

# Preparing an EPSRC Research Proposal

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# EPSRC Research Structure

## ● **Business Innovation**

- **Digital economy (£103m) (£46m research, £34m Training)**

- **Energy (£220m)**

- **Nanoscience through engineering to application (£39m)**

- **Towards next-generation healthcare (£36m)**

## ● **Towards better exploitation (£866m)**

- **User-led knowledge and skills, user-led research**

# EPSRC Digital Economy

'Digital Economy links the world class research base in ICT with the other disciplines needed to deliver its benefits and match those with a strong user pull to deliver a programme of **multidisciplinary, user focussed research** aimed at building a base of people and expertise to put the UK at the forefront of the Digital Economy. Through the Digital Economy we will make a step-change in the type of **user engagement** to pursue key research challenges so that the transformational possibilities of ICT are fully realised. The initiative will concentrate on those areas where the management and presentation of information can have maximum transformational impact: **healthcare, transport, and the creative industries**. Participating Research Councils are EPSRC, AHRC, ESRC, MRC and STFC.'

# Research Programme Activities

- Feasibility Projects (January 2008)
- Research Clusters (January 2008)
  
- Doctoral Training Centres (July 2008)
  
- Research Fellowships (October 2008)
- Research Hubs (November 2008)
  
- **Research Projects (January - March 2009)**
- Sand Pits, Ideas Factories

# Indicative Scale

- 36 month project :1 Researcher full time with FEC  
£350,000

Costs include:

- staff support RA &/or PGR student
- travel and subsistence
- consumables
- equipment
- other: publications, recruitment, etc

# Research Funding

Opportunities for

- new forms of research
- research support
- cooperation and collaboration
- research students
- travel and conferences

# Conventional EPSRC Partner Collaboration

- Principal investigators, co-investigators and joint submissions
- proof of 'user' engagement (research, policy, practical)
- explicit support from organisations (letters)
- reports, workshops, meetings, seminars, funding, payment in kind
- *Digital Economy Research Hubs: partnership funding*
- Academic-led, Science and Engineering-led

# The Proposal Process

## Version 1

- Submit outline proposal (3 pages) before fixed deadline
- Selection invited to submit full proposal
- Peer Review
- Response
- Decision

## Version 2

- Submit full proposal (6 pages) before fixed deadline
- Peer Review
- Response
- Decision

# Proposal practicalities: Joint electronic submission (Je-S)

- All Research Councils (ESRC, AHRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, NERC and PPARC ...)
- All submissions, reviews, reporting,...
- Need account (online and helpline support)
- Academic institutional support (and requirements)

[www.rcuk.ac.uk/je-s](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/je-s)

# EPSRC Document Menu

Scheme: Programme Grants

Project Title:

Organisation: Department:

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## Summary Details

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## Critical Proposal Details

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## Proposal Management

# EPSRC Proposal: Critical Documents

- Track record (2 pages) - institutions and individuals
- **Case for Support (6 pages)**
- Justification of Resources (1 page) - all major items (staff, equipment, travel,...)
- Workplan (1 page)
- *Covering Letter, Letters of Support,..*

# EPSRC Case for Support

- objectives of the research
- how does it relate to other research
- contribution to theory
- general or specific practical applications
- contribution to methodology
- practicalities and methods of research
- why those methods were chosen
- structure, phasing of the research
- dissemination of results

# EPSRC Proposal

1. Title
2. Introduction
3. Background (State of the Art)
4. Aims and objectives
5. Methods and Approach
6. Research Team & Collaboration
7. Dissemination of Results: deliverables
8. Timetable of Activities

**Scheme:** Research Grants  
**Project Title:** Studying the Academic Research Funding Process  
**Organisation:** King's College London **Department:** Management

