



Royal Academy
of Engineering

Enterprise
Hub

Shott Scale Up Accelerator

Applicant guidance notes

Deadline 18 May 2026

@enterprisehub.raeng.org.uk

 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/enterprisehub/>

 <https://enterprisehub.raeng.org.uk/shott-scale-up>

#ShottScaleUp

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Background: The Enterprise Hub

We support talented entrepreneurs and decision makers to transform breakthrough engineering innovations into disruptive spinouts, startups and scaleups.

Our goals are to:

- **Accelerate** innovation for the benefit of society by supporting founders of engineering and technology enterprises with funding and support from the Academy's extensive network.
- **Inspire** and encourage business-minded UK-based engineers to pursue entrepreneurial endeavours by promoting and celebrating initiatives, opportunities and achievements.
- **Transform** the environment for UK engineering and technology entrepreneurs by showcasing a future in innovation and entrepreneurship

Further information can be found here:

<https://enterprisehub.raeng.org.uk/>

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TIMES

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START-UP HUBS

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Overview

We support deep tech leaders to develop the capabilities and networks needed to accelerate the growth of innovative scaleups that contribute to a more sustainable and innovative economy for all.

Specific support. No vague promises.

- **42+ hours of training** with a cohort of deep tech peers
- **1:1 leadership coaching and mentoring** from our unrivalled network of the UK's leading engineers in industry, who have founded, scaled and sold successful enterprises many times over
- **£10k grant** for prestigious leadership training worldwide
- Access to our **investor network**
- Lifetime access to our **co-working spaces** in London, Belfast, Glasgow, Swansea, Liverpool, Sheffield and Newcastle
- **Fully-funded access to Culture+**, our equality, diversity and inclusion platform designed to help SMEs develop and sustain an inclusive culture as they scale

With the Shott Scale Up Accelerator, you will have 9 months to invest time and energy into your personal development and business success. Our growth training programme assesses needs, delivers practical workshops and personalises learnings through one-to-one advisory sessions with your trainers.

We will cover growth fundamentals, including:

- People, culture and adaptive leadership
- Good governance
- Product portfolio management
- Customer acquisition
- International market access
- Growth funding
- Restructuring and exits

The peer group of about 15 awardees within the programme will form an additional and valuable support network.



The Shott Scale Up Accelerator is funded by the UK Government and a private donor. The programme is completely free - we do not charge fees or take an equity stake.

All we ask is that you participate fully to make the most of the support on offer, and support the rest of your cohort via the peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

Who should apply?

We're looking for ambitious leaders in engineering and technology SMEs that are experiencing scale-up growth challenges.

Applications from both engineers and non-engineers are welcome. **If you're a C-suite or founder in a senior decision-making role and you have plans to scale your SME, then you should apply.**

We are committed to improving diversity and inclusion in engineering, and we especially welcome applications from women and those currently underrepresented within the sector.

The Academy defines engineering in a broad sense, as can be seen from the range of past awardees. We cover DeepTech, AI, robotics, SpaceTech, HealthTech, AgriTech, Greentech, clean energy and more.

Software companies must exhibit engineering at their core, should be innovative and protectable.

If you are unsure if your enterprise activities qualify as engineering, please contact us at shottscaleup@raeng.org.uk



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Eligibility

- Applicants from both pre- and post-revenue high-growth SMEs are eligible to apply. To qualify for this programme, your enterprise must meet at least one of the following criteria: it has raised at least £1 million in equity investment and grants since inception; it has achieved a turnover of at least £1 million in the last financial year; or the sum of funding to date and turnover in last financial year exceeds £1m.
- Applicant's companies must employ at least 10 employees (FTE)
- One applicant per company, per round.
- Companies must be able to evidence market traction and be at CRL (**Commercialisation Readiness Level**) 6 and above.
- Only applicants from SMEs that aren't wholly or majority owned by another enterprise are eligible. (SME as per the **EU definition**).
- Applicants must come from an enterprise based in the UK and be registered with Companies House. For multinational companies the head office must be based in the UK.
- Applicants from any nationality are welcome to apply, provided they have the right to work in the UK.
- Applicants from engineering and technology-based SMEs are eligible to apply. Software companies must exhibit engineering as their core component and should be innovative and protectable to be eligible. If you are unsure that your enterprise activities qualify as engineering, please contact us at shottscaleup@raeng.org.uk.
- Positive action: a second applicant from an alumnus company may be considered in a future round if they belong to a group considered underrepresented in UK engineering. Groups that are consistently underrepresented in UK engineering are women, people from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background and those considered to have a disability. If you are not from one of these groups but believe you represent an underrepresented group in UK engineering, please contact us at: shottscaleup@raeng.org.uk. This **positive action** will contribute to improving diversity in the talent pipeline and widening the diversity of applicants and awardees within the Academy's grant schemes.
- Applicants from underrepresented backgrounds and geographies within the UK's engineering and technology SME space are encouraged to apply.



