

# InGAME

*R&D Voucher Scheme Guidelines – Open Call 2021*

## The scheme in brief...

Award: £1,000 to £10,000 (non-monetary award)

Deadlines: **Round 4**

23:59 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Link to Form: [Expression of Interest Form](#)

Aim of the fund: The R&D Voucher Scheme unlocks access to research knowledge, talent and facilities across the InGAME partnership to collaborate on R&D projects that prototype new ideas and de-risk innovation challenges within the Dundee videogames cluster.



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# What is the InGAME R&D Voucher Scheme?

The Voucher Scheme responds to the needs of the Dundee videogames cluster by unlocking access to research expertise, state-of-the-art R&D facilities and diverse postgraduate talent to collaborate on small scope R&D projects that help prototype new ideas and de-risk innovation opportunities.

Organisations can apply for InGAME R&D Vouchers to explore, prototype and test new gaming concepts, tools, technologies, processes, platforms and business models. The Voucher Scheme is open to individual games professionals/games companies, media companies and other organisations seeking to develop new products and services that engage games development or games developers. R&D outputs should help applicants prove concept/audience/market/process/technology and de-risk follow-on commercial opportunities.

Successful R&D voucher applicants retain full ownership of any intellectual property generated from the R&D collaboration, with a royalty free license granted to InGAME and its partners for the purposes of anonymised research.

## Note:

- InGAME does not offer monetary awards. R&D vouchers provide access to academic value (knowledge, expertise, background IP, specialist equipment and facilities). R&D vouchers support new/novel ideas that benefit the applicant, InGAME and the Dundee videogames cluster.
- R&D vouchers **cannot** fund commercially available consultancy or procurement.
- Successful voucher applicants are expected to contribute an equal value in cash, in kind (such as staff time, intellectual assets, materials or equipment) or a combination of both.

## Who should apply?

The R&D Voucher Scheme is designed to empower organisations engaged in – or with – game development in the Dundee videogames cluster to innovate and/or grow. Applicants eligible to apply include:

1. Start-ups (pre- and post-incorporation) and university spin-outs
2. Freelancers
3. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)\*
4. Third sector organisations
5. Public sector organisations

However, anyone can submit an Expression of Interest to the voucher scheme, providing they:

- Have their main company operations in the UK or are individuals based and eligible to work in the UK.

- Propose an R&D collaboration concerned with game development, game developers or media enterprise.
- Propose an R&D collaboration with InGAME that creates value for the Dundee videogames cluster\*\*.

\* InGAME uses the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) set out in the European Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003, which defines upper ceilings for SMEs consisting of: a headcount of no more than 250 employees; and/or company turnover under 50 million Euros (or equivalent in British Pounds).

\*\* The Dundee videogames cluster covers the Tay Cities Region, using the council areas of Angus, Dundee, Fife and Perth & Kinross as a contextual boundary.

## Our expectations

The R&D voucher scheme is based on the principle of equitable collaboration between InGAME and the applicant. Making an application is designed to be accessible and fair but it is also a competitive process requiring active engagement and participation from the applicant. Each project is different but applicants must be available to meet with the InGAME team, conduct scoping and co-design activities, and complete relevant documentation as and when required. Successful applicants will be expected to continue active participation and to equitably collaborate with the InGAME team to maximise outputs of the scheme, including but not limited to:

- Matching our R&D Investment through the provision of co-funding (cash) or resources, equipment or intellectual contribution (in kind).
- Provide ongoing support and data for the successful monitoring of R&D outputs for the duration of InGAME programme (March 2023).

## Categories of R&D

Successful applicants gain access to state-of-the-art R&D facilities and world-class research talent within the InGAME R&D Centre. Typical R&D collaborations include:

### Experimental Prototyping

The development of a demonstrator, pilot, prototype or process to explore experimental ideas, new gaming contexts and novel applications of game designs and/or technologies.

### Proof of Concept

The development of a demonstrator, pilot or prototype to test the desirability, feasibility and/or viability of a promising idea.

