

Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation

Press Release

19th May 2010

Building designers invited to engage in climate change innovation challenge

Building design teams are being invited to compete for a total of just under £5m investment in projects that will devise ways of adapting buildings so that they can withstand climate change. The Technology Strategy Board will invest a total of £2.5m in the research and development project in 2010 and a further £2.4 m in 2011.

Building designers are being challenged to come up with proposals to show how they would adapt a building that they are currently working on with a construction client, so that it could cope with the future climate.

Iain Gray, Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board said:

“We need to make sure that our buildings can withstand changes in the climate over the next 100 years and remain usable. We are already designing and constructing buildings that use less energy and reduce CO₂ emissions; now we need to make sure they are resilient and adaptable to the climate change we will see over the next decades. This programme will help UK industry to tap into the market opportunity for climate adaptation services.”

The findings of the research that teams conduct will be published by the Technology Strategy Board, providing the entire building design sector with valuable data that will help to accelerate the development of innovative solutions to climate adaptation for buildings.

The competition will focus on large scale building projects aimed at low impact standards, both new build and major refurbishment. Individual businesses will be awarded contracts worth up to 100k to cover the costs of developing an adaptation strategy and will be required to answer five key questions, in order complete their full proposal. *

They will cover points such as the level of risk that a building is exposed to as a result of climate change, the best routes to adapting a building for future climates, the best way to carry out adaptation work and how to work out when to recommend that adaptation work should take place on a building.

Ends

*Please see editor's notes for 5 questions

Editor's notes

The term 'adaptation' should be interpreted broadly, and the design work should address technologies, systems and processes in the areas of: comfort – eg internal temperatures, energy management and indoor environmental quality construction – eg foundation stability, resistance to driving rain, fixing methods, resistance of materials to UV, and construction processes water management – e.g. conservation, drainage and flooding.

For successful applicants, we will award contracts to investigate the following questions:

1. What is the current risk exposure for your building/s to the projected future climate?
2. What is the best way to adapt your specific building/s, now and in the future, to improve resistance and resilience to climate change and thus extend the commercial viability?
3. How will you decide when to recommend implementing certain adaptation measures?
4. What is the best way to conduct adaptation work?
5. How can this work be used to extend adaptation of other buildings?

This is a single-stage competition running over two rounds. Round one opens on **14 June 2010** and closes on **22 July 2010** (noon). Please click here to see a two page document about the competition

http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/pdf/competition-documents/briefs/designforfuturet10_041.pdf

Companies and other organisations seeking further information about these and other funding competitions should visit the competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website – www.innovateuk.org email competitions@tsb.gov.uk or phone the Competitions Helpline at **01355 272155**

The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org.

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