

MaLaMi Place-based Impact Acceleration Account

Application Form, Round 2: Active 4th December 2025 – 26th February 2026

SUPPORTED BY EPSRC FUNDING 2025-29

MARITIME AND LAST MILE NET ZERO (MALAMI) PBIAA

EPSRC's PBIAAs offer a new funding approach for impact acceleration intended to enhance the capabilities of clusters and drive regional growth. Key features of PBIAAs are as follows:

- a focus on developing place-based impact (i.e. a more concentrated delivery of impact that drives benefits within a research and innovation cluster)
- delivery through a consortium approach that encourages collaboration on impact between UK universities, and with civic bodies and businesses
- broadening access to impact funding for eligible research organisations, enabling all those with a relevant research portfolio to contribute

The Maritime and last Mile Net Zero (MaLaMi) PBIAA will enable impact from the engineering and physical sciences research of Liverpool John Moores University, the University of Liverpool and Queen's University Belfast to be realised within a nascent Maritime and Last Mile cluster in Liverpool City Region and the Liverpool-Belfast Green Shipping Corridor, in collaboration with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, LCR Freeport, Mersey Maritime and businesses operating within that cluster.

MaLaMi aims to realise the co-creation and impact acceleration of the applied research base across maritime and last mile in Liverpool City Region, and develop the foundations for future innovation-based growth that translates new advances in research and technology into commercial applications and non-academic impact.

MaLaMi will accelerate maritime transport decarbonisation and digitalisation in LCR and beyond through cluster- and network-building activities and funded collaborations over a 4-year period. Funding for HEI-led partnerships with businesses, industry organizations and/or civic stakeholders will be the primary mechanism for progressing the development of proof-of-concept and validation projects.

WHAT ARE IAA FUNDS FOR?

MaLaMi PBIAA funding aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) To facilitate a step change strengthening of the potential functioning and subsequent impact of an established regional civic-business-research innovation ecosystem focused on the translation of research and through TRL3-5,
- 2) To facilitate diverse and novel interdisciplinary public-private research collaborations and sustainable partnerships, that allows for the translation of fundamental research into practical solutions and implementation plans relevant to industry, and
- 3) To provide an environment that supports and accelerates the careers of next-generation researchers and technical specialists through responsible research and innovation (RRI) training, and opportunities to lead project streams with impact potential.

It is intended that the IAA awards will:

- Accelerate impact in maritime and last mile via typical acceleration pathways (funded projects, secondments, cluster-building and dissemination events).

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- Support initiatives that accelerate the impact of fundamental research in Science and Engineering but also support activities in allied disciplines that enable such impact acceleration (e.g. policy, practice, techno-economic analysis). Indeed, such interdisciplinarity is encouraged.
- Help develop partnerships with industry and public sector bodies.
- Foster new engagements leading to collaborative work with industry and non-commercial external organisations to solve real world problems.
- Include building capacity and driving entrepreneurship culture.

For details of what costs are eligible for PBIAA funding please see [Appendix A](#).

MaLaMi offers significant funding for proof-of-concept and technology development projects, with industry and non-commercial organisations supporting through matched funding where appropriate. Projects and initiatives with local non-academic partners will be of high priority, leading to real change and impact in the region and enhancing local growth and regeneration. For details of the types of projects the MaLaMi PBIAA will fund, please see [Appendix B](#). In short, these are three levels of project funding (Level 1: up to £6k; Level 2: up to £20k with 20% external match; and Level 3: up to £40k with 30-50% external match) and opportunities for inward (up to £4.5k) and outward (up to £3k) secondment. In the selection of successful application, priority will be given to those with demonstrated 'cash' match from external partners.

PBIAA funding has been awarded to Liverpool John Moores University, the University of Liverpool and Queen's University Belfast, and it will be down to us to allocate it to particular initiatives that meet the criteria for MaLaMi funded projects and secondments, as well as our respective institutional priorities.

For an informal discussion, please contact Andy King (MaLaMi Project Manager) at A.J.King@liverpool.ac.uk, Zaili Yang at z.yang@ljmu.ac.uk, Andy Plater at gg07@liverpool.ac.uk or Emma McKenna at emma.mckenna@qub.ac.uk

HOW WILL WE SELECT FUNDING THEMES?

