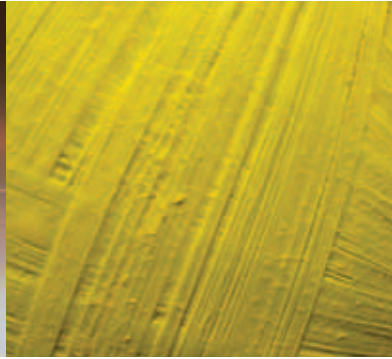


Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation



Feasibility Studies for Technology-Inspired Innovation

**COMPETITION FOR FUNDING
JANUARY 2011**



Feasibility Studies for Technology-Inspired Innovation

COMPETITION FOR FUNDING

Summary

The Technology Strategy Board proposes to stimulate innovation across its core technology areas to help ensure that small and micro businesses in the UK are well-equipped to respond to society's current and future challenges. We have allocated up to £2m to invest in feasibility studies lasting up to three months, each costing no more than £33,000 in total (up to £25,000). Projects may be collaborative or carried out by a single company.

This competition will focus on feasibility studies:

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

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. Where a proposal cuts across more than one technology area, the application will need to indicate which one (of the six technology areas) it predominantly involves. The current strategies can be found at www.innovateuk.org under Publications.

Each project will culminate in a short report and, where relevant, a demonstrator. Projects will also present their achievements at a public 'Collaboration Nation' event to be held in autumn 2011.

In conjunction with this competition we are also running three other competitions for feasibility study funding in digital, nanotechnology and space. See www.innovateuk.org under Competitions for further information.

Scope

Proposals must fall into one of the following six 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 and materials for carbon capture
- High value markets, including technologies for healthcare and the creative industries.

Biosciences

- Genomics – the use of genomics technologies by UK businesses and the development of novel tools and technologies to better access or gain value from genomic information
- Industrial biotechnology – development of renewable feedstocks (not resulting in the diversion of food away from the animal or human food chain) and biological processes for the production of materials, chemicals or energy. We specifically wish to encourage developments which enable the chemicals industry to replace petrochemical methods with bioscience-inspired processes and to advance second and third generation biofuels
- Agriculture and food – development of technologies which enable improvements in food quality, nutritional content, safety, authenticity or traceability or the production of novel or functional foods.

Electronics, Photonics and Electrical Systems

Preference will be given to proposals that have deliverables such as demonstrators, mock-ups or prototypes in the following key areas:

- Control systems and power engineering – reducing electricity consumption in the built environment, or addressing electricity consumption in industrial processes or transport
- Plastics 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 deployment of next-generation access, or the development of local high-frequency wireless networks
- Systems design and integration – embedded systems, robotics and autonomous systems, specification, and verification and testing of computing system designs, including industrial lasers.

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
- Value systems associated with the provision of a lifetime service around the manufactured product or manufacturing process.



Information and Communications Technology

Radically new software-based technologies or approaches to enable:

- reliable and continuous sensing in challenging physical environments
- intelligent, autonomous or autonomic machine reasoning and behaviour
- computers to take account of user requirements, preferences, values and processes
- complex ICT systems to be engineered rapidly, cost-effectively and reliably to be fit-for-purpose, ie, safe, secure and resilient.

Potential applicants with a focus on exploring new ways to unlock the economic potential of digital services, rather than on developing radically new software-based technology, are invited to explore eligibility under the 'Digital services for growth feasibility studies' competition.

Nanotechnology

Development and integration of the added functionality offered by nanoscale technologies for:

- Living with environmental change – technologies for water supply and use; monitoring of physical structures and waste streams; secure, clean and affordable energy supply, distribution and use; new technologies to address the reduce, re-use, recycle agenda
- Living with an ageing and growing population – applying nanoscale technologies to healthcare, including drug delivery and discovery; diagnostics and imaging; prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of disease and implants; surface cleanliness; food packaging and storage

- Living in an intelligent, connected, modern world – technologies for safety and security systems; intelligent transport systems; increased user interaction with products; and next generation computing and entertainment systems.

Note: we are also running a specific feasibility study competition on nanotechnology with a more focused scope. Please refer to both documents to determine which competition best suits your feasibility study proposal.

Not in scope for this competition? See our other feasibility competitions for space, nanotechnology and digital under Competitions at www.innovateuk.org.

Is your research more developed than a feasibility study? We are running collaborative R&D competitions in energy materials, MEMS, high-value manufacturing and ICT soon. See www.innovateuk.org for more details.

Looking for partners to work on your project? Go to **_connect** (www.innovateuk.org/connect) to find collaborators and networks.

If you have any specific queries about the scope of this competition please email your questions to: competitions@tsb.gov.uk

Key dates

Competition opens	10 January 2011
Briefing event	20 January 2011
Competition closes	10 February 2011
Successful candidates informed	28 February 2011
Deadline for delivery of reports	17 August 2011
Collaboration Nation event	Autumn 2011

Funding allocation and application process

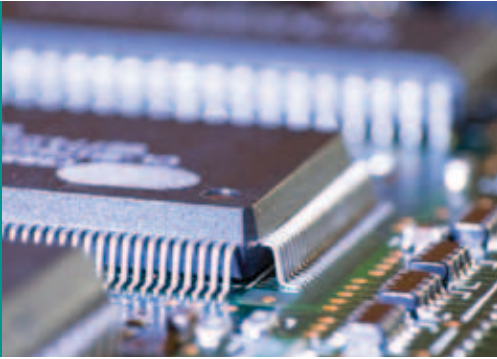
The Technology Strategy Board has allocated up to £2m to fund feasibility studies that address the technical challenges and align with the technology areas described above. The competition is open only to small or micro companies (50 employees or fewer), whether as single companies or in collaboration 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 up to 75% of costs (up to around £25,000) to suitable projects.

The competition is a single-stage process that will open on **10 January 2011** and close at midday on **10 February 2011**. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by **28 February 2011**. A competition briefing will be held in London on **20 January 2011** to explain the process and we strongly recommend that applicants attend.

On registering for the competition you will be asked to identify which of the six technology areas you are applying for. If your application is cross-cutting, you should identify the dominant technology area. **Please note that duplicate entries into the same or different technology areas will be disqualified.**

Further details can be found in the *Guidance for Applicants* for this competition (available from our website after you have registered for this competition).

Note that ALL deadlines are at 12 noon.



Further information

The feasibility studies will culminate in a Collaboration Nation event. This public event will bring together the winners of the feasibility study competitions with open innovators and investors to collaborate and help bring the feasibility study projects to market. Further news about Collaboration Nation will be made available nearer the time.

The feasibility studies supported under this competition may develop into submissions to a follow-on competition, which is planned for later in 2011. More details will be available nearer the time.

To apply for funding through this competition and to get further details you will need to register your interest via the Competitions section of our website at **www.innovateuk.org**.

It is important to allow enough time to register, to read the *Guidance for Applicants* and prepare your application. Note that registration can take 48 hours.

Uploading your application form at least 24 hours before the deadline will give the Business Support Team time to resolve any problems. See the FAQs at **www.innovateuk.org** under Competitions for more information.

Competition helpline:
0300 321 4357

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.

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