



European Union

European Regional
Development Fund



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



The University
Of Sheffield.
**Energy
Institute.**

Translational
Energy
Research
Centre.

Translational Energy Research Centre

Net zero - Next steps Workshop

Eligibility Checks

This event is part-funded by the European Regional Development fund. This fund enables us to directly support local businesses free of charge, provided they are eligible for such support under ERDF Guidance rules. The eligibility criteria are very precise therefore we would like to ask that you check whether you can participate using this document thoroughly before submitting your application form.

To participate in this event, you need to:

- Be a sole trader or SME
- Be the direct owner of the business (no parent company)
- Be **registered** in one of the following areas: Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster, Bolsover, Bassetlaw (this is your official registration address - not the location in which you operate)
- Be below your State Aid De Minimis threshold and will not exceed the threshold following this workshop (equivalent value of support provided (gross grant equivalent) = £510.13)
- Understand and agree to the data protection statement
- Confirm your eligibility status with regards to the undertaking in difficulty statement

For all the above, detailed information is provided below.

EU SME Declaration

To ensure that you are able to receive assistance under this project you must confirm that your business is a small-medium sized enterprise (SME). The SME definition is:

1. Fewer than 250 employees
2. An annual turnover of 50 million Euros (approx. £44m) or less, and/or an annual balance sheet of 43 million Euros (approx. £37m) or less
3. Less than 25% owned by another business
4. Less than 25% share in another business

Data Protection Statement

The data you provide will be used to manage, evaluate and audit the TERC project. The University of Sheffield will use and safeguard personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, General Data Protection Regulations and any other applicable legislation. Personal data will be shared with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and may also be audited by the European Regional Development Fund in order to monitor diversity and evaluate the project.

Undertaking in Difficulty

TERC is unable to support an undertaking in difficulty under European Commission Regulation No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014.

However, in April the EU adopted changes to ESIF Regulations as part of its response to the Coronavirus pandemic. This means that from 23 April 2020 it is possible for ERDF to support SMEs experiencing difficulties as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak if project activity is operating in line with De Minimis support.

An undertaking is considered to be in difficulty when, without intervention by the State, it will almost certainly be condemned to going out of business in the short or medium term. Therefore, an undertaking that is also an SME is considered to be in difficulty if at least one of the following circumstances occurs:

(a) In the case of a limited liability company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years or, for the purposes of eligibility for risk finance aid, an SME within 7 years from its first commercial sale that qualifies for risk finance investments following due diligence by the selected financial intermediary), where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. This is the case when deduction of accumulated losses from reserves (and all other elements generally considered as part of the own funds of the company) leads to a negative cumulative amount that exceeds half of the subscribed share capital. For the purposes of this provision, 'limited liability company' refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex I of Directive 2013/34/EU and 'share capital' includes, where relevant, any share premium.

(b) In the case of a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years or, for the purposes of eligibility for risk finance aid, an SME within 7 years from its first commercial sale that qualifies for risk finance investments following due diligence by the selected financial intermediary), where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, 'a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company' refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex II of Directive 2013/34/EU.

(c) Where the undertaking is subject to collective insolvency proceedings or fulfils the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors.

(d) Where the undertaking has received rescue aid and has not yet reimbursed the loan or terminated the guarantee, or has received restructuring aid and is still subject to a restructuring plan.

De Minimis State Aid Declaration

The support provided by the TERC project is a De Minimis aid to the equivalent of £510.13 (£425.11 ex VAT) (594.38 Euro). The European Commission's De Minimis regulation (Commission Regulation No 1407/2013; Official Journal reference OJ L352) allows a business to receive up to 200,000 euros (approximately £170,000) of De Minimis state aid over a three-year period. To confirm that you are able to receive assistance from the TERC project, you must therefore declare the full amount of De Minimis aid you have already received over the last 3 fiscal years.

The following is not a comprehensive list of the possible forms of aid. However, it should give an indication of the most common forms of aid which you may have been given over the past three years. Potentially any assistance from a public body might be an aid. Should you have any doubts on this matter, please contact the body from which the assistance was received.

- Grants from public bodies
- Loans from public bodies at favourable rates
- Loan guarantees from public bodies
- Differential tax benefits
- Grants from an investment trust (including charities) which may themselves have received the funds from a public body
- Grants from a part publicly funded venture capital fund
- Publicly administered funds, even if the funds were originally not public, such as the national lottery
- Waiving or deferral of fees or interest normally due to a public body such as the waiving or deferral of rent or waiver of interest normally due on late payment of taxation or other costs to a public body
- Monopoly licences or guarantees of market share
- Advertising via a public channel such as a tourist board or state-owned television
- Consultancy advice provided either free or at a reduced rate
- Training provided either free or at a reduced rate
- Aid for investment in environmental projects
- Provision of a free or reduced rate feasibility study for research and development or other assistance with research and development
- Purchase of public land or property at a less than market rate
- Benefiting from the provision of infrastructure where your organisation was pre-identified as a beneficiary

These types of aid may have been provided under De Minimis (as De Minimis aid) or under another State Aid regulation. If you are in any doubt whether aid received was De Minimis aid or about its value, check with the organisation which provided it. If they are unable to say or there is any uncertainty, assume that it was De Minimis aid unless its value exceeded £170,000 (€189,319.65), in which case it cannot have been De Minimis. The support provided by the TERC project will have to be declared if you apply, or have applied for any other De Minimis aid.

Please check the amount of De Minimis aid received by your business over the last three fiscal years. You will need to provide a record of all aid received upon registration.