### Audience Insight

The testing of prototype, work-in-progress and pre-release products, services and experiences to assess user experience, usability and/or player engagement.

## **Business Modelling**

The design and testing of innovative business models to realise the potential value of new products, services and experiences.

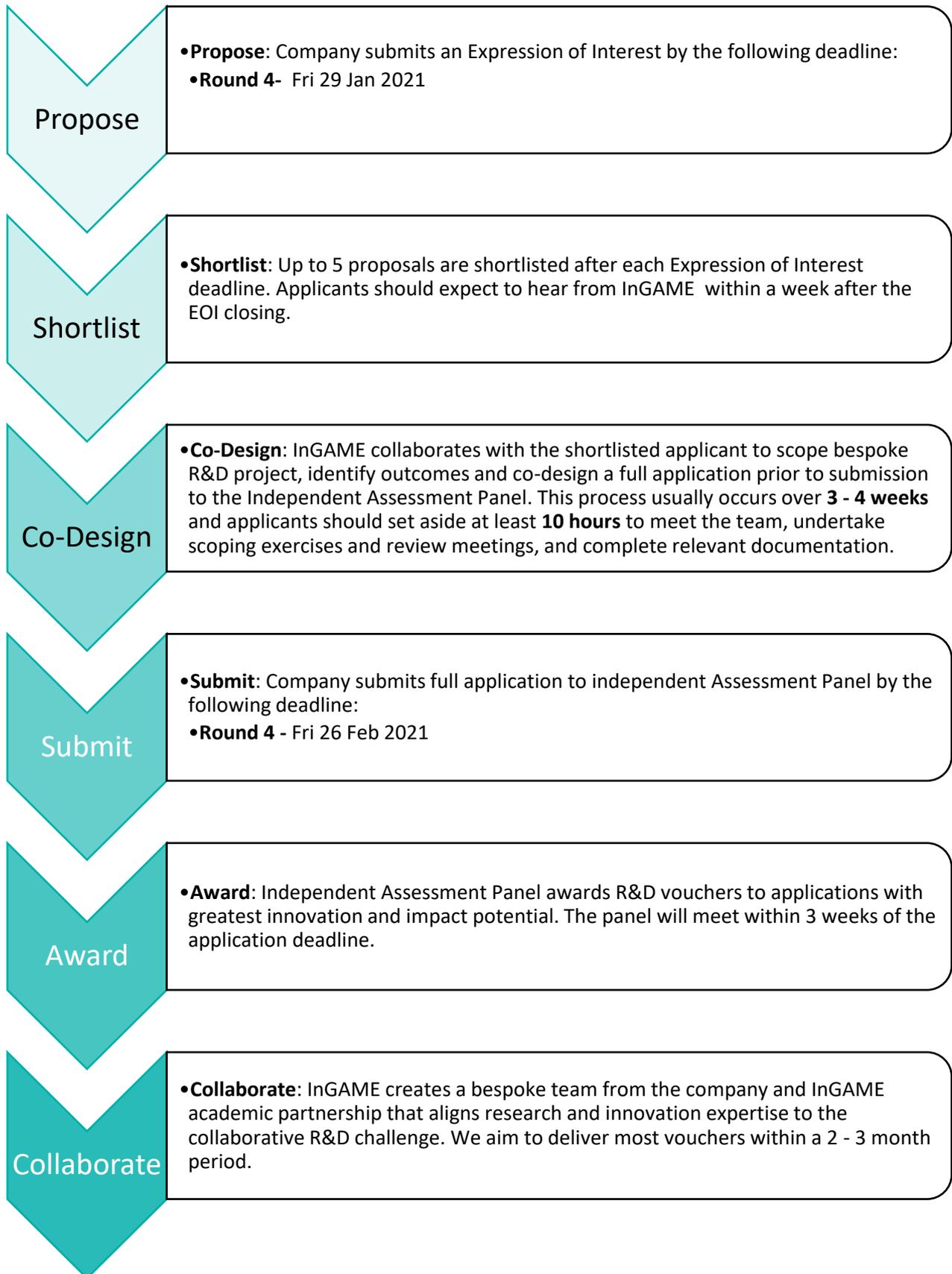
## **IP Exploitation**

The identification of latent product, process and technology innovations with standalone commercial potential.

