

Accelerating transformative research to  
deliver Ireland's energy revolution

# 2026 SEAI National Energy Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme

## Information Webinar

Monday May 25th

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SEAI National Energy Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme

### SEAI Presenters

Francesca Martini, Brendan Cahill, Janis Aleksans,  
Gary Williamson, Louise O'Connor, Joanne Fitzgerald



# Dr Francesca Martini

Funded Research Programme Manager, SEAI

Welcome

Programme Overview



1. Introduction
2. Programme description & objectives
3. Who can avail of the funding
4. Open & Research Priority Strands
5. Offshore Renewable Energy RDD+ Optional Funding Pathway
6. Evaluation process
7. Financial details
8. Application Process
9. Top Tips
10. Q&A

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

This event is being recorded



Attendees are muted with cameras off



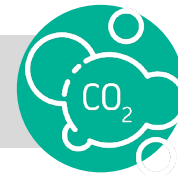
Questions submitted by clicking Q&A bubble



Questions will be answered at end of the webinar



An FAQ will be created from all questions submitted



A recording and slides will be distributed after the event and on website



# The Role of SEAI

- We are at the heart of delivering Ireland's energy transition
- We are driving the replacement of fossil fuel usage in all sectors and across society
- Through research we are informing on the transformation of how we generate, use & think about energy





**Research** supports Ireland's energy transition not only by advancing **renewable technologies** and improving **efficiency**, but also by driving **behavioural change**, informing **policy decisions**, and creating **economic opportunities**.

# SEAI Research & Innovation Supports



**Lead & coordinate  
energy research supports  
in Ireland**



# SEAI Research & Innovation Supports



## Overarching goals



**Accelerate development & deployment of competitive energy products, processes & systems**



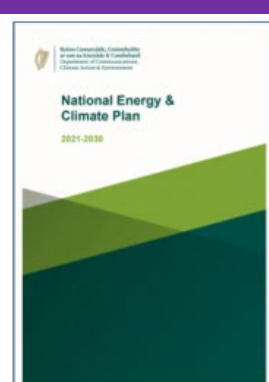
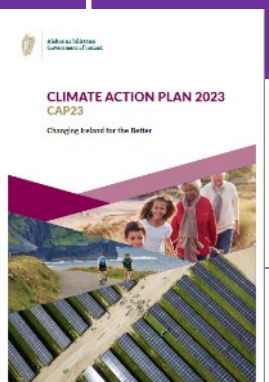
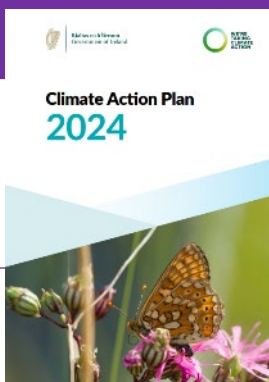
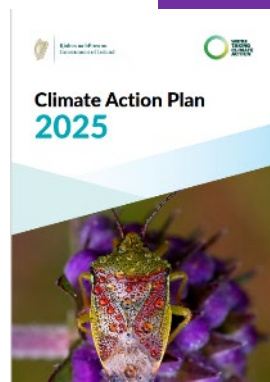
**Enable barriers to market uptake to be overcome**



**Grow Ireland's capacity to access, develop & apply international class energy RD&D**



**Provide energy policy guidance & support**

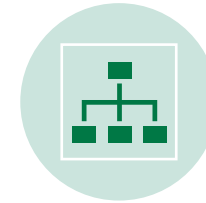




Domain specific  
(Energy), however  
funds all  
disciplines



Funds academia,  
public sector and  
companies equally  
(subject to State Aid)



Strongly policy  
aligned,  
SEAI & DCEE

**2018-2025**

**>300 innovative research projects**

**~€140M total research funding**

- **€ 20M Government funding** allocated to energy research in 2026
- **Co-funding partnerships**



**An Roinn Aeráide,  
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil**  
Department of Climate,  
Energy and the Environment



**Geological Survey**  
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta  
Ireland | Éireann

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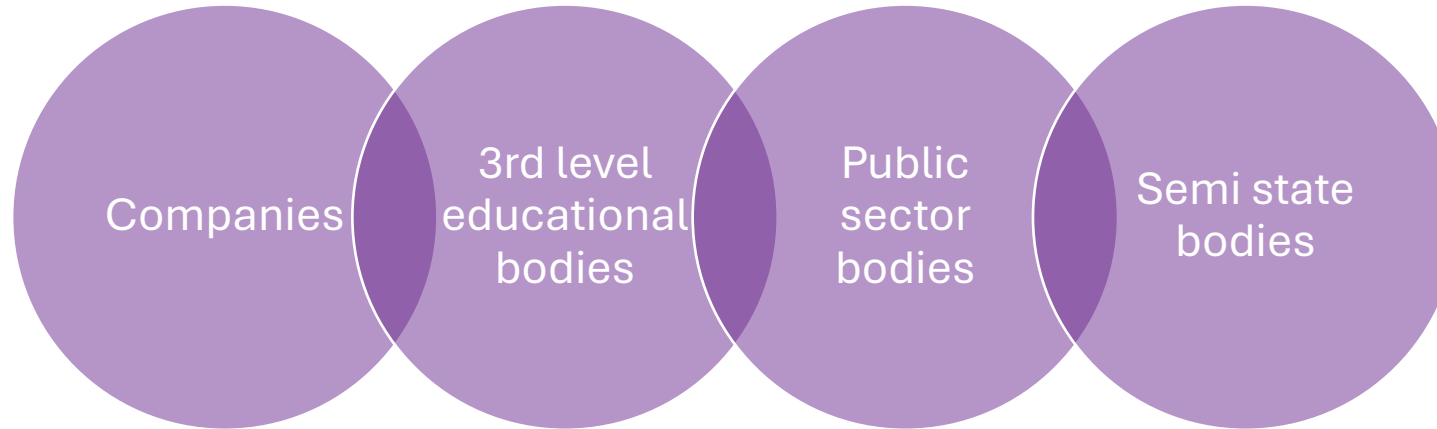
**An Roinn Aeráide,  
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil**  
Department of Climate,  
Energy and the Environment

## What's new for 2026

- From descriptive topics to Research Priority Areas
- Offshore Renewable Energy RDD+ (Optional Funding Pathway, pilot)
- Application submitted via a new Grant Management System

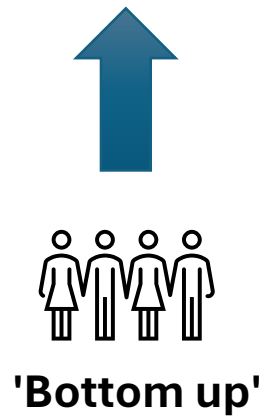
# Who can avail of the programme

- 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 **Budget Policy**
- **Consortia and collaborations strongly encouraged**

