

# Social Innovation Challenge Proposal



## Introduction to EMEC

EMEC is the world's leading test facility for wave and tidal energy converters and has hosted more ocean energy technologies in the seas around Orkney than anywhere else in the world has. Committed to supporting the transition to net zero, EMEC has expanded its remit and is also now pioneering developments in green hydrogen and clean island energy systems.

## EMEC's proposal

EMEC are looking for local Orkney partners who are interested in applying for the Social Innovation Challenge – funding for innovative solutions to climate challenges. The challenge seeks innovative social enterprises which create local engagement and social value as well as having the potential for longer term income generation.

### Our goal

EMEC would like to help create more positive community impact in Orkney, through building relationships with local organisations and offering support in creating local benefit. We know there is huge potential within the wider Orkney community to develop innovative social enterprises which create a lasting and measurable local impact, so EMEC would like to work with a local partner to help support the development of an application into this challenge fund.

### What EMEC can offer

EMEC has the capacity to support local enterprises, charities and innovators who are keen to enter the challenge. With significant experience working within the public funding space, EMEC has a commercial team who are focused on identifying, developing and writing funding applications. EMEC can supply this expertise in partnership with another organisation to develop a joint application.

In addition to the application process EMEC has significant experience in delivering public funded projects of various sizes. EMEC could also support project delivery and act as a mentor offering specific advice on project management, stakeholder engagement and commercialisation to its project partner.

### What we are looking for

EMEC is asking potential partners to present an idea that can be pitched in the application. EMEC is keen to find a local partner with an innovative social enterprise which can be entered into the challenge. The partner should be open to collaboration with good availability for the application process from now until the middle of September.

### How EMEC will select a successful project

In the event of multiple expressions of interest it is likely that EMEC will only have the capacity to partner on one application. In this case, EMECs preferred partner or project shall be selected based on:

- Relevance to the competition, its theme and the funding programme
- Potential for sustainable positive impact locally
- Alignment with EMEC's values and strategy

## Competition summary

### Overview

The Social Innovation Challenge is a funding programme to support innovative social enterprise solutions to challenges faced by individuals, communities and the environment. It is delivered by Firstport on behalf of the Scottish Government. It will award up to £50,000 to support the development of a new social enterprise solution in response to an annual challenge theme. **The application closes at 12noon on Friday 16 September 2022.**

### Theme of the fund

The 2022 theme is centred on the legacy of COP26, seeking innovative solutions to climate challenge issues faced by rural communities in Scotland.

The competition is looking for projects or ideas that have great potential to support rural communities facing climate change challenges. There is also particular interest in solutions that bring a positive contribution to Scotland's Net Zero ambitions by helping reduce carbon emissions.

Projects should demonstrate:

- An element of innovation
- A clear link to the theme
- Strong evidence of community engagement and participation
- Strong potential for income generation, as well as significant, measurable and lasting social impact

For examples of previous projects this competition has funded see: [Case Studies – Firstport](#). This gives an idea of the types of opportunity which may be of interest to the funder. It should be noted however that previous years had different competition themes.

### Eligibility criteria

Set out below are the eligibility criteria for applicants to the challenge.

#### **If applying as an individual:**

- The applicant is 16 or over.
- The applicant is a permanent resident of Scotland.

There is an intention to incorporate an asset-locked social enterprise with a registered office in Scotland (*funding will be released on successful incorporation*).

#### **If applying as a registered social enterprise:**

- The enterprise is incorporated and registered with the OSCR or Companies House.
- The enterprise's registered office is in Scotland.

#### **If applying as a new partnership / collaboration**

- At least one of the organisations involved in the partnership must have a registered office in Scotland or be primarily operating in Scotland.
- There is an intention to incorporate an asset-locked social enterprise with a registered office in Scotland (*funding will be released on successful incorporation*).

### **Applicable to all submissions:**

The funded project must seek to provide an innovative solution to climate challenge issues faced primarily by rural communities in Scotland. The fund will welcome applications that seek to extend their reach internationally over the longer term, but applications that do not begin by primarily benefiting Scottish communities will not be eligible for this Scottish Government funded project.

The activities of the enterprise do not involve political campaigning or the advancement of religion.

The enterprise aims to provide direct social benefit to individuals, communities, and/or the environment.

Profits from the enterprise are reinvested in the business and its social aims. No assets or uncapped dividends are transferred out of the organisation to private individuals or bodies. Please note that the applicant (or other individuals working for the enterprise) can take a fixed salary, but profits generated on top of this must be reinvested.

For eligible costs see: [01\\_SIC-Eligibility-guidance-and-overview-PDF-1.pdf \(firstport.org.uk\)](#)

### **Further details**

Website: [Social Innovation Challenge](#)

## **Contact details**

We would be delighted to hear from you if you have an idea, an innovation, or a project which you think would be a good fit for the fund.

### **How to ask questions or clarifications**

Please send an email to Matthew at [matthew.storey@emec.org.uk](mailto:matthew.storey@emec.org.uk).

### **How to apply to EMEC**

Please send an email to Matthew at [matthew.storey@emec.org.uk](mailto:matthew.storey@emec.org.uk) with a draft proposal of your idea in attachment.

**Deadline for expression of interest: 2 September 2022**

**Deadline for application submission: 12 noon Friday 16 September**