

Welcome




Department for
Science, Innovation
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Competition Briefing

5G INNOVATION REGIONS

01 August 2023, 10am - 11:30pm



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AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10:00 - 10:05 | Welcome and introductions |
| 10:05 - 10:10 | Setting the policy context |
| 10:10 - 10:20 | Overview of project ambitions |
| 10:20 - 10:50 | Timelines, funding and application processes |
| 10:50 - 11:20 | Q&A |
| 11:20 - 11:30 | End of event: closing remarks |



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Welcome and introductions

Keith Bullock

Future Network Programmes Director, DSIT





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Setting the policy context

Presenter: Jamie Wzietek

Head of Strategy and Policy, Future Network Programmes, DSIT



● Wireless Connectivity



The UK's telecoms networks provide the infrastructure that underpins the economy

- ↳ Help realise the ambition set out in the **Digital Strategy** to harness digital transformation to build a more inclusive, competitive and innovative digital economy, and deliver on the **Science and Technology Framework**.
- ↳ Improving digital connectivity is one of the government's **Levelling Up priorities**.



Advanced wireless technologies, including 5G, have the potential to unlock significant economic and social benefits for all of the UK

- ↳ 5G in particular is a foundational technology for other advanced technologies. Future telecoms is one of DSIT's Critical Technologies - advancement and development of 5G networks and technologies will be a crucial to achieving strategic advantage in this prioritised area.



Wireless Infrastructure Strategy - provides a framework to ensure that people, businesses and public services across the UK are able **realise the full benefits of 5G and advanced wireless connectivity** as soon as possible.

- ↳ Many of the economic and societal benefits of advanced wireless connectivity will be realised at the local level.
- ↳ Local and regional authorities can play a crucial role in facilitating the deployment of 5G and leading adoption and innovation in public services.



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Overview of project ambitions



5G Innovation Regions



Announced as part of the UK Wireless Infrastructure Strategy, DSIT is investing £40 million of capital funding in 5G Innovation Regions.

DSIT aims to establish a diverse portfolio of up to 10 5G Innovation Regions across the UK with different geographic, sectoral and technological challenges and solutions.



Strategic programme objectives

5G Innovation Regions will receive funding to lead on delivering the Government's vision for communities across the UK to take full advantage of the transformative effect that advanced wireless connectivity and digital technologies can provide - part of our wider ambition to drive telecoms innovation, ensuring more secure and resilient networks and a more diverse and competitive supply chain.

5G Innovation Regions will:

- **Drive economic growth** in places by supporting places in adopting wireless connectivity for services based around local opportunities for growth.
- **Accelerate commercial investment** in 5G and other advanced wireless technologies by aggregating and demonstrating demand.
- **Foster the emergent 5G ecosystem** by enabling “learning by doing”.

● Activities

- Each 5G Innovation Region will be expected to tailor their scope, activities and expenditure based on local requirements to support the strategic programme objectives. Our ambition is to see each 5G Innovation Region run a number of 'enabling activities', to help build the business case to attract commercial investment during and beyond the grant funding period, and to provide evidence to demonstrate the case for an ongoing 5G adoption initiative in the region.
- 5G Innovation Regions should leverage DSIT funding to run sector specific activities based around identifying and delivering regional projects with strategic value, aimed at validating the widespread adoption of 5G use cases and services in key economic sectors.
- Deployment of network infrastructure should be limited to that which fulfils the requirements for the adoption of use cases and services, rather than funding network infrastructure focused on improving (or extending existing) wireless coverage.
- Based on DSIT's evaluation of previous funded programmes, we would expect successful 5G Innovation Regions to carry out the following enabling activities:
 - ↳ **Developing the regional ecosystem**
 - ↳ **Identifying strategic sectoral projects and use cases**
 - ↳ **Mobilising and delivering strategic projects and use cases**
 - ↳ **Developing a sustainability plan**

● Expected characteristics of an applying local authority

DSIT would expect that a successful application for a 5G Innovation Region would show evidence of:

- Established, or looking to establish, digital adoption and growth plans, utilising advanced wireless networks in public sectors, services and industry vertical sectors.
- Ability to demonstrate areas of unmet digital potential, e.g. recognised industrial or public service sectors with low demand but high potential for adoption.
- Experience of identifying gaps in local digital ecosystems, and development of interventions to address those gaps.
- Experience of scaling projects based on existing small-scale proven activities, and creating longer-term project viability; while attracting inward investment and applying digital solutions.
- Appropriate expertise and capacity in place across the local/regional authority, e.g. in planning, economic development, “smart” city/region development etc.
- Ability to access the spectrum and network capabilities required to deliver the project, or have a clear plan to acquire or build them in a timely manner.
- Consideration of the value of promoting open standards, encouraging interoperability between vendors and operators.
- Secure by design: implementing and developing security best practice and standards consistent with UK security policies.



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Timelines, funding and application processes



● Competition Timelines

| Milestones | Date |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Competition launch announcement | 31 July 2023 |
| Clarification questions receipt deadline | 03 September 2023 |
| Applications deadline | 10 September 2023, 23:59 |
| Assessment of bids | Mid September 2023 |
| Successful applicants notified | Mid-Late October 2023 |
| Mobilisation period | November 2023 |
| Grant claim period | November 2023 - 31 March 2025 |

● Funding available

We are investing **£40 million** in this competition for the period **up to 31 March 2025**.



