

## New application process for UK Aerospace R&T Funding

The Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and Innovate UK have transitioned to a **new application process** for the UK Aerospace Research and Technology (R&T) Programme. The changes aim to improve the effectiveness of assessment and efficiency of the process, **reducing application and funding timescales**.

### Context

A BEIS [independent process evaluation](#) of the UK Aerospace R&T programme, conducted by Ipsos MORI, identified that the ATI has been effective in creating a [UK Technology Strategy, Raising Ambition](#), and engaging with the UK aerospace sector to develop ambitious technology proposals. The application process was shown to be rigorous and fair, providing high-quality feedback and ensuring well-defined project objectives.

The evaluation also highlighted the potential to improve the efficiency of the funding process, for both prospective applicants and assessors. The time from the initial applicant engagement to contract could be as much as 14 months. Within an increasingly fast-moving technological landscape, these delays could be detrimental to the impact and exploitation of R&T projects, as well as raising administrative costs.

In response to the evaluation, ATI, BEIS and Innovate UK have launched a new application process.

### The New Process

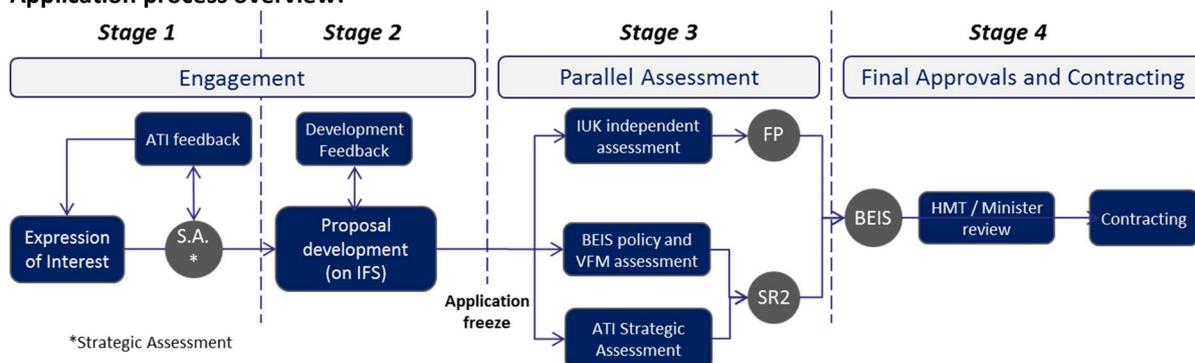
The new application process aims to make it possible for applicants to **get to contract in 6 months**, subject to the applicant achieving certain deadlines and passing requirements of the Programme. The revisions described below are the first and most significant step to achieving this.

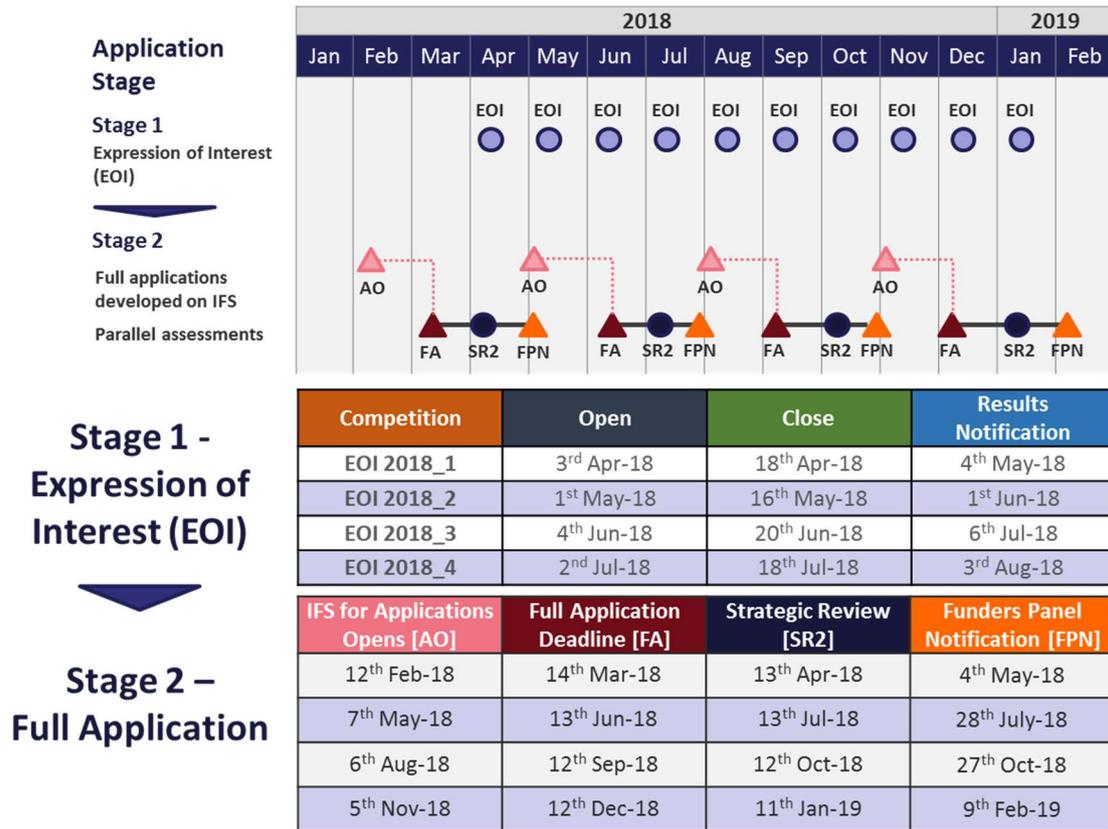
As part of the improvements, **Full Applications** will be created, assessed and managed on the new Innovate UK digital platform, the **Innovation Funding System (IFS)**. The platform is being introduced across all Innovate UK funding competitions and allows more efficient application and application management. **IFS is now live for Full Applications**.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) stage is replacing the Strategic Review 1 (SR1), as the [first stage of an application for UK Aerospace R&T grant funding](#). To be considered, an EOI will need to be prepared and submitted whilst the competition window is open. There will be regular EOI competition windows throughout the year. **Applicants successful at SR1 will be sent an access link for the IFS system**.

**New quarterly Full Application batches** will take place in **January, April, July and October** to review Full Applications. **Once submitted, the Full Application is frozen** and will undergo ATI, BEIS and Innovate UK independent assessment in parallel. The **Strategic Review Committee (SRC)** will continue to review and agree funding recommendations between BEIS and ATI. An overview of the process and key dates for 2018 are provided below.

### Application process overview:





For all other enquiries, please refer to the information below.

- Questions about the new process can be sent to: [info@ati.org.uk](mailto:info@ati.org.uk)
- Questions about IFS specifically should be directed to the IUK IFS team: [support@innovateuk.gov.uk](mailto:support@innovateuk.gov.uk) / 03003214357