

Accelerating transformative research to deliver Ireland's energy revolution

2025 SEAI National Energy Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme

Information Webinar

Wednesday May 21st

SEAI National Energy Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme

SEAI Presenters Francesca Martini, Janis Aleksans, Linda Crosbie Irene Ward, Joanne Fitzgerald

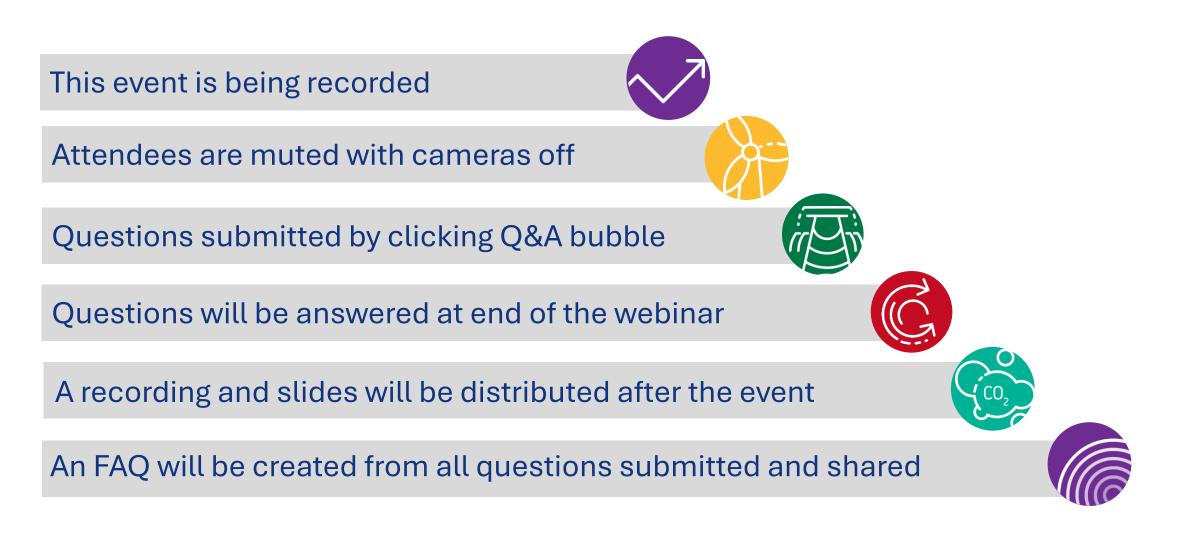




- 1. Introduction
- 2. Programme description & objectives
- 3. Who can avail of the programme?
- 4. What projects are eligible Open & Topic Strand
- 5. Definition of project roles
- 6. Application process
- 7. Evaluation process
- 8. Financial details
- 9. Top Tips
- 10. Q&A

Send your questions in the Q&A window at any time during the webinar !





Housekeeping

We work with Government, homeowners, business and communities to create a cleaner energy future







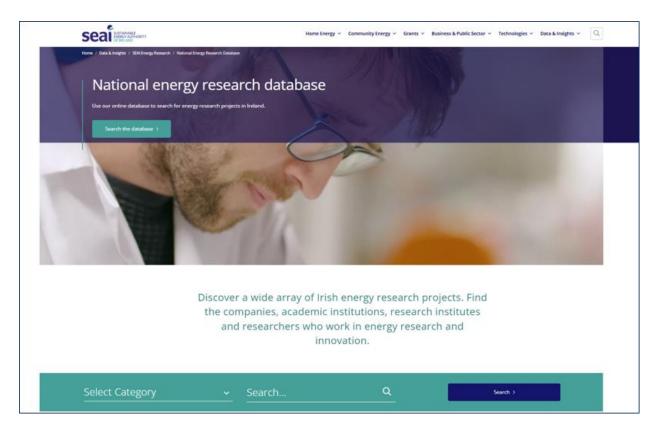
SEAI Research & Innovation Supports





National Energy Research Database

- Centralised location for
 National Energy Research
- Provides more information on current and past Energy Research projects
- Encourage collaboration and communication between researchers



https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-research/research-database/

Seal Sustainable Energy authority of ireland

SEAI RD&D Programme - Overarching goals

The SEAI National Energy RD&D Funding Programme invests in innovative energy RD&D projects which contribute to Ireland's transition to a clean and secure energy future





