Ofwat Innovation Fund Delivery Team – Who We Are

Water Services Regulation Authority, has oversight of the Innovation Fund.

Administers the Fund on behalf of Ofwat. First point of contact for all enquires.

Technical advisors to the Fund ensuring insights and learnings transform the water sector.

Submit your questions via Slido using code: #b4launch
Panellists - who you will hear from today

Elettra Pellanda  
Rachel Wright  
Hesham Afifi  
Oli Raud  

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06 September 2023
What we’ll cover today

1. The Ofwat Innovation Fund
   - Ofwat’s Innovation Fund – at a glance
   - Ofwat’s priorities

2. Water Breakthrough Challenge 4 – Overview
   - Catalyst and Transform Streams
   - What’s changed
   - Timeline

3. How to Enter
   - Support for your entry
   - Getting involved

4. What we are looking for
   - Who can be involved
   - The assessment categories
   - The assessment process
   - Requirements for successful entries
   - Lessons from past winners

5. Scaling impact and broadening participation
   - Case studies and voices from across the sector

6. Q&A (via Slido)

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£200 million of funding has been unlocked through to 2024, to unleash a wave of innovation in the water sector – plus at least a further £300 million through to 2030.

416 entries across all competitions, with >700 organisations involved collaboratively in these entries.

Over £100 million has been awarded to 77 initiatives, all pursuing innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing the water sector.
Innovation themes

The Fund supports innovations which deliver benefits to customers, society and the environment and address one or more of these themes.

- **Responding and adapting to climate change**
  - including achieving the sector ambitions of net zero carbon, zero waste and zero leakage.

- **Protecting and enhancing the environment**
  - and natural systems, to protect current and future customers from the impacts of extreme weather and pollution.

- **Delivering long-term operational resilience**
  - and understanding infrastructure risks to customers and the environment, finding solutions to mitigate these in sustainable and efficient ways.

- **Testing new ways of conducting core activities**
  - to deliver the services customers and society need, expect and value both now and in the future.
Ofwat’s priorities

Over the past few years, we’ve seen the Fund start to drive impact – but Ofwat are interested in seeing more projects consider:

**Impact at Scale:** Ambitious innovation projects, with an emphasis on actively sharing data and knowledge, and either adopting and rolling out new solutions, if successful; or actively sharing data and knowledge.

**Cross-sector collaboration:** Projects which bring in inspiration, solutions and partners from outside of the water sector.

**Engagement from smaller water companies & NAVs:** Projects led or partnered with smaller water companies, NAVs and water retailers.

**Equity, diversity and inclusion:** Projects which have equity, diversity and inclusion at their heart, and ensure that diverse perspectives have been considered within their project team, and for their customers.

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**Water Breakthrough Challenge 4 - Timelines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalyst Stream</th>
<th>Transform Stream</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entry Period Opens</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 1 Entry Period Opens</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 September 2023</td>
<td>5 September 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Entry Period Closes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 1 Entry Period Closes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 January 2024</td>
<td>19 October 2023</td>
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<td><strong>Entry Period Closes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 2 Entry Period Opens</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>16 November 2023</td>
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<td>2024</td>
<td>10 January 2024</td>
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<td><strong>Stage 2 Entry Period Closes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 2 Entry Period Closes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<td><strong>Winners Announced</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winners Announced</strong></td>
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<td>Mid-May 2024</td>
<td>Mid-May 2023</td>
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<td><strong>Winners Paid</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>Winners Paid</strong>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-June 2024</td>
<td>Mid-June 2023</td>
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* Subject to water company payment timelines

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Catalyst Stream

Opens 5 September 2023

~£10 million available

£150k - £2 million per entry

Single-stage entry process

Closes 3 January 2024
Transform Stream

- Opens 5 September 2023
- ~£30 million available
- £2 million - £10 million per entry
- 2-stage entry process
- Stage 1 closes 19 October 2023
Changes from Round 3

Water Breakthrough Challenge 3
- Catalyst Stream: ~£8m available for entries between £150k and £2m
- Transform Stream: ~£30m available for entries between £2m and £10m

Water Breakthrough Challenge 4
- Catalyst Stream: ~£10m available for entries between £150k and £2m
- Transform Stream: ~£30m available for entries between £2m and £10m

Process Updates
- Streamlined timelines
- Unified judging panel for both streams
- Live Q&A with judges
- Entry questions and guidance on knowledge and foreground IP
- Collaboration agreement example
- Entering the Catalyst Stream if unsuccessful in Transform stage 1
- Eligibility of Water Discovery Challenge Finalists

