

Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation

MEDIA ALERT

9 February 2010

£6 million to be invested in further regenerative medicine research and development

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest a further £6m in regenerative medicine research and development and has invited British companies to bid for funding through two new competitions.

As part of a £21.5m programme in regenerative medicine, the Board is to invest up to £4m in commercial research and development projects in regenerative medicine therapeutics. A second competition will see investment of up to £2m in feasibility projects in regenerative medicine tools and technologies. Both competitions open on 8 March 2010.

The aim of the *Developing Therapeutics* competition is to enable UK businesses to carry out preclinical and clinical development of regenerative medicine therapeutic products. The competition will enable consortia to accelerate product development to take advantage of future market or funding opportunities.

Meanwhile, the aim of the *Tools and Technologies Feasibility Studies* competition is to enable UK businesses to address challenges currently being faced by developers of regenerative medicine therapeutics through the development of platform technologies. Particular challenges to be addressed through the competition include the ability to assess the safety and/or efficacy of therapeutic products and being able to develop reproducible and robust manufacturing processes.

The Technology Strategy Board launched its £21.5m programme of competitions in the area of regenerative medicine in September 2009. It is supported by the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). In January the Board announced its first investments through the programme, with 30 feasibility studies receiving £2.8m of funding while two major collaborative research and development projects received a further £1.7m.

(Ends)

Notes to Editors

1. 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 the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org.

2. Regenerative medicine has already provided significant medical advances in areas such as skin regeneration for burns patients, and it has the potential to go much further, with next-generation products offering cures or treatments with long-term benefits. The number of UK companies working in regenerative medicine has been growing since 2003, and the UK is a leader in this area. If the UK is to fulfil its potential in this field, a number of development challenges need to be overcome so that businesses can successfully exploit promising discoveries.
3. In Sept 2009 the Technology Strategy Board launched a Regenerative Medicine programme of competitions worth a total of £21.5m to underpin and enable the best regenerative medicine businesses to flourish in the UK and to build a connected regenerative medicine community. This includes a contribution of £3.5m from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC).
4. The first investments through the programme were announced by the Technology Strategy Board on 15 January 2010. Please see: <http://www.innovateuk.org/content/news/regenerative-medicine-research-and-development-to-ashx>
5. Full details of these two new funding competitions will be published on the competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website (<http://www.innovateuk.org/competitions.ashx>) as soon as possible.
6. Any media enquiries should be addressed to the Technology Strategy Board's media relations consultant or manager (see below).
7. Companies and other organisations seeking further information about this and other funding competitions should visit the competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website – www.innovateuk.org, email support@innovateuk.org or phone the helpline on 0300 321 4357.

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