

Emerging Technologies & Responsible Innovation

Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency driving the science and technology innovations that will grow the UK economy. With a strong business focus, Innovate UK drive growth by working with companies to de-risk, enable and support innovation.

Innovate UK is investing up to £15 million in innovation projects to stimulate the new products and services of tomorrow, with projects anticipated to last between 6 months and 3 years.

Emerging Technologies

Innovate UK has identified the following technologies which could have great commercial impact. They include:

- Quantum Technologies
- Energy Harvesting
- Synthetic Biologies
- Graphene
- Non-animal Technologies
- New Imaging Technologies
- Biofilms

In conjunction with detailed market opportunity, applications are advised to clearly state the barriers that the project addresses.

Identifying and Addressing Risk

The lack of clarity and uncertainty surrounding the potential risks of novel technologies can have a profoundly negative impact on their development, uptake and exploitation and are regarded as a major barrier to innovation.

Understanding, identifying and managing the potential risks can be just as important as product performance when it comes to commercialisation and sustainability.

These aspects are clearly identified by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and forms the basis of their Framework for Responsible Innovation (see across).

Why the IOM is Your Partner of Choice

The IOM has an international reputation in addressing chemical- and nanotechnology-risk through our expertise in safety and risk assessment in support of industrial innovation, with unparalleled experience in UK research projects and EC Framework projects.

As both an SME and research organisation, we have unique and extensive experience with the potential risks from particles, platelets and fibres invaluable to the assessment of novel advanced materials. Our laboratory, workplace instruments and Standards-based approach is of proven utility in assessing and mitigating hazards, exposures and risks across the life cycles and value chains of technological innovation.

IOM has a track record in developing and validating responsible practice in R&D, manufacturing and applications across a variety of sectors including advanced composites, energy storage, coatings & paints, and packaging, amongst others.

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Responsible Innovation

In the UK, a strong emphasis is placed in aligning funding with research proposals that incorporate the principles of Responsible Innovation. To help ensure that Responsible Innovation is integrated within the research community, EPSRC will actively:

"Promote ... Responsible Innovation approaches within the wider research community, encouraging broader interactions with other disciplines and spheres of expertise in order to develop capacity for responsible innovation"

"Welcome funding requests ... that seek to explore aspects of Responsible Innovation as an integral part of the research endeavour"

"Be vigilant to potential social, environmental, ethical and regulatory challenges ... and to broaden debate at an early stage"

"Ensure that Responsible Innovation is prominent in strategic thinking and funding plans, including proposal assessment"

"Alert policy makers ... to emerging issues associated with new research as soon as they become apparent"

It is recommended that all researchers demonstrate awareness of and commitment to, the principles of Responsible Innovation.

Source: EPSRC Framework for Responsible Innovation

OUR COMPANY

The Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM) is one of the leading providers of workplace health research, consulting and services. Our expertise extends across a very wide range of disciplines.

We have a reputation for high quality, authoritative and independent measurement, surveys and reporting, which we undertake for hundreds of clients – large and small – each year.

Today, IOM is one of a select few internationally recognised authorities on workplace health around the world.

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