



2020 ALERT mid-range equipment funding Frequently Asked Questions

1. What if I wish to request more than one piece of equipment?

Please contact bbsrcalert@bbsrc.ac.uk and provide a 1-2 page summary document outlining the following:

- a) What it is you are proposing, what research it will enable and how the equipment pieces come together to form one platform
- b) How much each component will cost, what the total cost for the platform will be and who the suppliers are
- c) What the advantages and disadvantages are compared to any single piece off-the-shelf alternatives in terms of cost and research potential
- d) How the technology would be managed centrally
- e) Who will install and assemble the equipment? (e.g. in house, the supplier etc..)
- f) What plans for long term maintenance are in place
- g) How broad and diverse access to the equipment would be ensured

2. I have received approval from the UKRI-BBSRC office for my multi-component application. However, one of the components required costs below the advertised £10K cut-off point. Is this OK?

In a large multi-component application that is otherwise in scope, one or more small components costing under £10k can be supported but these must be from the same supplier so that they can come together as one invoice. If they cannot be sourced from the same supplier, the applicants Research Organisation will need to fund the sub £10K component themselves.

3. Should quotes for equipment that is exempt from VAT (for example, because it will be used for medical research) be submitted with or without VAT?

In cases where the equipment is likely to be zero rated, UKRI-BBSRC does not advise on whether VAT should or should not be included in any quotes provided. If the research organisation/department are confident that they meet HMRC criteria for exemption then they can submit without VAT. In such cases, if the value is pushed just below the minimum ALERT threshold cost because VAT has been excluded then this will be accepted.

4. Can PDRAs be included as researcher co-investigators?

Yes. A Researcher Co-Investigator is a post-doctoral research assistant who merits appropriate recognition for making a significant contribution in the preparation of the proposal and the ensuing research. They will be identified as a key intellectual contributor to the project and employed on the project by and based at the institutions of the PI or any Co-Is. However, please be aware that staff costs are not eligible under

ALERT and so where Res Co-I posts are vital for the running and maintenance of the equipment, and/or training of users, this should be provided in the form of host institution contribution(s).

5. When I try to register a Researcher Co-I in JeS, it will not let me enter a figure of zero for their salary even though I can for PIs and COIs?

Entering a nominal value of 0.01 should fix this issue.

6. If I am successful in my application as a PI in ALERT, will I still be eligible for a New Investigator Scheme?

Yes, because there are no PDRA costs associated with the ALERT scheme that would disqualify you.

7. Are company CEOs eligible as Co-Is on ALERT applications?

All Co-Is must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 3 of the UKRI-BBSRC grants [guide](#).

8. The equipment I wish to purchase will not be available for sale until after the advertised call close date. Is this OK?

Unfortunately, all equipment must be on the market at the time of call close to be considered for funding by our Assessment Panel.

9. Are host/institution contributions towards the purchase of equipment mandatory?

No, host contributions are not mandatory.