

## UltraStore Aluminium Call for Research Proposals – Faraday Institution March 2026 – Frequently Asked Questions

This document is to answer likely frequently asked questions about this call.

Please refer to [the call document](#) and the [Flexigrant online application form](#) for further information.

If you have further questions, please contact the UltraStore programme management team at [UltraStore@faraday.ac.uk](mailto:UltraStore@faraday.ac.uk). Please allow at least two working days for the team to reply to enable you to enable sufficient time for you to submit your application before the deadline.

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## 1. Expected key dates (subject to change):

Activity	Date
Call launch	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Deadline for applications	11:59pm Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Successful applicants notified	May 2026
Grant start date	From 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026

## 2. Are overseas organisations eligible for funding?

The funding rules mean that overseas collaborators are not eligible to receive funding directly as a project partner. However, they can be included as a sub-contractor in the project and receive funding that way. Of course, this will mean reduced funding for the lead organisation.

## 3. Are private companies eligible for funding?

Private companies are not eligible to receive funding directly as project lead or as a project partner. However, they can be included in the project as a sub-contractor up to 15% of the value of the grant.

## 4. Can applicants apply for multiple research sprints?

Yes – we expect some applicants to apply for multiple Research Sprints. Therefore some applicants may be awarded multiple Research Sprint grants. Applicants can apply for a single Research Sprint, or for multiple Research Sprints for the same electrode (e.g., to pursue three different anode solutions in parallel) or for multiple Research Sprints across both the anode and the cathode. A separate application should be completed for each Research Sprint applied for. Each proposal will be judged on its own merits and compared against the competing proposals for that electrode (cathode or anode). There will be no preference for single or multiple applications.

## 5. What is the submission deadline and are extensions possible?

The deadline is the 27th April 2026, and extensions will not be granted. Please reach out to the programme team ([UltraStore@faraday.ac.uk](mailto:UltraStore@faraday.ac.uk)) ahead of the deadline with any issues to ensure your application can be submitted on time.

## 6. What percentage of full economic cost is covered?

Funding will be awarded at 80% FEC. The 80% is up to £350,000 per Research Sprint.

## **7. Can applicants receive feedback if their proposal is unsuccessful?**

Yes, feedback will be provided to all applicants once the decision of the call has been announced.

## **8. The Faraday Institution was considering other technologies as well as aluminium – will further calls be launched as part of the UltraStore programme?**

Yes, the Faraday Institution is likely to launch at least one more UltraStore research programme, related to iron batteries later in 2026. Please email [UltraStore@faraday.ac.uk](mailto:UltraStore@faraday.ac.uk) if you wish to be added to the distribution list for this call when it launches.

## **9. Why has the Faraday Institution chosen this technology for the UltraStore programme over others?**

The Faraday Institution considered a very wide range of technologies as part of the co-creation phase of the UltraStore programme, including both electrochemical and non-electrochemical solutions, and worked with industry and academic experts to down-select the most suitable solutions for this programme. A wide range of interconnected criteria and risks were considered, including (but not limited to) the underlying costs of materials, potential for UK manufacturing and deployment, the likelihood of Faraday Institution funded scientific research leading to sufficient de-risking of the technical challenges to progress to a commercially viable product, and the potential for a large scale product to lead to positive UK economic impact.

Competition for this programme was extremely strong, and a number of technologies were considered in some depth during the co-creation phase. The Faraday Institution is only able to pursue a limited number of research programmes. Therefore, if a technology has not been selected for this programme, that does not signify a lack of endorsement from the Faraday Institution for that technology. It is highly likely that a number of technologies that were not selected for this programme could be successfully commercialised, either for this use case or for a different one (for example for grid technology for a different time-scale and/or with different economic requirements).

## **10. What format and length should the proposal be?**

The application form is online and will contain fields for:

- Applicant and organisation details (mandatory)
- Project details including scope, deliverables, project team and risks (mandatory)
- Funding requested including financial breakdown (mandatory)
- CV(s) of applicant(s)
  - Institutional letters of support (mandatory)

Applicants must also complete a [project plan](#) and a [budget plan](#). These templates are also available on Flexigrant.

There are word limits for some sections. Please refer to the application form on Flexigrant for further details.

## **11. Does this call allow for collaborative proposals involving partners from two or three different universities?**

Yes, this is permitted. However, please note the following:

Because the UK has limited time to gain a significant strategic advantage in these areas, the Transformational Challenges are being approached through a set of highly directed, time limited, stage-gated, 18-month Research Sprints rather than through the more traditional Faraday Institution core research project structure.

The programme has been split into individual research sprints and we would expect the majority of proposals to have the format of approximately one researcher at around 100% FTE plus one or more supervisors, most likely at a lower percentage FTE.

However, the programme encourages applicants to put together the teams that they believe will be the most effective at rapidly reaching the programme goals.

There may be a compelling reason to apply with a different team structure, for example, if it demonstrates that it will accelerate the project towards its goals/milestones, which would the Faraday Institution would support. However, we encourage applicants to consider carefully any complexities that may cause administrative or other issues that reduce the ability of the team to start or enact work promptly or to adapt to changes rapidly.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- All participants on the programme will be expected to collaborate with other researchers as part of the programme, whether or not those researchers were named on their applications.
- If an applicant is aware that their proposed solution is compatible with another specific proposal, but they do not intend to form a joint proposal, they are welcome to mention this on their application form.
- Applicants are also welcome to submit multiple applications if they wish, which can have different team structures.
- The programme is very much open to part-time applicants, job-shares and different team structures.

## **12. Should I apply for the total budget of £350,000 per Research Sprint?**

Funding will be awarded at 80% FEC. The 80% is up to £350,000 per Research Sprint.

The £350,000 upper limit of funds per application is very much an upper limit and is expected to be greater than the budget requested for many applications.

We strongly encourage applicants to consider the resources required to deliver their project in the best way and apply for those, which may mean applying for less than £350,000. All funds requested will be reviewed carefully and the Faraday Institution may request changes to budget, teams and project plans before progressing an application. It is also possible that additional resources may be made available during the programme if they are available and deemed beneficial to the programme as a whole.

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The UltraStore programme management team can be contacted at:  
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