



Standards Challenge Fund FAQs

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1. How can I submit an idea?

All UK SMEs will be able to submit an idea for a new standard via a dedicated form accessible from BSI’s Standards Challenge Fund [webpage](#). There is supporting guidance on completing the form to help you.

2. When can I submit an idea?

The Standards Challenge Fund is expected to be open from 29 February to 25 April 2024.

3. What is an SME?

BSI is using the UK government definition of a SME for the Standards Challenge Fund.

Size of business	Staff headcount	Annual turnover	Balance sheet total
Medium	Under 250	Under €50m	Under €43m
Small	Under 50	Under €10m	Under €10m
Micro	Under 10	Under €2m	Under €2m

4. What if I am based outside the UK?

The Standards Challenge Fund is only open to sole traders and businesses that are based in the UK.

5. If I am a UK SME but trade mainly outside the UK can I still submit an idea?

Yes, there are no restrictions on where a UK SME trades or has a client base. The Standards Challenge Fund is an opportunity for UK SMEs to identify where standards can address a challenge or opportunity they or their industry have both in the UK and overseas.

6. What are the priority themes?

The Standards Challenge Fund focuses on three priority themes; Net Zero, Digital and Technologies, and Healthy Living and Ageing. BSI and Innovate UK have identified these as priority themes for SMEs which offer opportunities for standards to support innovation and growth.

7. How do I know if my idea could form the basis of a standard?

A standard is an agreed way of doing something. It could be about making a product, managing a process, delivering a service, or supplying materials – standards can cover a huge range of activities undertaken by organizations and used by their customer. A standard is not created for the few but is built on consensus.



8. I have an idea about revising an existing standard. Can I submit it?

Yes. We want to understand where there are gaps in standards for SMEs. Depending on the scope and type of standard it might be that your submission then falls outside the Standards Challenge Fund. In this case, the Standards Challenge Fund team will send your submission to the relevant area of BSI to understand possible next steps. We will contact you to let you know the outcome.

9. I have an idea that isn't for a standard, can I submit it?

Yes. If your idea is something that will address the challenges of SMEs in developing their businesses, we'd love to hear it. It could be that it is for a new standards-related product, a new way of accessing information, a need for research, or something else altogether. We will select four ideas for further development, they don't all need to be for standards.

10. How will my submission be assessed?

All submissions will be assessed for eligibility and feasibility. The Guidance Pack has information on the assessment process.

11. Will I be contacted about my submission?

BSI will contact all SMEs at the end of the assessment process to let them know if their idea has been selected to take forward into standardization. If we have questions about the idea during the assessment a member of the BSI team may get in touch to clarify some of your responses.

12. What if I disagree with the outcome of my submission?

All SMEs can ask for feedback on their submission. Questions can be sent to: standardschallenge@bsigroup.com.

13. If my submission is selected what are the next steps?

As part of the standards development process, BSI will be inviting stakeholders and technical experts to support the drafting and development of each standard. BSI will invite you to be actively involved in the standards development process and offer an opportunity to see through your selected submission.

14. I don't understand a question on the form, is there someone I can contact?

If you are unclear on a question or the information provided, please see the Guidance Pack or contact us at standardschallenge@bsigroup.com.



15. Are there any costs to entering the Standards Challenge Fund?

The Standards Challenge Fund and the development of the selected ideas will be funded by Innovate UK. There are no costs for submitting an idea. If your idea is selected, you'll have the opportunity to be actively involved in the development which will mean a time commitment for meetings and reviewing drafts, but there are no fees or other costs.

16. Can I submit more than one idea?

Yes, there are no restrictions on the number of ideas one individual or business can submit. We are looking to take forward up to four ideas that are representative of the three priority themes from the challenge.

17. How much time do I need to commit if my idea is selected for development into a standard?

You do not need to commit to spending a specific amount of time on the development of the standard. However, if you have valuable expertise to contribute then we may invite you to join the Advisory/Steering Group for the standard. These groups offer technical expertise to review and comment on drafts and meet to resolve all comments to ensure the standard is technically correct and in line with the scope. You would not be obliged to do this.