

Expression of Interest for the UK Advanced Tooling Grand Challenge

EOI Submission Process

Submit the completed form to Info@Axillium.com no later than 5.0 pm on April 9th.

All information you provide as part of your proposal, both submitted directly and through the workshop process, will be handled in confidence, under NDA held by GKN Aerospace, Challenge Owners, Axillium and Composites UK please though ensure that no proprietary information is shared.

By submitting your EOI you are confirming your organisation's acceptance of these terms and conditions. If you have any questions please contact Axillium for clarification.

The Grand Challenge

To address the Grand Challenge opportunity GKN Aerospace, and leading Challenges Owners from the composites sector, are launching a Grand Challenge programme to develop and demonstrate the technologies needed by 2030.

This aligns with the recommendations of the Aerospace Growth Partnership, Strategic Competency Analysis to develop UK capability for Aerospace and critical manufacturing supply chains.

The Opportunity:

To achieve this ambition, solutions are being sought from both UK and international organisations willing to locate and invest in developing UK capability.

The focus of the programme will be to collaborate on an application for ATI funding in 2026, and, upon successful funding, engage in a sprint project, of up to three-year collaboration from 2027 to develop and demonstrate both technology and capability to meet the Tooling Challenges in the UK by 2030.

Expressing an interest in joining the Grand Challenge Consortium

When completing this Expression of Interest please note the following:

Programme Duration	Up to 3 three years, commencing January 2027
Solution Providers Sought	Organisations with novel tooling solutions at TRL3-6
Expression of Interest Open	Thursday 19 March 2026
Expression of Interests Closed	Thursday 9 April 2026
Expressions of Interest Assessed	Successful EOI's will be notified April 14 th latest
Solution Providers Workshop	Thursday 16 April 2026 – By Invitation Only
Successful Solution Providers Notified	Thursday 30 April 2026

EOI Assessment:

The summary below will be considered by the Challenge Owners, where selected to attend the **Solution Providers Workshop on April 16th** you will be requested to prepare a pitch presentation. You will be notified no later than April 14th if your EOI is successful.

Opportunity to Present By Invitation Only:

EOI's which are suitable for the Grand Challenges will be invited to pitch to the Challenge Owners and Solution Providers at the GKN Global Technology Centre. Following this event successful Solution Providers will be invited to join the consortium.

About your Organisation:

	Please complete all fields
Company Name	
Company Number	
Contact Name	
Position	
Address	
Email	
Telephone	
Confirmation	Please confirm availability to attend 16 April 2026 <input type="checkbox"/>

Which topics does the EOI address:

Select	Challenges in Scope (extracted from the upcoming ATI Strategy)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative Materials for CTE equivalence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Design and Simulation Methods and Tools for Right-First-Time Tooling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-usable and Re-configurable Tooling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intelligent Tooling for Advanced Composite Processing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Novel Sensing for Process Control
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrated heating and cooling for large scale and high integrity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-Material Tooling for Enhanced Quality and Durability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacuum Integrity of Complex Multi-Split Tools
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced Machining and Metallic Joining Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tool coatings and injected finishes, alternative to PFAS – REACH compliant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rapid response tooling manufacturing methods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Metamaterials in Tooling Applications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Automation and Integration of Tooling Operations – Tooling as a System

Solution Scope

Describe how the solution aligns to the challenge scope

Please limit your response to half a page

Innovation

Describe details of the innovation which will be developed

Please limit your response to half a page

Demonstrators

Describe how the solution will demonstrated against the challenge scope

Please limit your response to half a page

Timescale

Over what timescale will your solution be developed

Please limit your response to half a page

Team

Please provide a summary of your organisation's expertise, online profile or web page

Please limit your response to half a page

Funding

Provide confirmation that:

Confirmation of support of shared cost of the application phase – this phase is not recoverable against grant funding.

Confirmation that match funding is available to support R&D activity – this phase will be recoverable against grant funding.

Individual partners which may include research organisations, can request grant funding of up to:

- 70% if you are a small or micro-organisation
- 60% if you are a medium sized organisation
- 50% if you are a large organisation

For any questions relating to the ATI Funding Programme please check here: [Funding | Aerospace Technology Institute](#)