- ✔ DSIT expects to make available grant funding of up to a maximum of £3.8 million to each successful project.
- ✔ DSIT will not be mandating any level of match funding from local authorities, but it is expected that proposals may include other sources of funding (both other public funding and potential private funding), and this would be reflected in proposals in the potential of greater aspirations for delivery.
- ✔ For LAs in England and Wales, grants will be awarded under section 31 of the Local Government Act. Where we cannot fund under the LGA, i.e. for projects from Scotland and Northern Ireland, we will fund under section 8 of the Industrial Development Act. However, we will we will aim to ensure those authorities do not incur a higher burden than those funded under the Local Government Act, in line with the New Burdens Doctrine.

● Competition Application Process

The competition guidance and supporting documentation are on gov.uk. Key points to note are:



- Local authorities must submit their applications by 10 September, 11.59pm, via government's Find a Grant service.
- DSIT expert assessors will then score the applications and notify all applicants of the outcome. There will be no interview process.
- All eligible and in-scope applications will receive assessor feedback upon request.
- DSIT will work with successful applicants during the mobilisation period over November, agreeing Memoranda of Understanding or Grant Funding Agreements, as relevant.
- Delivery is expected to commence in November..

● Eligibility criteria - must haves



1. Applicants must be an eligible UK local authority (as defined in the guidance).
2. High risk vendors (HRVs) are not permitted to participate in projects: bidders should refer to the [NCSC advice on the use of equipment from high risk vendors in UK telecoms networks](#). Public funds must not be used to pay for any HRV products or services through the competition. We understand that, in the case of MNOs with pre-existing HRV equipment in their networks, these networks may reasonably be used to build testbeds. However, funding must not be used to buy additional equipment or services from HRVs.
3. This competition will not fund any procurement, commercial, business development or supply chain activity with any Russian and Belarusian entity as lead, partner or subcontractor. This includes any goods or services originating from a Russian and Belarusian source.



Bids will be assessed against evidence provided in two key areas:

1. Section A. The vision (Business case) (50%)

- ***A1: What will your project deliver at a regional level? (Triage question, 12.5%, 400 words)***
- ***A2: What will your project deliver at a sectoral level? (12.5%, 400 words)***
- ***A3: How will you ensure that the environment created by your proposal will support the development of an ecosystem for 5G (and other advanced wireless technologies) within the UK (12.5%, 400 words)***
- ***A4: What local strengths and commitment will support delivery of the 5G Innovation Region (12.5%, 400 words)***

1. Section B. Delivery of the vision (Programme details) (50%)

- ***B1: Provide a detailed project plan (Triage Question, 12.5%, 400 words)***
- ***B2: How will the project be governed, decisions made and risks managed (12.5%, 400 words)***
- ***B3: Provide an outline proposal for the sources and uses of funds for the project and explain how the uses represent value for money (12.5%, 400 words).***
- ***B4: What is your approach to ensuring that the project will be sustainable after the period of DSIT funding? (12.5%, 400 words)***

● Subsidy Control



- DSIT seeks to deliver 5GIR through a “no subsidy” route to local authorities, i.e as an intra-governmental funding transfer, from DSIT to the local Authority, under the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022. This means that Public Authorities will need to ensure they are working and complying with the Act.
- Authorities receiving funding as part of this programme of work are responsible for all spend incurred which may have subsidy implications depending on their onward relationships with parties receiving funding. This approach may require the use of the Research and Development Streamlined Route by the local authority, or another compliant route. The approach proposed by local authorities should be made clear within applications for funding.
- Applicants should obtain their own independent subsidy control legal advice during delivery and, if requested to do so, commit to sharing that advice with DSIT and its professional advisers.
- If an applicant receives a subsidy in breach of the domestic subsidy control arrangements that applicant may be required to repay any subsidy received to the value of the gross grant equivalent of the subsidy, plus interest.
- Further information is available in the application guidance.

● Benefits Monitoring and Dissemination



- Benefits reporting metrics will be shared with successful applicants during mobilisation stage.
- We are mandating quarterly progress benefits realisation and lessons learnt reporting
- Lead authorities and other project suppliers are expected to participate in evaluation activities, both during and after the lifetime of the project.
- Projects are encouraged to look for opportunities to collaborate with other ecosystem participants, on topics of shared interest.
- Collaboration and dissemination work will be supported by the [UK Telecoms Innovation Network \(UKTIN\)](#).

● How to write a good application



- ✓ **Read the guidance carefully** - DSIT does their best to spell out exactly what they expect to see in a bid. They appreciate there's a lot of material to digest but it's all there to help craft high quality responses.
- ✓ **Use straightforward language** - communicate plans clearly and succinctly. Assessors can tell when a response is all jargon and no substance - it won't give you a higher score if it makes it harder for them to understand what you're planning on doing.
- ✓ **Don't go over the word limit!** - Assessors may have to read through dozens of bids so that's why there's a word count. They won't read beyond the word limit as that could give some an unfair advantage over those who stick to it.

● For more information

If you have any questions or would like more clarification, please contact us at the mailbox below. Your question/s and respective answer/s will be aggregated, anonymised and added to a Q&A document which will be published on gov.uk. The deadline for submitting clarification questions is 03 September 2023.



**email: 5gadoption-
enquiries@dcms.gov.uk**



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Q&A





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End of event: closing remarks





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