See the **National Energy Research Database** for previous successful applicants

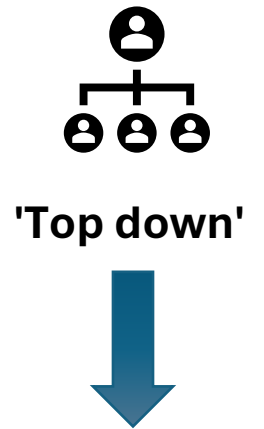


## Open Strand

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

## Research Priority Strand

applicants submit proposals that address specific pre-defined topics





**'Bottom up'**

## 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 market uptake to be overcome



### Grow

Grow Ireland's national capacity to access, develop and apply international class RD&D



### Inform

Provide guidance and support to policy makers and public bodies

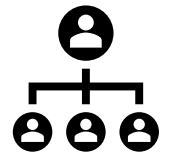


### Accelerate

Accelerate competitive energy-related products, processes and systems

## Research Priority Strand

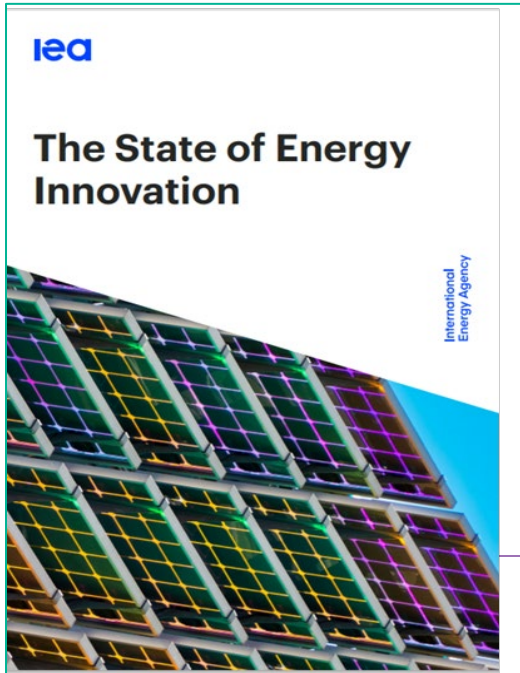
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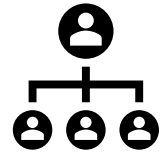
'Top down'



## Overarching Research Priority Areas



**Research Priority Strand**  
applicants submit proposals that address specific pre-defined topics



'Top down'



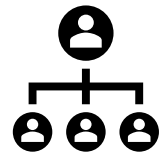
## Research Gaps

### Consultation process



**Research Priority Strand**

applicants submit proposals that address specific pre-defined topics



'Top down'



**A. Energy Security and System Resilience**

**B. Affordable, Sustainable Energy for Homes and Businesses**

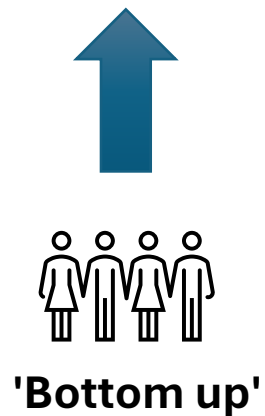
**C. Public Sector Decarbonisation and Energy Leadership**

**D. Health and Environmental Co-Benefits of the Energy Transition**

**E. A Fair, Inclusive and Just Energy Transition**

**F. Digital, Data & AI for Energy Innovation**

# Open Strand Vs Research Priority Strand

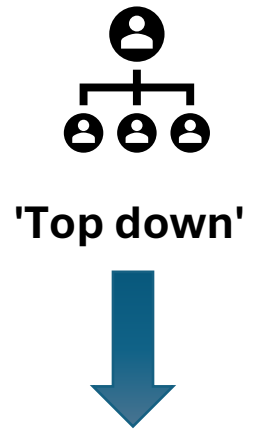


## Open Strand

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

## Research Priority Strand

applicants submit proposals  
that address specific  
pre-defined topics



- Feedback cannot be given before deadline
- Up to the applicant to decide which strand and research areas
- **The two strands compete with each other equally for funding.**

# Build your project team: Definition of project roles

**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)

# Build your project team: Definition of project roles

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)

# Build your project team: Definition of project roles

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Technical direction, progress monitoring/reporting, dissemination, etc.  
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## Partner Applicant(s)

Support the Lead Applicant, funded partner  
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## Collaborator(s)

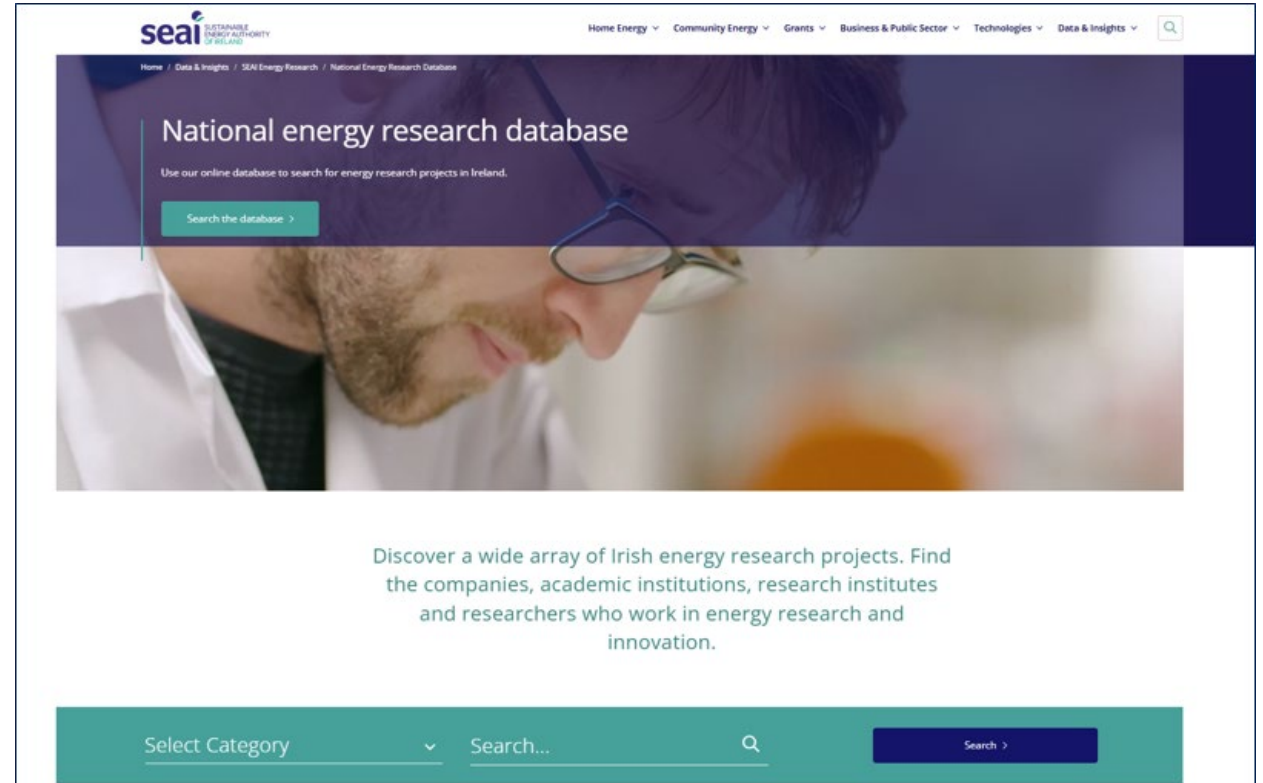
**Provide valuable intellectual/technical/financial contribution**  
**Not funded by SEAI**

