Fast-track Access to Partnership Resource

Introduction

Approximately 5 months remain until the end of the EPSRC funding period for QT Hub Sensors and Metrology (Phase I). A fast-track access process to make best use of the small amount of available Partnership Resources for proposals of up to £10,000 grant has been agreed, to maximise the success of quantum sensors.

Eligibility Criteria

A project will be eligible for consideration for funding, if:

- The grant requested is £10,000.00 or less
- The grant is requested by one or more UK institutions eligible for EPSRC funding
- The grant request is for 80% of estimated fEC, or less
- The proposed project can be completed by 30/11/19 or earlier
- The proposed project is likely to contribute towards maximising the success of quantum sensors now and in any QT Hub Phase II (including areas that are beyond any EPSRC-funded scope for Phase II).
- Sufficient Partnership Resource budget remains to be allocated
- The proposed project is eligible for Partnership Resource Funding in accordance with the EPSRC funding rules
- If funded, the balance of types of Partnership Resource projects (New Academic Collaborations, Travel / Secondments, Demonstration of Prototypes, Conference and Topical Workshops) complies with the ratios of spend agreed with EPSRC in April '18, at the discretion of the QT Hub Management Board

Proposals

Proposals of up to 4 pages are invited, to address:

- *Concept and objectives*
- *Alignment to the quantum hub project or planned quantum sensor research*
- *Work Programme and timing*
- *Anticipated impact*
- *Consortium (which can be a single institution), estimated project costs and grant requested*

Proposals can be emailed at any time to the Project Manager, Dr Jo Smart j.c.smart@bham.ac.uk.

Decision Process

Proposals received will be circulated to all members of the QT Hub's Management Board and Application and Technology Exploitation Panel for comment, with a sub-group named to provide review and decision, in light of all comments returned. If a consensus of the sub-group can't be reached (within 3 working days) to recommend for funding or reject (with potential to resubmit after revision) the proposal will be put to a vote of the QT Hub's Leadership Executive. Applicants

will be informed of the decision by Jo Smart, and, where successful and if appropriate, invited to start working at their risk, ahead of receiving a back-dated contract or funds.

Funding Transfer Process

Following a decision to fund a project, Jo Smart will arrange for a template contract, existing contract extension or, in the case of University of Birmingham, a funds transfer request to be processed as quickly as possible, with eligible costs back-dated to the date the decision was made.