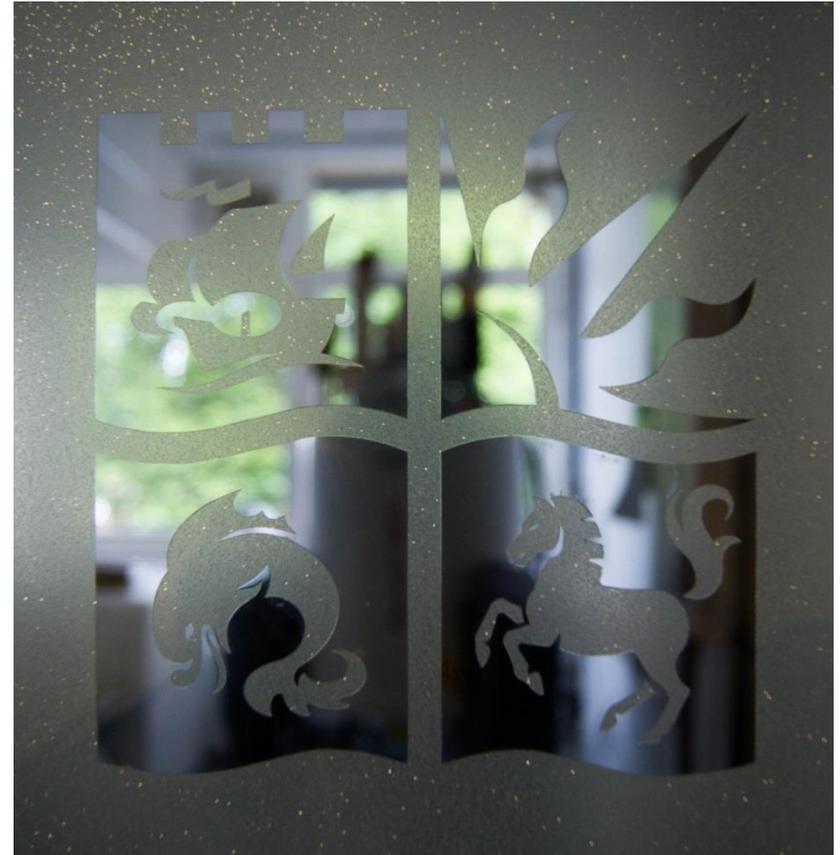


The UK Equipment Funding Landscape 2017

Craig Butts
UKMRM
Somewhere in Glasgow



Very Much An Overview



Putting everything into context

The UK Pre-2015



The UK in 2015



The UK in 2015



Europe post-2016?



UK post-2016?



Equipment on grants

RCUK Overview (basically applies directly to all Research Councils)

1. <£10,000 items of equipment should be included in Other Directly Incurred costs (*funded at 100%*)
 2. Further justification needed for items between £10k and £138k (inc. VAT).
“...need to provide extra justification for these items, providing evidence of an evaluation of the use of existing relevant capital assets...”
“*Given that capital provision across councils has been reduced by about 50%, contributions of this order will be expected.*”
 3. Business case required for all items of equipment above £138k
“*RCUK will decide the strategic location for these items and will potentially fund them at 100%.*”
-

Equipment-oriented Funding

Varies by Research Council, but all capital budgets slashed in 2010.

Focus is on "project" or "large/multi-user" equipment (Sharing is a must for the latter)

UK Capability and the Equipment Landscape within that is key.

The Equipment Landscape is increasingly informed by Equipment Roadmaps

EPSRC NMR Roadmap for Physical Sciences, published 2013 and updated 2017

Very- and Ultra-High Field NMR for the physical and life sciences

~£20M Call

Arose from Community consultation through EPSRC:

http://www2.ccpn.ac.uk/BISconsultation/A_UK_wide_cross_discipline_NMR_infrastructure_v3.4.pdf

“To procure $\geq 950\text{MHz}$ and upgrade existing $\geq 800\text{MHz}$ ”

“To establish a national network of NMR provision at a range of very-high and ultra-high fields and configurations

The key appears to be “capability” not “capacity” of NMR provision.