## Collaboration

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

Lead and Partners must be based in Ireland.  
Collaborators can be national or international.

- 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/>

# Project duration and funding available

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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 48-month project duration.**

Please refer to [2026 SEAI RD&D Call Document](#).

Key Dates	
<b>Call Open</b>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Application Deadline</b>	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026, 1pm
<b>Eligibility &amp; Evaluation</b>	Q3 2026
<b>Award Notification</b>	Q4 2026

All call details are available at:

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

## Important information

**Grant Agreement**  
Q4 2026-Q1 2027

Start date within **6 months from signature** of Grant Agreement

Projects with PhD students **must apply for a 48-month project duration**

Any changes on the work plan or recruitment needs to **be requested and/or communicated** to Seai

Private Sector organisations **financial eligibility**

Application submitted via the **Grant Management System** – timely registration and approvals

# Dr. Brendan Cahill

Programme Manager - Innovation and International Research, SEAI

Offshore Renewable Energy RDD+  
Optional Funding Pathway



# Optional Funding Pathway:

## Offshore Renewable Energy RDD+



Offshore: Supports costs of **up to € 2 million** for offshore projects that require access to **specialist test facilities outside Ireland**



RDD+ is not a separate funding strand (Applicants must apply under either the Open Strand or the Research Priority Strand)



**Marine Institute: Applicants should engage with Marine Institute at least four weeks in advance of closing date (mandatory)- advisory role only**

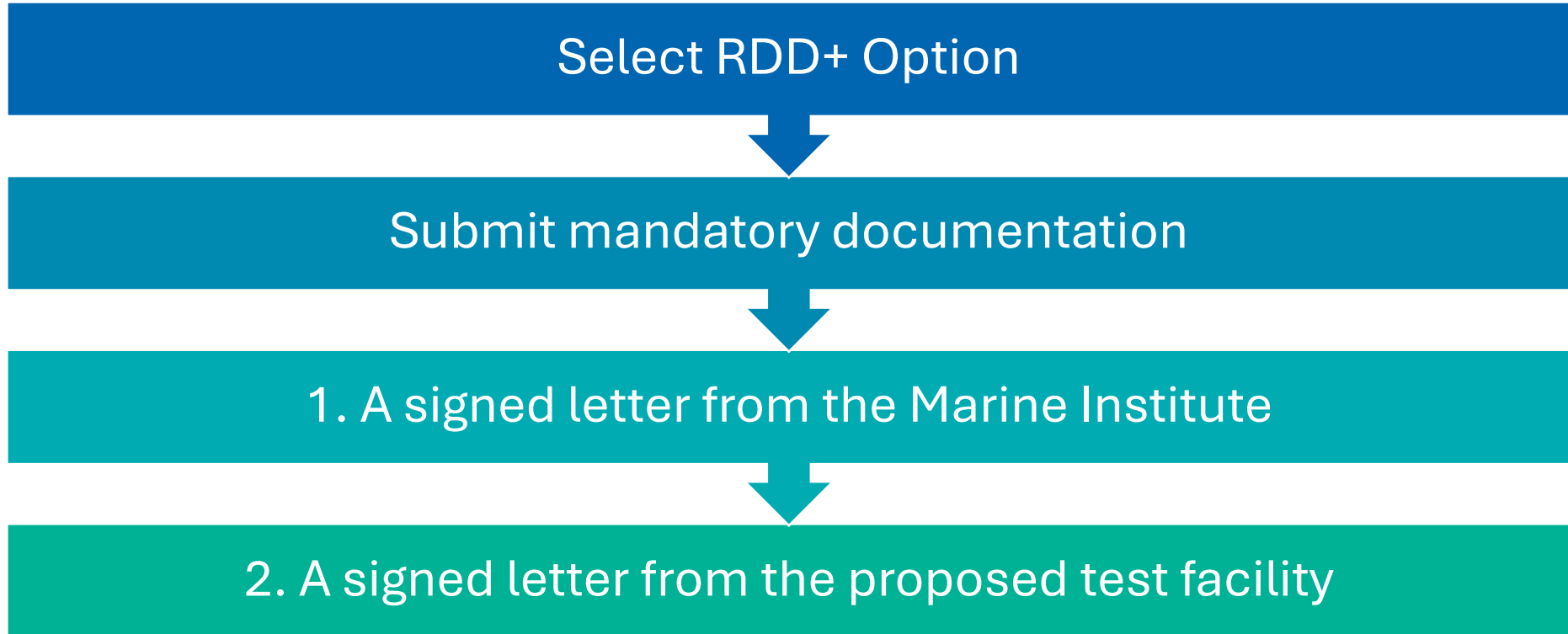


Test Facility: **Applicants should engage with proposed test facility (mandatory)**



**Additional eligible costs associated with this funding pathway**

# At application stage



## Additional mandatory documents.

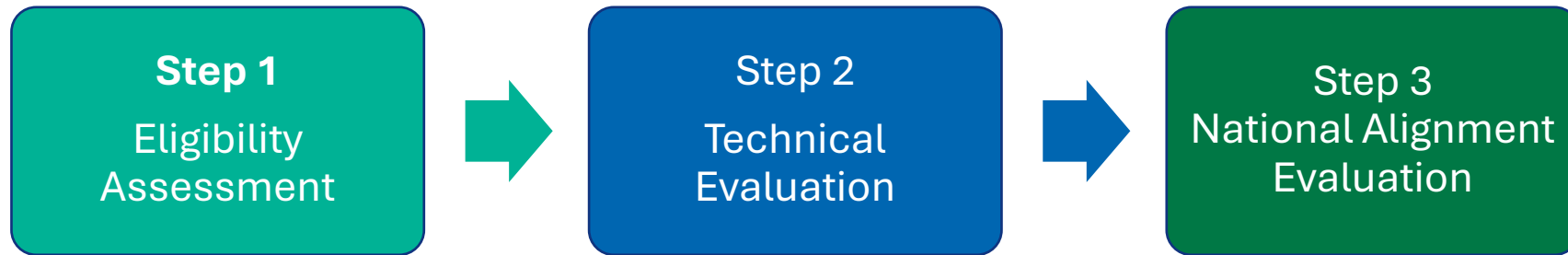
Same Eligibility assessment, technical evaluation and ranking  
RD&D and RDD+ proposals are assessed together and form a single ranked list.

