Frequently asked funding questions

How do I find out about Game Changers challenges?

Challenge statements are published for each of our challenges. They provide detailed information including current practice, challenge aims and opportunities, technical constraints and functional requirements.

Workshops are also held to provide additional information about challenges. Attendees can meet challenge owners, ask questions and check their understanding of the challenge. Workshops are recorded and shared on the Game Changers website.

Who is eligible to apply to Game Changers?

Any organisation of any size can apply for funding through Game Changers including SMEs, Higher Education Institutions, Research and Technology Organisations and public bodies. Companies who apply for funding must be registered with Companies House.

International organisations can also apply for funding. Certain exemptions may apply depending on the nature of the challenge.

What Technology Readiness Level (TRL) projects do Game Changers fund?

Projects are generally deemed eligible for funding within the range of 2 – 6 on the TRL scale. Funding is also provided for projects to develop technologies which are deemed to be TRL 9 in other sectors, but TRL 2 – 6 in a nuclear context.

What funding is available through Game Changers?

Funding is available in two phases:

- **Feasibility funding** of up to £10,000 allows an initial exploration of ideas with challenge owners. Applicants may be asked to attend meetings, produce small prototypes or undertake demonstrations. A key output from feasibility projects is a detailed business case, project plan and risk register outlining milestones, outputs and funding requirements for a Proof of Concept project focussing on a specific challenge owner use case. The typical duration of feasibility projects is 8 – 12 weeks.

  Feasibility projects are 100% funded by Game Changers and there is no match funding requirement.

- **Proof of Concept (PoC) funding** is awarded on a match-funded basis and is generally in the region of £30,000 - £60,000. More significant awards are occasionally made. The typical duration of PoC projects is 6 – 12 months.

The level of funding provided during the PoC phase varies according to the nature and size of the applicant organisation:

Organisation	Game Changers funding	Applicant contribution
Micro company	70%	30%
Small company	70%	30%
Medium company	60%	40%
Large company	50%	50%
Universities	80% of Full Economic Costs	20%
Research Organisation	100%	0%
Public Sector Organisation or Charity	100% of eligible costs	0%

If Game Changers funding is awarded for PoC projects which are deemed to be of a higher TRL level, different funding intervention rates may be applied.

What support will I be given during these phases of funding?

During both Feasibility and Proof of Concept projects, applicants will be supported by an Innovation Consultant from FIS360 Ltd, one of the Game Changers delivery partner organisations. Their role is to nurture relationships between applicants and challenge owners, guide the development of business cases, ensure that projects are well-aligned to challenges and to help applicants exploit the full commercial potential of their technologies.

How do I submit an application?

Applications must be submitted using our online application form. The form is relatively short and application guidance is provided throughout the form. Applicants are required to submit a poster as part of their application. Guidelines are provided via the online application system.

Can I submit more than one application for a challenge?

Yes, you can submit multiple applications for the same challenge if you feel that your ideas are sufficiently different to warrant funding for discrete independent projects.

How will successful applications be chosen?

Applications are reviewed against set criteria by a panel of challenge owners, prospective end-users from our partner organisations and Game Changers project staff.

Will I receive feedback if my application is unsuccessful?

Brief summary feedback will be provided if your project is not awarded feasibility funding.

Can I apply for funding in conjunction with another organisation?

Yes. There is no restriction on the number of partners who can apply for funding collectively. However, it should be noted that a single award of feasibility funding will be granted, and this funding must be divided between the recipient organisations.

What happens if my application is successful?

You will receive written notification that your project has been successful. You will be asked to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement and to agree to standard terms and conditions.

The agreement will be between the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) and the applicant. In the event that the project involves a consortium, the agreement will be between NNL and the lead applicant.

The agreement will contain terms and conditions relating, but not limited to, confidentiality, supplier responsibilities, NNL obligations, charges and payments, quality of services, insurance, indemnity, limitation of liability, freedom of information and termination clauses.

What about Intellectual Property (IP) Rights?

No claim is made on background IP owned by the applicant or foreground IP arising as a consequence of the project.

How much information about my application will be made public?

No information will be shared about your project during the application phase. If your application is successful, brief details of your project will be shared on the Game Changers website. This information will be based on a non-confidential paragraph you'll be asked to provide to describe your project as part of your online application.

Applicants who wish to publish details of their project and engagement with Game Changers must seek permission from the Game Changers team before doing so.

What happens to my project submission if I'm not successful?

Details will be stored on the Game Changers application database for an indefinite period unless applicants wish for their details to be removed. Maintaining applications on the database can enable challenge owners to identify suitable technology as and when future challenges arise.

How will projects be monitored?

Applicants will be expected to attend regular progress meetings during feasibility and Proof of Concept projects. These will be attended by designated FIS360 Innovation Consultants and relevant staff from challenge owner organisations. Applicants can advise of any project changes during these meetings. Formal monthly progress reports must be submitted during Proof of Concept projects, along with details of monthly expenditure and invoices.

What happens at the end of a Proof of Concept project?

At the end of a Proof of Concept project, applicants are expected to have developed a commercialisation roadmap for their technology. Applicants will be supported by their designated FIS360 Innovation Consultant to explore suitable options for further funding, which may include further funding from challenge owners, support to apply for alternative funding (e.g. Innovate UK) and introductions to potential collaborating partners.