

ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL

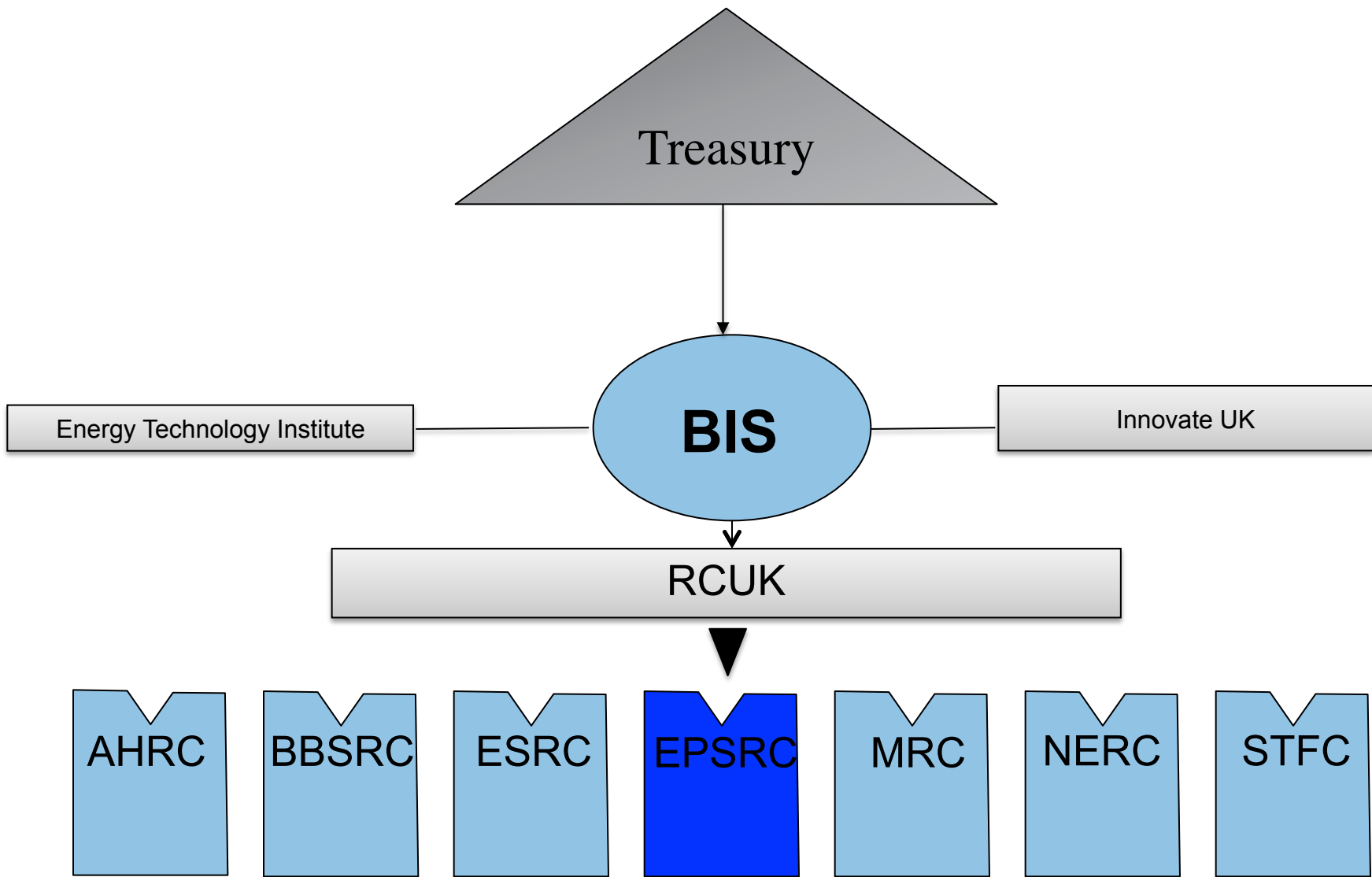
Introduction to EPSRC



EPSRC

Pioneering research
and skills

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



Discover

Understand

Integrate

Validate

Deploy

EPSRC discovery-led research



Innovate UK research and challenge programmes

EPSRC user-inspired research



Industrial research & technology programmes

Product-specific programmes

EPSRC Centres



Industrial research centres

Innovate UK Catapults

EPSRC Fellowships

EPSRC Industrial Doctorate Centres

EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training

The UK Innovation Landscape

EPSRC

Investing in research for discovery and innovation

- EPSRC is at the heart of discovery and innovation.
- We invest in long-term, fundamental engineering and physical sciences research and training in the UK.
- Committed to excellence and impact, we support the talented scientists, engineers and postgraduate research students who through their research, discover new knowledge, explore new ways of thinking and drive innovation.
- Our research ranges from physics, chemistry and mathematics to materials, computing and engineering.
- Our research provides underpinning knowledge that informs other fields such as the life and medical sciences.
- Our research places the UK as a leading global research nation. It saves lives, creates prosperity, protects the environment and inspires future generations.