# Dr Janis Aleksans

## RD&D Pre-Awards, SEAI

### Evaluation

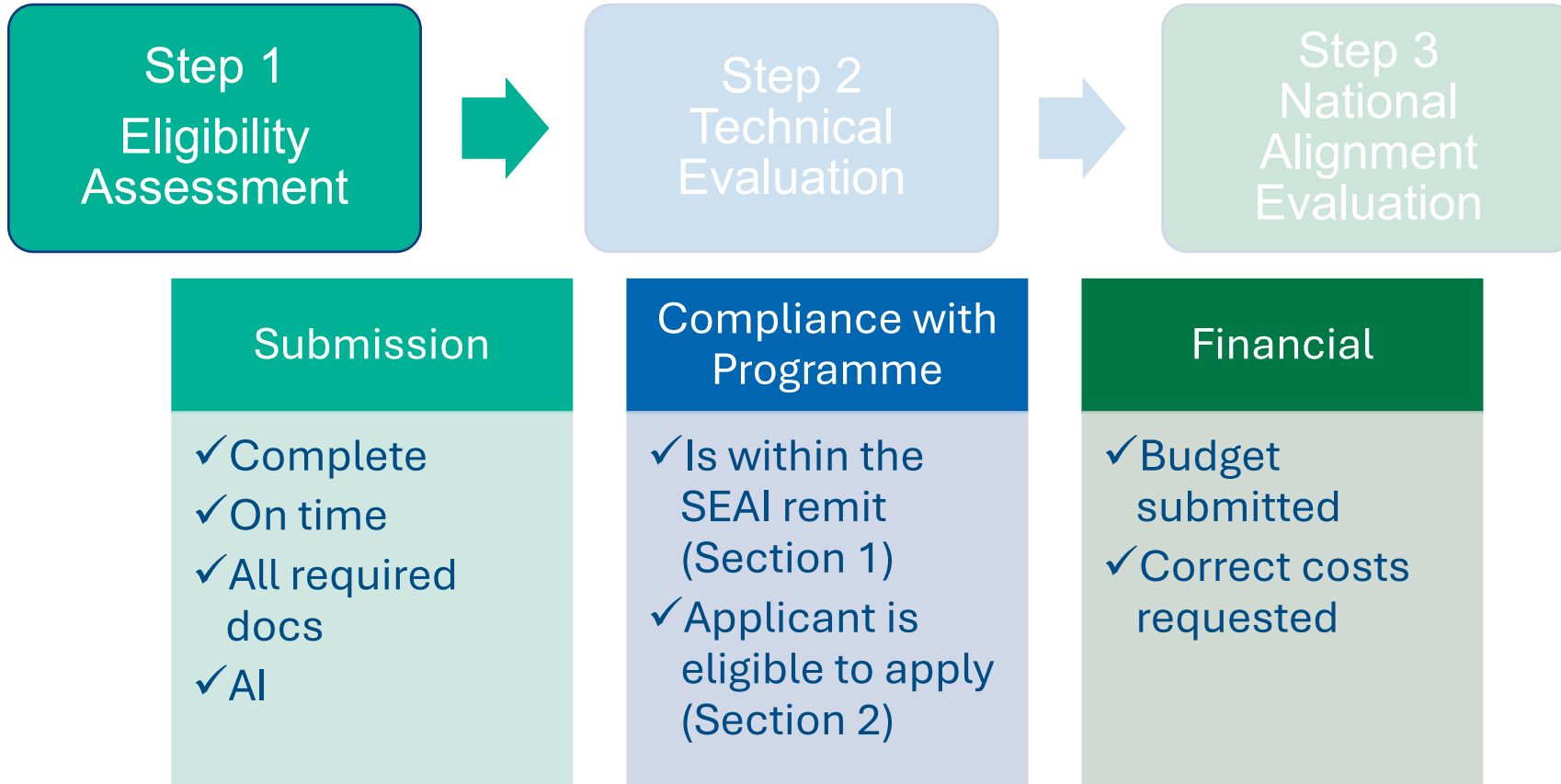




Applicants will receive email notification email regarding the Stage 1 and Stage 2 of their application.

If application achieves high score during Stage 2, Stage 3 is carried out internally within SEAI

# Evaluation process



- Are submitted in advance the call deadline of **13:00 (Irish Standard Time) Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**
- **Please remember that incomplete applications will NOT proceed to Stage 2.**
- **You will not be able to submit applications past the deadline.**

# 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%)

Section 3 in the application Form

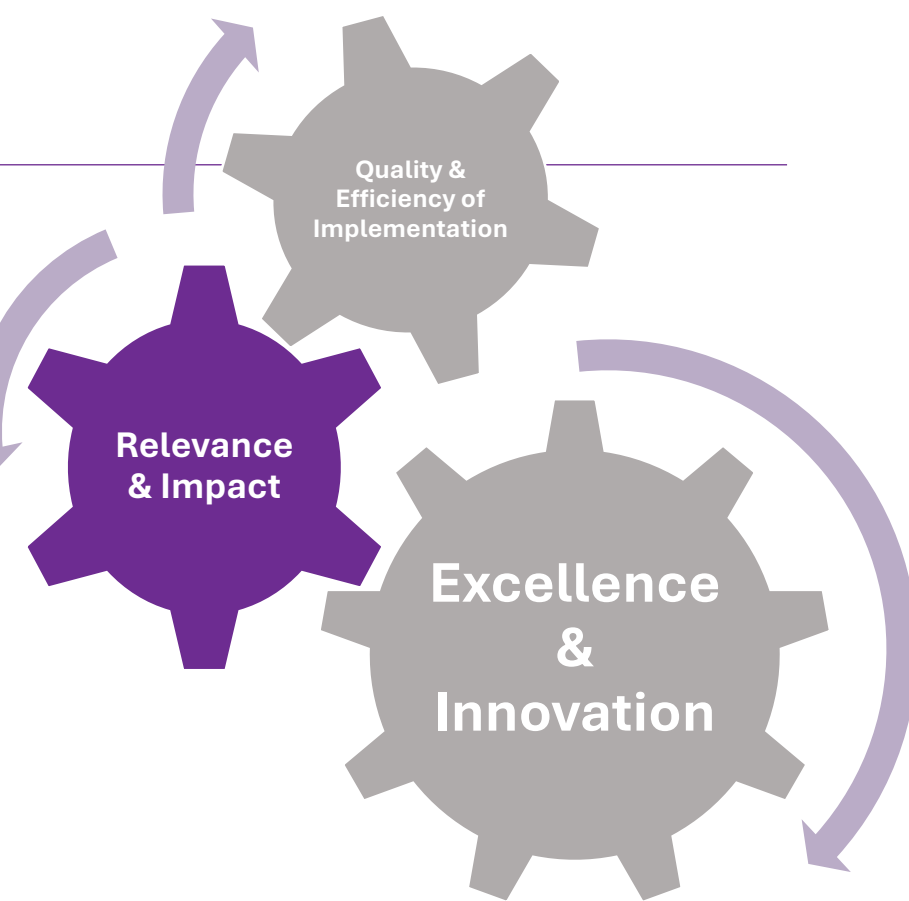
- The **validity and reliability** of the proposed technology/concept and approach – including transdisciplinary considerations, where relevant.
- **Quality of the innovation and ambition** related to state of the art in Ireland and beyond.
- **Familiarity** with relevant RD&D activities/**knowledge**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



