



UK-HyRES:

EPSRC Hub for Research Challenges in Hydrogen and Alternative Liquid Fuels

Pre-announcement of Calls for Research Project Funding

An exciting and unique opportunity to be part of a major new hydrogen research programme in the UK

Subject to review, UK-HyRES (see summary on next page and also <https://ukhyres.co.uk>) plans to issue three calls to fund new innovative and impactful hydrogen research projects. There is a £4.7M (Full Economic Cost, FEC) flexible budget for these projects, with the first call in May 2023. This is a pre-announcement to encourage early project development.

Projects should

1. be based at organisations (usually universities) that are eligible for EPSRC funding,
2. normally involve multi-disciplinary investigator teams mainly in engineering and the physical sciences though involvement of research elements in the social sciences will be strongly encouraged where appropriate,
3. involve substantive co-funding, co-creation and co-management with one or more industry, business, policy, civic and third-sector partners normally in the UK,
4. normally align with one or more key research areas identified during the Co-ordination phase of UK-HyRES (see workshop reports on <https://ukhyres.co.uk>) (fuel calls and non-green hydrogen are outside the remit of the Hub, see https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-hydrogen-programme-to-establish-hydrogen-research-hubs/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery),
5. align with national policy including the Hydrogen Strategy,
6. have clearly articulated positive and sustainable impacts in key areas such as carbon emissions to Net Zero, energy security, cost competitiveness, wealth creation and social acceptance,
7. last up to 3 years, with maximum funding per project of about £425k FEC (shorter projects, funded pro rata, may include "sprints" of 3-6 months duration),
8. have an end date by 30 April 2027,
9. have clearly articulated plans to embed principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Responsible and Ethical Research and Innovation and Development of Early Career Researchers and
10. consider research collaboration outside UK-HyRES including with the HI-ACT Hydrogen Systems Integration Hub (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/cesi/hi-act/>).

Project proposals will be assessed anonymously ("double blind"). Separate capacity and capability statements provided by the research teams will be assessed independently in order to inform funding decisions. An expert panel will rank and make a final decision about which projects will be funded. As well as research excellence, the panel will ensure that projects cover the breadth of the UK-HyRES remit.

Successful projects will benefit from strong support from the Hub's management teams, constructive reviews, networking with Hub partners and opportunities to shape and take part in the Hub's annual congresses and other events.



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Summary

- ❖ Flagship UK Hub for hydrogen research
- ❖ Unique network and collaboration for stakeholders
- ❖ Addressing critical needs to achieve Net Zero
- ❖ Global centre of excellence

Building on national co-ordination activities since April 2022, UK-HyRES (<https://ukhyres.co.uk>) will be a unique, five-year **EPSRC Hub for Research Challenges in Hydrogen and Alternative Liquid Fuels** (H&ALFs) that is due to start on 1 May 2023, subject to review. The Hub will be based at the University of Bath (with Professor Tim Mays as Director) alongside Professor Rachael Rothman (University of Sheffield) and Professor Shanwen Tao (University of Warwick) as Co-Directors and will involve partner universities throughout the UK. We will identify, prioritise and seek solutions to research challenges to accelerate the uptake of sustainable H&ALF technologies on the UK's journey to Net Zero 2050. Themed, multidisciplinary and co-ordinated research in the Hub will cover the entire value chain from production via storage / distribution to end use of H&ALFs, with applications in low carbon mobility, heating and power and in industrial decarbonisation.

A key feature of the Hub will be strong and sustained collaboration with industry, business, civic and third sector partners from the outset. The Hub will be supported initially by a £10M investment from the EPSRC, leveraged co-funding of at least £10M from industry and other partners and over £9M in initial contributions from the Hub's seven core universities (Bath, Portsmouth, Sheffield, St Andrews, Surrey, University College London and Warwick).

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