## Summary of Resources Required for Project

Summary fund heading	Fund heading	Full economic cost	RC contribution	% RC contribution
Directly Incurred	Staff	125,881.25	100,705.00	80
	Travel & Subsistence	16,800.00	13,440.00	80
	Equipment	0.00	0.00	80
	Other Costs	6,800.00	5,440.00	80
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>149,481.25</b>	<b>119,585.00</b>	
Directly Allocated	Investigators	16,161.45	12,929.16	80
	Estates Costs	26,000.00	20,800.00	80
	Other Directly Allocated	0.00	0.00	80
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>42,161.45</b>	<b>33,729.16</b>	
Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	122,000.00	97,600.00	80
Exceptions	Staff	37,800.00	37,800.00	100
	Other Costs	9,720.00	9,720.00	100
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>47,520.00</b>	<b>47,520.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>361,162.70</b>	<b>298,434.16</b>	

Staff type	Months
Investigator	3
Researcher	36
Technician	0
Other	0
Visiting Researcher	0
Student	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>



Full Economic Costs  
 Justification of Resources

# EPSRC Reviewers

**Scheme:** Research Grants  
**Project Title:** Studying the Academic Research Funding Process  
**Organisation:** King's College London **Department:** Management

Please enter 1-2 academic reviewers

Reviewer Name	Organisation or Address	Department or Town	Email Address
<a href="#">edit</a> Professor Christian Heath	King's College London	Management Centre	christian.heath@kcl.ac.uk <a href="#">delete</a>
<a href="#">edit</a> Dr J Hindmarsh	King's College London	Management Centre	JON.HINDMARSH@KCL.AC.UK <a href="#">delete</a>

<a href="#">F00559D</a>	Professor	C	Friend	Cranfield University	Finance Office	clifford.friend@cranfield.ac.uk
<a href="#">F02119K</a>	Dr	CM	Friend	Oxford Instruments Ltd	Abingdon	chris.friend@oxinst.co.uk
<a href="#">F60636J</a>	Miss	LA	Friend	University of East Anglia	Biological Sciences	L.Friend@uea.ac.uk
<a href="#">F57682F</a>	Ms	MA	Friend	University of Sussex	Media and Film Studies	M.Friend@sussex.ac.uk
<a href="#">F03688K</a>	Professor	P	Friend	University of Oxford	Nuffield Dept of Surgery	peter.friend@nds.ox.ac.uk
<a href="#">F00561F</a>	Professor Sir	R	Friend	University of Cambridge	Physics	rhf10@cam.ac.uk

# Supporting the Proposal

## EPSRC Attachments

**Scheme:** Research Grants  
**Project Title:** Studying the Academic Research Funding Process  
**Organisation:** King's College London **Department:** Management

Document type: Justification for Resources (exactly 1) ▼

Filename	Description	Type
<a href="#">IMDECase4Support.doc</a>	Case For Support	Case For Support
<a href="#">Justification of ResourcesKCL.</a>	Justification of Resources	Justification for Resources
<a href="#">LuffCV.doc</a>	CV	C.V.
<a href="#">Letter of support.doc</a>	Letter of support from software company	Letter of Support
<a href="#">AIST.pdf</a>	Letter of support agreeing access	Letter of Support
<a href="#">cover letter.pdf</a>	Covering Letter	Proposal Cover Letter