Led by EPSRC, but BBSRC, MRC involved. Funded by BEIS

<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/veryandultrahighfieldnmr/>

ACTIVITY	DATE
Call opens	17 May 2017
Deadline for intention to apply	11 August 2017
Deadline for Full Proposals	19 September 2017
Interview Panel	November 2017
Funding decision/Grant Announcements	December 2017
Grant Start Date	April 2018
Capital Funding Spent by	March 2021

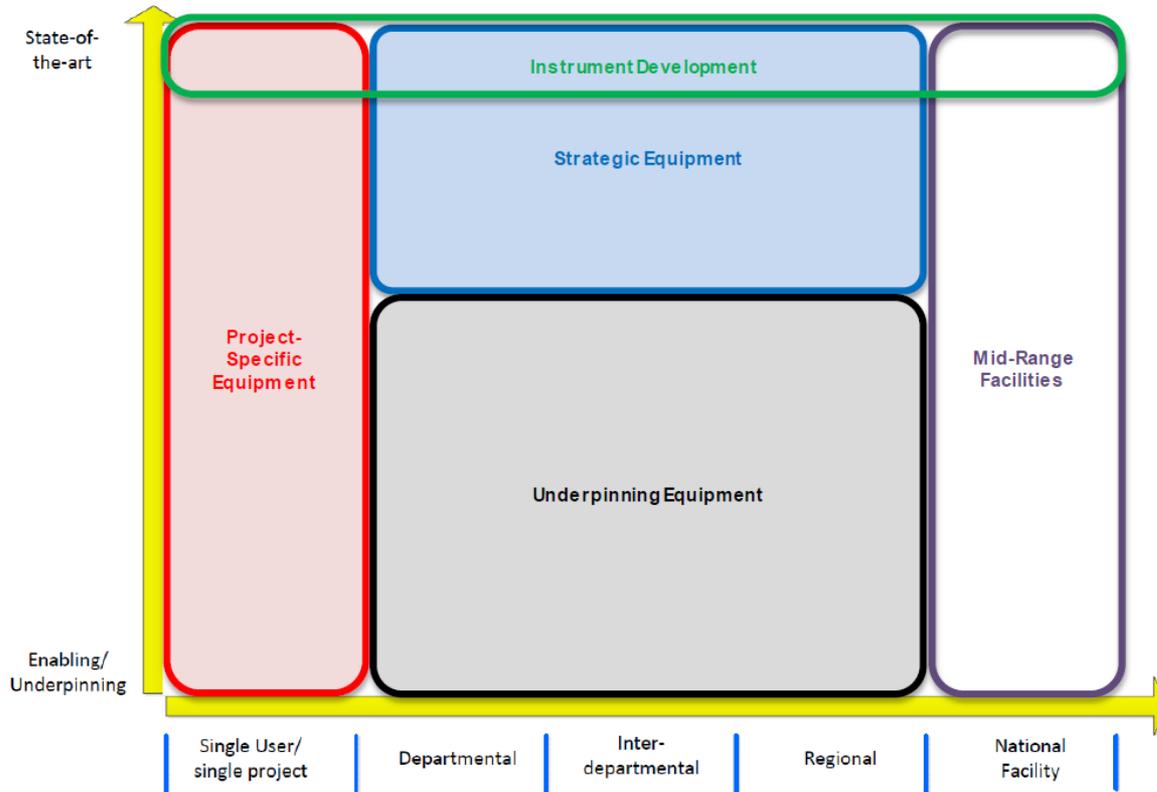
EPSRC Strategic Equipment Initiative.

EPSRC Multi-User Equipment Initiative

BBSRC ALERT

Wellcome Multi-user Equipment Grants

MRC No specific equipment process, but occasional calls
(Clinical Research Infrastructure).



<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/facilities/equipment/process/strategic-equipmentprocess/>

Equipment worth >£400k (cash contribution expected, but not specified)

Must be Strategic capability in the UK context (UK unique, Regional Capability, or enabling a local major cluster of strength)

OUTLINE SUBMISSION DEADLINE	OUTLINE PANEL DATE	PROVISIONAL INTERVIEW PANEL DATE
Tuesday 05 September 2017	October 2017	March 2018
Tuesday 30 November 2017	January 2018	July 2018

ALSO Funding is available “to support the sharing of an item of capital equipment already in place”

“...only (to) be submitted when invited by the relevant EPSRC Theme lead. please contact the Theme lead...”

