**Expression of Interest & Full Application Form – Space Ecosystem Commercialisation Programme (SECP)**

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**Application Form for Grant Funding Support to**

**Develop a Technology or Innovation**

**Key dates**

* Call Announced – 15 September 2025
* Expression of Interest Applications open – 15 September 2025
* Expression of Interest Applications Close – 31 October (or earlier if budget is depleted)
* Grant Funding Awarded from 1 October 2025
* Projects must complete by 28 Feb 2026

**Applying to join the programme**

This form should be used by any company applying for SECP grant funding to develop a technology or innovation for the space sector.

We are primarily expecting applications from smaller companies, although the call is not restricted and applications from larger companies may be accepted if it can be demonstrated that their project will bring benefit to smaller companies in their regional cluster.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) stage consists of sections 1-3 and requires information about the proposed project to enable the selection of those projects which will be invited to submit a full proposal. Answers should be brief and concise and no more than 2 appendices can be added; these might include helpful diagrams, pictures, charts or plans. We strongly encourage you to ask for help from your Regional Cluster Manager (RCM) in completing the form. Once complete, please submit to your RCM who will fill in Section 4 and submit the application for review.

Should you be invited to submit a full proposal, you will be asked to complete sections 5 & 6 which require more details with a programme plan, work breakdown structure and a spend schedule, as well as some ‘due diligence’ questions. After submitting a full proposal, you may be required to make a presentation and answer questions at a panel meeting of industry experts there to help you.

**Projects will be judged against the following criteria:**

*Projects*

* Must have an application or potential application of the technology or innovation in the space sector.
* Must align with at least one of the UK Space Agency’s priorities : Space Domain Awareness; In-Orbit Service, Assembly and Manufacturing; Launch; Position, Navigation and Timing; Earth Observation; Space Data Architecture; Science; and Exploration.
* Must align with your local cluster priorities and be your supported by your local cluster
* Should have a clear path to commercial exploitation.

**If your application is successful**

You will receive a Grant Offer Letter which constitutes a contractual arrangement between your company and Midlands Aerospace Alliance.

Following this, a Kick Off Meeting will be scheduled by your assigned Regional Cluster Manager to run through the project review and monitoring process.

**Grant funding**

SECP grants will cover 40% of eligible spend. The maximum grant available is £30,000, which relates to a total project budget of £75,000. Eligible spend includes labour, overheads, materials, software, small items of research equipment, consultancy, travel and subsistence.

Grant payments will be made quarterly in arrears and the grant claim process will be explained fully in your Kick Off Meeting.

**Local Clusters**

Applications are open to companies in the following space clusters. Please discuss your project idea with your local cluster directly before applying

***Midlands*** ***Space Cluster***

***Space North East England***

***North West Space Cluster***

***Space South Central***

***Space West***

***Cornwall Space Cluster***

**SECP Funding Application**

**Expression of Interest (Questions 1, 2 and 3)**

**What name do you wish your project to be known by? (Tip – two to five words is best)**

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*Please note that this title should be suitable for release in the public domain.*

**Section 1 New Technology / Process Involved**

* 1. **What is the new or innovative technology or process to be developed or exploited by the project? Refer to competitors’ approaches where relevant.**

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* 1. **What is the objective and what are the expected outcomes?**

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* 1. **Why is support needed ? (What additionality will the grant provide and/or what would be done if no grant was offered)?**

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**1.4 Explain how the project fits into UK Space Agency and local cluster priorities**

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**Section 2**   **Commercial Exploitation and Economic Benefits**

**2.1 What is the business opportunity that this project addresses?**

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**2.2 What will be the benefits to the company applying and any partners?**

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**2.3 Do you envisage this project resulting in increased future investment? This could be investment in your firm, partners or supply networks.**

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**2.4 Do you envisage this project creating any new jobs or safeguarding any existing jobs in your area?**

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**2.5 Please explain the expected route to exploitation and when this is likely to be fulfilled. Do you foresee further technology development or an implementation phase before benefits can be obtained?**

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**Section 3 Management**

**3.1 Who will lead the project? (Company, contact name, address, telephone and e-mail)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company |  |
| Company Reg. No. |  |
| Address |  |
| Project Leader’s Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Tel. |  |
| e-mail |  |

* 1. **What is the approximate cost of the project and what level of grant (£) are you seeking from SECP?**

£

£

**Total Project Cost Grant sought**

* 1. **Roughly how do you intend to spend the budget (e.g. £staff, £necessary equipment, £subcontract £research or services, £other)?**

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* 1. **Project duration?**

 **(Must complete by 28 Feb 2026)**

**Submission**

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| --- | --- |
| Submitted by (Contact Name) |  |
| Company Name |  |
| Tel. No |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date  |  |

**Section 4 \*\* For Space Cluster use only \*\***

**4.1 Explain briefly why the local Space Cluster supports this proposal?**

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* 1. **Please comment on whether the project fits into a defined area of strength in your local cluster, or a UK Space Agency priority capability.**

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* 1. **Do you foresee any cross-cluster collaboration being useful on this project? If so, what?**

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***Subsidy Control Note :***

*SECP grants to companies will generally be offered under the Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route - Category 2: Industrial Research and Experimental Development Projects.*

*During the Review Board process we will assess whether the project meets the definition of eligible RD&I projects as defined in the* [***attached guidance***](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67e57ad587cebda7c4ca4ce6/research-development-innovation-streamlined-route-guidance.pdf)*.*

*We also have the option to offer grants under Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) in exceptional circumstances.*

**Local Cluster Submission**

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| --- | --- |
| Submitted by (Contact Name) |  |
| Regional Cluster Name |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

**Please email the completed form to the SECP team:** **info@midlandsspacecluster.org.uk**

**SECP Funding Application**

**Full Application (Questions 5 & 6)**

**SECTION 5 – Project Planning**

**5.1 In a simple way, list the main stages or work packages of the project with start and end dates. Please append a detailed GANTT chart (or similar) listing the key stages and milestones of the project. (This should align with the budget profile.)**

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 **5.2 Please confirm the cost of the project and what level of grant (£) are you seeking from SECP?**

£

£

**Total Project Cost (Funded Partners only) Grant sought**

**Provide a project spend breakdown by category (e.g. materials, consumables, labour, travel, equipment – and please itemise any significant purchases). Please append (e.g. spreadsheet) a detailed breakdown of spend and grant sought against time.**

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* 1. **What are the main risks to the project (technical, financial and managerial) and how will these be mitigated? (Attach a risk register if available)**

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* 1. **Set out any dependencies on, or links to, other projects that may impact on the delivery of this project (if any)?**

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**Section 6**  **Certification**

**6.1 Have you currently got or applied for public funding for this project, or any elements of this project, from anywhere else? (Projects can be linked but costs cannot be claimed from more than one source.)**

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* 1. **Does your company meet the following definition of a small or medium enterprise (SME)?**
* **Fewer than 250 employees**
* **Annual turnover does not exceed £44 million, or annual balance sheet does not exceed £38 million**

 ***Yes / No (Delete as appropriate)***

 ***If NO – please answer question 6.3***

* 1. **If your business is not an SME, how will your project benefit smaller companies in the area? Refer to 2.2**

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**Submission**

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| --- | --- |
| Submitted by (Contact Name) |  |
| Company Name |  |
| Company Registration Number |  |
| Tel. No |  |
| e-mail |  |

**Please email the completed form to the SECP team:** **info@midlandsspacecluster.org.uk**