% of that requested)
Percentages	100%	10%	90%	72% (80% of 90%)	18% (20% of 90%)
Example figures	£1,000,000	£100,000	£900,000	£720,000 (80% of £900,000)	£180,000 (20% of £900,000)

Additional in-kind contributions from industry are welcome but they neither count against the industry contribution nor the total cost of the project.

If you are having difficulty calculating the required contributions, remember to calculate the full economic cost of the project before you consider who is paying for it or conducting it.

*BBSRC October 2012*