MaLaMi aims to support the development and maturation of a regional cluster in Maritime and Last Mile. This aligns strongly with the LCR CA's recognition of an emerging regional strength in Maritime and Net Zero. As such the themes for MaLaMi funding rounds will be set by research and impact priorities as discussed with academics, local government and business stakeholders at network- and cluster-building events. **The theme for Round 2 applications for funding is the Green Shipping Corridor.**

WHAT COSTS CAN BE PAID FOR WITH IAA MONEY?

As per EPSRC guidelines, PBIAAs may be used to fund both **direct project costs** and **support costs**, specifically:

- **100% OF DIRECT PROJECT COSTS:** *all directly incurred and directly allocated projects costs can be claimed, this includes staff time and travel and subsistence.*
- **OTHER ENGAGEMENT, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, TRAINING AND CULTURE CHANGE ACTIVITIES** can also be supported (please contact Andy King (MaLaMi Project Manager) at A.J.King@liverpool.ac.uk, for more details if required).

In addition to the standard UKRI ineligible grant costs, the MaLaMi PBIAA **cannot** be used to fund:

- New fundamental research
- Duplication of support (i.e. activities that should have been supported through other standard routes)

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- Public engagement activities (unless it is key to informing the research impact)
- Undergraduate, Masters and core PhD training or tuition fees
- IP management (including register, maintaining or supporting patents or property rights)
- Equipment with a value of £10,000 or more
- Indirect costs or estate costs of the research organisation
- Contributions to existing KTPs (development of new KTP activities can be considered)
- Conference attendance
- Publication fees for papers

Details on how to cost your project at the application stage can be found in [Appendix A](#).

HOW DO I APPLY?

This **PBIAA Application Form** should define the activity or project and the work plan including the deliverables and costs. If you have a non-HEI partner, they must complete the section on their contribution to confirm their involvement and commitment (cash contribution or numerated 'in kind' contribution). A separate letter of support is **NOT** required from the partner, although if submitted these will be reviewed alongside your application. A partner is not mandatory to be successful for PBIAA Level 1 or Secondment funding.

This Application Form must be signed by the academic lead (PI), their Head of Department (or via email confirmation) and where there is an external partner, by the external partner themselves. The terms and conditions of the co-funding arrangement between the Academic Lead's HEI and the external partner will be subject to contractual agreement separate to this application form. The award of PBIAA funding will be conditional upon this being put in place prior to the commencement of the proposed project.

Further negotiations may be required if the project is approved with reduced funding levels or if any amendments to the project details are required by the review panel.

Please read the application form carefully and complete all sections that are relevant to your project. Failure to do so may mean your application is not considered for funding. When completing your application, you should pay careful attention to the aims of the scheme, and the criteria below on which applications will be evaluated and awarded funding.

Please note, it is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that

1. appropriate ethical approval is in place before work commences
2. access to appropriate laboratory space, if required, is in place
3. students, if involved in activity / projects, are suitably supervised

See [Appendix A](#) for further details on eligible costs and [Appendix B](#) for full details on EPSRC funding criteria.

RESUBMISSION RULES

Resubmissions are permitted to this PBIAA under the following conditions:

- This is the first resubmission of this PBIAA project.

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- You have spoken to the PBIAA project manager and they have agreed you can resubmit. This decision is based on if the project is in scope for the PBIAA and if it was considered fundable in the prior round (based on assessment criterion 5 in the assessment form below).
- You have received and addressed the feedback provided in the previous round.
- Project costings have been resent to your home research costing organisations as these may have changes due to inflation and other factors.

If all these conditions are met, resubmission is permitted. Please be aware that resubmitted applications are not guaranteed to be funded even if feedback has been addressed. Quality and competitiveness of applications varies each round.

HOW IS MY APPLICATION ASSESSED?

The PBIAA is managed by an independent committee consisting of senior academics, impact specialists within professional services and external representatives from the MaLaMi's industrial partners. The make-up of the committee can be made available to applicants on request. The committee will review and make determinations for the awarding of funding. The PBIAA project manager will coordinate the review panels and applications to ensure applications are assessed fairly and by the appropriate committee and will announce the final funding decisions to applicants. MaLaMi is committed to embedding equality diversity and inclusion (EDI) to ensure the best outcomes for our research and innovation activities, and therefore these application and governance processes will be mindful of ensuring that we encourage applications from our diverse range of talent across the university.

