

We are pleased to announce the next call for applications to the NEF Pump Priming scheme. Applications are now open with a deadline of **Monday 2nd March - Friday 10th April**. Further information about the scheme and application process is available on our [Pump Priming](#) webpage.

The scheme has recently been expanded to cover a broader range of materials, and applications are invited in the following materials systems:

- III-As,Sb,P,Bi and III-Nitride materials
- Gallium Oxide and related materials
- Silicon Carbide
- 2D Transition Metal Dichalcogenides (TMDs)
- II-VIs
- 2D III-VIs (eg GaSe) and hBN
- Topological Insulators (Bi,Se,Te,Sb)
- THz and mid-IR devices

In order for us to understand the complexity of a potential request, please contact us via email ([epitaxyfacility@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:epitaxyfacility@sheffield.ac.uk)) before submitting an application. You will then be put in contact with a member of our growth team to discuss the feasibility of your proposal and any technical requirements. The purpose of the pump priming is to support feasibility studies, therefore only a limited amount of epitaxial material will be provided. Please note that clear epitaxy requirements within well-defined projects will be required. NEF staff will be available to advise on the epitaxy aspects but not defining the pump priming project itself. This should come from the applicant's expertise.

Users should submit a completed [Pump Priming Proforma](#) outlining the strategic need for the work, the principle(s) to be demonstrated, and timescales. Also, a statement indicating how a full EPSRC proposal will be developed from the successful conclusion of the short study/demonstration should be included.

Please also indicate the resources required for the project, including the associated characterization and fabrication. Please note that fabrication and characterization is normally outside of NEF provision and should be resourced by the applicant separately.

Each request will be considered for peer-review by the National Epitaxy Facility Pump Priming Committee with the selection of projects based on scientific quality, strategic need, and the Facility capability.

We look forward to receiving applications through the scheme.