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OUR STRATEGY

One vision

*Our vision is for the UK to be the best place
in the world to research and innovate*

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Two goals

RESEARCH and DISCOVER

For the UK to be positioned as an international research leader, where discovery thrives and our support generates the highest quality research in engineering and physical sciences

RESEARCH and INNOVATE

For the UK's excellent research base and talented researchers to work with us to accelerate innovation for the benefit of society and the economy





Three Strategies

Balancing capability

To maintain the UK's reputation for excellence and keep it at the heart of global research and innovation

Building leadership

To nurture the next generation of skilled researchers and innovators and provide the knowledge and skills vital to a healthy, sustainable and prosperous society

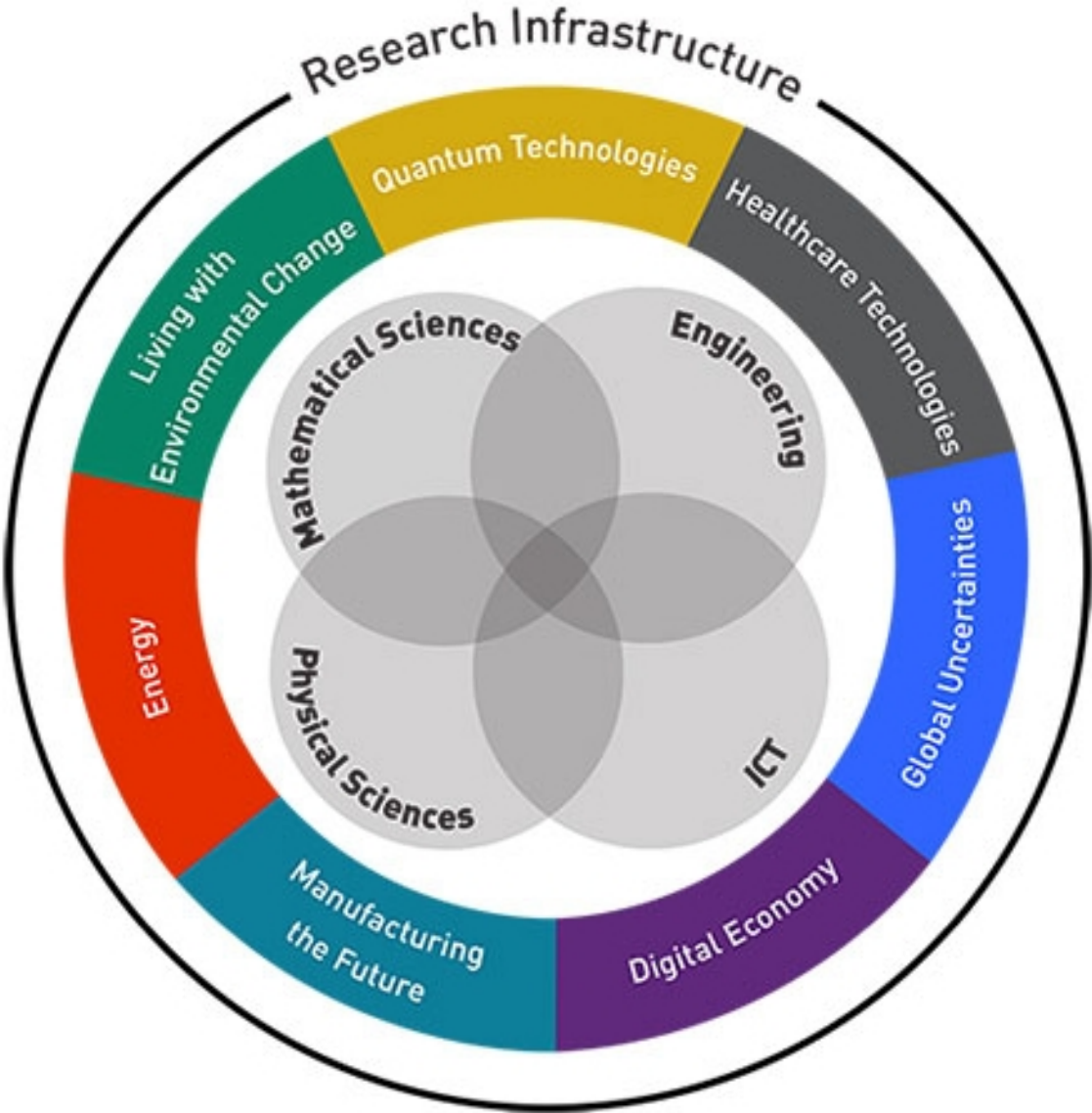
Accelerating impact

To support more extensive and rapid exploitation of research outcomes

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What EPSRC looks like



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LwEC Theme Principal Objectives (within EPSRC)

The Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) theme involves 22 partners across government that fund environmental change related research.

Partners work together across six challenge areas of **climate, ecosystems, resources, health, infrastructure** and **society** with the ambition of providing government, business and society with the knowledge, tools and foresight to be able to adapt to, mitigate and capitalise on environmental change.