Applications will be scored on the following criteria:

1. **The potential for impact development or creation**
2. **The quality of the project plan**
3. **The potential for follow-on activity**
4. **Value for money**

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Scoring and assessment criteria for the review committee (*total score 4-20*)

1. Does the proposed project exploit innovative ideas to support a key challenge in Maritime and Last Mile Net Zero? (1-5)

You should consider if the project is using innovative methods, ideas or approaches to research to address high priority challenges. Have they shown good awareness of the underlying challenge, the stakeholder and any inherent risks from their innovation. Will the project bring benefits to the host HEI and Liverpool City Region and other stakeholders? Where partners are present please consider partner engagement and how they contribute to the project outcomes.

1. Poor <i>(un-fundable)</i>	2. Lacking <i>(un-fundable)</i>	3. Reasonable <i>(might be fundable)</i>	4. Good <i>(fundable)</i>	5. Excellent <i>(fundable)</i>
The project does not clearly support a key challenge or is out of scope of the MaLaMi PBIAA	The project only partly supports a key challenge or has shown only limited awareness of core issues involved in the challenge	The project is fairly innovative and represents reasonable support for a key challenge	The project is innovative and will provide good support for a key challenge	The project is highly innovative and will strongly support a key challenge

2. How strong is the project plan overall (1-5)

You should consider if the workplan is clear and achievable. Will implementation lead to the stated objectives being accomplished, what is the likelihood of success? Where partners are present, you should also consider if the involvement of the non-HEI partner strengthens the project overall and substantially contributes to the anticipated outcomes.

1. Poor <i>(un-fundable)</i>	2. Lacking <i>(un-fundable)</i>	3. Reasonable <i>(might be fundable)</i>	4. Good <i>(fundable)</i>	5. Excellent <i>(fundable)</i>
The project plan is poor, unclear or unachievable and therefore project is unlikely to succeed	The project plan is unsatisfactory, lacks clarity or could be unachievable, and therefore project is less likely to succeed.	The project plan is reasonably clear and reasonably achievable, and therefore project has a reasonable chance of succeeding.	The project plan is clear and seems to be achievable, and therefore project is fairly likely to succeed.	The workplan is very clear and achievable, and therefore project is very likely to succeed.

3. Are project outputs likely to deliver demonstrable and sustainable impact within a reasonable timeframe?

You should consider if the project will likely lead to or support applications for further external funding or impact creation, and that a reasonable pathway to further impact beyond the project has been developed? Is a specific scheme identified and are the plans clearly set out and realistic? Consider how implementable this follow on activity would be. Will impact be scaled up and/or become sustainable (through influencing policy, commercialization, social venture, external funding etc)

1. Poor <i>(un-fundable)</i>	2. Lacking <i>(un-fundable)</i>	3. Reasonable <i>(might be fundable)</i>	4. Good <i>(fundable)</i>	5. Excellent <i>(fundable)</i>
Project either unlikely to lead to further research/ impact/KE activities or these opportunities are not clearly scoped	Project either less likely to lead to further research/ impact/KE activities or these opportunities are only partially scoped	Project has reasonable potential for further research/impact/KE activities, and these opportunities are reasonably well scoped	Project is quite likely to lead to further research/ impact/KE activities and these opportunities are well scoped	Project is very likely to lead to further research/impact/KE activities and these opportunities are very well scoped

4. Value for money (1-5)

If there is a non-HEI partner, do they contribute to the overall project through cash or 'in-kind' contributions which overall strengthen the application? Are the overall costs realistic and well justified? What contribution is the University expected to make relative to any partner, if applicable? Overall, we aim to raise the ambition and catalyse additional research and impact activity to respond to these global challenges, and to measure this by a multiplier of at least 25. It is accepted that division between grant and other forms of return may vary amongst disciplines and as such a portfolio approach will be adopted.

1. Poor <i>(un-fundable)</i>	2. Lacking <i>(un-fundable)</i>	3. Reasonable <i>(might be fundable)</i>	4. Good <i>(fundable)</i>	5. Excellent <i>(fundable)</i>
Either costs are unjustified, partner contributions are imbalanced or it has a poor potential as a catalyst, and therefore it represents poor value for money	Either costs are hard to justify, partner contributions are questionable or project has limited potential to be a catalyst, and therefore it probably doesn't represent best value for money	Project represents reasonable value for money because costs and/or contributions are reasonable and justifiable, and there is some potential for this project to be a catalyst	Project represents good value for money because costs and/or contributions are reasonable and justifiable, and there is fair potential for this project to be a catalyst	The project represents significant value for money because costs and/or contributions are reasonable and justifiable, and there is good potential for this project to be a catalyst

5. In your opinion, should the proposed project be funded? (YES / MAYBE / NO)

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APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are invited for projects that meet the criteria for MaLaMi PBIAA funding.

