



Royal Academy  
of Engineering | Ingenious



# Ingenious Follow on Fund

**Applicant Guidance Notes**

Deadline: 16 September 2026 4pm



# Contents

Click a section below

Introduction	3
Diversity and Inclusion	4
Eligibility criteria	5
How to apply	6
Application Process	7
1. Marketing	
2. Applicant and organisation details	
3. Project details	
4. Goals and objectives	
5. Project plan	
6. Support requested	
7. Declaration	
Application process - policies	13
Assessment criteria	14
Further information	15
About us	16



© This is Engineering

# Introduction

**The *Ingenious* Follow on Fund aims to make it easier for successful *Ingenious* projects to continue doing great work.**

**Lots of work goes into establishing positive relationships with partners, companies, schools and community groups and we hope this fund can enable and support the continuation of these relationships.**

Funding is available from £3,000 to £15,000.

*Ingenious* is supported by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

All *Ingenious* Follow on Fund projects should continue to engage the public with engineering while providing engineers with training, skills and opportunities in public engagement.

We prioritise projects that reach diverse and underrepresented audiences, including communities in the top 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and that engage with engineers and audiences of different genders, ages and ethnic backgrounds.



# Diversity and Inclusion

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all underrepresented groups across engineering. It is the Academy's policy to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged or receives less favourable treatment because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Before you commence your application, you will be asked a few diversity monitoring questions to help the Academy monitor and assess our [diversity and inclusion policy](#). It will only be used for statistical purposes with access restricted to staff involved in processing and monitoring the data. No information will be published or used in any way that identifies individuals. The Academy will retain personal information as per our [Data Retention Policy](#) in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

The information will be treated as strictly confidential, nonattributable and will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. You will need to complete the diversity monitoring section before you can see the grant application form, but can choose "prefer not to say" as responses.

# Eligibility Criteria

- Follow on Fund applicants must have recently been awarded an *Ingenious* grant. This year's Follow on Fund will be open to previous *Ingenious* awardees from Round 18, 19 and 20 who have completed their projects.

- Projects wishing to apply for follow on funding must have completed their project and uploaded their final report and expenditure statement to the grants management system ready for approval.

- All projects must continue to involve engineers in the development and/or delivery of projects. This may include working with previously recruited engineers, providing them with additional opportunities to strengthen their public engagement skills. Alternatively, projects may choose to recruit new engineers offering training and opportunities to put new skills into practice.

- Like the main *Ingenious* scheme, applicants must be UK residents and over 18 years old.

Activities must be offered free of charge. For projects wanting to work with centres, clubs or associations that usually charge for tickets or membership fees, ticket prices should be covered for your target audience or there should be schemes in place to make sure that those from lower-income households are able to participate. If you need further clarification please get in touch with the Public Engagement team.

- The engineers involved in the project must be based in and studying or employed in the UK; be graduate-level or equivalent and above (including those at senior level); and can be from academia, industry or the public sector. Engineers may also be apprentices and engineering technicians. Applications that only engage undergraduate engineers or apprentices are ineligible for *Ingenious*.

Large enterprises as classified under the UK Companies Act 2006 are not eligible to apply.