Time commitment and key dates

- The programme will begin in **October 2026** and applicants must be committed to the programme for nine months.
- One-to-one coaching is a part of the programme. You will have six 1.5-hour sessions over the 9-month programme.
- You will be expected to book and pay (see Grant Details) for a leadership course(s) by the end of January 2026 and complete it by June 2026.
- You will access at least three out of seven growth training modules most relevant to your needs from the list in Annex B. We offer an estimated 42 hours of interactive workshops as part of the growth training over a nine-month period.
- Successful applicants will be required to attend the induction day in **October 2026** and a graduation ceremony in **July 2027**, with exact dates TBC.
- Mentoring is a core element of the programme offer. We recommend seeing or speaking to your mentor once a month.
- On completion of the Shott Scale Up Accelerator, we ask all alumni to help support UK engineering by passing on the skills they have acquired during the programme and taking part in events and/or media activity to contribute back to the UK innovation ecosystem.

Submission deadline

The submission deadline for this round of applications is 4pm on Monday 18 May 2026

Grant details

- The grant will be up to £10,000.
- Awardees can choose a course(s) that exceeds £10,000 but the awardee or their enterprise must cover the excess.
- Courses must be paid for first by the SMEs, which will then be reimbursed in two instalments.
- The first instalment of the grant (75%) will be paid once your course is booked, fully paid for and you can provide evidence to support each of these. The final instalment (25%) will be paid upon receipt of a final report written by the awardee after programme completion.
- Travel and accommodation costs within the UK for programme activities will be eligible if they adhere to the Academy's expenses policy (available upon request). International travel and accommodation costs will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Courses can be booked anywhere in the world.
- For a full list of courses completed by Hub alumni, please email the Programme Manager shottscaleup@raeng.org.uk. Some examples can be found in Annex A.

Monitoring

Upon completion of the programme participants must submit a report covering activities such as growth training modules, coaching, mentoring, leadership course(s) attended, personal and company progress. Expenditure statements must also be submitted where appropriate. Reports are online surveys and should not take more than 20 - 30 minutes to complete.

On request, the awardee must provide a brief annual update for a minimum of five years after the completion of the award to help us assess any ongoing impact.

We regularly report back to our funders on the progress of the programme. Awardees will not be required to submit information they consider confidential or sensitive to the business.

All information is aggregated for monitoring of KPIs; individual data is not identifiable unless featured in, for example, an agreed-upon case study.

We may commission an independent evaluation of the programme to assess impact. Awardees should be prepared to speak with the evaluators regarding the support they've received and the impact it has had on their own skills and on their business.

How to apply:

All applications must be submitted via the online system:

<https://grants.raeng.org.uk> If they have not already done so, all applicants must first register with the system and provide some basic login details to create a profile. Your username or email address will be in the format firstname.lastname.

The application form has five main sections. A summary of the guidance notes are embedded within the system itself, however the guidance given below is more detailed, so we recommend you keep this document to hand.

Many of the questions have a short word limit that is designed to keep your answers focused. Free text word counts are included as a maximum, not an indication of expected length of answer. Applicants who can provide complete answers in fewer words are encouraged to where appropriate. In such cases, the number of words you have used will be displayed beneath the question and updated in real time.

You will have the option to download a PDF of your application after submission, which may be useful for future reference and the interview stage. You can re-open your account at a later date to view your past applications.