## Relevance and Impact (35%)

### Section 4 of the Application Form

- **Relevance** to the needs of the **Irish energy sector**, with particular reference to **national policy** as relevant to **SEAI's remit**.
- Potential to **stimulate & accelerate** the development & deployment of **energy related products, processes & systems** in the Irish marketplace and/or to inform policy development.
- Contribution to **build** and/or maintains **national capacity**, capability to carry out internationally leading RD&D activities underpinning the energy sector.
- Potential of the project to **strengthen the competitiveness and development** of their relevant industrial sectors.
- 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.
- **Added value of transdisciplinary collaboration** and active engagement with key stakeholders, including, for example, **end users** and industry

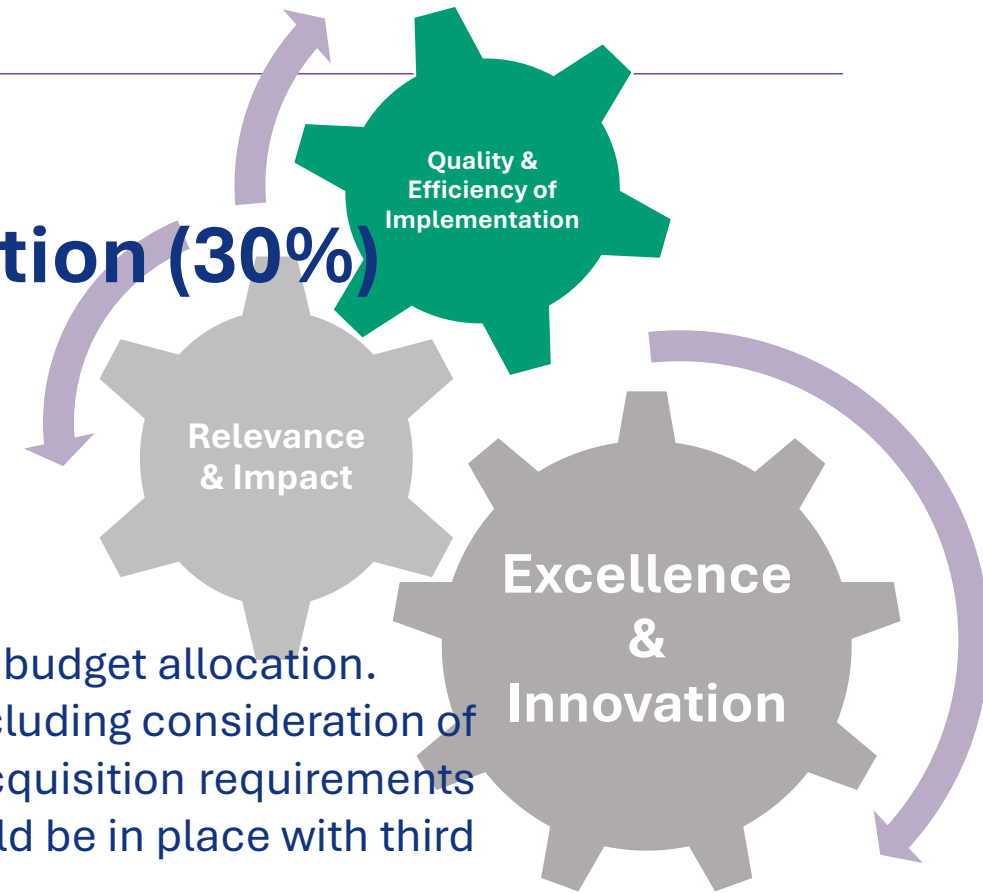


## Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (30%)

### Project Delivery & Management (20%)

Section 5 of the Application Form

- **Coherence** and effectiveness of the project work plan.
- **Clarity** and **credibility** of deliverables, milestones and associated budget allocation.
- Credibility of **timelines**, dependencies and project scheduling, including consideration of **data availability, permits and regulatory requirements**. Data acquisition requirements should be identified in advance and appropriate agreements should be in place with third parties.
- Strength of **governance, management** structures, **risk** management and gender considerations.