The role of engineering and the physical sciences is particularly important in enabling progress in areas such as resilient **national infrastructure, water security** and protection against high impact extreme events, including **flooding**.

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Standard Grant Scheme

- Research grants
- Workshops
- Networks
- Overseas Travel Grants
- Feasibility studies

Standard Grant Scheme

- No limits on duration or resource
- May apply at any time
- Theme prioritisation panels held approximately four times a year
- Primary assessment criterion is Research Quality

Managed Activities

Why?:

- Develop a new area of research?
- Expand or strengthen an area of research?
- Add to community building and networking?
- Support new people?
- Getting money out of the door by a certain date?
- In response to a suggestion from a Strategic Advisory Team (SAT)?
- In response to a review or other report?

What?

- Budget (size, time constraints)
- Research need (adventure, multidisciplinary)
- Collaborators (Themes, RCs, Industry, Innovate UK)
- Target Community (Research areas, Multidisciplinary, Career Stage)

Schemes, Research Proposals, Networks, Sandpits

First Grant Scheme

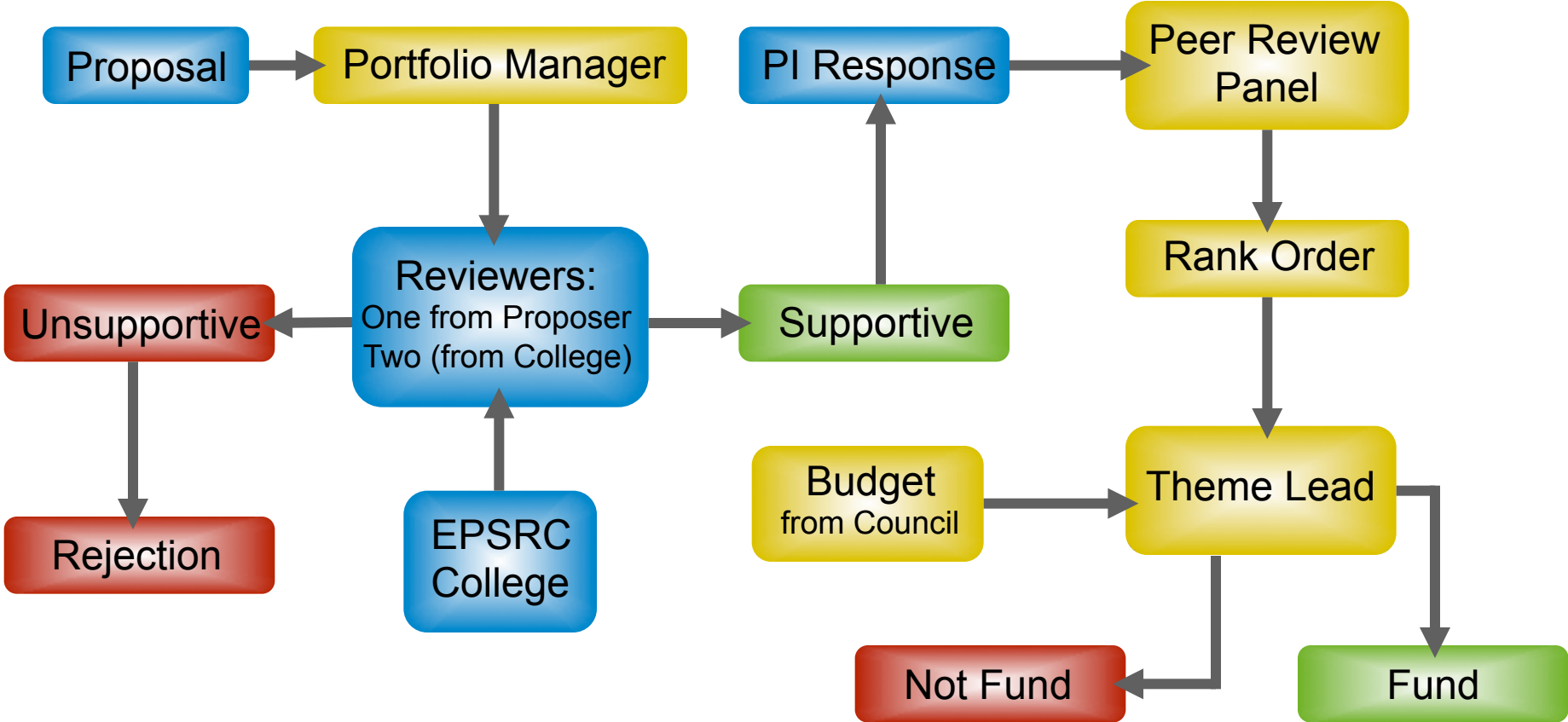
- First application to EPSRC (not including fellowships)
- Within 36 months of first academic post in the UK
- Within 10 years of completing your PhD
- Capped at **£125k** at full economic cost
- Limited duration of **up to two years**
- First Grants are only compared to other first grant applications at panel meetings
- No deadline, may apply at anytime throughout the year