Submission deadline

The submission deadline for this round of applications is 4pm on Monday 18 May 2026

If you have any questions concerning the application or the online system, please contact us at shottscaleup@raeng.org.uk

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Assessment of Applications

1. All applications will be reviewed by the Selection Panel, which includes Fellows of the Academy with entrepreneurial and industrial experience, scale up alumni and representatives from the investment community. Any external reviewer we ask to assist has declared any conflict of interest prior to seeing applications, and has agreed to keep all application information confidential. They may not all have technical expertise in your specific discipline, so you should ensure the application is understandable to a non-specialist reader.
2. Those who meet the eligibility criteria and demonstrate closest alignment to the programme objectives will be invited for an interview in our London office in **July 2026**.
3. The interview will be with a panel consisting of programme Steering Group members and will take up to 45 minutes. It will focus on your experiences, motivation to join the accelerator and ambitions for yourself and your enterprise.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are scored against three main criteria:

The Applicant: How well have you articulated your ambition?

- Ambition should be realistic, achievable, and effectively communicated
- Vision and initiative should be clear and compelling
- Self-awareness should be shown, recognising skills gaps and how the programme will facilitate upskilling in these areas
- Programme participation is timely, aligning well with professional development to-date

The Business: How well have you articulated your plan for the future of the business?

- Clear evidence of product/market fit, with significant potential for economic or societal benefit
- Strong financial standing
- Business plan is clear and realistic, with track record of achieving projected results
- Recognition of business support needs and how programme will enable future success
- Excellent growth trajectory, with evidence to show active scaling

Applicant/Programme Fit: How well do you as an individual, and your company align with the programmes aims and objectives?

- Applicant shows potential to contribute to furthering excellence in engineering, and supporting future generations of engineering leaders
- Demonstrated commitment to deliver UK economic impact
- Commitment to Academy mission to promote EDI within your sector
- Demonstrated current or future role model potential
- Evidence of engagement with and impact of past support received

**Further pitch deck specific guidance can be found in Annex D*

Notification of outcomes

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the assessment by the Programme Manager by 26 June 2026

Completing your Application

After logging in via the [Academy website](#) and selecting the application form for the Shott Scale Up Accelerator programme you should be presented with the 'Instructions' screen. Here you will see some general instructions on how to use the system as well as this list of the sections of the application form:



At any stage in the application process, you can save your work and return to it later. You can answer the questions in any order you like so you may freely skip some sections to return to later if you so wish. It is worth viewing the application structure early for an indication of what is required.

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all underrepresented groups across engineering. It is the Academy's policy to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged or receives less favourable treatment because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. Before you commence your application, you will be asked a few diversity monitoring questions to help the Academy monitor and assess our [Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#). It will only be used for statistical purposes with access restricted to staff involved in processing and monitoring the data. No information will be published or used in any way that identifies individuals. The Academy will retain personal information as per our [Data Retention Policy](#) in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. The information will be treated as strictly confidential, nonattributable and will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. You will need to complete the diversity monitoring section before you can see the grant application form, but can choose "prefer not to say" as responses.

Please note, we ask for limited sensitive information about your enterprise to enable a thorough assessment as to whether your enterprise is at the right stage for this programme. **All sensitive information is kept confidential and not shared outside the review process.**

1. Personal details

Most of this section should be pre-populated when it comes to you starting your application. Information is pulled through from the account you create when signing into the Grant Management System.

1. Applicant full name

Basic data we need to process your application

2. Company full name

Basic data we need to process your application

3. LinkedIn profile

Share a link to your profile to allow reviewers to gain an understanding of your background and experience to-date.

2. Eligibility criteria

Together, responses to these questions give us a clear understanding of your eligibility and ensure we do not waste your time completing an application we cannot accept.

4. Job role and title

Your position should be that of a senior decision maker such as founder, C-suite, or an equivalent role.

4.1. Please explain your decision-making power, influence, responsibilities and area of control.

This question will appear only if you are neither Founder nor C-suite, and will give you an opportunity to articulate your decision-making power and level of influence within the company.

5. Please confirm you are legally eligible to work in the UK?

Applicants from any nationality are eligible to participate in the programme, but they must be legally eligible to live and work in the UK for at least the duration of the award.

6. Has another employee of your company previously participated in the Shott Scale Up Accelerator, or the SME Leaders Programme?

A Yes/No tick box question to check if we have supported an employee of your company previously.

6.1. One additional awardee associated with a previously awarded company will be considered in another application round if the candidate belongs to a group that is underrepresented within UK engineering.