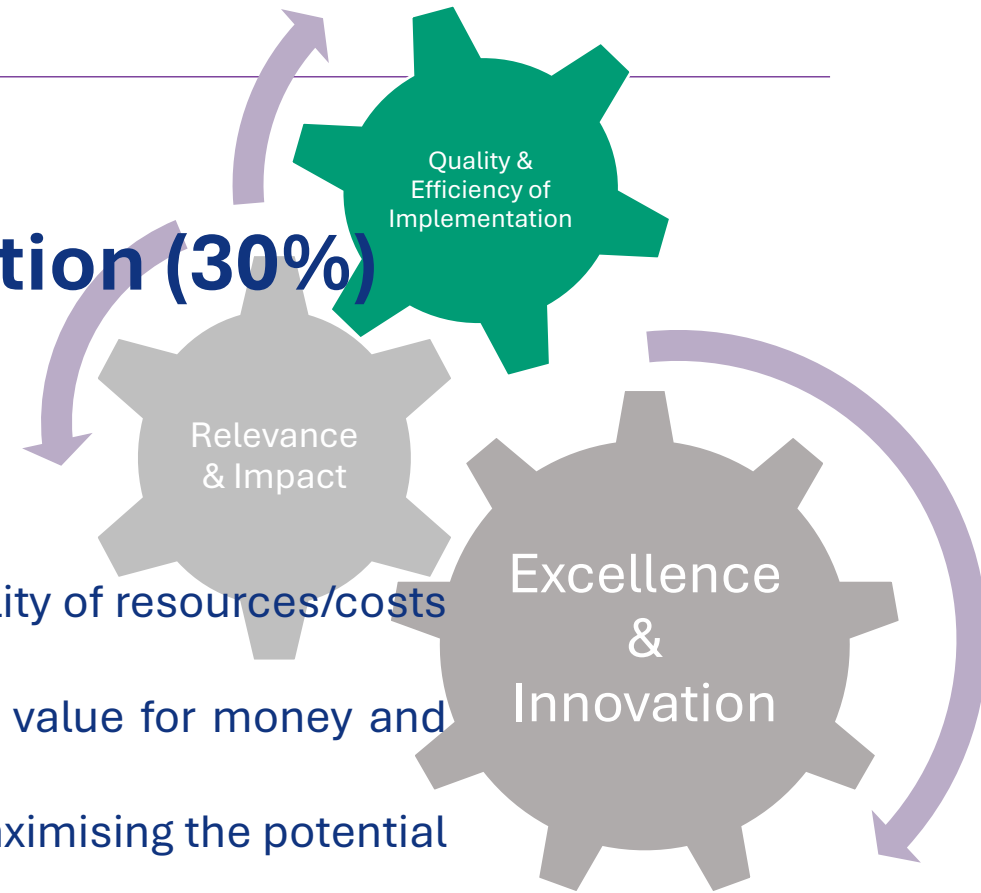


## Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (30%)

### Budget & Value for Money (10%)

Section 8 of the Application Form

- 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?
- Overall appropriateness of the budget relative to project scale



**Guidance on how to complete these sections can be found in Section 12 of the Call Document**

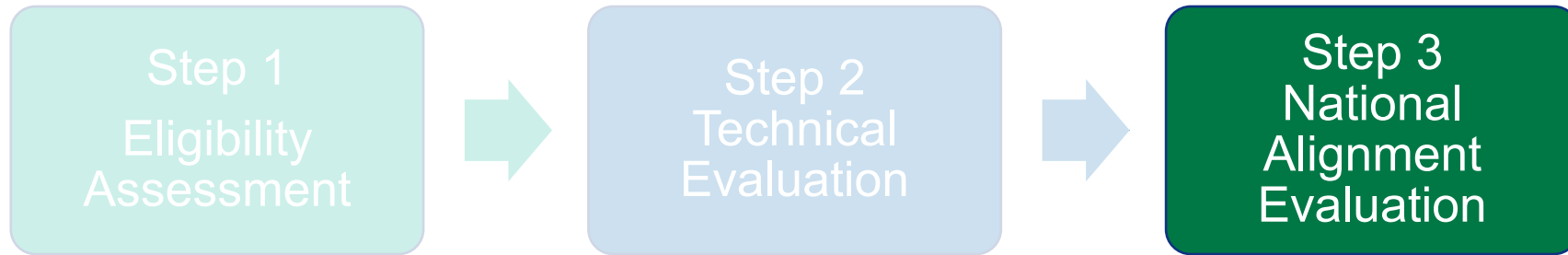
## **12. Submitting your application**

Applications to the 2026 SEAI Research Development and Demonstration Call should be made through <https://seai.smartsimple.ie>. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) for when the SmartSimple portal is open for applications.

## **Application Form Template Instructions**

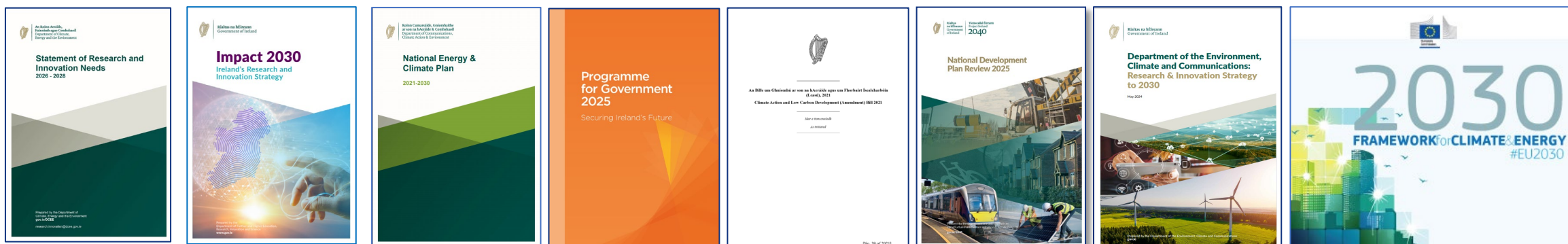
This section provides guidance on how to complete the Application Form.

**Make sure to address every point for each of the criteria!**



Most **highly scoring applications** will undergo strategic evaluation for assessment as aligned with **national research needs and innovation**.

## National research needs within the Irish Energy Sector



- Programme for Government 2025,
- 2030 Climate and Energy Framework,
- Project 2040 Ireland,
- Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy,
- DCEE Statement of Research and Innovation Needs 2026-2028,
- Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP),
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill (2021) ,
- Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan.

# Gary Williamson

Manager, Grants Governance, SEAI

## Financial information



Incomplete  
Applications will be  
deemed ineligible  
– consult the  
Budget Policy

- Consult the **SEAI RDD Budget Policy 2026**
- 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

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DEEMED  
INELIGIBLE**

**Refer to Application Checklists in Annex 1 of  
Call Document**

## Complete Application

- Applications are to be submitted through the SmartSimple GMS
- Ensure you have the following documents to hand for upload to Smartsimple
  - Latest Approved Financial Statements of organisation and parent company (if applicable) - companies
  - For new organisations then Management Accounts or 1 year Cash Flow Projections, produced by a Qualified Accountant. (applies to any new companies who have yet to file a Financial Statement)
  - A headed Bank Statement showing that your organisation has sufficient funds to support delivery of at least the first 9 months of project activity. (applies to any company applying).

EU State Aid regulations govern how SEAI can issue and subsequently pay grant funding. SEAI is **prohibited from funding an undertaking in difficulty**


What is an Undertaking in Difficulty ? –

**SMEs** - more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses.

So, for example if an undertaking has €500k in share capital, accumulated losses must not exceed -€250k

## How will SEAI assess this?

Organisations are required to submit their latest approved Financial Statements and those of their Parent Company ( if applicable). SEAI will then apply the above financial test and cannot proceed with the application if the criteria is not met.