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# Assessment

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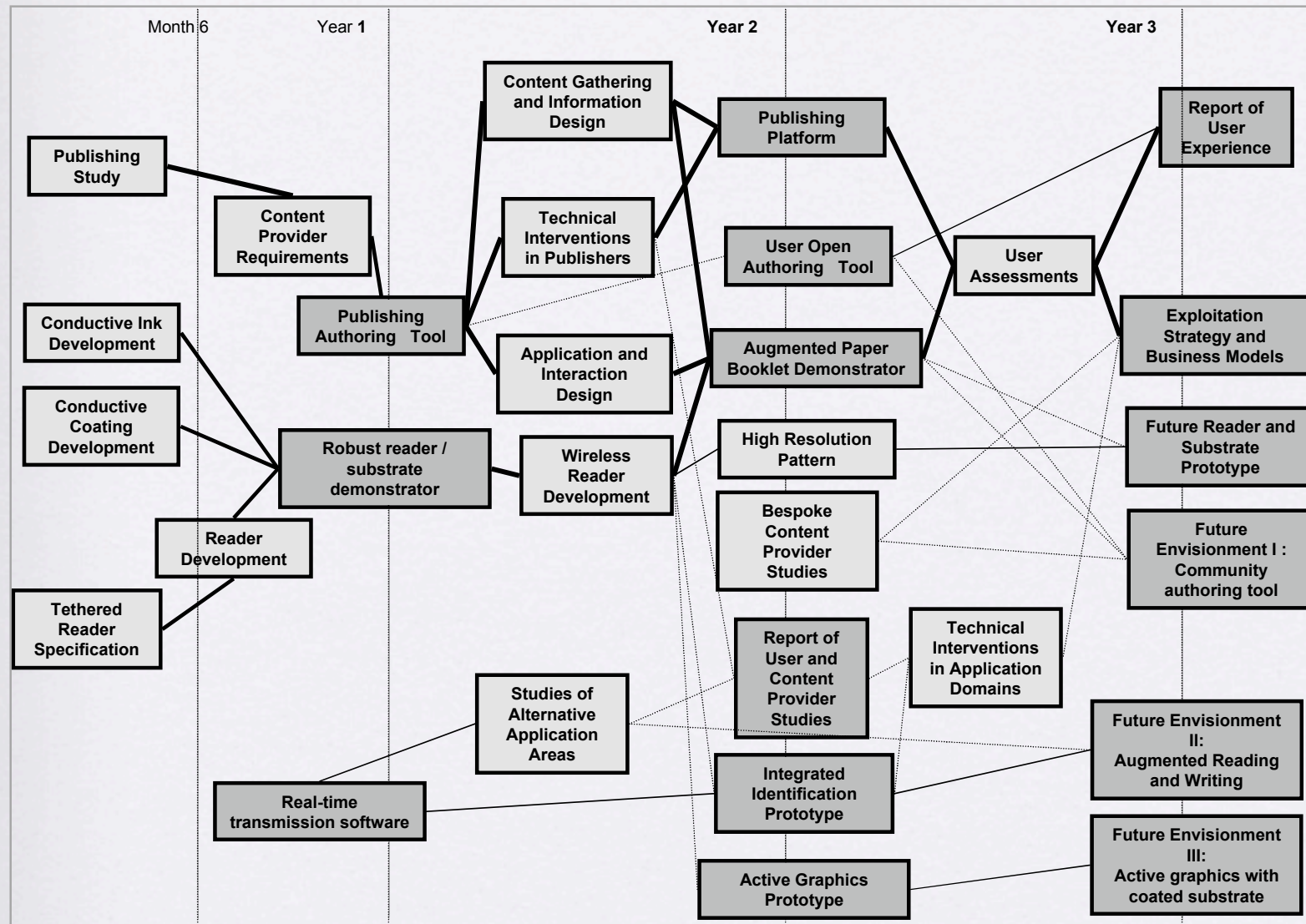
[View Reviewer Expertise](#)

- Significance and Potential of the Research
- Degree of Novelty or Risk
- People and Development
- Collaboration
- Ability to Deliver the Proposed Research
- Planning and project management, including timescales, methodology, management of risks and dissemination plans
- Resources Requested
- Knowledge transfer / exploitation
- Summary

# Work Packages

- Division into coherent groups of activities
  - Sub-division onto tasks
  - Assign partner as work package leader
  - Assign partners to work packages
  - Deliverables and Milestones
- 
- Integration vs fragmentation
  - Regular deliverables, across partners, limited numbers
  - Timing of annual review

# Example Plan



# Dissemination

- Papers, journal articles
- Website, wiki, newsletters, magazines, user generated sites...
- Conferences, fairs, demonstrations
- Workshop, seminars
- Focus groups, steering committees
- Exhibits and exhibitions