A Yes/No tick box question. This only appears when the answer to Q.6 is "Yes". We can support second applicants from a previously awarded programme when they come from a background considered underrepresented in UK engineering. Such groups include women, people from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background and disabled people. If you are not from one of these groups, but believe you represent an underrepresented group please contact the programme team.

2. Eligibility criteria

7. Which financial eligibility criteria does your company meet?

Please select all that apply.

To be eligible for this programme, at least one of the following statements must apply to your associated enterprise:

1. Your company has raised at least £1 million through equity investment and/or grant funding since inception.
2. Your company has secured £1 million in revenue in the last financial year.
3. The sum of the funding raised to date and previous financial years turnover exceeds £1 million.

8. Please confirm your company is not wholly or majority owned by another organisation.

Only SMEs that are not wholly or majority owned by another company are eligible (SME must meet the [EU definition](#)).

9. Staff number (FTE)

To meet eligibility criteria, your company must employ at least 10 staff on a full-time equivalent basis.

10. Company HQ address

We ask to understand your geographic location for reporting purposes. Your answer does not impact your access to the programme, all UK based companies are eligible.

10. Company HQ postcode

Required for reporting to programme funders.

11. Company CRL level

Used to determine level of commercial readiness. [More information](#) can be found on the [methodology here](#).

11.1. Provide a short statement that supports your CRL level

Free text entry question.

3. Personal motivations

Here we are looking to explore your ambitions as a leader, seeking to understand your goals, motivations, existing barrier, and how your participation in the programme will help you overcome these.

12. What are your personal growth goals over the coming 2-5 years?

We would like to get an understanding of your goals to understand your alignment with those of our programme, and to allow us to tailor programme content to your needs.

13. What are the primary barriers that are preventing you from achieving your growth goals? And what are you doing today to overcome these?

We are looking to understand your main challenges today, how far forward you look in answering the question, and to gauge how proactive you are in addressing your needs as a business leader.

14. Which elements of this programme will you leverage to help you achieve your goals? How will these enable you? And why is now the right time for you to participate in the programme?

We are looking to see how well you know our programme offer and how well you map our offer to your existing needs.

Why now is the right time for you to participate in the programme is of particular interest, as we aim to provide timely support to those actively navigating scaling challenges whilst on the programme.

15. List up to three accelerators, programmes or other support resources you have benefited from and what impact(s) these have had on you as a business leader?

We are interested in tailoring the programme to your needs wherever possible, so will use your answers here to help us understand your learning preferences and what resources have had the greatest impact on your leadership journey.

Other support we are interested in could include things like training, mentoring, coaching, use of advisors or anything else you have found beneficial.

4. Company details

16. Company mission and/or vision statements

Free text entry question in which you should share your existing mission and/or vision statements

17. Companies house number

This confirms that your business is legally established in the UK.

18. Website link

Used to search for additional relevant information if needed.

19. What is your long-term ambition for this company 5-10 years from now? If you plan to exit before then, what is your exit strategy and horizon?

Free text entry question to help us understand company ambition and to cross reference financials and pitch-deck against to evaluate credibility. Answers will be used to tailor programme content to your needs if awarded a place.

20. Pitch deck

A key resource that supports reviewers evaluate your application that we would expect you to adapt and tailor to our guidance shared in these notes. See annex D for detailed guidance.

5. Financials and success to date

Seeking details to confirm financial security of the business

21. Equity funding raised to date. Please include details of each round, the date it closed and key investors involved.

Please give a brief overview of each round of equity investment raised to-date only, included details of future funding rounds below. Enter 'n/a' if not applicable.

22. Grant funding raised to date. Please include details of each grant, it's confirmation date and source.

Please give a brief overview of grants secured to date, their values and where the funding came from. Details of any incoming grants can be detailed below. Enter 'n/a' if not applicable.

23. Provide details of any incoming funding over the next 12-months that will ensure your runway. This could include recurring revenue, new contracts secured, grants or fundraisings secured or planned. Please include details of values and dates where possible.

We ask this to allay any concerns reviewers have regarding company solvency, specifically within the duration of the award period.

24. Cash in bank today

This indicates your ability to maintain momentum without immediate additional funding.

25. Monthly burn rate

Your current rate of spending and where your income is coming from help us assess how effectively you manage resources and whether you have a viable path to long-term growth.

