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**Subject:** Accelerator Science Research Call for Consortia  
**Date:** 18 November 2022 at 11:47  
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**Subject:** Hi-Phi Entry ('Special Edition')  
**Importance:** High

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## Accelerator Science Research Call for Consortia

STFC is taking a new approach to funding accelerator science following the publication of the new [Accelerator Strategic Framework](#). Proposals will shortly be invited for consortia to form around themed R&D areas.

The Strategic Framework will guide individual targeted funding over the medium term. To this end, a more specific way ahead is defined below; a fusion of top down and community-driven bottom-up approaches, building on the momentum in accelerator science built up over recent years:

- Community consortia are invited to form and generate themed R&D programmes for a four-year programme of work that supports the development of UK strengths directly aligned with the Strategic Framework priorities, with an emphasis on exploiting existing facilities and the sustainable construction and operation of the UK's and CERN's priority infrastructures.
- STFC will support a few substantive (up to ~£1M/year) programmes. Outline programmes should be submitted in early 2023. These will be considered by STFC to ensure fit to the Accelerator Strategic Framework mission statement and themes, before inviting a subset to submit full proposals to be peer reviewed later that year.
- STFC aims to support work in up to three pillars:
  - LHC and its upgrades (including future machines), exploiting UK strengths aligned with the European Roadmap
  - Novel acceleration technologies (including exploiting CLARA, EPAC, and similar facilities)
  - The route to UK FEL capabilities

More guidance will be issued shortly, and the call is expected to open in January on the UKRI Funding Finder website. Funding for this call will start in October 2023. An annual oversight point will allow for funded activities to be stopped and/or pivot towards new opportunities. The call is open to programmes that include industry partners.

We appreciate the limited time that this opportunity presents to form consortia and develop new activities. However, the intention is to initiate a long-term programme rather than a one-off opportunity, and issue another call in 2025 that will enable new consortia to submit proposals. The three pillars will be reviewed ahead of that and could be subject to change.

Note that work towards a UK FEL capability is being supported through the recently announced UK-FEL preliminary infrastructure project. This will be taken into account when apportioning the overall funding envelope in the short term.

If you have any questions, please contact the joint mailbox on [PP@stfc.ukri.org](mailto:PP@stfc.ukri.org)

Regards,  
STFC Programmes Directorate

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