Details on the funding available through projects and secondments are given in [Appendix B](#). Please ensure the amount for which you are applying is clearly stated on the form.

The deadline for submissions for this current round is **1pm on Thursday 26th February 2026**. Incomplete forms will not be considered.

Applications should be submitted to **a.j.king@liverpool.ac.uk** Applications will be reviewed by the MaLaMi PBIAA review committee and Management Board. Those awarded funding can expect to begin from April 2026. **Funded projects should be completed, and all funding spent, within maximum of 12 months of project initiation or before 12th March 2027, whichever is sooner.**

EDI DATA

Liverpool John Moores University, the University of Liverpool and Queens' University Belfast are committed to supporting EDI within the PBIAA process in line with UKRI guidance. Our intention is to be proactive in identifying areas for improvement and promoting EDI principles using a data driven approach. To support the accurate analysis of EDI data we ask that all PBIAA applicants enter their staff number on the form below.

The staff number entered in this form will be used to extract anonymised EDI associated data so that PBIAA processes can continue to evolve and develop in line with EDI principles. If you do not wish to be included in anonymised EDI analysis, please leave the staff number box blank.

FURTHER DETAILS

Please contact Andy King, MaLaMi Project Manager, on a.j.king@liverpool.ac.uk with any general enquiries about the scheme.

We strongly encourage you to discuss your activity / project idea with a member of the team prior to submission – please contact a.j.king@liverpool.ac.uk with a brief summary (max 100 words), and a member of the team will contact you to discuss further.

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APPLICATION FORM

Please complete using 10pt Calibri font and send to: a.j.king@liverpool.ac.uk before 1pm 26th February 2026

Has this, or a similar, project been submitted to another internal funding award?		Yes / No
If Yes , please provide details		
Has this, or a similar, project been submitted in a previous IAA round? <i>If so, confirm the application has been adjusted in line with feedback</i>		Yes / No Yes / No
If Yes , please provide details		
What MaLaMi funding stream is being applied for? <i>Delete as appropriate</i>	Level 1 / Level 2 / Level 3 Secondment in/Secondment out	

SECTION 1: PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title (25 words) This will be used in the public domain

Lay Summary of Proposed Project (150 words) *This should be in plain English and include context, aims, objectives, potential benefits and how they would be achieved*

Intended Start Date

Intended End Date

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SECTION 2: PROJECT LEAD

Academic Lead or PI <i>(The PI should hold an academic contract, independent fellowship or be a tenure-track fellow)</i>			
Name			
Staff Number			
Position			
Faculty			
Department & School/Institute and Host HEI			
Email			
Contact Number			
Percentage Ownership of Project (for internal use)			
Estimated FTE commitment			
Project Co-Lead or Co-I (if applicable)			
Name	Position	Faculty/Affiliation	Percentage Ownership of Project (for internal use)

SECTION 3: ALIGNMENT WITH MARITIME AND LAST MILE NET ZERO

How does this project fall within the remit of the Maritime and Last Mile Net Zero (MaLaMi) PBIAA? (200 words) <i>If you are applying for funding from more than one council, clearly explain how it is relevant to each</i>

SECTION 4: FINANCE

Project Budget			
State the Total Level of PBIAA Funding Requested	£		
Breakdown of Costs	<i>Item</i>	<i>PBIAA funding requested</i>	
	<i>Travel and subsistence</i>	£	
	<i>Consumables</i>	£	
	<i>Equipment (<£10k only)</i>	£	
	<i>Staff costs</i>	£	

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	<i>Contracted services</i>	£	
	<i>Other (please specify)</i>	£	
	TOTAL	£	
Name of Research & Finance Team Contact within your School / Institute / University			
Please contact your respective institutional research office to provide costings and to set up an institutional record before submission. Please ensure it is a costing for EPSRC IAA funding, which is exempt from internal overheads. <i>If including staffing time, please allow additional time for this to be processed, including a short justification for any named staff. FEC costs cannot be included.</i>			
Costing Reference Number from Home HEI (Applications will not be considered without this)			

SECTION 5: ACADEMIC CASE

Academic Case for Support – Overview (Strict 3 sides A4 max) *Word counts provided are indicative rather than caps, unless stated otherwise*

Briefly describe the context for your research. Describe the underpinning research and how your project, if funded, would represent progression in this area. (200 words)

Provide an activity / a project overview, stating clearly the challenge or need you intend to address along with your project aims, measurable objectives and expected outcomes (i.e. benefits for a strategic partnership, a stronger impact culture, new IP filing etc.) (100-300 words)