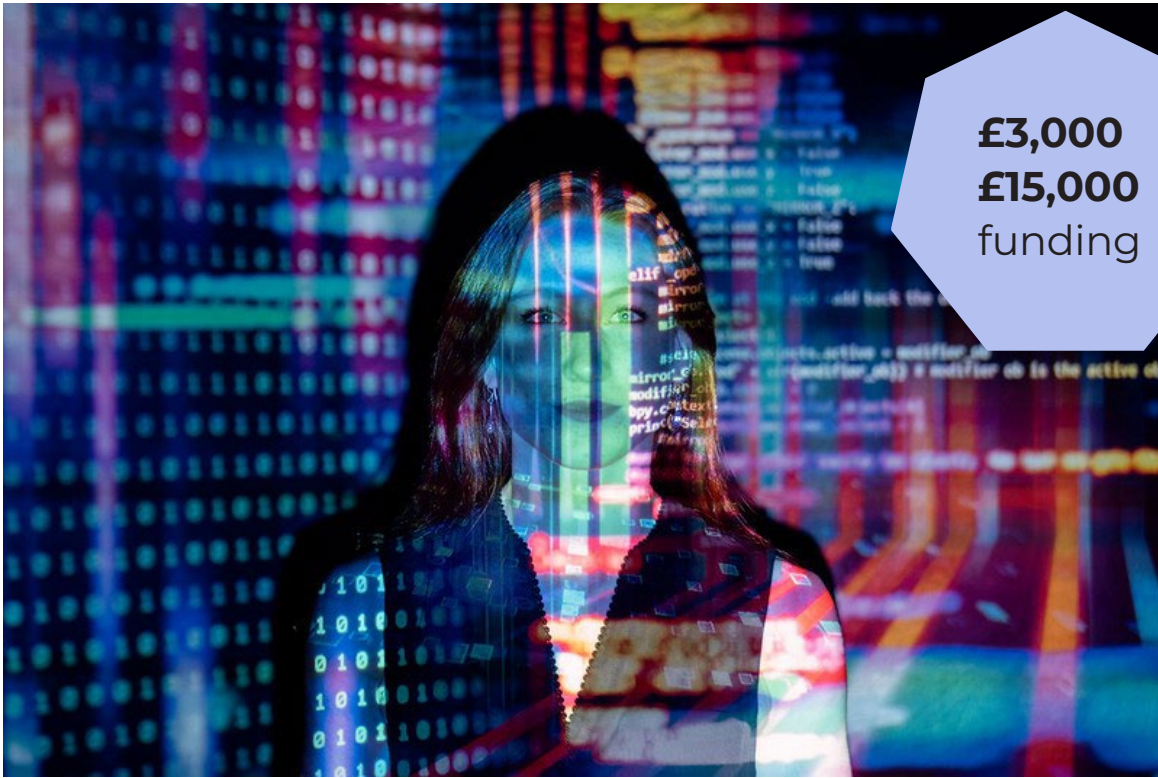
## Submission deadline

The submission deadline for this round of applications is **Wednesday 16 September 2026, 4pm.**

**£3,000 -  
£15,000**  
funding



© This is Engineering



# Applying for the Follow on Fund

## How to apply

- All applications must be submitted via the online grant system, available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk/>
- All applicants must first register with the system and provide some basic login details to create a profile.
- The lead applicant must be associated with the lead organisation (i.e. the organisation to which the grant will be given if the application is successful). All correspondence will be sent to the lead applicant.
- If successful, the lead applicant will be responsible for submitting reports. Changes to lead applicants will need to be approved by the Academy and documentation updated to reflect any changes so please consider who is best placed to apply as lead applicant.

Due to the nature of many public engagement projects and project teams, there may be multiple people who could be suitable candidates for leading the continued project. As the Follow on Fund aims to capitalise on previous work, applicants for follow on funding should have been core to the previously funded *Ingenious* project.

Applications for Follow on Funding will be accepted from any of the following:

- *Ingenious* lead applicant, original or later appointed.
- Member of project team named on original *Ingenious* application.
- Member of project team previously introduced to the Academy (kickoff workshop attendee or coordinator in regular contact with the Academy)
- Core member of project team unknown to Academy, who can provide a letter of support from the *Ingenious* lead applicant or lead organisation.

# Application process

## Completing the application form

After logging in to the online grant system and selecting the *Ingenious* Follow on Fund scheme, applicants are asked to complete a **Diversity Monitoring Form** to help the Academy monitor and assess its equality, diversity and inclusion policy. The information will be treated as strictly confidential, non-attributable and only reported when collated. It is gathered, stored and used in compliance with the Academy's [Privacy policy](#) in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

The information will only be used for statistical purposes with access restricted to staff involved in processing and monitoring the data. It will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. No information will be published or used in any way that identifies individuals. The Academy will retain personal information as per our Data Retention Policy.

You should then be presented with the 'Instructions' screen. Here you will see some general instructions on how to use the system as well as the list of the seven sections of the application form:

1. Applicant and organisation details
2. Project details
3. Project metrics
4. Project plan
5. Support requested
6. Marketing
7. Declaration

We have suggested word counts for each question in addition to the maximum word counts allowed on the grants management system. These word counts are intended to give an idea of the level of depth we are looking for from each question and ensure focus to your responses, whilst allowing leeway where needed.

