

Natural Environment Research Council Follow-On Fund Technology Transfer Office Guidance Notes

A letter of support from an applicant's Technology Transfer Office (TTO) or equivalent must be included with each application to NERC's Follow-on Fund. Significant attention is paid to this letter during the assessment process, and this document is provided as guidance to the sort of information that might usefully be included. Please contact the office if you wish to discuss further.

The supporting letter from the TTO is crucial. It should relate specifically to the proposal (i.e. should not be a generic letter of support), and should explain in some detail how the university sees the project being taken forward, as well as how the university intends to support the work involved. Statements should demonstrate committed buy-in from the office.

Consideration should be given to the following in the Letter of Support:

1. Support already provided. This might be:
 - Financial;
 - Investigative;
 - Supporting IPR position.
2. Support that will be provided if the application is successful.
3. Outline of current and anticipated future IP position.

While work with a partner is strongly encouraged, sole licensing agreements to one company at this early stage could be regarded as limiting the overall potential for exploitation. Where the proposal seeks funds to work with a single, identified company, the TTO supporting letter should explain why the company is most appropriate, and provide an explanation for making the choice at this relatively early stage of the commercialisation process. Additional relevant information on the company can be provided as a separate document if it is felt that this proviso is justified.