

# University of Glasgow Critical Technology Innovation Fund (CTIF)

## Pathway 1: Market Discovery

### Application Briefing Document

The Critical Technology Innovation Fund (CTIF) aims to support the next stage in an innovation's commercial development journey, supporting projects that align to the sectors of Quantum, Photonics, Semiconductors & Biomedical Engineering.

The Programme offers support through two distinct Pathways:

- Pathway 1: Market Discovery
- Pathway 2: Prototype or Component Development & Demonstration

This briefing document relates to **Pathway 1: Market Discovery and Customer Validation**.

This fund is open to all academic staff (including post-doctoral researchers and PhD students<sup>[1]</sup>) and prospective University of Glasgow spin-outs.

**Please note, Honorary and Affiliate staff are not eligible for this funding opportunity.**

This fund enables projects to focus on the market discovery activities of innovative ideas that may have potential to become an innovation or commercial opportunity. CTI will assist project leaders to test and validate ideas and concepts, identifying gaps that need to be filled on an innovation journey and demonstrating the potential of new and groundbreaking critical technology discoveries.

CTI Pathway 1 aims to enhance market awareness and deepen the understanding of potential technology applications by supporting market discovery activities. This fund is ideally suited to applicants looking to explore the potential of their early-stage project to understand if their project addresses a market or customer need.

<sup>[1]</sup> In the case of PhD students, to be eligible for Fund monies, a Principal Investigator (UofG employee) Budget Holder must be identified for the Project; Foreground IP generated under this project will be wholly owned by the University. Where the applicant has at least partial ownership of background IP needed to exploit the foreground IP, this background IP must be assigned to the University as a precondition of receiving the funding.

The first round of funding is now open to applications with a **deadline of 12pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. Project applications are encouraged to be submitted early to support the review and decision process. If successful, projects will be asked to deliver their project within a 6-month timeframe. Please note further funding rounds may become available later in the year.

### What are the entry level criteria?

This call is open to staff members at the University of Glasgow who have a project idea and meet the following entry-level criteria:

1. Demonstrate interest and ambition to explore an innovation journey, and discover if there is market, commercial or industrial interest for a concept or technology.
2. Require support to engage and validate market or customer interest and can undertake customer discovery activities by September 2026.
3. There is potential for intellectual property protection (could be unpublished data/know-how or patent filing), and a discussion with the University Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Team has taken place (successful projects will be requested to engage with the IPC Team as part of project set up activities)
4. The idea or project aligns with the following sectors:
  - **Quantum**
  - **Photonics**
  - **Semiconductors**
  - **Biomedical Engineering**

Early career researchers and staff from the JWNC are encouraged to come forward for this call.

**Please note if you have applied for previous University of Glasgow innovation funding, you must demonstrate how your project is different from any previously funded projects and/or clearly demonstrate how the project has progressed since any previous funding has been received.**

### What funding and support is available?

Applicants can apply for **up to £10,000** of support. Applicants are requested to consider what funding they **need** to conduct eligible activities in a 6- month timeframe.

It is anticipated that projects applying to this pathway will undertake around 10 meaningful engagements to validate an idea, and feedback data will be gathered in the form of a report as a deliverable from funded activities.

## Eligible costs

Pathway 1 funding supports market discovery activities. Eligible costs include:

- Attending relevant commercial conferences/trade shows
- Attending meetings with potential end-users/customers
- Travel costs
- Relevant subsistence costs
- Materials to support customer engagement activities
- Professional services costs e.g. consultancy, market reports etc
- Staff costs- support for a project team member to undertake work on the project where the team member is not a full-time member of staff.

## Ineligible costs

Pathway 1 fund will not support the following costs

- R&D activities
- Shortfalls from research funded by other grants
- PhD fees
- Publisher costs associated with Open Access
- Costs associated with academic conference attendance
- Any other costs that do not relate to market discovery and customer validation.

## How to apply?

- The deadline for applications for all calls is **12pm (noon) Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**
- **Late applications will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to submit an application as soon as it is ready, rather than wait for the deadline.**
- All applications must include a completed and signed Application Form and Staff Costing Spreadsheet, if relevant.
- Application forms (in **Microsoft Word** format) and Staff Costing Spreadsheets (in **Excel** format) must be submitted electronically to [innovationandenterprise@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:innovationandenterprise@glasgow.ac.uk)

## What are the assessment criteria?

All applications will be checked for eligibility, and thereafter eligible applications will be assessed by a small expert panel comprising commercialisation and economic development expertise from the University of Glasgow and its partners. The panel will assess and prioritise applications with respect to:

- Overall alignment with the purpose of the Fund.
- The stage of concept/prototype development and intellectual property status.
- The market and impact opportunity

**The project should have a duration of up to 6 months. All project budgets must be delivered in full by 6 months of the return of the signed contract award letter.**

Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome on or around **31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**.