Responses that routinely far exceed the suggested counts, may make it harder for the reviewers to find the information they are looking for and so we would recommend keeping to the suggested word counts where possible.

At any stage in the application process, you can save your work and return to it at a later time. You can answer the questions in any order you like so you may skip sections and return to them later. It is, therefore, worth viewing the application early on for an indication of what is required, and you should also ensure that you have all the necessary documentation to complete the application.

The application form has been divided into sections to provide a structure for your proposal. Where possible, applicants should avoid duplication of the same information in different sections.

A copy of the application form can be printed at any time by using the 'Print form' button



# Application process

## 1. Applicant and organisation details

- Please confirm that this application follows on from a previously funded *Ingenious* project.
- Please confirm that the *Ingenious* project is complete with the final report submitted on the grants management system.
- Please confirm that public audience will be able to access the activities free of charge.
- Please provide the name and contact details of the lead applicant and their respective organisation.
- The lead applicant must be associated with the lead organisation (i.e. the organisation to which the grant will be given to if the application is successful). All correspondence will be sent to the lead applicant.
- **File upload**  
Here you can upload a letter of support from the previous lead applicant/organisation if you are a new lead applicant unknown to the Academy

## 2. Project details

### Ingenious reference number

Please provide the reference number for the *Ingenious* project for which you are applying for Follow on Funding, starting ING. Different rounds may have slightly different reference formats e.g. ING2324\18001, ING-2425-19-.

If you are unsure of your *Ingenious* reference number, please get in touch the public engagement team.

### Project Title

This may be the same as your original *Ingenious* Project or it may differ to reflect any project changes.

### Total grant amount sought

£3,000 to £15,000 inclusive of any applicable VAT.

### Project dates

Funding decisions will be made in November 2026 and funds will be awarded to successful projects from December 2026 although it is acknowledged that projects may continue planning and development in the interim timeframe. Projects working with school groups must be completed, including evaluation, by 31 July 2028 whilst projects working alternatively or additionally with family or community groups, must be completed by 31 August 2028.

### Project location(s)

Please list the counties your proposed activities will take place. If only delivering online activity please state 'online only'

# Application process

## 4. Goals and objectives

### Project summary (100 words)

Think of this summary as an elevator pitch for your proposed project.

### Project objectives (200 words)

Please list the project objectives for the proposed Follow on Fund project, which should be in line with the aims of the scheme.

The following questions are grouped according to which aim of the scheme they relate to.

### Summary of previous activities (400 words)

Alongside your final report, this will help to provide context for your Follow on Fund proposal for our panel.

### Planned activities and target audiences (400 words)

Your Follow on Fund proposal should build upon your previous Ingenious project while incorporating learnings you have made. Tell us about what activities you plan to continue or adapt and whether you plan to work with the same audiences, and what you plan to change and why.

### Significant changes (400 words)

Please tell us about any other changes that have not previously been detailed, and the reasons for these changes, including format and content of training for participating engineers and project evaluation.

### Project relationships (400 words)

Tell us about any newly built relationships that you hope to nurture with the help of the Follow on funding and what they will help you to achieve.

### File uploads (optional)

Here you can upload letters of support from potential engineering companies or community groups/schools etc. to demonstrate continued or new support for the project.

Multiple documents can be merged together and should be uploaded as one file.

### Staff involvement

The panel will want to understand if there is continuity in the project team.

Please outline the skills, knowledge and relevant experience that project core team members will bring to your project. knowledge and relevant experience that project core team members will bring to your project.

If there are any changes to the project team from your Ingenious project, provide details as to how key knowledge and skills from departing team members will be replaced and enhanced with new team members.



# Application process

## Project metrics

Please provide the following anticipated metrics for your project:

**a)** Number of activities, events and/or resources you aim to deliver for your public audiences. . Please include type of activity, event or resource.

You do not need to continue every activity or event from your original project but please detail which activities you are continuing to run, whether they have been changed or updated and the reasons why

**b)** Target number and type of engineers participating in the project, for example five male and five female engineers, at least two who are in industry.

