



CAMREG
Centre for Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy Generation

www.camreg.chem.ed.ac.uk

Call for Proposals 2019 for Research Projects in Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy Generation

BACKGROUND

The **Centre for Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy Generation** - CAMREG – is a Networking Centre funded by EPSRC in 2017, based at the University of Edinburgh in partnership with the University of Strathclyde and is now entering its third year. The funding received included a flexible element to support this competitive call for new, complementary research projects. This second CAMREG call for proposals against its flexible fund aims to support up to 6 projects, each of total budget value up to £50,000, of which CAMREG will fund **80%** as per EPSRC rules.

Areas of Research

The aim of CAMREG is to combine activity, know-how and facilities from across a wide range of existing fundamental and applied materials science capacity to address the known and emerging challenges in renewable energy generation and storage. Acting as a curiosity-driven platform, CAMREG aims to deliver adventurous research at the thematic discipline intersections of its partners to explore, discover and exploit potentially disruptive materials, processes and technologies.

This research is delivered by a combination of pre-defined keystone projects and the flexibly-funded projects supported by this Call, aiming to achieve wide-ranging impact and generate follow-on funding from public and private sources. Research in CAMREG is grouped in three themes:

- [Theme 1: Multifunctional materials for energy applications;](#)
- [Theme 2: Materials for energy conversion and storage;](#)
- [Theme 3: Smart materials for energy applications.](#)

Flex-funded projects will be expected to lead to proposals for follow-on funding of further research and to engage with industry.

Eligibility

This call is open to staff of any UK university engaged in research into or relating to advanced materials for renewable energy generation, and who are eligible for EPSRC support. Academic or research staff already funded under the parent CAMREG award or previous flex-funding round are not eligible to apply as PIs, but may be included in a proposal as CIs, with their role clearly indicated in the proposal as advisory/supportive to the PI. Unsuccessful applicants from the previous Call are welcome to re-apply, but they should submit either an entirely new, or a significantly updated proposal. Resubmitted proposals with no substantial new elements will be rejected. In this current round, an academic may be included in one proposal only, either as PI or CI.

Proposals will be expected to align with and contribute to one of the three themes above, be interdisciplinary in their ambition and outcomes, and demonstrate tangible industry engagement, at least with a letter of support. In Stage 1

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(Expression of Interest) this should be manifested by a clear indication of potential industrial engagement and impact. In Stage 2 (full proposal) a letter of support from at least one industrial partner will be required.

RESEARCH CALL ARRANGEMENTS

This Call is a 2-stage process:

Stage 1 – Submission of an online Expression of Interest. This brief outline will include an indication of the research challenge, description of novelty, timeline for completion and alignment with CAMREG themes and Industrial engagement. Expressions of interest may be made at <https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/camreg-flexi-fund-expression-of-interest-2019>

Stage 2 – Full proposals should be submitted as a single .pdf document and should include the following sections:

1. track record of the PI and research team and capacity to deliver (up to 1 page);
2. case for support (up to 3 pages) including research challenge, novelty and timeliness, aims and objectives, programme of work including methodology, tasks and deliverables;
3. pathways to impact and outreach (up to 1 page);
4. management, work-plan and budget (up to 1 page).

Standard EPSRC document formatting rules apply in terms of font size, margins and line spacing: the manuscript must be completed in single-spaced typescript in Arial 11 or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size, with margins of at least 2 cm. Arial narrow and Calibri are not allowable font types. Text in embedded diagrams or pictures, numerical formulae or references can be smaller, as long as it is legible. Text in tables and figure labels not within embedded diagrams or pictures should be at least 11 point.

We reserve the right to reject applications that do not meet these requirements.

Each proposal must be accompanied by at least one Letter of Support from a collaborating company, itemising the cash or in-kind support offered to the project.

RESEARCH CALL AND PROJECT TIMETABLE

The call, procurement and delivery process will operate to the following timetable:

Release of call document: 10 th January 2019
Deadline for submission of online expressions of interest: 8 th February 2019 at 16:00.
Invitations to submit full proposal: late February 2019
Deadline for submission of proposals: 1 st April 2019 at 16:00
Notification of successful applicants: Around mid-end April 19
Completion of work: April 2020

REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed internally by staff of CAMREG, together with external input from the management of other EPSRC-funded Energy Materials Research Centres. Proposals will be peer reviewed by an expert panel, consisting of those above and members of the CAMREG Industry Advisory Board with oversight of an EPSRC observer. Panel members will not themselves participate in any submissions to the competition, and those conflicted in proposals received will take no part in their assessment. The criteria against which proposals will be assessed will include, but not be limited to:

- Demonstrated excellence and ability to deliver;
- Novelty and quality of the proposed research;

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- Complementary fit to the current programme and additionality;
- Industry and additional engagement; letter of support
- Potential for impact.

RESEARCH PROJECT ARRANGEMENTS

The expectation is to fund up to six projects in each of two Calls, with this being the second Call. Each project will have a duration of up to 12 months within the completion window and can support RA time, usually from existing staff complements. Industry participation and support, in cash or kind, will be expected to further strengthen applications. While the projects will deliver individual and novel outcomes they will also be expected to complement work ongoing within the themes in CAMREG. Each new project partner will be expected to participate in coordination and outreach meetings and to report regularly to the CAMREG programme management.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The University of Edinburgh holds the CAMREG grant and will make flex-funds available via a contract agreed between Edinburgh and the successful universities. Flex-funded projects will be subject to EPSRC procurement rules and will require successful universities to enter a CAMREG Collaboration Agreement. The research project funds are intended to support post-doctoral research staff with a modest allowance for subsistence and travel to meetings and conference participation. Investigator, research staff, infrastructure technicians, estates, other directly allocated and indirect costs must be shown (in a manner similar to JeS) in the application submitted. **Applications must be based on full FEC and show the contribution to be made by the grant (80% FEC).**

ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries about this Call for Proposals should be made by email to camreg@ed.ac.uk. Replies will be posted by email and in a list of FAQs on the CAMREG website at <http://www.camreg.chem.ed.ac.uk>

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