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Support for your entry

- Webinar recording
- Entrant Handbook
- One-to-One Surgeries
- Entrant Support Materials

For more information, visit: waterinnovation.challenges.org/breakthrough4/entrant-support/
How to enter

Entry form via Submittable

Pitch recording session

Catalyst Stream pitch booking deadline:
17 Nov 2023 5 pm

Transform Stream pitch booking deadline:
29 Sep 2023 5 pm

A summary of the entry process is available at:
waterinnovation.challenges.org/breakthrough4/get-involved/

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Who can enter

Water Company or NAV in England & Wales*

Partner(s)

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Assessment categories

1. Positive impact for water customers, society, and the environment
2. Innovation enablers and innovative solutions
3. Capacity, capability, and commitment to deliver

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1. Positive impact for water customers, society and the environment

Strong entries will:

• Address a significant need or opportunity for customers, society and/or the environment
• Align with one (or more) of Ofwat’s four strategic innovation themes
• Will, or could, be effective in addressing needs or opportunities for customers, society and/or the environment
• Set out a realistic reflection of external risks and how the potential benefits to customers, society and the environment outweigh these risks.
Strong entries will:

• Use innovative approaches and/or solutions which would not reasonably be expected to be funded as part of business-as-usual and/or develops innovative enablers which accelerates practice beyond business-as-usual

• Set out the potential for adoption at scale across the water sector.
3. Capacity, capability and commitment to deliver

Strong entries will:

- Show commitment to the entry
- Be delivered by a team with the relevant skills and experience
- Set out a realistic and achievable programme
- Demonstrate a realistic and considered costing which provides efficient use of customer funds
- Demonstrate a clear and proportionate approach to addressing risk

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The assessment process

Entry → Technical Assessment → Judging → Ofwat Decision

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Requirements for Successful Entries

The Terms and Conditions remain largely consistent with the previous round, with an update regarding the possibility to enter Catalyst Stream if you have been unsuccessful in Stage 1 of the Transform Stream.

There are requirements regarding:
• Use of funding (how you use the funds)
• Open Data by Default
• 10% contribution
• Monitoring & reporting requirements
• Regulatory reporting
• Intellectual property rights (IPR)
• Publicity
• Conflicts of Interest
• Settlement Arrangement
Lessons from past winners

**Governance:** Ensure you’ve agreed how the project will be governed, and the role of each partner.

**Contracts & Agreements:** Ensure you have started discussing contractual arrangements with partners, including developing collaboration agreements and allowing sufficient time in the project plan for these to be completed (if they aren't already in place).

**Procurement:** Consider your procurement needs, and possible supply chain delays.

**Regulatory Requirements:** Consider any regulatory requirements; you may wish to reach out to StreamLine, the regulatory advice service for innovators in England and Wales, run jointly by Ofwat, the Drinking Water Inspectorate and the Environment Agency.

**Resourcing:** Consider resourcing requirements for each stage of the project, with mitigations in place for any changes.

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Successful scaling of impact ensures:
• innovations have a broader reach
• breaking down of siloes
• overall growth of innovation ecosystems
• sustainable and lasting positive outcomes.

The Ofwat Innovation Fund is seeking leaders in this space to bring lasting impact and legacy to the projects funded by water customers of England and Wales.
Case Study FIRWARE4WATER:
Great Torrington (Devon) saw the creation of a local water forum which included a multi-partner, multi-agency approach, alongside gamification and innovative engagement strategies to empower customers towards water efficiency by using smart meters.

"Quintuple Helix" – right people at the table
Public sector, researchers, the private sector, cultural entities and the local community.
Stop and listen...

- Good things happen when you listen...
  - Communities and stakeholders take the lead
  - Ownership
  - Sustainability and legacy

- Listening allows you to co-design project solutions, during implementation and afterwards, turning passive beneficiaries into active advocates.

- Go further and wider than your project team are able or where traditional water company skills and approaches have been deployed... it's not just marketing.

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Top tips for innovative dissemination to support scaling

- Get the basics right
- Keep the right profile
- Encourage Participation
- Open Science & Data for Maximum Impact
- Remix traditional outputs
- Go live
- Think Visual
- Respect Diversity
- Find the right tools
- Evaluate, evaluate, evaluate

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Pop your questions in Slido!

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More questions?

Check out the FAQs:
waterinnovation.challenges.org/breakthrough4/faqs

If you can't find an answer, contact us:
waterinnovation@challengeworks.org

Sign up for Breakthrough 4 and Fund updates:
waterinnovation.challenges.org/newsletter
Thank you!