Briefly describe the work plan, including proposed activities and specific tasks to be carried out by participants (including any partners), timeframe, resources to be committed, key milestones, and deliverables (200 words) *Gantt charts welcome*

Additional case for support - please provide any other information which you think is relevant to your application (300 words max)

Academic Case for Support – Focus on Impact (Strict 1 side A4 max) *Word counts provided are indicative rather than caps*

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What is the expected or anticipated impact from the project? What evidence will you collect to demonstrate impact? (300 words) *What is the anticipated impact the proposed research is expected to produce, e.g. scientific, societal, clinical, economic or other impact – please state the ways you intend to capture impact related data.*

What follow on activities will happen as a result of this work and what next steps do you plan to take to scale sustain and scale-up the initial impact? (200 words) *If this includes any funding applications please include likely funders and value of future bids, or specific calls that you have identified. If you are considering commercialisation please indicate how you intend to deliver this.*

Have you spoken to your host HEI intellectual property and commercialisation teams about this project? If so, who was your contact in the team? *We strongly encourage applicants to consider how the impact might be amplified through 'commercialisation' and IP generation.*

Yes / No / N/A – Name of Contract:

Do any Intellectual Property (IP) issues need to be considered? (100 words max)

SECTION 6: HEAD OF DEPARTMENT DECLARATION

HoD Declaration (email confirmation from HoD will be accepted)

As Head of Department I am aware of this application and have given the proposed project my support

Home HEI and Department / School/ Institute		
Signed	Name	Date

SECTION 7: PARTNER

This section it to be completed by the Partner/s. If you have multiple partners, please copy this section.

NOTE: It is not a requirement to have a partner. If your project does not, leave this section blank.

Collaborating External Partner Details and Contribution (Strict 1 side A4 max) *Word counts provided are indicative rather than caps*

Organisation name (the "Partner")	
Contact name(s)	
Job title(s)	
Contact email address(es)	
Contact phone number(s)	

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Address			
Organisation website			
Company type			
Industry sector			
What will your organisation contribute to the Project? (500 words max) <i>Contributions to projects can take many forms, and 'in kind' contributions can cover advice, training, access to resources, placements, facilities, consumables etc.</i>			
Cash Value		£	In-kind Value:
			£
How will you, as the partner, contribute to and/or enhance outputs and impact generation? (500 words max)			
Have you worked with the PI before? How did you meet and develop this idea? (60 words max)			
Following on from this project, would you anticipate making a joint application for external funding with the academic PI, or directly funding work with the PI?			
Have you considered the opportunities for further leveraged funds? If so, what will you apply for? (60 words max)			

Please note that a Research, Partnerships and Innovation representative may contact the collaborating partner to discuss the application.

SECTION 8: DECLARATION

Declaration			
<p>I confirm that the above information is correct and if funding is approved by the University this will constitute the Agreement made between the University and the collaborating partner to undertake the work. If funded I understand that the project funding should be used. Funded projects should be completed, and all funding spent, within maximum of 12 months of project initiation or before 12th March 2027, whichever is sooner, and that upon successful completion of the Project a sign-off form must be completed and returned no later than 12 months from date of project initiation or before 12th March 2027, whichever is sooner. I hereby confirm that I have read and accept the terms and conditions shown below.</p> <p>As the Academic Lead, I will acknowledge support by the MaLaMi PBIAA in all communications about this work. I will discuss this project regularly with the PBIAA team, and will as a minimum meet with them and the external partner at the end of the project to confirm completion of work and plan next steps. I will complete the MaLaMi PBIAA project reporting form issued upon the conclusion of the project.</p> <p>This form must be signed by all relevant parties prior to submission of this application to be considered for funding.</p>			
For Academic Lead: (in acknowledgement)	Signed: _____	Name: _____	Date: _____
For the Collaborating Partner: (the Partner 1) if applicable	Signed: _____	Name: _____	Date: _____
For the Collaborating Partner: (the Partner 2) if applicable	Signed: _____	Name: _____	Date: _____

RPD/IS contact:	(Office Use Only)	Value Awarded:	(Office Use Only)	Fund Number:	(Office Use Only)

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APPENDIX A - COSTING YOUR PROJECT

The following are the guiding principles we use when allocating PBIAA funding, to ensure that funds are used appropriately and spent in a way acceptable to both the PBIAA HEIs and EPSRC.

Please note, costings for inward or outward secondments will require a breakdown of what the funding is to be spent on.

