**Application to Construct Innovate Core Fund**

***Guidance*** *(this section can be deleted before form is submitted)*

* Please complete all sections outlined below in Calibri (Body), Font size 10, Single line spacing, Normal margins (as per this template), considering the guideline notes (in grey). Do not exceed page/word limits per section. Evaluators will not consider text that exceeds the word/page limit.
* Applications must be completed using this application template and submitted in MS Word Format. All call information is available to download from[*www.constructinnovate.ie*](http://www.constructinnovate.ie/)
* The application should be treated as if it is a business case.
* Overall, the application should clearly outline why Construct Innovate should invest in this proposal.
* Results from completed projects will be **open-source** and published by Construct Innovate upon completion of the peer review and disseminated widely.
* The budget justification should detail exactly what the request will fund, including staff grades and post durations and a clear value for money narrative, i.e. demonstrate how this is the most cost-effective option.
  + Maximum funding available from Construct Innovate for individual proposals will not exceed €50,000 project funding (excl. 30% Overheads).
  + Pay costs must be in line with an approved pay scale and include Employer’s Pension (20%) and PRSI (11.05%) and increments where relevant. Assume a starting point of mid-point on scale. Clearly outline the FTE and proposed grade.
  + Non-Pay and Capital requests must include all taxes and VAT at the prevailing rates.
  + The future operational costs of capital (e.g. licenses, maintenance agreements etc.) should be included under non-pay costs.
  + Future savings should be clear and genuinely achievable and will be expected to be delivered.
  + New associated income streams should be clearly included, genuinely achievable and will be expected to be delivered.
  + Funding model/mechanism including % contribution of industry funds and/or other national funding streams (national or international) should be clearly detailed and secured/committed by non-Construct Innovate funding parties.
  + Successful projects will be widely communicated and marketed to different stakeholders across industry. It is very important that a communication and marketing plan is properly resourced within the project budget to optimise dissemination.
* Budget clarity
  + Please carefully read the guidelines in the tables under Section 5. Budget to be clear on how the project costings are to be calculated and listed in the budget table.
  + Proposals that do not complete the project table properly will received lower marks for that section of may not be considered for funding if the evaluation panel do not consider the submitted project financials to be clearly outlined.
* Evaluation:
  + Open to all Construct Innovate **members** exclusively.
  + Project collaborators must include at least one RPO member (Research Performing Organisation) and one Associate/Patron Member. Maximum 2 applications accepted by a collaborative partnership.
  + Applications open from **1st April 2025 until 12pm on 31st May 2025**.  Applications received after this time/date will not be evaluated.
  + Only projects that score >70/100 marks will be considered for funding.
* Post Award conditions of Funding award:
  + From approval of funding, successful proposals must officially start the project within 6 months of project award including resourcing and contract signing. Construct Innovate may recall funding if not commenced within this timeframe. Clearly demonstrate this in application resource plan.
  + There will be a requirement within any funding offer to submit a resource plan to confirm that resources will be available within 6 months to deliver the project

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| --- | --- |
| **Project title** |  |
| **Project start & end date** | Please allow reasonable time from receipt of project award for project setup, recruitment (if required) and contract signing before start date.  Successful proposals must officially start the project within 6 months of project award including resourcing and contract signing. Construct Innovate may recall funding if not commenced within this timeframe. Clearly demonstrate this in application resource plan. |
| **Construct Innovate Pillar**  Select only one Pillar for this proposed project | **Productivity, affordability & cost**  **Quality & safety**  **Sustainability**  **Skills & training**  **Collaboration** |
| **Project Origin** | Note: Origin to the project, e.g. working group, IndEx members event, previous research projects, etc. |
| **Applicant’s name (RPO member (PI))** |  |
| **Applicant’s email** | Note this will be used for all future communication |
| **Applicant’s RPO/ School /Unit** |  |
| **Collaborators** | **Partner 1:** specify company size in-line from “Associate/Patron Member Size Categorisation Table” in guideline slides and Industry Funding Calculator  **Partner 2:** specify company size in-line from “Associate/Patron Member Size Categorisation Table” in guideline slides and Industry Funding Calculator  **….**  Please list all Construct Innovate members (associate, patron or RPO) partnering in this project. All collaborators should be members of Construct Innovate at the time of issuing the Project Collaboration Agreement. |
| **Submission date** |  |

**Please start each section on a new page**

1. **Lay Abstract (max 200 words)**

Please briefly summarise the project for a lay person. The abstract should outline the problem statement, objectives and expected outcomes, including the significance of the research to the field. This abstract will be used for marketing and communication if the project is awarded.

1. **Project description (max 1 Page) - max 20 marks**

* **Background:** Please provide a summary of the context or background to the undertaking of this project.
* **Project summary:** Please provide a summary of the scope of the project and its expected outcomes.
* **Objectives:** Please provide a list of the specific objectives that the project aims to achieve.
* **Project innovation:** Please describe how the project is innovative to the Irish construction industry or the global market.
* **Transfer of knowledge (TOK):** Please describe the TOK between academia, public bodies, industry and other stakeholders as part of this project.
* **Strategic alignment:** Please provide an outline of how this project aligns with various national actions, such as NPF/ NDP 2018 NPOs, CAP 2023 Actions, HfA 2022 Actions, UN SDG Targets, etc. The project will also be considered in terms of alignment with the Centre’s 5 pillars

1. **Impact statement (max 1 Page) - max 40 marks**

Please provide a detailed outline of the proposed impact of the project focusing on the significance of the short-term and longer-term change that is brought about by this project. This section should be completed by both the RPO and industry applicants, as outlined below.

