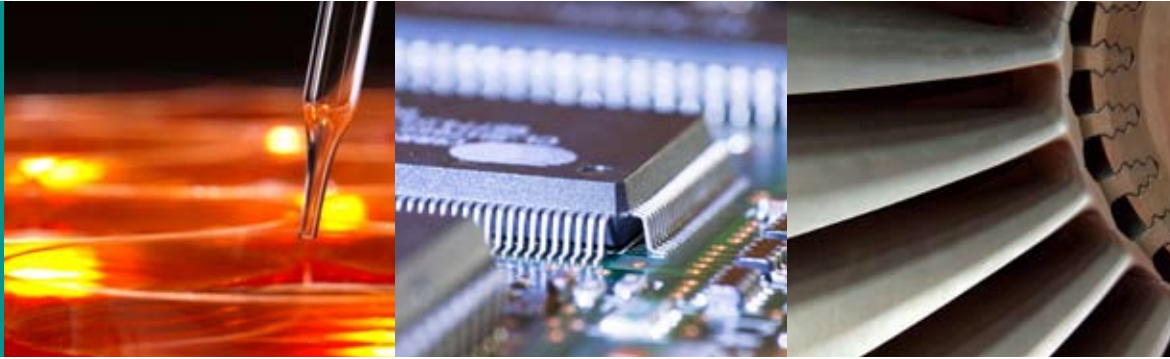


Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation



Feasibility Studies for Technology-Inspired Innovation

SEPTEMBER 2009 COMPETITION FOR FUNDING



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Summary

The Technology Strategy Board proposes to stimulate innovation across its core technology areas to help ensure that UK businesses are well-equipped to respond to the challenges presented by the current downturn. We have allocated up to £1m to invest in feasibility studies lasting up to three months and each costing no more than £33,000 in total. We will fund 75% of the project cost (up to around £25,000).

This competition will focus on feasibility studies:

- in technology areas closely aligned with the prioritised pillars of our various technology strategies (see below)
- that contain an element of technology innovation
- that are both led and undertaken by small and micro companies individually or in partnership, and
- where the single company or collaborative partners spend most of the funding in-house.

The output of each study should comprise a short report and a presentation. This should describe, for example: the work undertaken, the challenges identified, the progress made, lessons learned, the next steps, and whether the project was successful. Where applicable, the output may also be in the form of a demonstration item – a practical demonstration of what has been achieved through the project.

Each project will be required to provide a 10-minute presentation at a closing workshop, to be held in March 2010.

The feasibility studies need to match one or more of the technology areas below and must align closely with the Technology Strategy Board's strategies in the respective areas. A copy of the strategies currently published can be found at www.innovateuk.org under Publications.

Scope

Proposals must fall into one of the following areas:

Advanced Materials

Development and application of advanced materials for:

- Secure, clean and affordable energy supply, distribution and use – both fixed and mobile sources in the energy, transport and construction industries
- Sustainability in relation to transport, construction and the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' agenda, including packaging, or
- High-value markets, including technologies for healthcare, the creative industries, defence and security.

Biosciences

- Genomics – broadening its use as techniques improve and costs come down
- Industrial biotechnology – exploiting the use of bio-based raw materials (that do not adversely impact the food chain) and/or processes for the production of chemicals or fuels, or
- Agriculture and food – particularly in the areas of crop, food or livestock protection, or improving yield and availability.

Electronics, Photonics and Electrical Systems

- Control systems and power engineering – reducing electricity consumption in the built environment, industrial processes or transport
- Plastic and printed electronics – developing a sustainable base for wealth creation in the industry
- Data and image acquisition – developing systems based on sensing and imaging capabilities
- Communications – contributing to the cost-effective development and/or deployment of next-generation access, or the development of local high-frequency wireless networks, or
- Systems design and integration – embedded systems, robotics and autonomous systems, and verification and testing of computing system designs.