- 1) FEC costs are not covered, only directly incurred and directly allocated costs can be funded via PBIAA funding.
- 2) PI time is not typically eligible for PBIAA funding unless a strong justification is provided (e.g. the PI's know-how and expertise are essential for the project).
- 3) The fund **can** be used to support the following types of activities
 - a. Experimental costs for proof-of-concept projects to produce pilot data
 - b. Visits to use facilities or resources at another organisation
 - c. PDRA salary costs attributed to the project
 - d. Casual worker costs (e.g., students) attributed to the project
 - e. Relationship building, consortium building, networking events
 - f. Proof-of-concept work to get closer to market and secure external partners
 - g. Prototyping with your industrial partner
 - h. Small feasibility studies to confirm the validity of an approach with your partner
 - i. Market research of technology or sector
 - j. Awareness raising activity of your expertise to industry
 - k. Impact generating activities
 - l. Secondments for Staff and/or External Partners
- 4) The fund **cannot** be used to support the following types of activities
 - a. attendance at academic conferences
 - b. bench fees for students
 - c. general equipment other than consumables
 - d. publication related expenses
 - e. FEC and other overheads
 - f. Capital expenditure
 - g. Depreciation
 - h. Computer equipment / mobile phones / tablets
 - i. Software licences
 - j. Maintenance contracts for equipment
 - k. University tuition fees
 - l. Student stipends
 - m. Work placements (Secondments for Staff and/or External Partners **can** be included)

For all applications involving staff costs, you should liaise with the pre-award team in your home institution to ensure accurately costed projects. Only applications that have been costed appropriately will be considered.

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APPENDIX B – WHAT CAN BE FUNDED BY EPSRC PBIAA

Below you will find full details of what the institution has determined will be supported via EPSRC IAA funding.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Plater to discuss further at gg07@liverpool.ac.uk



Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

The MaLaMi PBIAA will fund competitively awarded **projects** and **secondments**, assessed through this application process. Priority will be given to projects aligned to MaLaMi objectives and thematic calls and support of the wider university strategy.

1. FUNDING PROGRAMMES

MaLaMi PBIAA will offer three types of funded projects:

i. **Level 1**

Maximum award value of £6,000

Available for short projects (1-3 months duration) for: (i) pump-priming for development of HEI partnerships with businesses, business organizations and LCR CA agencies; (ii) proof-of-concept projects that scope and test impact potential (alignment of science with business need); and (iii) specialist in-house expertise and facilities for scoping benefits from data engineering/analytics and advanced computation and/or to onboard data onto hybrid cloud infrastructure. The criteria for the funding decision will be market need, novelty of the technology solution, the scope for impact and its significance, and the strength of the sustainability plan for follow-on activities.

ii. **Level 2**

Maximum award value of £20,000

Available for projects (up to 4 months duration) centred on validation in the laboratory or operational environment and for pivoting, translating and/or widening of innovation into maritime and last mile thematic challenges. Funding also available for small items of equipment and access to facilities within/without LJMU, UoL and QUB. **Applications will typically involve a project partner, requiring up to 20% cash contribution.** The outcome from a successful project may be the formation of a spin-out company, new IP, licensing agreements, follow-on translational funding, advancing collaboration (through e.g., Knowledge Transfer Partnership or an industry-funded PhD studentship).

iii. **Level 3**

Maximum award value of £40,000

Available for advanced validation projects (up to 6 months duration) that progress product, process and/or service development up to TRL6 (demonstration in a relevant environment). Support for Level 3 projects will also be accessible from the MTC. Criteria for the funding decision will be the novelty of the underpinning science, the scope and significance for impact, the commitment of the host organisation, the scope for developing a long-term partnership, and the strength

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of the investment plan following a successful secondment. **Applications will typically involve a project partner, requiring 30-50% cash contribution.** The outcome from a successful project may be the formation of a spin-out company, new IP, licensing agreements, follow-on translational funding, advancing collaboration (through e.g., Knowledge Transfer Partnership or an industry-funded PhD studentship).

MaLaMi will also fund two types of secondments. Funding will be available for **industry into academia** (up to £4,500) and **academia into industry** (up to £3,000) secondments in yearly tranches across the HEIs and civic and cluster stakeholders to encourage two-way movement of people equipped with useful skills and research knowledge and to build an impact culture across the cluster.

Calls for **Level 1 and 2** projects will be run **twice a year**, calls for **Level 3** projects and **secondments** will be **yearly**.