

# Joint Flexible Funding Supergen Energy Storage Network+ Henry Royce Institute

## Call Headline Details

Call opens	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Closing date	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
<b>Scope: Development of novel long duration energy storage (LDES) technologies</b>	
Funding level	80% of full economic costs (FEC)
Available resource for this call	£30,000
Maximum grant value per applicant	£10,000
Application review complete and award decisions made	12 <sup>th</sup> September -17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Offer letters issued	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
*If not all monies are allocated in the first submission round, the Management Board retains the right to re-open the process to applications or to allocate further funding to the highest ranked proposals, based on approval of an extended project scope.	

## Summary

The [Supergen Energy Storage Network+](#) and the [Henry Royce Institute](#) have come together to support the development of novel long duration energy storage (LDES) technologies. Novel LDES can be broadly classified into mechanical, thermal, electrochemical, and chemical storage. While this call does not exclude Lithium-ion batteries, hydrogen, and large-scale pumped Hydro based solutions, the focus is on novel technologies that can fulfil the flexibility space beyond these and other short-duration storage technologies.

The [Supergen Network+](#)'s vision is to connect and serve stakeholders across the whole energy community, advancing and championing UK energy storage research and deployment. A major deliverable for the Supergen Network+ is its flexible funding scheme. A total of £410,000 is available over the duration of the programme to support the development through travel and conference grants, feasibility studies and research projects that enhance existing knowledge to facilitate academic, industrial, policy or international impacts. **This call is specifically for Early Career Researchers (ECRs).**

The [Henry Royce Institute](#) is the UK's national institute for advanced materials research and innovation. Its vision is to identify challenges and to stimulate innovation in advanced materials research to support sustainable growth and development.

## Call for Expression of Interests

**Expressions of Interests (EoIs)** are sought for a piece of work that will utilise the [Royce's facilities](#) to deliver research that supports the development of novel long duration energy storage (LDES) technologies.

The Royce offers industry and academia the capability to make, test and characterise materials, components and systems. Over £150m of equipment is available, easy to access and technically supported. [Browse](#) the catalogue or [contact](#) the Royce to discuss how their capabilities can support your specific challenge, opportunity or R&D programme.

A total of **£30,000** is available in the current round of funding. The maximum funding available by Supergen Network+ is £10,000 (at 80% FEC) per project. Only one submission per applicant is permitted. The use of the Royce equipment is available without charge (up to a limit of £5000 per project TRAC costs, Royce equipment usage at your host institution is not eligible), subject to confirmation of technical feasibility by Royce staff. The anticipated usage should be discussed with Royce staff prior to application, but significant flexibility is anticipated to best meet the needs of the project. Initial enquiries can be directed to [royce.access@materials.ox.ac.uk](mailto:royce.access@materials.ox.ac.uk), who can assist with contacting the relevant technical staff.

Applications enhancing the equality, diversity and inclusivity performance of the host institution and the energy storage community more broadly are especially encouraged.

### *Eligibility*

ECRs are defined as postdoctoral fellows and junior lecturers (typically that are within 36 months of their first academic or equivalent appointment in a UK university). We expect that the applicant's research focus is within the scope of the Supergen Network+ activities.

For this call, EoIs are invited from eligible UK researchers, i.e. applicants based in UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Research Council Institutes and Centres, and Independent Research Organisations (IROs) approved by UKRI.

Applications may be from a single UK academic institute or from a multi-institute collaborative team with a defined lead. The funding supports eligible activities as defined by UKRI, including but not limited to staff time, travel, subsistence, consumables, and experimental costs. All costs must be fully justified as relevant to the proposed project. The funding is provided by EPSRC and information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding is available in the [EPSRC-UKRI funding guide](#).

### *Assessment Process*

Members of the Supergen Network+ Management Board will review eligible expression of interest. The Management Board will then make a final decision on which proposals receive funding. Every effort will be made to ensure no conflicts of interest.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

- Quality and importance of the research and its ability to lead to further grant applications through existing funding bodies (Quality and Ambition);
- Fit with the research challenge and the aims of the Supergen Network+ (Fit);
- Demonstrate the potential of impact of the project (Impact);
- The capability of the project team to deliver the research proposed and management of the resources (Balance of Risk);
- Utilisation of the Henry Royce equipment;

- Co-funded proposals are welcome though this is not essential. However, for proposals with the same quality, priority will be given to co-funded proposals.

### *Submission*

Please submit the following to Dr Tongtong Zhang ([t.zhang.7@bham.ac.uk](mailto:t.zhang.7@bham.ac.uk)):

- Up-to-date CV (max. 2 page), highlighting track record relevant to the proposed research;
- Application form (please find below);
- Supporting letter from the host institute.

### *Terms and Conditions*

Terms and conditions of standard UKRI grant awards apply. All project outputs and engagement should include Supergen Network+ and UKRI/EPSRC branding. Funded projects will be required to contribute to the development of the Supergen Network+ white paper (details to be provided in due course), and produce a summary report (max. 300 words) of impact on applicant's career and research from the funded activity.

### *Equal Opportunities*

The Supergen Network+ is dedicated to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within all aspects of its remit. Accordingly, no eligible applicant will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origins, religion or similar philosophical belief, spent criminal conviction, age, disability, career breaks, paternity/maternity or adoption leave breaks. Applications will be assessed on their merits, in accordance with the evaluation criteria set for the call with all reviewers having received unconscious bias training and guidance.

### *Point of Contact*

If you have a query concerning any aspect of this call, please contact the Supergen Network+ Dr Tongtong Zhang at [t.zhang.7@bham.ac.uk](mailto:t.zhang.7@bham.ac.uk).

### *More information*

For more information about the Supergen Network+, please see our website [www.supergenstorage.org](http://www.supergenstorage.org).

### *GDPR*

This application will be stored by the University of Birmingham. By submitting it, you acknowledge that the information you provide will be transferred to the University of Birmingham for processing. All information will be held safely and in compliance with GDPR and the Equality Act 2010. The Supergen Network+ team will use this information to select research projects for funding. You can ask us to delete your data at any time by emailing [energystorage@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:energystorage@contacts.bham.ac.uk). Please note that without this data, we will be unable to process your application and so your application will be withdrawn.

## Application Form

<b>Applicant Information</b>			
Name of applicant			
Organisation			
Email			
Phone			
Job Role			
<b>Describe your current research area</b> (max. 100 words):			
<b>Project summary</b> (max.300 words):			
<b>Alignment to research challenge</b> (max. 150 words):			
<b>Describe your project’s scientific novelty and ambition</b> (max. 150 words):			
<b>Describe your project’s scientific impact</b> (max. 150 words):			
<b>Detail the aims and objectives of the project</b> (max. 300 words):			
<b>Describe your project’s methodology and research activities; include key milestones and deliverables and a Gantt chart</b> (max. 600 words):			
<b>Describe how you will plan and manage your project</b> (max. 150 words):			
<b>Funds requested</b> (please itemise these in £GBP; confirmation that costs are in accordance with institutional guidelines will be required by the date of award):			
Resource	Justification (when applicable)	Full economic cost (FEC)	Award value (80% FEC)
<b>Total value requested from Supergen Network+</b>			<b>£</b>
<b>Details of additional external funding</b> (if applicable)			