If known, please state how many engineers from the previous project you hope to continue engaging with, if any, as well as how many new engineers you hope to recruit, if any.

**c)** Target audience numbers and type of public audience you aim to target, for example gender, geographic location, age. Please highlight where there are any changes to the audiences being targeted and the reasons for any such changes. Please note that the Academy requires funded projects to collect data about the socio-economic profile of the public audience they reach.



## 5. Project plan

### Project timeline

Please provide approximate timescales or key milestones for your project.

### File uploads

Here you can upload a GANTT chart showing project timelines.

### Legacy

Tell us about additional impact you hope to achieve with the follow on funding to build upon your previous achievements. Tell us how the Follow on Fund will help you to build a legacy for the project. Include information for any plans you have to work towards becoming a self-sustaining project

# Application process

## 6. Support requested

### Costs table

- Allowable costs include those directly related to the development and delivery of the proposed project.

- A breakdown of the specific costs (including any applicable VAT) must be provided, including a description for each item.

- Reasonable salary buyout costs for researchers forming part of the project delivery team can be claimed but must be clearly justified. Any salary or staff related costs applied for must be auditable.

- Recipients from HEIs or Small/Medium Companies, cannot request costs to subsidise preexisting staff costs of those dedicated in full, on in part, to organisational public engagement activities. Recipients from Charities or Community Interest Companies can request costs for covering public engagement staff where those roles are dependent upon ongoing external grant funding.

For example, an eligible cost would be directly incurred costs of backfilling the position of an academic who needed to be released from teaching or other duties in order to lead the project, an ineligible cost would be contributing to the salaries of outreach or public engagement staff at universities or enterprises for whom running these kinds of projects would form part of their normal role. For those working at charities or Community Interest Companies, where no dedicated roles of this nature exist or where such roles are reliant upon external grant funding, we consider the costs of covering additional staffing costs incurred to be eligible

- Please specify the named individuals for any salary and consultancy costs.

- We recommend covering travel expenses at a minimum for any volunteering engineers where costs are not already being covered by their employers. You should also consider what other costs should be covered for your engineers or your target audiences in order to remove barriers to participation  
e.g childcare, coach hire for schools

- Materials and equipment can be claimed for but we would expect the majority of costs to go towards the enabling of the public engagement rather than a large proportion of the costs paying for expensive equipment or software. (Equipment costs should not exceed £10k for a single piece of equipment/software)

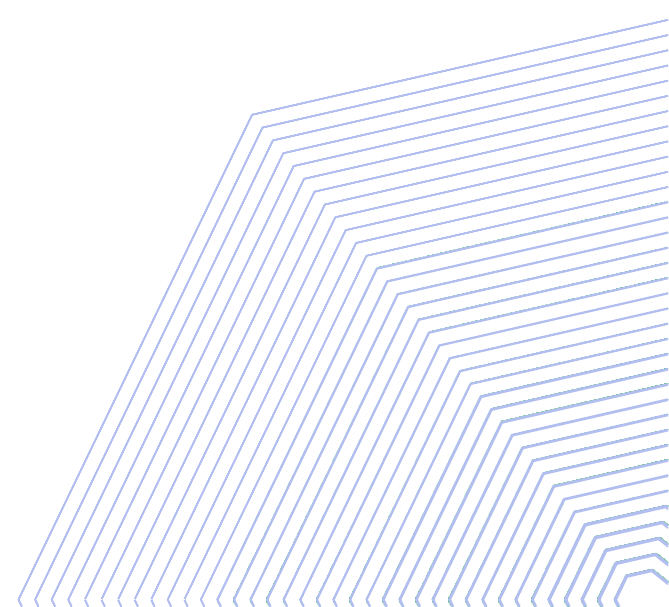
- Costs cannot include overheads, retrospective work or overseas travel (this list is not exhaustive).

- Please note, these grants are not calculated on the basis of full economic costing (FEC).

- **Justification of costs** (300 words)

Referencing your previous project expenditure, outline your expected costs and note the reason for any large changes to budget breakdown.

- The project costs should correspond with total grant amount sought.