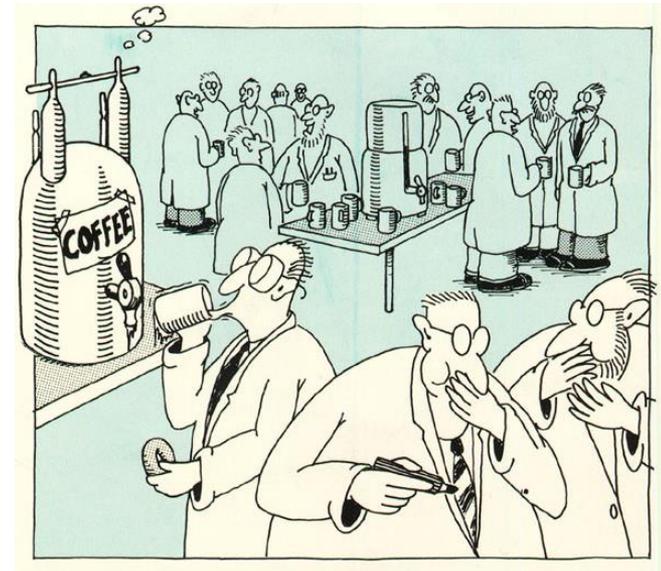
First call in late 2016 (£21M)

Universities/consortia invited to make bids
(>£10M EPSRC grant minimum entry)

33 bids submitted. 11 successful. Two successful
bids included NMR (Soton, Loughborough)

“Single-theme” bids were more successful than “Lots of kit for lots of themes” e.g. Soton’s “Magnetic Resonance Research” bid, but EPSRC are hoping to address that for next time (but probably won’t succeed).

Expected again in late 2018



Last call late 2016 (previously 2014)

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/filter/2016-alert-mid-range-equipment-initiative/>

Shared/Multi-user equipment or emerging tech/novel applications

£10M total pot, At least £138k (“no upper limit”) for requested item

“contributions from the host institution(s) and/or other external sources are not mandatory, (but) they are strongly encouraged.”

Reading between the lines we could anticipate a call in late 2018.





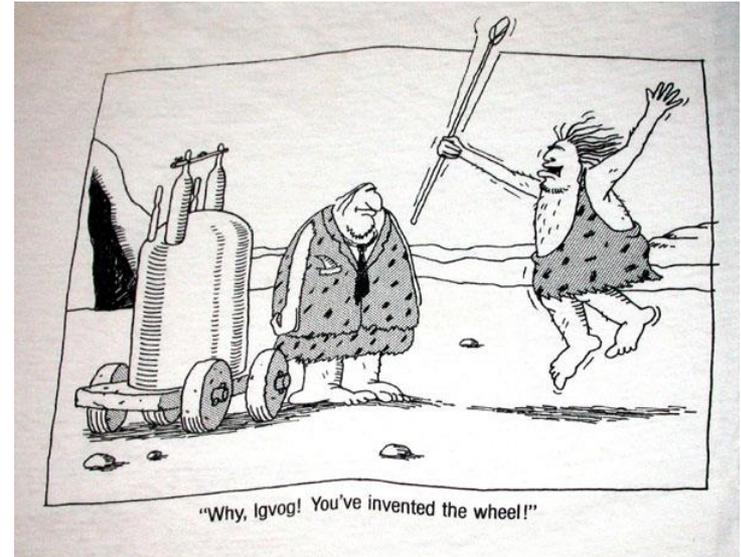
PI-based (but ideally for shared equipment)

Aimed at “Health” in a broad sense

£75k-£1M equipment cost

10% Host contribution for <£500k

20% Host contribution for >£500k



Applications are considered once per year. 2017 dates were:

- **Preliminary application deadline**
 - 13 January 2017
- **Full application deadline**
 - 3 April 2017
- **Committee review**
 - 6 July 2017

Summary

A number of mechanisms available (all have success rates of around 20-33%)

Sharing is crucial – If you don't (offer to) share, you don't get.

Host (cash) contributions of around 20% are pretty typical

Christmas is a bad time to plan anything other than putting together a major equipment grant