- >~240 innovative research projects
- > Approx. €100M total research funding
- Supporting high value research jobs, careers & opportunities
 Informing energy policy
- SEAI and the RD&D Programme are funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Co-funding partners on certain topics
- For further details: https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-development-and-demonstration-fund/



Impact Report 2018-2019

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• 2018-19 Impact Report Published May 2025



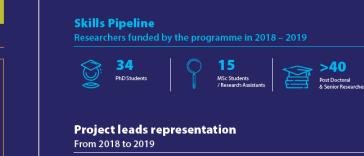
(14 AS LEADS)

(7 AS LEADS)

Leveraged funding

(24 AS LEADS)

Leveraged funding











- Up to € 19 M available
- Co-funding partners

Changes from previous years

- Project Scale categories
- No fellowships- separate call
- Project duration if proposal includes PhD student(s)
- EU definition of small/medium enterprise



An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications



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Key Dates		
Call Open	Tuesday 6 th May 2025	
Application Deadline	Tuesday 1 st July 2025, 12 noon	
Eligibility & Evaluation	Q3 2025	
Award Notification	Q4 2025	

All call details are available at:

https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-development-and-demonstration-fund/



Who can avail?

Strands and Topics

What funding is available?

Who's in a project team?

How to apply?



How is my application evaluated?

What financial information is needed?

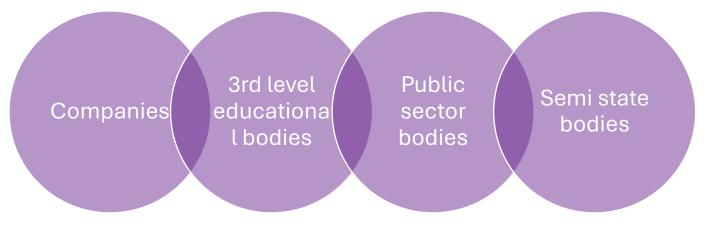








• Open to public & private sector organisations, including:



- Must be based in the Republic Of Ireland.
- Please pay close attention to the eligibility criteria, funding rates and documents required for organisations in the <u>Budget Policy</u>
- <u>Consortia and collaborations strongly encouraged</u>

See the National Energy Research Database for previous successful applicants



Who can avail?

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How is my application evaluated?

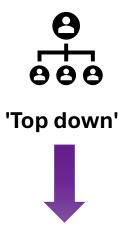
What financial information is needed?











Topic Strand

applicants submit proposals that address specific pre-defined topics

Open Strand

applicants propose projects which directly address objectives of SEAI RD&D Funding Programme







Open Strand

applicants propose projects which directly address objectives of SEAI RD&D Funding Programme

Programme Overarching Goals



Support

Support solutions that enable

technical and other barriers to

capacity to access, develop and to policy makers and public

Grow

market uptake to be overcome apply international class RD&D bodies

Grow Ireland's national

Inform Provide guidance and support

Accelerate

Accelerate competitive energyrelated products, processes and systems

16 www.seai.ie



- 20 Topics
- 4 topics are co- funded with other partner organisations



Topic Strand

applicants submit proposals that address specific pre-defined topics Top down'

(2 confirmed, 3rd pending signature of agreement)



Thematic Topic Areas

Electricity & Smart Grids	 Impact from Climate Change on Ireland's renewable energy resource potential (co-funded with Met Éireann) Hydrogen & other dispatchable flexible grid support technologies Demonstration of Grid Forming Inverters for greater stabilisation 	
Offshore	• Strategic research priorities for development of the offshore renewable energy sector in Ireland	
Transport	 Understanding the potential opportunity and pathways to reduce emissions in short distance maritime transport Decarbonisation of Irelands passenger vehicle Fleet (co-funded with CCAC) 	
Buildings	 Analysis of Building Automation & Control Systems (BACs) in various non-residential building categories to inform and assist the practical role out of requirements for these systems under Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD). Assessment of Ventilation and Indoor Environmental Quality in post occupancy dwellings 	
Raw Materials	• Addressing sustainable supply and demand for critical raw materials in the renewable energy sector	



Thematic Topic Areas (2)