# Application process

## Additional funding

Please provide details of any additional funding or in-kind costs that will be provided by third parties in support of the project, and confirm whether it has been secured and if not what contingencies are in place as we are keen to understand whether there is any risk to the proposal if partnership funding is not secured or is withdrawn

## Does this project form part of a larger public engagement activity? *(if yes, 300 words)*

If yes, please ensure it is clear as to how the Ingenious Follow on project is dependent on this. As above please confirm whether that funding is secured and that contingencies are in place if other funding is not secured or is withdrawn.

## Declaration

You will be asked to declare whether you have used any AI tools in the preparation of your application and brief details of how and what system.

The final declaration seeks confirmation that the applicant has provided accurate information and will update the Academy of any changes to the proposal.



# Policies

## Use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment

The Academy has aligned with other UK funders around the use of generative AI tools in funding applications through the Research Funders Policy Group joint statement.

Regarding the use of AI, applicants are fully responsible for all the content presented in their grant applications. The grant process does not penalise the use of generative AI tools, but it is imperative to ensure that the application reflects the applicant's own voice and ideas. It is not acceptable to solely rely on generative AI tools to write the entire grant application from start to finish. While these tools may be used to assist in various aspects, the application must primarily represent the applicant's own work.

Applicants must provide clear acknowledgement if they have used generative AI tools in the process of writing their grant applications. This includes disclosing the name of the tool used and describing how it was utilized. The following style should be employed for referencing:

*I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials for background research, styling, proofreading, etc.*

Or,

*I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials that were included within my final assessment in modified form.*

## Subsidy Control

The UK subsidy control regime began on 4 January 2023. As part of this regime, the Academy is required to report to the UK Government on how award funding is being used when applications collaborating with commercial enterprises are awarded. The regime determines the lawfulness of monetary awards made using public sector resources when given to businesses and other organisations that are engaged in economic activity.

This grant programme has been assessed and is not intended to be a subsidy scheme in relation to the Subsidy Control Act 2022. As such, the intended use of these funds by the Recipient is not to provide the recipient or any other enterprise with any form of economic advantage, nor is it intended for any purpose that could be considered capable of having an effect on competition and investment within the UK or trade and investment between the UK and another country or territory.

If, for any reason, you have concerns that your project may be at risk of being a subsidy because it is providing an economic advantage to an enterprise (i.e. a business offering goods or services on a market) or is capable of having an effect on competition or investment this must be declared to the Academy. Should you then be successful additional grant conditions may be applied at point of a grant offer to manage that risk.

## National Security

The Academy is the UK's National Academy for engineering and technology and seeks to increase the potential positive benefit that innovations can have for society, whilst reducing the risks of harm. Hence, in all our activities, we seek to minimise the risk that technology developed as part of work that we support could be misused by a foreign state to build a capacity to target UK interests in a hostile fashion or to control or repress their population. There is a risk that for some grant activities, failure to protect IP and a lack of due diligence into collaborators could result in sensitive technology being transferred to and misused by a hostile or repressive foreign state. As such all applicants should ensure they are familiar with the Academy's Policy on National Security-Related Risks.

# Assessment Criteria

We have created a streamlined application for the Follow on Fund which will be reviewed alongside the final report of the completed *Ingenious* project. During the review and assessment of the application, the panel will reflect and comment on the project plan and how the proposal meets the *Ingenious* aims.

## **Aim: Maximise impact and reach from resources already developed under the *Ingenious* scheme**

- Whether the objectives of the original project were met and any reasons provided for incomplete objectives
- How the project dealt with any challenges
- Engineers training and public engagement opportunities.
- Evidence that the activities were enjoyed by their target audience
- Reflections of lessons learnt

## **Aim: Maximise impact and reach from resources already developed under the *Ingenious* scheme**

- The creativity and innovation of the developed activities
- Proposed changes and implications for delivery of project

## **Aim: Allow new relationships with partner organisations, community groups/schools and engineers and engineering companies to be nurtured to build long lasting working relationships**

- The relationships established with engineers, partner organisations, companies, community groups/schools etc and how these will continue
- Continuity of the project team
- The experience brought by new project team members and filling of gaps left by departing members

