

**Enhancing Competitiveness Infrastructure Award**

The Welsh Government Office for Science invites universities in Wales to bid for capital funding to purchase equipment for research in the academic disciplines of STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and Medicine). This funding call is open to all universities in Wales.

Two levels of funding are available:

1. **Large scale, potentially multi-user, equipment grants**. Proposals can request up to 95% funding for specific pieces of research equipment with 5% match being provided by the host institution. Alternatively applications may include higher contribution from the host institution and the Welsh Government match enables the purchase of equipment that the university would otherwise not be able to buy alone. Bids that would free up resources within the host institution to buy additional pieces of equipment are also eligible. Awards under this call could also include the possibility for commercial partners to access equipment
2. **Small scale equipment grants**. These awards will be up to a max of £10k. Bids could be made for resources to purchase smaller pieces of equipment that researchers have found find difficult to resource through normal funding routes.

The total fund available is **£1.2 million**.

Applications should be in the form of a two page case for support that includes the following information:

 **PI name and Host Institution**

**Strategic Case**: Indicate which of the Welsh Government’s strategic priorities are met by the research enabled by the equipment requested and describe how these priorities will be met. Please indicate how the requested item(s) fits the strategy of your department and institution. Highlight any links to current or previous Sêr Cymru investments.

**Item:** Name and specific model of the item of equipment

**Vendor:** If a preferred vendor is known, this should be stated along with the reasons why. The mechanism that will be used to identify the preferred supplier should be articulated.

**Description:** Briefly describe the item of equipment and its primary functions.

**Cost:** Set out the expected cost of the item(s) of equipment in pounds sterling (inclusive of VAT) and list any associated maintenance or support costs.

**Usage**: Describe the scientific research enabled by the equipment and/or the value added to existing research programmes. Indicate the proportion of equipment time that will be available for use by the group managing the equipment, and any other groups, and how users will be prioritised.

**Enhancing Competitiveness**: Describe how the item of equipment will enhance your competitiveness in accessing research funding from funders such as those who are part of UKRI. Will the items proposed help you to gain data to put into a new application for funding *e.g.* will the equipment enable a higher throughput, a step change in your research or produce better quality data?

**Support:** Indicate how the item of equipment will be supported and maintained.

**Ensuring Maximum Value**: Explain how the requested equipment will fit with other items of equipment, infrastructure and people support already at your university.

**Contribution from Other Sources:** Please describe here what contributions to the cost, operation or maintenance of the item of equipment will be found from other sources.

**Applications should also include short CVs (2-3 pages) for the Principle and Co-Applicants, highlighting each investigators four best papers**

Proposals will be considered according to the following criteria, taking into account the advice of an independent peer review committee:

* Past scientific success of the applicants and their potential for future success.
* Demonstration of research linkages.
* The quality, breadth and strategic relevance of the future scientific successes that will be enabled by the equipment.
* The potential to generate data for future external funding applications and/or to accelerate impact of the research.
* The plans to maximise access to the equipment.
* Value for money - including the efficiency and affordability of running and access costs, and discounts on capital purchase costs etc.
* The ability of the applicants to purchase and provide Welsh Government with invoices no later than the 31st March 2020.

Applications should be submitted to Dr Delyth Morgan (delyth.morgan@gov.wales) by **27th January 2020**. Any questions about the call can be sent to the email address given above or you can call 03000 251 383