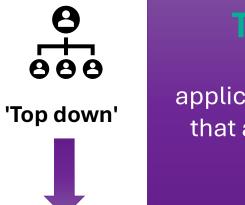
Energy Management	 Co-design of energy poverty supports Optimising Household Energy Use: Contributions to Grid Flexibility and Security
BioEnergy	 Solutions for collaborative approaches to establish and operate AD plants and biorefinery facilities in Farm level assessment to enhance forage yields and quality of the grass/crops as a feedstock for AD plants and/or integrated AD biorefinery facilities to meet the Renewable Energy Directive sustainability criteria
Heat	 Heat Loss and heat pump performance in dwellings in Ireland and the EU Exploration of innovative models for the development of Heat as a Service in the residential sector. Industrial Heat Decarbonisation and Hydrogen Integration with District Heating Systems
Geothermal & Storage	 Underground thermal energy storage potential in Ireland The potential role of geothermal energy in the Irish energy system
Society, Citizens & Communities	 A system-based evaluation of post-growth policy alternatives using multi-criteria or sufficiency- orientated frameworks, with emphasis on positive social and ecological Exploring the Expansion and Impact of Energy Cooperatives in Ireland

• Topic descriptions in Annex 1

• NB - Proposals submitted to a Topic are not necessarily expected to address every objective/output outlined



Topic Strand Vs Open Strand



Topic Strand

applicants submit proposals that address specific predefined topics

Open Strand

applicants propose projects which directly address objectives of SEAI RD&D Funding Programme



- Feedback cannot be given before deadline
 – up to you to decide which topic/ strand
- Compete with each other equally for funding.



Who can avail?

Strands and Topics

What funding is available?

Who's in a project team?

How to apply?



How is my application evaluated?

What financial information is needed?









SEAI's RD&D Funding Programme provides funding under the following guidelines:

- The maximum SEAI funding available per project is €1,250,000, inclusive of overheads;
- Project duration should be **between 12 to 48 months**, depending on the specific needs and structure of the project.
- Proposals intending to recruit PhD students must apply for a 48month project duration.
- Co-funded topics may have indicative budgets and timelinesplease refer to <u>2025 SEAI RD&D Call Document</u>.



Who can avail?

Strands and Topics

What funding is available?

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How is my application evaluated?

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Build your project team: project roles

Lead Applicant

Partner Applicant(s)

Collaborator(s)



Lead Applicant

Management of the project / Budget holder Technical direction, progress monitoring/reporting, dissemination, etc. Primary contact point for SEAI

Partner Applicant(s)

Collaborator(s)



Lead Applicant	Management of the project / Budget holder Technical direction, progress monitoring/reporting, dissemination, etc. Primary contact point for SEAI
Partner Applicant(s)	Support the Lead Applicant, funded partner Will be named within the Grant Agreement
Collaborator(s)	



Lead Applicant	Management of the project / Budget holder Technical direction, progress monitoring/reporting, dissemination, etc. Primary contact point for SEAI
Partner Applicant(s)	Support the Lead Applicant, funded partner Will be named within the Grant Agreement
Collaborator(s)	Provide valuable intellectual/technical/financial contribution Not funded by SEAI

Collaboration

We encourage collaboration; across disciplines, stakeholders, organisations, communities & end-users



Diverse participation

Application Form:

- Section 1: Project team details
- Section 2.4: refer to project team members by surname
- Section 4.4: Gender
 - Describe how **gender balance** will be fostered within the team
 - List concrete actions demonstrating how gender balance will be fostered
 - Describe any potential gender dimension of the proposed research activity

oject Details	
n (max 30	
le)	
Surname (Only)	Organisation
	n (max 30 ple) Surname (Only)

2.4 Project Team & Collaborator Profile

Please refer to project members by surname only.

4.4 Gender Considerations

This information will be used to evaluate plans to foster the gender balance and any gender considerations within the research project. Please ensure you do not identify individual team members in completing this form.

Table 3.7 - Gender Balance and Gender Dimension

 Description of how gender balance will be fostered within the proposed team:

 Please describe how gender balance will be fostered within the proposed team.

 Please list concrete actions demonstrating how gender balance will be fostered.