InGAME draws on academic and industry experts specialising in audience insight, interactive engagement, animation, narrative and storytelling, performance and play, sound design, equality, diversity and inclusivity, technology innovation, technology diversification, experimental game development, data-driven design, game production process, entrepreneurship, creative economy, collaborative networks, design thinking, organisational development, management and leadership, and business model innovation.

# Application Process

The application process starts by submitting your proposal via the [Expression of Interest](#) form. The full process includes following steps:



## Shortlisting Criteria

Expression of Interest forms will be assessed by the InGAME R&D Team against the following criteria:

- Does the applicant meet the eligibility criteria set out in this document?
  - Does the proposal identify a clear and compelling R&D challenge and/or innovation opportunity that could not be achieved without an InGAME intervention?
  - Does the proposal indicate the potential to drive innovation and growth within the Dundee videogames cluster?
  - Does InGAME have the relevant resources available to support the proposal?
- That the applicant is not requesting a monetary award or consultancy service.

## Timeline

Expression of interest open: Mon 11 Jan 2021

EOI Deadline: Fri 29 Jan 2021

Shortlist notice: by Fri 5 Feb 2021

Co-design: Mon 8 - Fri 26 Feb 2021

Application deadline: Fri 26 Feb 2021

Panel Award: w/c 8 Mar 2021

Development phase: March - July 2021 (flexible)

# Expression of Interest Walkthrough

The Expression of Interest form is your gateway to the InGAME R&D Voucher Scheme. Expressions of Interest forms are reviewed by the InGAME team to ensure we provide you with the most relevant support available. Even if you are not shortlisted to develop an application for InGAME R&D voucher scheme, we or our partners may be able to collaborate with you through our wider programme of R&D activity.

The following describes how to complete the Expression of Interest form to maximise your chances of shortlisting:

## **1. Full Name of Lead Contact**

This person should be the lead contact for activities relating to the InGAME R&D voucher scheme. If your proposal is shortlisted, you will be invited to involve wider team members to help refine your application.

## **2. Contact Email Address**

The preferred email address for the lead contact. Please ensure this is an email address belonging to a named individual rather than a generic or shared account.

## **3. Contact Phone number**

The preferred phone number for the lead contact.

## **4. Organisation Name (if applicable)**

If you are applying on behalf of an organisation, please provide your company name as registered on Companies House, where appropriate. Only businesses registered in the UK are eligible for the InGAME R&D Voucher Scheme.

## **5. How do you describe yourself as an organisation?**

You will need to select the most appropriate description of your business from the drop-down menu provided:

- Video Game Studio
  - Businesses involved directly in the creation of video games, whether it is your own IP or contract work.
- Video Game Service or Middleware providers
  - Businesses that provide support to video game studios including HR/Recruitment agencies, software developers or event organisers.
- Creative Industries (non-video games)
  - InGAME welcomes applications from the wider creative sector who are interested in exploring how playful technologies can help them grow their

business. This can include animation studios, film makers, fashion and traditional print media companies amongst others.

- Third Sector Organisation
  - Third sector organisations are neither public sector nor private sector. It includes voluntary and community organisations (both registered charities and other organisations such as associations, self-help groups and community groups), social enterprises, mutuals and co-operatives.
- Public Sector Organisation
  - Public sector organisations are owned and operated by Government (UK, Scottish Parliament or Local Authority).
- Other Private Enterprise (non-video games)
  - This option is for all other privately-owned organisations that do not work within the creative sector.
- Individual
  - For those applying who are not a registered business.
- Other
  - If you feel that none of the above categories accurately reflect your status you are still welcome to apply. Please add your own description in the space provided

