

ADF Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is this call for? How much is this “application oriented”?

QuantIC’s mission is to work closely with industry to translate quantum science into new technological applications and revolutionise imaging across the industrial, scientific, security and consumer markets.

The utilisation of our Partnership Resource Funding (PRF) has been designed to align with this mission and to complement the overall strategy of the Hub.

In phase two of QuantIC our Partnership Resource Funding (PRF) will be divided into two separate streams as requested by EPSRC:

- The Industrial Partnership Fund (IPF) (£2M at 80% FEC) to support the commercial uptake of new quantum imaging technology either in collaboration with industry or through new venture creation.
- The Accelerated Development Fund (ADF) (£2M at 80% FEC) to increase the pipeline of new quantum technology into the Hub.

The two schemes are distinct in their aim: the aim of the Industrial Partnership Fund is to accelerate commercial uptake of new imaging technology whereas the aim of the Accelerated Development Fund is to bring new technology and ideas into QuantIC. This difference is also reflected by the requirement, for example, of an industrial co-applicant for IPF application. In ADF, industry can be a partner, but this is not a requirement. This recognises that ADF projects can be at lower TRL. The projects should, however, ultimately aim to develop detechnology that is useful to industry and society and not just further the understanding of quantum science.

2) What is the difference of this ADF call from the more industry focused IPF call?

See answer to previous question.

3) Should I submit the Finance table with the EoI?

Yes, please.

4) Any further document required (LoS) from HoS?

A letter of support is only required if your project costs exceed what ADF will fund and you require to leverage substantial resources from other sources to deliver the project. For example, if you claim that your institution will commit a studentship aligned with the project or if another funding source will part fund the project this contribution should be confirmed in a supporting letter. Leverage of additional funding/resources (institutional support, industrial support etc.) is strongly encouraged and will be taken into account in the evaluation process.

5) Is it worth highlighting the fact that the proposed project is a “follow up” from the activity of a QuantIC studentship?

How you make the case for your proposal would depend on the specifics of your project. There is no requirement for ADF applications to have received previous funding from QuantIC. There is however a restriction for ADF eligibility around current QuantIC members. Applicants that are currently funded through QuantIC are not eligible to apply. This extends also to researchers in their immediate groups.

6) Is there any limitation on how to use the budget? (Equipment, consumables, personel, travel, etc...)

The funding rules are:

- All proposals need to be costed on the basis of full economic costs (fEC). If a grant is awarded, QuantIC will provide funding at 80% of the fEC. The organisation must agree to funding the balance of fEC for the project from other resources.
- Eligibility of costs follows standard EPSRC rules; **funding for equipment above £10k is not allowed under this scheme.**
- Please provide accurate costs as part of your proposal, obtained from your finance office. A maximum of 10% variation in costs between EoI and full application will be allowed.
- The maximum award will be £250k (£200k calculated as 80% of the fEC) of the eligible costs sustained by the academic project partners. Larger value projects are eligible, but evidence needs to be supplied that sufficient funding to cover the additional project costs has been secured as a contribution from another funding source.

7) Is it preferable to involve company in the project also if already involved in QuantIC?

Having an industry partner is not a requirement in ADF; the assessment criteria for ADF, the impact, industry and user involvement are detailed below. You are asked to demonstrate that your project can deliver industrial and societal impact and that can be achieved through one or more of the avenues exemplified below. It is clear that having an industry partner might help demonstrating the relevance of the technology to advancing commercial state of the art but it is not the only way of demonstrating societal and industrial impact.

Moreover, the involvement of users can span a larger community than just industry, as your users could be for example in other academic disciplines or in society. The proposal asks you to involve the user types that are appropriate for your project.

- A. Potential of the proposed work to deliver industrial and societal impact. For example, does it address one (or more) of the questions below:
 - a. Does the project have the potential to advance commercial state of the art in imaging systems? (and/or)
 - b. Is the project addressing a timely societal issue? (and/or)
 - c. Is the project addressing a long-standing imaging problem with wide implications to other disciplines?
- B. Does the project reflect appropriate involvement of users?
 - a. Do the project design, scope and objectives reflect an accurate understanding of user needs?
 - b. Is the involvement of users appropriate for the project?