 Action title (add as many lines as appropriate)

 Action 1:

 Action 2:

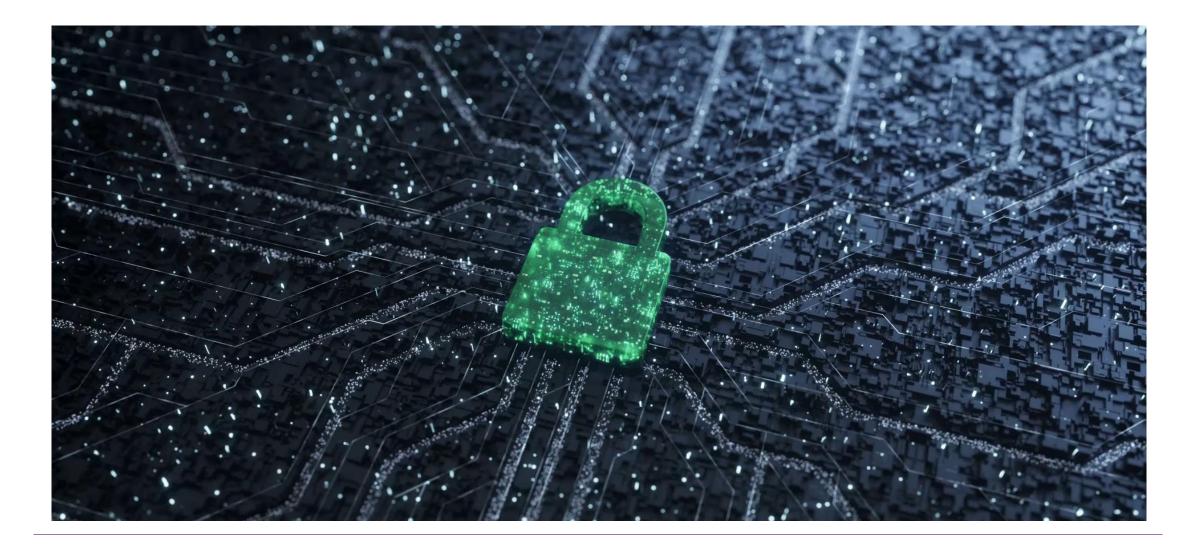
 Action 3:

Description of any potential gender dimension of the proposed research activity:

Nease consider any potential gender dimension of the proposed research activity.
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Research Security





Research Security

Open and safe research Protect the integrity of research and safeguard sensitive knowledge

4.3 Research Security

The SEAI Research Development and Demonstration Programme supports the European Commission's Council Recommendation on Research Security. SEAI will follow recommendations including reserving the right to undertake a risk appraisal in the funding application processes, as arising. SEAI encourages funding beneficiaries to identify and assess risks up front and periodically throughout the research project.

□ Please tick to confirm that you have reviewed your research activity in the context of research security and no risk has been identified.

□ Please tick to confirm that you have reviewed your research activity in the context of research security and a risk of exposure has been identified. Please provide details below

Research Security

Please describe any potential research security exposure of your research activity





Who can avail?

Strands and Topics

What funding is available?

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How is my application evaluated?

What financial information is needed?









Submitting your Application

Programme documents

These are key. Please familiarise yourself with these if you are considering applying.

- o 2025 SEAI RD&D Call Document
- o 2025 SEAI RD&D Application Form
- o 2025 SEAI RD&D Budget Template
- o 2025 SEAI RD&D Budget Policy
- o Frequently Asked Questions
- o Privacy Notice

https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/researchdevelopment-and-demonstration-fund/

 Application Form Budget Template Templates you must fill in • Call Document Budget Policy Key supporting programme documents Templates above Letters of Support Submitting your Supporting Documentation application





Don't leave any section blank & make sure to submit all supporting documentation !

Use our checklists:

- Section 6 Application Form (Letters of support)
- Annex 2 Application Form (Financial declarations and documentation)
- Annex 3 Application Form (Overall supporting documentation)

ANNEX 3

Application Checklists

PLEASE NOTE ALL BELOW DOCUMENTATION IS MANDATORY AND FAILURE TO SUBMIT ANY DOCUMENTATION (IF APPLICABLE) WILL DEEM YOUR APPLICATION INELIGIBLE

Companies	
Application form	
Budget template	
Declaration of Financial Resources	
Declaration of Solvency	
Most recent annual financial statements (if applicable)	
For Newly Incorporated Companies - Management Accounts or 1 year Cash Flow Projection	
prepared by Qualified Accountant (if applicable)	
Declaration of SME Status (if applicable)	
Proof of funds (if applicable)	
A letter from the Revenue Commissioners (if applicable)	
Letters of Support	
Data Management Plan	

3rd Level Educational Bodies

 Application form

 Budget template

 Declaration of 3rd level educational body – Non-Economic Public Good (NEPG) (*if applicable*)

 Letters of Support

 Data Management Plan

Public or Semi State Bodies

Application form	
Budget template	
Declaration of Financial Resources	
Declaration of Non-Economic Public Good (NEPG) (if applicable)	
A letter from the Revenue Commissioners (if applicable)	
Letters of Support	
Data Management Plan	



Required Letters of Support

- Lead Applicant
- Lead Applicant Organisation
- Partner Applicant Organisation(s)
- Collaborator Organisation(s):

SECTION 6: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of Support (max 1 page each)

Letters of support should be appropriately titled and may either be uploaded individually or merged into one single PDF for uploading into PEP.