#### **6. What is your R&D/Innovation Challenge?**

This is your opportunity to convince us that InGAME should invest resources in your vision. You should clearly detail the problem you are trying to solve or opportunity you are trying to realize. (max. 2500 characters)

#### **7. Why does solving your challenge matter?**

If collaborating with InGAME helps solve your problem, what difference will it make and to who? What outcomes will it help realise? What would be the cost of doing nothing? (max. 2500 characters)

#### **8. Please tell us about you and your organisation (if applicable).**

This section looks to explore more about you and your organisation (if applicable). What makes you and your organisation unique? What is your competitive advantage? What are your superpowers? Include links to personal biographies, portfolios and company websites where available. (max. 2500 characters)

#### **9. Where are you and your organisation (if applicable) based?**

We welcome all applications regardless of your location. Please remember, however, that there is a requirement to identify the benefit of your proposal to the Dundee videogames cluster later in the Expression of Interest form.

#### **10. Which R&D category best fits your proposal?**

Please select the most appropriate R&D category from the drop-down menu. More details about our R&D categories can be found in the ['Categories of R&D'](#) section of this document. If you believe your proposal does not neatly fit within our predefined categories, please select 'other' from the drop-down menu.

**11. How will your proposed collaboration support the development of the Dundee video games cluster?**

InGAME's primary purpose is to increase the scale and value of the Dundee video games cluster. For those already based in the city, this could be the desire to start a new organisation or grow an existing one. We welcome applications from outside the city limits and we are open-minded on how the value to Dundee can be articulated. Acceptable examples include the anticipated expansion to Dundee or partnership working with an organisation within the cluster. (max. 2500 characters)

**12. Are you happy for InGAME and its partner universities and organisations to contact you with further funding opportunities, events and other services offered through our R&D centre?**

We would like to keep you up to date with the latest news and opportunities offered through InGAME. Clicking yes to this question will see your email address added to our mailing list, accessible by InGAME and its partners. You will be able to unsubscribe from this list at any time.

**13. By submitting your Expression of Interest, you confirm that you understand the principle of equitable collaboration and commit to actively participate in a) the application process, and b) maximising project outputs throughout the collaboration if your application is successful.**

## FAQs

**1. What are your criteria for shortlisting proposals for further refinement?**

Expression of Interest forms will be assessed by the InGAME R&D Team against the following criteria:

- Does the applicant meet the eligibility criteria set out in this document?
- Does the proposal identify a clear challenge / innovation, which couldn't be achieved without InGAME intervention?
- Does the proposal indicate the potential to increase the scale and value of the Dundee video games cluster?
- Does InGAME have the relevant resources available to support the proposal
- That the applicant isn't requesting a monetary award

We will issue an email confirming whether we will pursue your proposal further. The R&D Voucher Scheme is just one of many ways that InGAME can support you and we will signpost other opportunities that might be more suitable for you, should you not be

shortlisted at this stage. You will also be welcome to submit an expression of interest again in the future if you address the concerns raised from your first submission.

## **2. Can I submit more than one proposal?**

Yes, you may, but we strongly advise you to consider how managing multiple projects may weaken your proposals. Each organisation will only be awarded one voucher per funding round.

## **3. If successful, how long will we be given to realise the output of our voucher?**

An estimated delivery date will form part of your final application and this should be established on what is reasonable for the output, rather than a fixed timescale. The InGAME team will work with you to ensure that your output is delivered on schedule.

## **4. Who will own the Intellectual Property generated through the process?**

Upon being awarded an InGAME R&D Voucher, you will be required to sign our [Voucher Applicant Agreement](#). The agreement clearly states that the applicant will hold exclusive rights to the foreground IP generated as part of the R&D process but that InGAME and its university partners will hold a royalty free licence for the purposes of anonymised research.

## Find out more

For more information about InGAME and the R&D Voucher Scheme, please visit [www.innovationforgames.com](http://www.innovationforgames.com) or email the team at [enquiries@innovationforgames.com](mailto:enquiries@innovationforgames.com).