A Proposal to EPSRC – What's in it?

Submitted through Je-S (ask your research office!)

- Proposal Form – filled in on the Je-S System
- Track Record (2 pages)
- Case for support (6 pages)
- Pathways to Impact (2 pages)
- Workplan (1 page)
- Justification of Resources (2 pages)

The Peer Review Process



Assessment criteria:

- **Quality** – *novelty, timeliness, context, ambition, adventure, methodology*
- **Importance** – *underpin or contribute to other research areas, societal challenges, UK economy, emerging industry*
- **Pathways to Impact** – *effectiveness of planned activities for dissemination, relevance, knowledge exchange*
- **Ability to Deliver** – *track record, balance of skills*
- **Resources and Management** – *effectiveness of planning, resources are justified*

National Importance

National Importance	Pathways to Impact
Why the research is important for the UK	Describes how researchers will achieve maximum impact from the project
Priority of the research to the UK over a 10-50 year timescale	Specific activities such as workshops and public engagement
No assumptions about the probability of the benefits being fully delivered	

- Both relate to the identified **potential benefits** expected to arise from the research



The PI Response

The PI Response Is Important

- Panels put great emphasis on the quality of the PI response
- Read the reviewer comments carefully
- Be specific, and respond to **all** the issues raised
- Do not use positive comments from one reviewer to rebut concerns raised by another
- Do not attack your reviewers – take a break before responding
- A good response can outweigh negative reviews

The Role of a Panel

Panel members act as a jury, weighing the evidence in front of them

The Role Is:

- To generate a rank-ordered list of proposals in priority order for funding

Based Upon:

- The assessment of the reviewers
- Proposers' response to reviewers



Panel meetings will all be conducted electronically from June 2014.

Assessment Criteria for Research Proposals

Panels Should:

- Grade the proposals as presented – the programme of work should not be changed
- **Not** re-review proposals
- **Not** adjust resources requested, unless guided by reviewers
- Only suggest to invite re-submissions of proposals which:
 - Can be improved substantially with minor changes
 - Will be competitive for funding in revised form



The Role of EPSRC

During the Meeting

- To facilitate the meeting process and advise on EPSRC rules and procedures
- Record recommendations and comments
- Feed-back any additional advice to the applicant from the Panel, if requested to do so

Outside the Meeting

- Determine the funding cut-off
- Allocate resources to competing proposals



Tips for Increasing the Chance of Success

Myths and Misconceptions...

- “The Cheaper, The Better” X
- “There’s an ideal time-span of grant” X
- “Only safe projects get funded” X
- “EPSRC can’t handle multi-disciplinary proposals” X

