

# Belfast

# 5G

## INNOVATION REGION

## 5G Funding Competition



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City Council



Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council



LCCC  
Lisburn &  
Castlereagh  
City Council



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Department for  
Science, Innovation,  
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## Agenda

11.00am - 11.05am	<b>Introduction to the briefing session</b> James Noakes, Belfast City Council
11.05am - 11.10am	<b>Belfast 5G Innovation Region Programme</b> Mark McCann, Belfast City Council
11.10am - 11.25am	<b>5GIR Funding Competition detail</b> Guy Middleton, Spirit Public Sector; Lee Vasey, Horseguards Consulting
11.25am - 11.40am	<b>5G Use Cases and additional information</b> Guy Middleton, Spirit Public Sector
11.40am - 11.45am	<b>Assessment process</b> James Noakes, Belfast City Council
11.45am – 12.00pm	<b>Questions &amp; answers from attendees – Please use Q&amp;A facility in Teams</b>
12.00pm	<b>Close – Key information</b>



## Belfast 5GIR Programme



### 5G Enablement Programme

Development of a sustainable Belfast region (and NI wide) programme to foster the local advanced wireless ecosystem, drive adoption of advanced wireless technologies, and aggregate and demonstrate demand for investment in advanced wireless technologies.



### 5G Funding Competition

£280k grants to support local organisations to develop 5G use cases, products and services.

### 5G Anchor Projects

Four projects in key local sectors which will support routes to commercialisation and can be scaled/replicated in NI and across UK.



**5G Studio** - UU's Studio Ulster



**5G Port** - Belfast Harbour



**5G Transport** - Translink



**5G Construction** - QUB's Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre



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**Belfast 5G** INNOVATION REGION

# 5G Funding Competition

Criteria, scope and application process



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## Details are in the Guidance Document

- Aiming to highlight key points
- Aiming to prompt questions
- Aiming to help you to develop compelling applications
- Please ask questions in the Q&A



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# Funding competition objectives

- Drive **adoption** of advanced wireless solutions, especially 5G
- **Adoption** – i.e. not experimentation and development etc, not coverage, but take-up of solutions to address real-world business problems
- Competition is about **removing barriers** to take-up of 5G and other advanced wireless technologies
- Drive **economic growth** and innovation



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## Key features of the funding

- **Capital funding** only. Grants of between £50,000 - £100,000 available. Must be spent by **31 March 2025**.
- For businesses and organisations in the **Belfast Region City Deal council areas**: Antrim and Newtownabbey; Ards and North Down; Belfast; Lisburn and Castlereagh; Mid and East Antrim; and Newry, Mourne and Down
- 30% match funding required
- Commercially sustainable projects
- Use Cases for 5G and advanced wireless – not just connectivity



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Mid & East  
Antrim  
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Newry, Mourne  
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QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST



Translink



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## Technology

- Applications of all kinds of advanced wireless are eligible
- **5G and roadmap to 5G** will score more highly because the barriers to adoption are higher
- Roadmap – e.g. based on LTE today and 5G ready, or pilot phase uses WiFi and full scale would use 5G private network, etc.
- Hybrid networks – e.g. uses 5G for backhaul for devices connected by WiFi or LoRaWAN gateway, or uses satellite backhaul and local 5G connection, etc.



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## Use Cases

- “Use Case” describes a specific scenario, process, method or transaction that relies on the use of advanced wireless technologies
- Key feature of a Use Case is the use of wireless connectivity to **support a business or organisation activity**  
i.e. the application of wireless, not just its availability.
- Projects that just increase coverage without using it directly are unlikely to score well. New connectivity to support a use case is acceptable.
- **Relies** on advanced wireless – i.e. needs wireless, not just a replacement for existing connectivity.



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## Applications

- **Project Design**  
What is the project
- **Match Funding**  
How will you meet part of the costs
- **Application Forms**  
Make sure the submission does the project justice
- If it is not clear, please ask...



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# Applications – Project Design

- Develop the ideas for your project asap
- Check **Eligibility criteria** – of the organisation, and of the costs
- Consider the objectives of the competition
  
- Focus on the use cases – what problem is addressed by using advanced wireless connectivity
- Think about who will deliver the technology
- Think about how the project will be managed to deliver on time
- Consider the business change activities to make it work
- Consider how it will be commercially sustainable
  
- i.e. What is the project for, how will it do it, how will it be delivered, and by whom... and how it will endure



# Applications – Match funding

- **30% match funding**  
i.e. 30% applicant, 70% 5G Funding Competition
- **Match funding**  
Does not have to be capital  
Can be contribution in-kind (e.g. staff costs)  
Does not need to be spent by March 2025  
Does have to be new money or new effort



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## Applications – Forms

- Use the checklist (end of application form) – make sure you submit everything
- Understand the evaluation scoring methodology
- Make clear how the project meets the funding objectives
- **Address every part of the requirements**
- Use the word count carefully
- Be clear, use plain language, use illustrative diagrams



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# Applications – Clarification questions

- Study the guidance as soon as possible
- If in doubt, ask
- Submit clarification questions **ASAP** - well before 13 September clarification deadline
  - Responses may trigger follow-up questions
  - You'll want maximum time to make use of responses
  - Regularly check the competition website for responses



## FAQs

- **Q: Can councils apply for funding?**

A: Councils in the Belfast Region City Deal area can apply. Belfast City Council itself will not apply.

- **Q: Could the application deadline be extended?**

A: Belfast City Council does not intend to extend the deadline.



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# Assessment process

## Key dates

- **Assessment period starts:** 23 September 2024
- **Applicants notified:** w/c 30 September 2024

## Scoring

- **Eligibility questions:** Pass or fail
- **Assessment questions:** Assessed according to criteria (0-5)
- Individual assessment of proposals on own merits as per criteria



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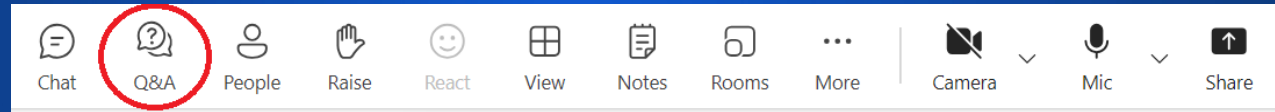
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# Questions & Answers

Please use the Q&A facility in Teams



All questions and answers will be published on the competition website



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## Key dates

- **Deadline for clarification questions:** 5.00pm, 13 September 2024
- **Deadline for applications:** 11.59pm, 22 September 2024
- **Applicants notified:** w/c 30 September 2024
- **Project mobilisation:** October 2024
- **Grant funding period:** Mid-October 2024 – 31 March 2025
- **Project completion:** 31 March 2025



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## Key links

- 5G Funding Competition

[www.smartbelfast.city/2024/08/belfast-region-5g-innovation-funding](http://www.smartbelfast.city/2024/08/belfast-region-5g-innovation-funding)

- Belfast 5G Innovation Region Programme

[www.smartbelfast.city/belfast-5g-innovation-region](http://www.smartbelfast.city/belfast-5g-innovation-region)

- Email for clarification questions

[innovationfunding@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:innovationfunding@belfastcity.gov.uk)



Funding competition website



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Ulster University

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