



SPRINT Associate Membership – Guidance

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
What is SPRINT?	2
What is SPRINT Associate Membership?	3
Associate Membership eligibility criteria.....	5
Associate Membership assessment criteria	6
Applying to be a SPRINT Associate Member.....	7

Introduction

SPRINT is the SPace Research and Innovation Network for Technology (www.sprint.ac.uk/about), and is currently a partnership of five of the top UK space universities with support from industry, government agencies and the investment community. SPRINT provides dedicated support to businesses in the UK by providing companies access to expertise and facilities to support the development of product and services related to the space sector.

The SPRINT programme is launching a new initiative to expand the existing partnership by introducing an Associate Membership. We are keen to embed new HEI partners into the programme to work alongside the SPRINT Founding Members to improve the provision of space-related knowledge exchange across the UK.

This document outlines how HEIs can benefit from Associate Membership, the basis of the partnership and how to apply to be an Associate Member.

What is SPRINT?

SPRINT provides businesses unprecedented funded access to the expertise (people, knowledge, facilities, applications, technologies and training) in the UK's top space universities to support the development of new products and services related to the space sector. SPRINT connects with the UK's space innovation ecosystem, helping companies with a focus on SMEs (in any stage of their growth journey) find the technical and business support they need to take their business to the next level. Access to university expertise is available to businesses through funded schemes and the process is managed by a dedicated team of Innovation Advisors (www.sprint.ac.uk/innovation-advisers).

At the time of publication, SPRINT has been awarded £7M in funding to deliver the programme. In the first 3 years, SPRINT has allocated over £3.6M to support UK HEI/business collaborative projects and has enabled £6.6M of R&D activity focussed on exploiting space technologies.

SPRINT is supported by Research England through its Connecting Capabilities Fund (CCF), the Scottish Funding Council and the UK Space Agency. SPRINT is led by the University of Leicester and delivered in partnership with four other Founding Members: Universities of Edinburgh, Southampton, Surrey and the Open University.

What is SPRINT Associate Membership?

Associate Membership is a new route through which universities can join the existing network and benefit from growing collaborative partnerships with industry to improve the provision of space-related knowledge exchange across the UK. SPRINT is expecting to invite up to eight (8) HEIs to become Associate Members for a 1-year period (1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022). There is an expectation that each Associate Member will be able to provide evidence of a significant, distinctive and complementary space research and innovation activity that will add value to SPRINT. As a result, each Associate Member will be eligible to bid for SPRINT funding to develop collaborative partnerships. SPRINT funds for collaborative knowledge exchange activities include:

- **Innovation Voucher Scheme** (www.sprint.ac.uk/sprint-guide)
 - These projects can enable you to exploit space technologies and data in a wide range of commercial activities including (but not limited to):
 - Space products / technologies in the space sector
 - Space technologies and data deployed in non-space markets and applications
 - Commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) and non-space technologies deployed in space markets
 - Feasibility studies, business planning, market analysis and other non-technical activities vital in product development cycle.
- **Strategic Commercialisation Partnerships (SCPs)**
 - SCPs will focus on the commercialisation of intellectual property from within the SPRINT HEI partner network and/or the acceleration-to-market of existing company-owned IP enabled through SPRINT HEI academic expertise.
- **Seraphim Space Camp Fellowship**
 - Access to Seraphim Space Camp commercialisation workshops run by investors
 - Opportunities to apply for a Space Camp Fellowship

Additional Associate Member benefits

- Access to the National SPRINT Innovation Adviser network and SPRINT business community
- An opportunity to engage in fully-funded knowledge exchange activities^{1,2} in collaboration with businesses within the SPRINT business community - supported by a National SPRINT Innovation Manager
- Promotion of relevant capabilities (www.sprint.ac.uk/capabilities) and expertise (www.sprint.ac.uk/experts) both on the website and across the SPRINT marketing and communications channels (social media, exhibitions & conferences and business networking meetings/workshops) including the use of the SPRINT logo on related HEI-led marketing and communications
- Sharing of knowledge exchange best practice in the space sector
- Channels to contribute to future SPRINT-led funding proposals and other collaboration opportunities
- Associate membership of a high-profile and well-regarded organisation that is embedded within the UK space innovation ecosystem

¹ At the date of publication the pooled budgets to support these activities stands at ~£1.5M over a 12mo. period

² SPRINT reviews project applications from all Members against quality-based metrics in a competitive process. SPRINT membership does not guarantee that submitted project applications will be funded

Associate Member Participation

As an Associate Member, HEIs will be committed to supporting the growth of the space sector in the UK and will enable this through knowledge exchange and commercialisation activities. Associate Members are expected to contribute through:

- Nominating a point-of-contact to be the HEI's main representative to SPRINT. This individual should ideally be in an active and relevant business development role so as to operate as an effective interface between the HEI and the business community
- Acting as a SPRINT ambassador through promoting SPRINT and related business space collaboration and commercialisation via website(s), social media, events and/or other relevant media, both internally within the HEI and externally within the wider business community
- Recruiting companies into the programme and supporting the development of applications for SPRINT funding in conjunction with the National SPRINT Innovation Manager
- Working with the wider SPRINT team to identify collaborative opportunities that can be shared across the SPRINT network
- Providing relevant reporting and KPI metric data to SPRINT management

SPRINT expects that these Associate Member contributions will be considerable in delivering these Associate Member obligations, and will be supported by the Associate Member providing an in-kind contribution to the programme. The Membership Collaboration Agreement will record all membership commitments, both by SPRINT (via the University of Leicester) and the Associate Member.

NB: SPRINT Associate Membership is open to all UK Higher Education Institutes. SPRINT receives funding from multiple sources and each difference source may impose different eligibility criteria for recipients. At the time of publication, SPRINT's current sole funder is Research England therefore; SPRINT project funding is currently only available for those HEIs registered in England.

Associate Membership eligibility criteria

To be eligible for SPRINT Associate Membership the HEI must complete the accompanying application form, which requests HEIs to demonstrate the following:

- How being a SPRINT Associate Member aligns with the HEI's institutional research and knowledge exchange strategies
- The critical mass of academic expertise and research facilities (if appropriate) in areas of relevance to the UK space sector
 - in at least one of the following strategic growth areas:
 - Earth information - A £20bn forecast market, delivering real-time global awareness, navigation, analytics and security for the advanced data economy
 - Connectivity - A £40bn forecast market, delivering broadband and 5G for everyone – at home and on the move, on the road, in the air or at sea, anywhere around the Globe
 - In-space robotics - A nascent market potentially transforming the way we use and explore space, including all-new applications for science, enterprise and consumers
 - Low cost access to space - Maximising the value of the UK's spaceports and launch from the UK, a £10bn forecast market, making the UK a home for low-cost launch services and developing platform technologies to promote even lower cost access to space
 - or
 - in areas of the space value chain or relevant enabling technologies currently underserved by SPRINT Founding Members (www.sprint.ac.uk/capabilities)
- Access to relevant business communities who could benefit from SPRINT, in particular those new to the space sector or space technologies/data and those in geographical regions currently underserved by SPRINT (www.sprint.ac.uk/statistics)
- An undertaking to support, record and share with SPRINT the in-kind costs incurred by the HEI in delivering the Associate Membership commitments

Associate Membership assessment criteria

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts drawn from all areas of the UK space innovation ecosystem. SPRINT is expecting to invite up to eight (8) HEIs to become Associate Members for a 1-year period (1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022).

SPRINT is keen to extend the geographic reach of the programme in addition to building technical and academic capabilities. SPRINT will take into account demonstration of the following when assessing applications:

- Applicants are encouraged to describe how their Knowledge Exchange strategy, expertise, facilities, and collaborative approach will add value to the programme.
- SPRINT is dedicated to supporting innovation and commercialisation in the space sector and works with SMEs and large organisations to bring new products and services to market. At the heart of the SPRINT ethos is effective collaboration. We are looking for university partners who are well practiced in driving research collaboration and who value innovation.
- SPRINT contributes to the broader space economic growth agenda and so applicants are encouraged to consider their alignment with the UK space sector strategy.
- SPRINT is keen to extend the geographic reach of the programme and welcome HEIs in areas that are not yet represented by our Founding Members, or who have links with industry in these areas.
- SPRINT is looking to build upon our existing technical and academic capabilities and are keen to add complimentary expertise and facilities to the network.
- As is the case with our current Founding Members, Associate Members are requested to make an in-kind contribution to support the programme.

Applying to be a SPRINT Associate Member

HEIs are invited to apply to be SPRINT Associate Members using the corresponding application form, addressing the eligibility criteria highlighted above. The timeline is as follows:

Monday 17 th May	Opportunity launched
Thursday 10 th June @ 4pm	Online briefing event
Friday 25 th June @ 12 noon	Application deadline
Membership Collaboration Agreement signed	Associate Membership period starts

Prospective applicants are highly encouraged to attend the online briefing event on Thursday 10th June at 4pm where the opportunity will be presented and questions can be asked. Please register your interest for the online briefing by emailing info@sprint.ac.uk. Further details will then be provided.

All queries regarding the Associate Membership opportunity and the application process should be directed to info@sprint.ac.uk.

All applications must be completed in full and signed by an official representative of the HEI. Applications must be submitted by email to info@sprint.ac.uk as one PDF file **no later than 12 noon on Friday 25th June**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.