TIP: Lead Applicants,  
should assess Partners.  
prior to submission

**Who Does this apply to ?** – any Organisation that is looking to avail of 100% Grant funding for their project under the Non-Economic Public Good

**What is the 80:20 rule ?** - To ensure State Aid rules compliance, SEAI requires you to assess if your Organisation is providing both Economic and Non-Economic activities. If your organisation is carrying out activities of an economic nature, which exceeds 20% of your overall organisational activities, then your organisation is deemed to be subject to State Aid rules (the 80:20 Rule).

**How will SEAI assess this ?** – SEAI will require a declaration at clarifications stage stating :

Confirmation as to whether your Organisation carries out any Economic activities?

If the organisation is carrying out Economic activities, then the following assessment has to be made

- The Economic activities are of an ancillary nature to the core Research activities of the organisation and intrinsically linked to the Non-Economic activities of the organisation?
- The Economic activities of the organisation consume exactly the same inputs (such as material, equipment, labour and fixed capital) as the non-economic activities carried out by the research organisation and the capacity allocated each year to such economic activities does not exceed 20% of the relevant entity's overall annual capacity

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 3<sup>rd</sup> level educational bodies, semi-state & public sector organization's, may fall outside of State Aid Regulations.

# Funding rates

RD&D activities subject to EU State Aid Regulations					
Research Category	Base Level	Type of Company		Effective Collaboration or Dissemination	Maximum Support
		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					100%

Review the  
SEAI RDD  
Budget Policy  
for full details

## Staff costs

- Project related staff costs
- Student stipend €25k per annum

## 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

# Louise O'Connor

Programme Executive, SEAI

## How to submit your application



# Submitting your application

- All applications should be submitted via SEAI's Grant Management System (GMS) SmartSimple before the submission deadline.

<https://seai.smartsimple.ie/>



The screenshot shows the SEAI SmartSimple login page. At the top left is the SEAI logo. The main heading is "Login". Below it are two input fields: "Email" and "Password". A dark blue "Log In" button is positioned below the password field. To the right of the "Log In" button is a link for "Forgot Password?". Below the "Log In" button is a link for "Learn more about our Privacy & Security policies". To the right of this link is a box containing the text "New to the System?" and a "Register" button. The "Register" button is highlighted with a red border. On the right side of the page, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland" followed by "We invest in research, development and demonstration projects associated with the production, supply and use of energy." The background of the page features a blurred image of wind turbines and solar panels.

If you are encountering any problems with SmartSimple please contact [researchgms@seai.ie](mailto:researchgms@seai.ie)

## Login

✉ Email

🔑 Password

Log In

[Forgot Password?](#)

Learn more about our

[🔒 Privacy & Security policies](#)

New to the System?

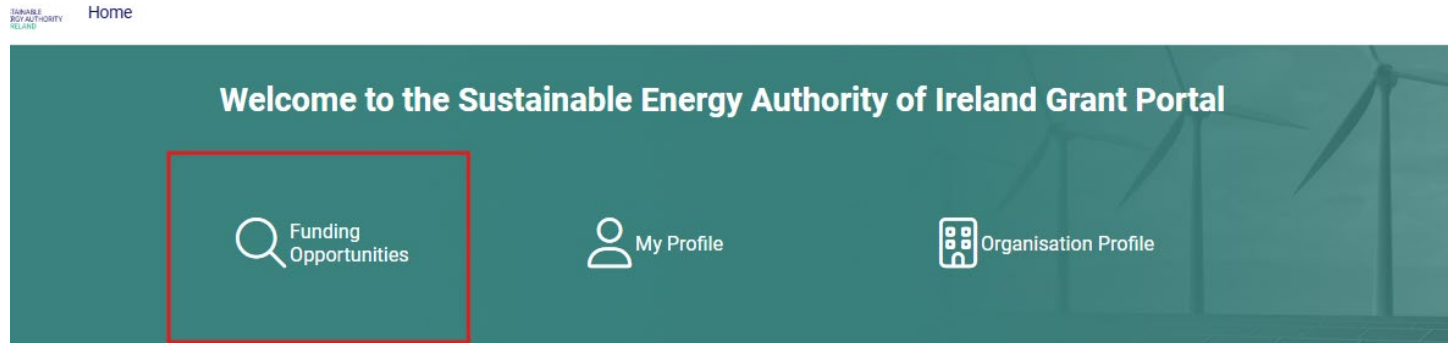
[Register](#)

## Welcome to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

We invest in research, development and demonstration projects associated with the production, supply and use of energy.

# Submitting your application

- Once you have registered and logged into the portal, Click Funding Opportunities



Call



**Academic Fellowship**  
SEAI Energise Academic Fellowships 2026  
Deadline: 30/06/2026 01:00 PM

[Apply Now](#)

Call



**SEAI Fellowship**  
SEAI Energise SEAI-Based Fellowships 2026  
Deadline: 11/06/2026 01:00 PM

[Apply Now](#)

- Select the Call you are applying for
  - The SEAI RD&D Call 2026
  - Click Apply Now

# Submitting your application

- Please refer to the application guidance within the Call document.
- Only **fully complete applications** received **prior to the 13.00 application deadline** will be considered for evaluation.

## Programme documents

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

- [2026 SEAI RD&D Call Document](#)
- [2026 SEAI RD&D Guidelines on Milestones and Deliverables](#)
- [SEAI RD&D Budget Policy](#)
- [Privacy Notice](#)

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

# Submitting your application

- Please complete the mandatory questions below.
- Please press **SAVE DRAFT** before starting the application.
- Some information is copied directly from your organisation and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form. If the information displayed is not current, please update your organisation and user profiles prior to completing and submitting this form.
- If you wish to communicate with staff regarding your application, use the **Notes** tab located within the left side menu.

## Application Summary

**CONTACT INFORMATION** PROJECT DETAILS EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION RELEVANCE & IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION DECLARATIONS WORK PLAN BUDGET

- Complete all sections of the online application form
- Application Guidance can be found in the Call documents.
- Click Save Draft regularly

Save Draft

Submit

Withdrawn

# Submitting your application

CONTACT INFORMATION PROJECT DETAILS EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION

Lead Applicant

Lead Applicant Organisation

Partners



Prefix First Name

\* Approver

If you cannot find your approver, reach out to SEAI staff.

Select One

Add Partner(s)

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Email	Role	Status
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Partner	Draft
<input type="button" value="+"/>					
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Invite"/>					

- Please note
- The invitation and acceptance of a partner organisation generates a budget for the partner organisation costs.
- Please invite one person per organisation

# Submitting your application

## Action Items

CONTACT INFORMATION PROJECT

! APPLICATIONS (1) ≡ ACTIVITIES (0) PARTNER CLAIMS

Lead Applicant

Search bar with 'x' icon, magnifying glass icon, and '1-1 of 1' text.