26. Is the company revenue generating?

Tick box Yes/No

26.1. Revenue: previous financial year

Only appears if answer to Q.26 is Yes.

26.2. Revenue: financial year to date

Only appears if answer to Q.26 is Yes.

27. Do you have any other examples of commercial traction? (Growth metrics, customer acquisition numbers, significant contracts secured, LOI's, Pilot projects, strategic partnerships or joint ventures for example).

We ask this to provide you an opportunity to share other evidence of success to-date you have not had an opportunity to in the application format thus far.

6. Declaration

The declaration is a required section which seeks to confirm that the ideas presented are your own. Where you have used generative AI in your application it's imperative to ensure that the application reflects your own voice and ideas, and that all sources are properly attributed. The declaration also seeks confirmation that the applicant has provided accurate information and will update the Academy of any material changes that may affect the award. It also states that while applying for and participating in the programme you must comply with any arrangements made with third parties (e.g. co-founders, shareholders, directors, etc.) and that you may need consent to share certain information. If you accept a place on the programme, we will also perform a background check via a third party to cover right to work, UK directorship and basic criminal record checks. You must tick the box and enter your name to complete the declaration and confirming the information provided is correct. The exact wording of this declaration is copied below:

Applicant Declaration

I confirm here and by submitting this application that:

- All information is accurate at the time of submission, and I will update the Academy of any material changes which may affect the project
- The ideas presented are my own and not plagiarised or containing IP that is not owned by myself, except for that IP that I have express permission to utilise in this way
- All contributions have been appropriately referenced or credited including the use of any online tools such as AI generative tools used in developing my application
- I understand that failure to cite and declare references or sources for material information will result in my application being removed from the process, or the uncorroborated information disregarded
- I understand that The Royal Academy of Engineering will disclose the information submitted in this application to external reviewers for the purpose of assessing this application. Any external reviewer we ask to assist us has agreed to keep this information confidential.
- I have the express permission of any individuals whose contact details I have shared as part of this application process, to share these details with the Royal Academy of Engineering for the purposes of administering the application
- While applying for and taking part in any Enterprise Hub programmes, I understand it is my responsibility to comply with any arrangements I have with third parties (for example obligations of confidentiality to co-founders, co-applicants, shareholders, directors, funders, and organisations that are involved with my work) and I may need to get consent to share certain information. If my application is successful, I will continue to comply with such obligations throughout the course of the programme.
- I understand that The Royal Academy of Engineering may contact me for the purposes of Monitoring and Evaluation of this programme or other third-party evaluators may contact me for the purposes of Monitoring and Evaluation of this programme.
- I have read and understood the Application Guidance.

Contact:

If you have any questions, please refer to our [FAQs](#), join one of our [information sessions](#) or contact the programme team at shottscaleup@raeng.org.uk

This programme is made possible by funding from the UK Government Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and Ian Shott CBE FREng



Department for
Science, Innovation,
& Technology

Annex A

The following types of training course may be eligible for grant reimbursement under this award:

- Leadership skills, negotiation skills, influencing skills.
- Scale-up related skills.
- Strategy development.
- Design thinking.
- Governance structures, management structures.
- Financial management.
- Project/programme leadership/management.
- People management and talent retention.

Courses that may promote personal development, but are without a business aspect, are not eligible. International travel and accommodation costs will not be eligible. Travel and accommodation costs within the UK will be eligible if they follow the Academy's

expenses policy (available upon request).

Your coach and our team will support you in assessing your areas of development and will help identify suitable courses with you.

Examples of executive education courses our delegates have chosen in the past are:

- 1) Cranfield leadership courses <https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/som/open-executive-programmes/leadership>
- 2) London Business School leadership courses <https://www.london.edu/executive-education/leadership>
- 3) Cambridge Judge Business School <https://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/execed/open-programmes/general-management-leadership/>
- 4) Bayes Business School <https://www.bayes.city.ac.uk/study/executive-education/our-programmes>
- 5) Institute of Directors courses <https://www.iod.com/training>
- 6) Oxford's Said Business School executive education courses <https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/programmes/execed>
- 7) Harvard leadership courses <https://www.extension.harvard.edu/professional-development/leadership-management-programs>
- 8) MIT leadership courses <https://executive.mit.edu/openenrollment>
- 9) Stanford Business executive education programmes <https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/exec-ed/programs>

Annex B

Key support areas (growth training modules) and events. These will be hosted in-person.