Letters of Support Checklist (if applicable) - All Applications (add row(s) if required):

Letter of Support	Organisation name	Summary of support indicated	Confirm submitted with application (Y/N)
Lead Applicant			
Lead Applicant Organisation			
Partner Applicant(s) Organisation(s)			
Collaborator(s)			

Further Guidance on letters of support is available in Annex 2 of the Call document

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- Applicant are asked to disclose and properly reference the use of any generative AI or AI assisted tools used in their application.
- Check guidelines and application form, section 4.10

4.10. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Disclose the use of any generative AI tools in the preparation of this application. Please describe which tools (with version specified), where the tool was used in the application and to what extent.

4.10 Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Did you use any generative AI tools in the preparation of this application? Please describe which tools (with version specified), where the tool was used in the application and to what extent.

□ Tick to confirm that the use of generative AI or AI assisted tools in the production of this proposal has been appropriately disclosed and referenced.

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- All applications should be submitted via SEAI's Project Evaluation Platform (PEP): <u>https://pepportal.seai.ie/</u>
- Only <u>fully complete applications</u> received <u>prior to the 12 noon</u> <u>application deadline</u> will be considered for evaluation.
- You can begin preparing your application submission offline however please note that all documents must be submitted via PEP before the submission deadline.
- Please refer to our <u>PEP guidance document</u>.



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How is my application evaluated?

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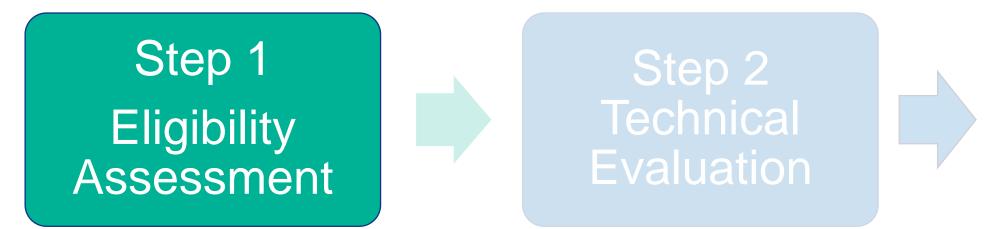
Evaluation process



Applicants will receive email notification email regarding the stage of their application.



Evaluation process

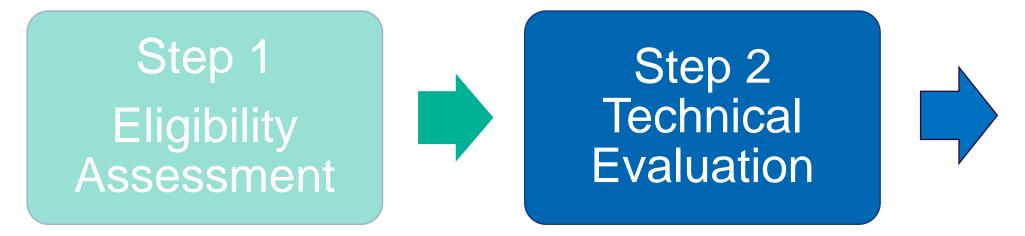


Eligible project proposals include projects that

- address the overarching programme objectives (see Section 1),
- are submitted by eligible organisations (see Section 2),
- with full complete applications (see Checklist in Annex 3),
- Are submitted in advance the call deadline of 12 noon (Irish Standard Time) Tuesday 1st July 2025.
- Please remember that incomplete applications OR applications received past the deadline will NOT proceed to Stage 2



Evaluation process



Evaluation criteria:

- Excellence and Innovation (35%)
- Relevance and Impact (35%)
- Quality & Efficiency of Implementation (incl. value for money) (30%)

Note: For applications to be considered eligible for funding, proposals must achieve a minimum average score of 60% in each evaluation criteria.