High Value Manufacturing

- Designing and developing innovative products or systems that offer improved performance, functionality, reliability, service life and reduced environmental impact
- Developing production technologies that can create high value through novel processes, advanced product manufacture, resource efficiency or greater product customisation, or that create greater environmental sustainability through efficient disposal, recycling or re-manufacture
- Developing service solutions that complement product offerings by adding value before, during or after manufacture, or
- Delivering a mix of products and services within global innovation, supply and distribution networks.



Information and Communications Technology

- Data-driven systems – techniques and tools to build whole solutions for continuous and reliable data collection in complex environments, to serve demanding data needs
- Intelligent systems – powerful ways to extract value from gathered data and information in new applications areas
- User-centric systems – methodologies and tools to ensure that ICT systems align with user needs, values and preferences, and/or
- Engineering of ICT systems – the means to configure new and complex end-to-end ICT-based systems that are fit for purpose.

Nanotechnology

Responsible development and application of nanoscale technologies for:

- Living with environmental change – environmental sustainability; water supply; secure, clean and affordable energy supply, distribution and use; and monitoring physical structures and waste streams
- Living with an ageing and growing population – healthcare, including drug delivery and discovery; diagnostics and imaging; prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of disease; implants; and surface cleanliness, or
- Living in an intelligent, connected, modern world – safety and security systems; intelligent transport systems; increased user interaction with products; and next-generation computing and entertainment systems.

Funding allocation and application process

The Technology Strategy Board has allocated up to £1m to fund feasibility studies that address the technical challenges and align with the technology areas described above. The competition is open only to small or micro companies (50 employees or fewer), whether as single companies or in collaboration with other small or micro companies. The total project costs can be no more than £33,000 and the Technology Strategy Board will award grants at 75% (up to around £25,000) to suitable projects.

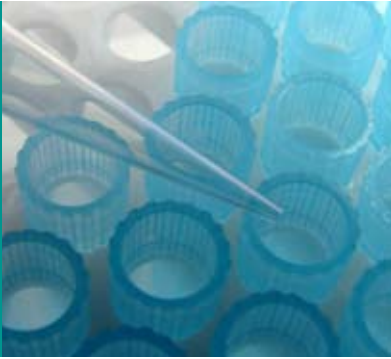
The competition is a single-stage process that will open on 1st September and close at midday on 1st October 2009. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by 16th October. Offer letters will be despatched no later than 30th October and must be returned by 30th November. This is a 'light-touch' competition with a shorter than normal time between opening and closing. An optional briefing will be held in London on 8th September to explain the process; applicants unable to attend will be able to watch a film of the event on our website. To register for the briefing and to download an application form, visit our website at www.innovateuk.org

The feasibility studies supported under this competition may develop into submissions to a follow-on competition, which is planned for later in 2010. This will have a budget of around £25m for collaborative R&D projects and is likely to be open to all types of organisation. Further details will be available in early 2010.

The feasibility studies must be completed by 26th February 2010 and applicants will be required to present their findings at an event in London in mid-March 2010, where they can also consider how their work and that of others might relate to the follow-up competition.

Key dates

Competition opens	1st September 2009
Briefing (optional, a film of the event will be available on our website)	8th September 2009
Deadline for receipt of full applications	1st October 2009 (midday)
Decision and feedback to applicants by	16th October 2009
Offer letters posted by	30th October 2009
Feasibility studies completed by	26th February 2010



Further information

For more information about this and other events, and details of how to register and apply, visit www.innovateuk.org under Current Competitions.

Competition helpline:
01355 272155

Email:
competitions@tsb.gov.uk

Publicity

The Technology Strategy Board frequently publicises the results of competitions and this includes engagement with the media. All applicants will be given a chance during the competition process to opt out of any publicity. Willing applicants will be asked to provide an agreed form of words for use in publicity material. E-mail pressoffice@tsb.gov.uk with any queries.

The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the Government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve quality of life.

The Technology Strategy Board
North Star House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1UE

Telephone: 01793 442700

www.innovateuk.org