## What happens at the end of the project?

- Award recipients will be required to submit a short final report detailing project outcomes and feedback from discovery activities. A reporting template will be sent out to successful applicants on confirmation of award funding.
- Projects will be invited to meet with the CTI Committee, to talk through the project and next steps. The committee may recommend the applicant returns for further funding support or offers guidance on next steps.
- All awards must acknowledge their funding support in all publications, press releases and other communications materials as follows: Supported by the Critical Technology Innovation Fund.

*See appendices below for other Terms and Conditions and our Privacy Notice.*

## Appendix 1: Other Terms and Conditions

- Principal Investigators must be the main budget holder for project funds at the University of Glasgow and are fully responsible for all project reporting and leading the delivery of project activities.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to ensure that all proposed activities are in accordance with the University's [ethical guidance](#) and [Code of Practice for Research](#). All projects must ensure appropriate [project risk assessment](#) have been completed before beginning any funded activity (including where activity is not being completed by UofG staff or students).
- Applicants must apply best practice in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion according to [University policies](#), please also refer to courses housed on the Equality and Diversity Unit's Moodle portal.
- The University of Glasgow is committed to take proactive measures to address the climate crisis, please consider [sustainability goals](#) when planning and performing project activities.
- All applications selected for funding are additionally subject to all other research assurance processes at the University of Glasgow, including due diligence checks, purchasing and procurement guidelines, and ethical approval.
- A privacy notice on how the University of Glasgow will process your personal data in relation to your application can be found at the end of this document.
- It is a requirement that the applicant(s) gains approval for any internal costs associated with their application prior to submitting their application and for project related time commitments from their line manager.
- Early Career Researchers would usually be defined as those who are currently on fixed-term contracts or who are within 5 years (excluding any career breaks) of their first lectureship appointment.
- No additional funds will be made available to projects that exceed their budget, including those associated with unforeseen VAT charges. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their requested budgets are sufficient for all project-related costs.
- Decisions on funding award are final and not subject to appeal.

## Appendix 2: Privacy Notice

### Your Personal Data

The University of Glasgow will be what's known as the 'Data Controller' of your personal data processed in relation to your application to the CTI Fund. This privacy notice will explain how The University of Glasgow will process your personal data.

### Why we need it

We are collecting your basic personal data such as name and contact e-mail address in order to evaluate your application, loading successful applications onto systems to enable outcome tracking and to support emerging innovation initiatives across the university. We will only collect data that we need in order to provide and oversee this service to you.

### Legal basis for processing your data

We must have a legal basis for processing all personal data. In this instance, the legal basis is 'Legitimate Interest'.

### What we do with it and who we share it with

All the personal data you submit is processed by staff at the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom. We will use contact e-mail addresses provided in your application to provide information regarding the application and may also share general information (Principal Investigator name, contact e-mail address and general research interests) with other members of staff at the University of Glasgow, who might be useful contacts. Your application including name of Principal Investigator, will be shared with an expert panel of reviewers, some of whom might not be members of the University of Glasgow. We may share non-confidential projects descriptions, principal investigator names and e-mail addresses of successful applicants on University of Glasgow website and with the funders as part of reporting requirements (this may include sharing post codes with the funder to capture strategic regional outcomes for the Glasgow city region). Gender and ECR data is shared in aggregate form only and is used to identify and address any potential bias in the application and selection processes.

### How long do we keep it for

Your data will be retained by the University indefinitely unless the information is deemed no longer needed. If the data is no longer required, it will be securely deleted.

### What are your rights?

You can request access to the information we process about you at any time. If at any point you believe that the information we process relating to you is incorrect, you can request to see this information and may in some instances request to have it restricted, corrected, or erased. You may also have the right to object to the processing of data and the right to data portability. If you wish to exercise any of these rights, please submit your request to [dp@gla.ac.uk](mailto:dp@gla.ac.uk).

### Complaints

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact the University Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. Our Data Protection Officer can be contacted at [dataprotectionofficer@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@glasgow.ac.uk). If you are not satisfied with our response or believe

we are not processing your personal data in accordance with the law, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) <https://ico.org.uk/> .