Excellence and Innovation (35%)

Evaluation criteria

Section 2 of the Application Form

- The validity and reliability of the prospective technology/concept and approach – including transdisciplinary considerations, where relevant.
- **Quality of the innovation and ambition** related to state of the art in Ireland and beyond.
- **Familiarity** with relevant RD&D activities/**knowledge** of the area.
- **Track record** of participation or **potential** to perform in previous/future RD&D activities.
- Qualifications of the key personnel/organisations.





Evaluation criteria

Excellence and Innovation (35%)

Section 2 of the Application Form

- The **validity and reliability** of the prospective technology/concept and approach including transdisciplinary considerations, where relevant.
- Quality of the innovation and ambition related to state of the art in Ireland and beyond.
- **Familiarity** with relevant RD&D activities/**knowledge** of the area.
- **Track record** of participation or **potential** to perform in previous/future RD&D activities.
- Qualifications of the key personnel/organisations.

SECTION 2: EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION (Max 8 Pages)

- 2.1 State-of the Art / Literature Review
- 2.2 Innovation / Novelty Beyond State-of-the-Art

2.3 Project Objectives

Table 2.1 - Summary of Project Objectives

No:	Objective Description:	Delivery Timeline (in Months):
1.	Example: Literature review	Month 3
2.		
3.		

- 2.4 Project Team & Collaborator Profile
 - Please refer to project members by surname only.
- 2.5 Previous Funding Summary (if applicable)
 - a) SEAI Funding Summary
- b) Other RD&D Funding Summary

Further guidance on how to complete Section 2 is available in Annex 2 of the Call Document



Relevance and Impact (35%)

Section 3 of the Application Form

- Relevance to the needs of the Irish energy sector and energy policy
- Stimulates & accelerates the development & deployment of energy related products, processes & systems in the Irish marketplace and/or facilitates guidance to policy makers on practical, regulatory, technological and/or market opportunities.

Evaluation criteria

- Builds and/or maintains national capacity, capability and critical mass to carry out internationally leading RD&D activities underpinning the energy sector.
- Capacity of the project to strengthen the competitiveness and development of their relevant industrial sectors.
- Relevance of enterprise, scientific, policy & social impacts of project outputs.
- Strength of communication/dissemination and exploitation plans (including management of data).
- **Replicability** of the project outputs/case study across Ireland and at an international level.



• Evidence of the **added value of transdisciplinary collaboration** and/or the active engagement and involvement of key relevant stakeholders, including, for example, **end users** and industry



• Relevance to the needs of the Irish energy sector and supporting national and international policy ambitions, for example:



Climate Action Plan (2025); Impact 2030 (2022); Ireland's NECP; Research & Innovation Strategy to 2030 (2024); EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy



Relevance and Impact (35%)

Section 3 of the Application Form

SECTION 3: RELEVANCE & IMPACT (Max 4 Pages)

3.1 Relevance to the needs of the Irish Energy Sector and to SEAI

3.2 Expected Impact

Further guidance on how to complete Section 3 is available in Annex 2 of the Call Document

2023 SEAI National Energy RD&D Call Document	40
Annex 2: Application Form Template Instructions	

3.8 Sustainable research



Evaluation criteria

Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (30%)

Sections 4/5 of the Application Form & Budget Template

Project Delivery & Management (20%)

- **Coherence** and effectiveness of the project work plan.
- Quality of project framework, **clarity** of deliverables and milestones with a **credible** breakdown of activities and associated budget allocation.

Quality & Efficiency of Implementation

Excellence

Innovation

Relevance & Impact

- Credibility of timing-related project management factors, including project scheduling, dependency identification/monitoring and calculation of critical paths with a particular focus on realistic timelines, availability of data, concession, permits and regulatory approvals (where relevant). Data acquisition requirements should be identified in advance and appropriate agreements should be in place with third parties.
- Strength of the **management** and oversight arrangements including **risk management** and gender equality.



Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (30%)

Evaluation criteria

Sections 4/5 of the Application Form & Budget Template

Budget & Value for Money (10%)

- Economic (**spending less**) are the appropriate quantity and quality of resources/costs requested at the lowest cost possible to support project delivery?
- Efficiency (**spending well**) is the requested budget maximising value for money and delivering project objectives as efficiently as possible.
- Effectiveness (**spending wisely**) are the requested resources maximising the potential impact of the project outputs?
- Is the overall budget appropriate to a project of this size?