Induction day – mid October 2026 (exact date TBC)

This compulsory event is designed to kick start your journey through the Shott Scale Up Accelerator. You'll get to know your peers in the cohort, contacts in the Academy and other key delivery partners.

Module 1 – People, culture and adaptive leadership

Module 2 – Good governance

Module 3 – Product portfolio management

Module 4 – Customer acquisition

Module 5 – International market access

Module 6 – Growth funding

Module 7 – Restructuring and exits

You can choose the modules most relevant to your needs, but are expected to participate in at least three modules.

Graduation (after 9 months – circa July 2027)

Celebrate the completion of the programme with the rest of your cohort and those who have supported you along the way.

Travel and accommodation costs are covered to attend the in-person growth training modules which take place in London. This is to encourage participation from business leaders from across the UK.

We also offer flexibility and, as much as possible, meet the needs of parents and those with caring responsibilities, enabling them to participate fully in the program.



Annex C

Further information regarding mentoring and coaching.

Mentoring

Mentors are drawn from the Academy Fellowship and wider network. You have an active say in your mentor appointment.

The mentor will not make or take business decisions, perform the functions of a consultant, take the role of an executive or non-executive director of the enterprise, or make investments in the enterprise. The mentor will take no stake or interest in the venture of any kind, so they remain independent and able to offer impartial advice to both the Academy and the mentee.

Coaching

Your coach will focus on your leadership skills rather than your business; you will have six one-to-one sessions over nine months to focus on the skills you want to improve, such as communication, public speaking, conflict management, delegation, negotiation, how to lead a team, decision making, delivering a vision, motivating, providing feedback, enacting change and relationship building.



Annex D: Pitch deck guidance

Guidance

A strong pitch deck is clear and concise. It is our expectation that this should contain between 6 and 12 slides, depending on formatting and structure, and address the core areas outlined below in an order of your choosing:

- Purpose: Define your company's purpose.
- Problem: What problem is the company solving? Describe your customers pain points and any solutions you see implemented to solve these in the market today.
- Solution: Provide an overview of your solution, product or service, giving examples of it being used today (where possible), and explain how your technology is protected.
- Why now: Discuss the historical evolution of your sector and recent trends that are enabling your solution. Why is now the right time for your business to succeed and scale.
- Market size: Quantify the scale of the problem you seek to address. Profile your target customer and calculate the TAM, SAM & SOM, identifying your primary and any secondary customers where possible.
- Competition: List your competitors and explain your competitive advantage.
- Business Model: Cover revenue model, pricing, account size/lifetime value, and sales & distribution model. Provide financials and projections for the next 3 and up to 5 years, and details of any planned raises, and when they are timetabled for.
- Team: who is your team, including information about founders, management, and board of directors/advisors.

What are our reviewers most interested in?

- How is your business unique, novel or disruptive? Please provide details of your IP portfolio or other ways in which your technology is protected, especially if your solution is purely software based.
- Have you effectively communicated your USP and market opportunity? How big is your market, what is your target segment, who are your primary competitors, your competitive edge and what is your route to market? Evidence of market traction and evidence of your business actively scaling is of particular interest.
- What is your business plan for the next year? How will the company generate revenue, scale, and what is your ambition beyond this timeline? We are interested in your scaleup vision and if there is a clear and credible plan in place to help you achieve this, and what role if any your programme participation will play in this.

Annex E: Policies

Terms and conditions

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the Basic Terms and Conditions found on the [Academy's website](#). This agreement has been developed to ensure funding aligns with our Academy values, is used for the purposes for which it was awarded and is managed in compliance with our own funders' agreements, UK legislation and funding best practice.

Diversity and inclusion

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all underrepresented groups across engineering. It is the Academy's policy to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged or receives less favourable treatment because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

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The information will be treated as strictly confidential, nonattributable and will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. You will need to complete the diversity monitoring section before you can see the grant application form but can choose "prefer not to say" as responses.

Confidentiality

Please note people on the panel of experts who review applications will be external to the Academy. They are carefully chosen for their expertise and reputation in the sector but might not have entered into a confidentiality agreement for their role as, given its scale and nature, it is often impractical or disproportionate to do so.