The overall sustainability of the project outcomes needs to be considered and described to show positive sustainable impact.

**Academic applicants should complete the following (delete/add the type of impact as applicable): (20 Marks)**

Discuss the 4 most relevant areas of impact (5 marks each)

* Scientific impact
* Technical impact
* Economic impact
* Environmental impact
* Societal impact
* Policy impact

**Industry collaborators should complete the following: (20 Marks)**

* **Impact on the company:** please demonstrate the how proposed outcomes of this project will positively impact your organisation through the delivery and results of this project.
* **Impact on the wider industry:** please demonstrate how proposed outcomes of this project will positively impact the wider construction industry through the delivery and results of this project.

1. **Work plan (max 2 pages) – max 30 marks**

* **Work plan:** Outline the quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including description of work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones and their associated deadlines. Include project Gantt chart.
  + Communications and marketing deliverables. Please consider communication and marketing outputs from your project. Examples: infographic, video, flyer etc. that would effectively communicate project objectives and impact to wider stakeholders including industry/policy/ general public etc. An appropriate portion of the budget allocation should be dedicated to this deliverable.
* **Personnel description:** Include details of core staff that will be put to work on this project and their role in the project. Provide details of academic members that will work on the project, their experience relating to the proposal topic and their availability to dedicate sufficient time to the project. Also include sub-section on details of collaborators and project team members, consider member companies and their involvement in the project, agencies, semi-state bodies, government departments, etc. Use names where appropriate. Consider transfer of staff between academia and industry.
* **Facilities:** Please specify if any specialised equipment or specific facilities will be required to complete the project, and who it will be provided by. If the project is undertaken on a pilot basis using an existing, live construction project, please provide details and the commitment of the PSDP/PSCS to incorporate this research project into their overall project safely.
* **Risk assessment:** Specify risks associated with the proposed work plan and propose contingency plans

1. **Budget - max 10 marks**

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| **Budget justification (max 300 words)**  Please provide a detailed outline of the proposed budget.  Note: a requirement for a minimum €15,000 cash/in-kind contribution from associate/ patron members.  The minimum contribution split between cash/in-kind as well as across multiple industry partners (if applicable) can be calculated using the Industry Funding Calculator.xlsx  Note: The teaching buyout of academic staff is not allowed. Funding of research staff, including two-way transfer between academia-industry should be prioritised.  In the budget table below,  **Total Project Cost** **(A) = (B) + (C) + (E)**  **Total Project Budget (F) = (A) + (D)** | | | |
| **Category** | **Description** | | **Total (€)** |
| **Pay** |  | |  |
| **Non-pay:** |  | |  |
| Travel (domestic) |  | |  |
| Travel (international) |  | |  |
| Materials & Consumables |  | |  |
| Capital |  | |  |
| Sub-contract |  | |  |
| Communication & Marketing |  | |  |
| Other costs |  | |  |
|  | | | |
| **Total project cost (excl. overheads and in-kind) (A)**  **This is the total cash cost of delivering the project (Project Funding from Construct Innovate + Cash Funding from Industry Partners + Cash funding from Non-Industry Source (if applicable))** | | | € |
| **Funding requested from Construct Innovate (B)** excluding 30% Overhead  **Project Funding up to a maximum of €50,000 (excl. Overhead) can be sought from Construct Innovate** | | | € |
| **Industry cost-share** | **Description**  Please note a requirement for €15,000 cash/in kind contribution from associate/ patron members based on company size.  Where there are multiple partners there needs to be an accurate breakdown of costs based on a) individual company size and b) how many industry partners are involved in the project.  The minimum contribution split between cash/in-kind across each industry partner can be calculated using the Industry Funding Calculator.xlsx | | |
| **Industry cash contribution** | Important: Achieving the minimum industry cash contribution will carry a marking of 3 out of a maximum 6 marks available. Exceeding the minimum industry cash contribution will result in additional marks up to a maximum of 6.  Please note that industry cash contribution will include the industry overhead as defined by the applicant’s RPO. This overhead will not contribute to direct project costs and should be deducted before factoring industry cash available to cover project costs.  Please detail the cash contribution provided by each industry partner. | | € |
| **Industry cash contribution (Excl Overhead) (C)** | This figure is the balance of industry cash available after deduction of industry overhead by the applicant RPO.  Please detail the cash contribution provided by each industry partner. | | € |
| **Industry in-kind contribution (D)** | Please include the details of the in-kind contribution (define what “in-kind” is being contributed to the project)  Please detail the in-kind contribution provided by each industry partner.  “In-kind” contribution should not be included in Total Project Cost (A) calculation in table above as it is not a cash contribution to the project to cover expenses. “In-kind” is included in Total Project Budget (F) below.  Minimum required in-kind contribution per partner can be calculated using the Industry Funding Calculator.xlsx | | € |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Non-industry cost-share (national/international research funding)** | **Description** | | |
| **Non-industry funding cash contribution (E)** | If applicable - please provide details of cash % contribution from national/international funding source. | |  |
| **Total Project Budget** | **Description** | | |
| **Total Project Budget (F)** | Total project cost (A) + Industry in-kind contribution (D) | | € |