Excellence & Innovation

Quality & Efficiency of Implementation

Relevance & Impact



Who can avail?

Strands and Topics

What funding is available?

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How is my application evaluated?

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Incomplete Applications will be deemed ineligible – consult the Budget Policy

- Consult the SEAI RDD Budget Policy 2025
- Costs are paid out on a **reimbursement basis** (Successful applicants need to secure funds for the life-cycle of the project)
- Eligibility criteria:
 - Realistic and achievable
 - Value for money
 - Project-related costs

Complete Application

- Application Form and Budget Template (Excel dox)
- All required supporting Declarations, VAT eligibility (Inclusive)
- Accounts/Financial Statements, bank statements, Letters of Support, Data Mgt Plan

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DEEMED INELIGIBLE

Refer to Application Checklists in Annex 3 of Call Document

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SEAI's RD&D Funding Programme is subject to **EU State Aid** rules that set limits on the levels of funding support that can be provided by national authorities.

The maximum funding level for a project depends on:

- Category of research
- Size of your organisation
- Collaboration or Dissemination

Research activities relating to **non-economic activity pertaining to the public good** being performed by 3rd level educational bodies, semi-state & public sector organisations, may fall outside of State Aid Regulations.



	RD&D activ	vities subject to EU S	State Aid Regulations			
		Type of	Company	Effective		
Research	Base Level	**Definition has	changed – read the	Collaboration	Maximum	
Category		budget policy and select the correct		or	Support	
		size based on the new definitions**		Dissemination		
		Small Enterprise	Medium Enterprise			
Industrial Research	50% of approved itemised eligible costs	+20%	+10%	+15%	80%	
Experimental Development	25% of approved itemised eligible costs	+20%	+10%	+15%	60%	
RD&D activities not subject to State Aid Regulations						
Non-economic Public Good Research						

Funding rate requested to be justified in Section 5 of the Application Form

Funding rates



Budget categories

Review the SEAI RDD Budget Policy for full details

Staff costs

- Project related staff costs
- Student stipend increased to €25k

Postgraduate fees

• max €6,000 per annum

Overheads

• 25% of Staff costs

Equipment

- Include if over €10k
- Only real usage and depreciated cost eligible.
- Asset register

Materials

• catch-all category, includes dissemination costs (publication costs etc)

Travel

- strictly project-related
- dissemination travel
- max €1,500 per annum per team member for travel related to conference attendance (unlinked to dissemination)

External consultants

- max 20% of the total costs
- max €800+VAT daily

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Reminder – other eligible costs

• Introduced in 2024.....

• **Personal supports** – salary of a support person for the term of the grant (salary budget).

• Additional caring/childcare costs – for conference travel (travel budget)

• Assistive technologies (materials budget)

 For non-EU PhD Students – Irish Residence Permits and International health insurance contributions (materials budget)

Top Tips

- 1. 6 weeks before submission deadline start preparing your application now
- 2. Review the Call Documentation; SEAI RD&D Budget Policy; and the Application Guidelines (Annex 2, Call Doc)
- 3. Build your team identify key partners, collaborators, allow time for gathering supporting documentation
- 4. Only fully complete applications received in advance of the deadline will progress to evaluation
- 5. Refer to the Application Checklists provided in the Call Document
- 6. Become familiar with the PEP application portal Login & register early
- 7. Don't leave any sections blank!
- 8. Please don't alter our templates!
- 9. Make sure figures in excel budget match application form
- 10. Remember it is a competitive call
- 11. SEAI cannot review or provide feedback on draft proposals.

https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-development-and-demonstration-fund/

Incomplete Applications will be deemed ineligible – consult the Budget Policy



Q&A Session

Please submit any questions via the Q&A bubble.

For any questions at a later stage, please email energyresearch@seai.ie.



1. Full details are available in the Programme Documents online: <u>https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-development-and-demonstration-fund/</u>

2. We will upload a FAQ sheet on our website, along with the webinar recording

3. Please contact us at: <u>energyresearch@seai.ie</u>, we will be happy to provide assistance



Key Dates				
Call Open	Tuesday 6 th May 2025			
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THANK YOU

SEAI National Energy Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme

Please email any questions to: <u>energyresearch@seai.ie</u>

e: <u>energyresearch@seai.ie</u> w: www.seai.ie

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