Lead Applicant Organisation

#	Application ID	Type	Project Name	Organisation	Primary Contact	Status
<a href="#">Open</a>	1	2026-RDD-1579	RD&D	ABCDEF GH		Pending Approval

Partners



Prefix	First Name
--------	------------

\* Approver

If you cannot find your approver, reach out to SEAI staff.

Select One dropdown menu with a refresh icon to its right.

Pending approval status means your application is sitting with your organisation approver.

**NB:** applications need to be approved by your Organisation Approver within the SmartSimple portal in order to be submitted.

# Submitting your application – Work Plan

Notes

Add Partner(s)

CONTACT INFORMATION PROJECT DETAILS EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION RELEVANCE & IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION DECLARATIONS **WORK PLAN** BUDGET

## Work Packages

Open your Work Package to add/edit as needed. Click [Click here for further guidance](#)



0 of 0



#	Title	Lead	Start Month	End Month	Contributors
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No Results Found

## \* Work Package Deliverables

Add/Edit Deliverables

## \* Project Management

Clearly describe the proposed project management structure for the project and provide details of reporting lines and responsibilities.

1500 words left

## \* Risk Assessment

Describe the primary risks associated with the proposed project, their likelihood (low, medium or high) and outline the measures which will be undertaken to avoid or mitigate these risks.

< BACK

NEXT >

Save Draft

Submit

Withdrawn

# Submitting your application – Budget

- Notes
- Add Partner(s)

- Please complete the mandatory questions below.
- Please press **SAVE DRAFT** before starting the application.
- Some information is copied directly from your organisation and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form. If the information displayed is not current, please update your organisation and user profiles prior to completing and submitting this form.
- If you wish to communicate with staff regarding your application, use the **Notes** tab located within the left side menu.

## Application Summary

CONTACT INFORMATION PROJECT DETAILS EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION RELEVANCE & IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION DECLARATIONS WORK PLAN **BUDGET**

### Budget Summary by Year

Project Funding Sources	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total costs (€)	Applicant contribution €	SEAI Grant Amount requested €	SEAI Contribution of Funding (% of total)
Teste_organisation_2025022701	€5,000	€0	€2,000	€0	€7,000	€1,400	€5,600	80%
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>€5,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€2,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€7,000</b>	<b>€1,400</b>	<b>€5,600</b>	

### Budget Summary by Project Cost Category

Project Participants	Internal Staff	Postgraduate fees	Equipment	Materials	Travel	External Consultants	Total Direct Project Costs	Indirect Costs	Total Project Costs	SEAI Funding %	SEAI Funding €
Teste_organisation_2025022701	€0	€0	€0	€7,000	€0	€0	€7,000	€0	€7,000	80%	€5,600
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€7,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€7,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€7,000</b>		<b>€5,600</b>

### Budget

Open your budget to add/edit as needed. All budgets must be submitted to submit this application.

1-1 of 1 < >

#	Organisation	Primary Contact	Total Project Cost	Maximum Support	Total Applicant Contribution	Total SEAI Request	Activity Status
<a href="#">Open</a>	1 Teste_organisation_2025022701	Testando Grammar2024	€7,000	80%	€1,400	€5,600	Draft
			€7,000		€1,400	€5,600	

< BACK

[Save Draft](#) [Submit](#) [Withdrawn](#)

1. Submission deadline is fast approaching - start preparing your application now
2. Review the Call Documentation; SEAI RD&D Budget Policy; and the Application Guidelines and the milestone and deliverables guidance
3. Become familiar with the SmartSimple application portal - Login & register early
4. **Organisational approval is required in SS before the application deadline.**
5. **Only fully complete and approved applications received in advance of the deadline will progress to evaluation**
6. Be clear, concise and succinct, make it easy for Evaluators.
7. Remember it is a competitive call
8. SEAI cannot review or provide feedback on draft proposals.
9. FAQ document will be shared following the webinar and will be available on the webpage
10. For Call queries, please contact [energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie)
11. For queries relating to SmartSimple please contact [researchgms@seai.ie](mailto:researchgms@seai.ie)

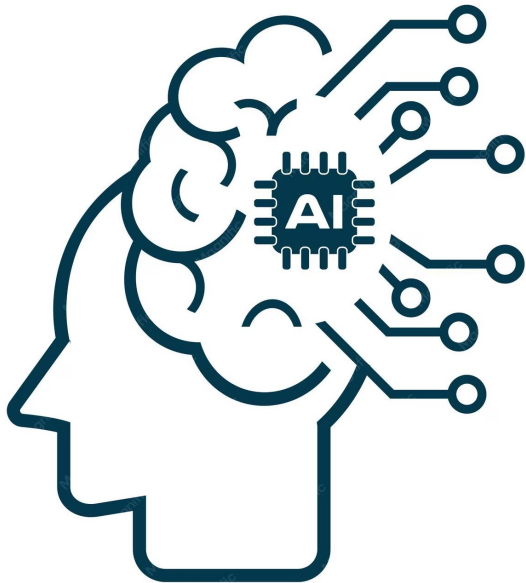
Only fully complete and **approved** applications will progress to evaluation

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

# A word about AI

The EU Commission has issued “[Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research](#)” (updated May 2026). These directly address **proposal writing and research conduct**.

At SEAI:



- We recognise that AI has value and offers opportunities for scientific research as we look to solving future problems in energy.
- However, with applications we need to consider **transparency, ethics, data privacy and human perspectives**.
- We place the **highest priority on your individual ideas and contributions**
- **We will look for this in applications** as well as **your evidence** that preparatory work and literature reviews have been carried out systematically to support your application.
- We ask for **transparency** in declaring where and how you used AI tools in the preparation of your application and would also caution applicants in using novel ideas in AI tools.
- Use of AI is acceptable and not penalized, but **inappropriate use of AI can make your application ineligible**.

- ✅ **Use AI as support:** drafting, structuring, and editing only
- 👩 **You are responsible:** full accountability for all AI-assisted content
- 🔍 **Be transparent:** disclose tools, purpose, and extent of AI use
- ✅ **Verify everything:** check accuracy, bias, and sources rigorously
- ⚖️ **Protect integrity:** avoid plagiarism; respect GDPR, IP, confidentiality
- 🚫 **Avoid sensitive uses:** no AI in peer review or evaluation processes
- 🧠 **Human oversight: AI assists—humans have ideas, decide and validate**

# Q&A Session



# If you have another question...

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1. Full details are available in the Programme Documents online:

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

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

3. Please contact us at: [energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie), we will be happy to provide assistance



THANK  
YOU



**SEAI National Energy Research, Development  
& Demonstration Funding Programme**

*Please email any questions to:*  
[energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie)

**e:** [energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie)

**w:** [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)

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Who can avail?

Strands

What funding is available?

Who's in a project team?

Financial information

How is my application evaluated?

How to apply

