Technology Strategy Board
Driving Innovation

Agri-Tech Catalyst

Helping to commercialise UK agricultural innovation

NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Department for Business Innovation & Skills

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Department for International Development

BBSRC bioscience for the future

The opportunity

Agricultural science and technology is one of the world's fastest-growing and exciting markets, driven by global challenges:

- a rising population
- rapid development of emerging economies
- shortages of land, water and energy.

The Agri-Tech Catalyst

The vision of the Government's new UK strategy for agricultural technologies (www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-agricultural-technologies-strategy) is to make the UK a world leader in agricultural technology, innovation and sustainability. To achieve this, the Government is investing £70m in a new Agri-Tech Catalyst.

The Agri-Tech Catalyst has been set up by the Technology Strategy Board and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. The Department for International Development is contributing £10m to the Catalyst, to support the transfer of technology and new products to developing countries.

How will it work?

The Agri-Tech Catalyst is now open for applications to support businesses and academia in developing innovative solutions to challenges in the agri-tech sector. The Agri-Tech Catalyst will fund proposals relating to:

- primary crop and livestock production, including aquaculture
- non-food uses of arable crops (for example, for biomass)
- food security and nutrition challenges in international development
- challenges in downstream food processing, provided the solution lies in primary production.

The Agri-Tech Catalyst will not fund equine-related proposals, or proposals relating to forestry or wild-capture fisheries.

Who can take part?

Any UK business or academic undertaking research and development may apply. All projects must be collaborative. Developing country partners must be involved for applicants targeting international development.

TO APPLY, go to the Technology Strategy Board website - **www.innovateuk.org** - and look under Funding competitions.

TO FIND OUT MORE about the Agri-Tech Catalyst you can also go to **www.bbsrc.ac.uk** and look under Working with business/ Collaborative research.

EARLY-STAGE AWARDS

These projects will explore the commercial potential of an early-stage scientific idea through feasibility studies.

Key features

Projects can be business-led or academic-led

Duration: up to 18 months

Total project costs: £150k to £500k

Total academic partner costs must not exceed 50% of total project costs

Business partner funding: up to 75% of their total project costs for SMEs or 65% for larger companies

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AWARDS

These projects will aim to develop innovative solutions, eg through field trials, lab-based prototyping, product development planning and market testing.

Key features

Projects must be business-led

Duration: three to five years

Total project costs: up to £3m

Total academic partner costs must not exceed 50% of total project costs

Business partner funding: up to 60% of their total project costs for SMEs or 50% for larger companies

LATE-STAGE AWARDS

These projects evaluate the commercial potential of a scientific application. This can be through pre-experimental feasibility studies or through experimental development including field-based prototyping and experimental production and testing.

Key features – pre-experimental feasibility studies

Business-led collaborative projects involving other business partners, enabling the evaluation of the commercial potential of a scientific application

Duration: up to 12 months

Total project costs: £150k to £500k

Academic researchers may participate as subcontractors to a business partner

Business partner funding: up to 50% of their total project costs for SMEs or 40% for larger companies

Key features – experimental development

Business-led collaborative projects that enable qualification of the commercial potential of a scientific application

Duration: up to 12 months

Total project costs: up to £1m

Academics may participate as subcontractors to a business partner

Business partner funding: up to 35% of their total project costs for SMEs or 25% for larger companies

The Technology Strategy Board is the UK's innovation agency. By stimulating and supporting business-led innovation, we help to accelerate economic growth.

www.innovateuk.org

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) invests in world-class bioscience research and training on behalf of the UK public. Our aim is to further scientific knowledge, to promote economic growth, wealth and job creation, and to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond.

www.bbsrc.ac.uk

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the UK Government Department that leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty. We're ending the need for aid by creating jobs, unlocking the potential of girls and women and helping to save lives when humanitarian emergencies hit.

www.gov.uk/dfid

More information

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Email: competitions@innovateuk.org

Helpline: 0300 321 4357

For the Government's UK strategy for agricultural technologies, go to **www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-agricultural-technologies-strategy**.

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