## **Project planning**

- Timeline feasibility
- Budget feasibility
- Potential legacy

## **Key dates**

**Submission deadline: 16 September 2026, 4pm**

Funding panel: October 2026

Funding offer: November 2026  
The letter of offer, grant agreement and terms and conditions are sent to the lead applicant (the grant is conditional on acceptance of the terms and conditions)

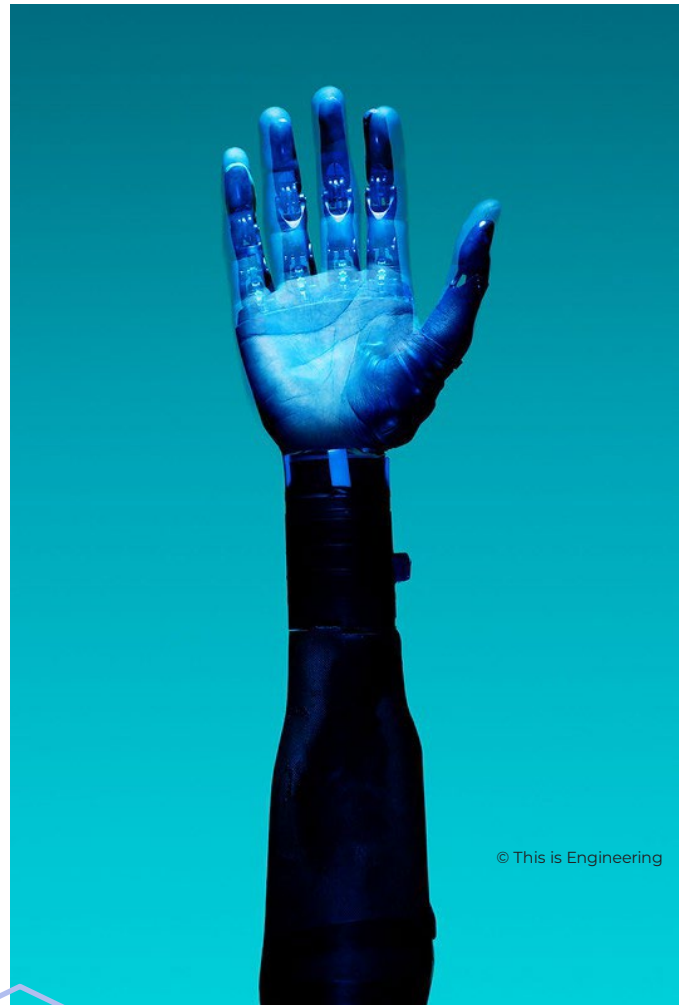
Funding awarded: December 2026 onwards



# Further information

## Monitoring

- Successful applicants will be required to schedule a 1:1 meeting with the Programme Manager at the start of the project.
- Awardees are encouraged to stay in regular contact with the Programme Manager and update them on project progress on an informal basis. Each project can expect to be visited by a member of the Public Engagement team at least once.
- The Programme Manager must be informed of any changes to the activities, timings or allocation of funds over the course of the project.
- Awardees are required to complete an interim and final project report with expenditure statements.
- Final reports serve as a measure of the success of the scheme and may be sent to the panel for review.



© This is Engineering

## Further information

### Contact

If you have any questions about your eligibility, the programme, or problems with your application, please contact the public engagement team.

[engagement@raeng.org.uk](mailto:engagement@raeng.org.uk)



# About us

The Royal Academy of Engineering creates and leads a community of outstanding experts and innovators to engineer better lives.

As a charity and a Fellowship, we deliver public benefit from excellence in engineering and technology and convene leading businesspeople, entrepreneurs, innovators and academics across engineering and technology.

As a National Academy, we provide leadership for engineering and technology, and independent, expert advice to policymakers in the UK and beyond.

## Our three goals for the next five years

### Sustainable and Innovative Economy

Where sustainability drivers, innovative industries and resilient infrastructures are aligned to drive growth and productivity that will support better lives for all.

### Technology Improving Lives

Where technology in all its forms is used to meet the most important human needs, avoid harm, support fairer societies and break down barriers to opportunity.

### Engineering Community Fit for the Future

Where our community reflects society in its diversity, commits to creating inclusive cultures to help drive engineering excellence, and has the skills to meet future needs safely, securely and ethically, and to keep pace with innovation.