It is at your discretion to decide on the information you are comfortable sharing in the application form. We recommend including enough information that proves your solution works and is an engineering innovation/invention.

National Security

The Academy is the UK's National Academy for engineering and technology and seeks to increase the potential positive benefit that innovations can have for society, whilst reducing the risks of harm. Hence, in all our activities, we seek to minimise the risk that technology developed as part of work that we support could be misused by a foreign state to build a capacity to target UK interests in a hostile fashion or to control or repress their population. There is a risk that for some grant activities, failure to protect IP and a lack of due diligence into collaborators could result in sensitive technology being transferred to and misused by a hostile or repressive foreign state. As such all applicants should ensure they are familiar with [the Academy's Policy on National Security-Related Risks](#).

Academy policies

Subsidy control

The UK subsidy control regime began on 4 January 2023. As part of this regime, the Academy is required to report to the UK Government on how award funding is being used when applications collaborating with commercial enterprises are awarded. The regime determines the lawfulness of monetary awards made using public sector resources when given to businesses and other organisations that are engaged in economic activity.

This grant program has been assessed and is not considered to be a subsidy scheme in relation to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as funds are not being provided to a UK Organisation acting commercially nor do the funds provided have the potential to benefit a single enterprise over others.

Should the program of work or focus change bringing this into question then the Recipient must highlight this to the Academy immediately such that the basis of Award can be reviewed.

Where the Award is successfully challenged in any relevant court or tribunal of relevant jurisdiction or regulatory body and found to be an unlawful Subsidy under the term of the Subsidy Control Act 2022, or any similar Subsidy Control regime, or generally, or where the Academy reasonably concludes that the Award is, or is likely to be, an unlawful subsidy, the Academy shall be entitled to take any one or more of the following actions:

1.1.1 suspend or terminate the payment of the Award for such period as the Academy shall determine; and/or

1.1.2 reduce the amount of the Award in which case the payment of the Award shall thereafter be made in accordance with the reduction and notified to the Recipient; and/or

1.1.3 compel the Recipient to repay the Academy the whole or any part of the amount of the Award previously paid to the Recipient along with such interest as is or would be required under applicable law. Such sums shall be recovered as a civil debt; and/or

1.1.4 terminate this Award.

Academy policies

Research involving human participants or tissue

Research, development and innovation involving human participants, human material or personal data can contribute to a better understanding of human health and disease as well as the technological efficacy of new and evolving innovations. The Academy will fund research, development and innovation involving the use of human participants, human material or personal data which complies with our Humans in RD&I Policy. If your proposal includes the use of human participants, human materials or personal data you will be asked to provide details of your work at application stage.

Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

Animals in research

The Academy acknowledges that, at present, the use of animals remains the only way for some areas of research to progress. Research involving animals is regulated by comprehensive and strict legislation in the UK and must be conducted with a high regard for animal welfare. The Academy will fund work involving the use of animals in the UK which complies with our [Animals in RD&I Policy](#). If your proposal includes the use of animals, you will be asked to provide details at application stage.

If your proposal involves the use of animals and takes place outside of the UK, the Academy will generally not fund this work. Please contact the Academy before proceeding with your application.

Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

Academy policies

Use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment

The Academy has aligned with other UK funders around the use of generative AI tools in funding applications through the Research Funders Policy Group [joint statement](#).

Regarding the use of AI, applicants are fully responsible for all the content presented in their grant applications. The grant process does not penalise the use of generative AI tools, but it is imperative to ensure that the application reflects the applicant's own voice and ideas. It is not acceptable to solely rely on generative AI tools to write the entire grant application from start to finish. While these tools may be used to assist in various aspects, the application must primarily represent the applicant's own work.

Applicants must provide clear acknowledgement if they have used generative AI tools in the process of writing their grant applications. This includes disclosing the name of the tool used and describing how it was utilized. The following style should be employed for referencing:

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials for background research, styling, proofreading, etc.

Or,

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials that were included within my final assessment in modified form.

Awardee excellence community

As an awardee of the Shott Scale Up Accelerator you will have access to the Academy's network of awardees and alumni through the Awardee Excellence Community. You will gain access to exclusive events and have opportunities to get involved in the work of the Academy during and after your award ends.