

UKRI-BBSRC Mid-Range Equipment Funding ALERT 2021: additional guidance

Requesting more than one piece of equipment

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

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

Applying for components below £10,000

In a large multi-component application that is otherwise in scope, one or more small components costing under £10,000 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 applicant's research organisation will need to fund the sub £10,000 component themselves.

Submitting quotes for equipment that is exempt from 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 or 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.

Including postdoctoral research assistants (PDRAs) as researcher co-investigators

PDRAs may be included as researcher co-investigators.



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 principal investigator or any co-investigators.

However, please be aware that staff costs are not eligible under ALERT and so where researcher co-investigator posts are vital for the running and maintenance of the equipment, and training of users, this should be provided in the form of host institution contribution(s).

Issues registering a researcher co-investigator in Je-S

If you have been unable to enter a figure of zero in Je-S for the researcher co-investigator's salary, entering a nominal value of 0.01 should fix this issue.

Eligibility for future new investigator schemes

If you are successful in your application as a principal investigator for ALERT, you will still be eligible for a New Investigator Scheme. This is because there are no PDRA costs associated with the ALERT scheme that would disqualify you.

Including research technicians or technical as co-investigators on ALERT applications

As the first funder to sign the Technician Commitment, UKRI recognises the value of technical expertise to the UK research workforce. To reflect this, UKRI-BBSRC welcomes eligible facility staff, who can also be included as co-investigators. However, all co-investigators must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 3 of the UKRI-BBSRC grants guide. Please contact bbsrcalert@bbsrc.ac.uk to confirm eligibility ahead of proposal submission.

Eligibility of company CEOs as co-investigators

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



Purchasing equipment that is not yet available for sale

All equipment must be on the market at the time of opportunity close to be considered for funding by our assessment panel.

Host institution contributions towards the purchase of equipment mandatory

Host contributions are not mandatory.