

## University of Glasgow Critical Technology Innovation Fund (CTIF)

### Pathway 2: Prototype or Component Development & Demonstration Fund

### 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 2: Prototype or Component Development & Demonstration**.

This fund is open to all academic staff (including post-doctoral researchers and PhD students<sup>[1]</sup>) and University of Glasgow spin-outs (both pre- and post-incorporation). **Please note, Honorary and Affiliate staff are not eligible for this funding opportunity.**

This fund enables projects to focus on the technical development of innovative ideas that may have potential for a spin-out venture or worthy of exploration through other commercialisation or industrial routes. CTI will assist project leaders to validate and mature these innovations, identifying gaps that need to be filled on an innovation journey and realising the potential of new and groundbreaking critical technology discoveries.

CTI Pathway 2 supports the derisking and demonstration of projects through access to expertise and equipment at the James Watt Nanofabrication Centre (JWNC). More information on the JWNC and its capabilities can be found on the JWNC website - <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/jwnc/>

<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**. All project budgets must be delivered in full within 6 months of the award letter being accepted. 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, that has received a level of market or customer validation, and a proposed projects meets the following essential criteria:

1. Demonstrate a clear ambition to pursue an entrepreneurial journey and commercialise an idea or product where there is potential to create a spin-out venture, or where there is potential for commercial license.
2. Your project requires support to de-risk towards unlocking a commercial opportunity, funding or investment. This may include access to JWNC infrastructure and equipment to test or demonstrate to an industrial standard or requirement.
3. Some evidence the solution meets an unmet need or market gap (however early) and demonstrates potential for competitive advantage.
4. Intellectual property protection and/or guidance (could be unpublished data/know-how or patent filing) is in place with the University.
5. Alignment with the following sectors
  - Quantum
  - Photonics
  - Semiconductors
  - Biomedical Engineering
6. Please note, Projects that have match funding or the potential to receive funding or financial contribution towards the project is a desired criterion.

If your project does not meet the minimum requirement of having evidence to support a market or customer interest, applicants may be guided to Pathway 1 to receive support for these activities.

**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?**

It is estimated that a 6-month project accessing JWNC equipment and staff costs will cost approximately £50k. Projects are requested to submit an application detailing total costs

required to advance to a next meaningful commercial milestone. Examples of eligible costings are described below. Applicants to Pathway 2 are encouraged to contact Kelvin Nanotechnology (KNT) prior to application for guidance on designing projects. KNT enquiries can be sent to [enquiries@KNTnano.com](mailto:enquiries@KNTnano.com). All academic projects must complete the complimentary costing spreadsheet. All commercial entities **must** get in touch with KNT for commercial costing templates.

## Eligible costs

Pathway 2 funding supports access to the JWNC to support prototype or component development and demonstration and associated staff time. Eligible costs include:

- Buy-out of staff time of existing staff to generate evidence and validate the scale of the market for the innovation proposed via research & development activities undertaken through the JWNC.
- Access to JWNC equipment and expertise to undertake activities such as Device Fabrication, Equipment Access, Metrology Access, Access to Consumables. Please refer to the Equipment Costs Tab in the Costing Template for more information on eligible equipment and services. For more information on the capabilities of the JWNC, please access the website via the following link - <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/jwnc/>.

**Please note all applicants must fill out the relevant Excel costing template (there are separate templates for academic and commercial projects, for commercial costing templates applicants must get in contact with KNT directly - [enquiries@KNTnano.com](mailto:enquiries@KNTnano.com)) and submit together with the application form.**

Some examples of work packages can be found below:

- Customer / market / venture opportunity validation
- Assessing competitive advantages and unique selling points
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) credentials (i.e. measurable environmental / social impacts) - [See definition here](#)
- Develop prototype / preliminary testing
- Intellectual property protection
- Identifying an entrepreneurial lead
- Business / financial plan; investor deck

## Ineligible costs

**The Pathway 2 fund will not support the following costs for any applicant:**

- New staff appointments

- Market discovery costs
- 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 prototype or component development and demonstration.

### How to apply?

- The deadline for applications for all calls is **12pm, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.
- **Late applications will not be considered.**
- All applications must include a completed and signed Application Form and Costing Template.
- The Application Form and Costing Template can be downloaded here and must be returned in Microsoft Excel format.
- Application forms (in **Microsoft Word** 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.
- Evidence of any industry endorsement for the project / solution.
- The market and impact opportunity.
- The potential for scalable spin out venture creation.

**The project should have a duration of up to 6 months. All project budgets must be delivered in full within 6 months of acceptance of the award letter.**

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

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

### What are the reporting requirements?

- Award recipients will be required to submit a short interim report detailing expenditure and projected outcomes at the midpoint of projects. 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 Programme.

## 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 Innovation Clusters Development 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 grant management systems, 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/> .