

**The University of Manchester
EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account**

1st Call for Proposals

Closing Date: 12th December 2012

Summary

EPSRC has awarded The University of Manchester over £3.2M to deliver an Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) following the successful conclusion of its Knowledge Transfer Account (KTA).

Running from 2012 – 2015, the £3.2M IAA will aim to ensure that the University fulfills its strategic Knowledge Exchange objectives in the domains covered by EPSRC research:

‘To maximise the University’s economic and social impact, by ensuring research and expertise/know-how are delivered in a timely and effective manner to relevant external partners so as to ensure impact, and in turn to inform and strengthen research activity by means of interaction with those partners.’

The IAA activities will aim to:

- develop early stage contact and strategic alignment between business and academics through **Relationship Incubation**
- bridge the gap in support for early stage commercialisation of ideas through **Concept Development and Feasibility Studies**
- increase the exchange of knowledge through mobility of people between the university and user organizations through **Exploitation Secondments**
- extend the culture and skills for engagement in the University through **Knowledge Exchange Fellows**

The University’s IAA Operations Board is pleased to announce the 1st call for proposals for funding under the following mechanisms:

- Relationship Incubator Scheme
- Concept Development and Feasibility Study Scheme
- Exploitation Secondment Scheme

The closing date for applications to this 1st call is **12th December 2012, 12 noon.**

Outline of funding opportunities

Relationship Incubation

The Relationship Incubator Scheme aims to overcome the ‘market understanding – technology awareness’ and relationship barriers by supporting the secondment-out of academics to user organisation(s) to explore the application and exploitation opportunities for their EPSRC research, or enabling the secondment-in of users to explore opportunities offered by an identified range of EPSRC research.

Concept Development and Feasibility Studies

EPSRC research can remain unexploited because a greater evidential base is required before companies or academics are able to commit to its further development and application. Therefore, funding is available to support the development of an early evaluation prototype or ‘demonstrator’, initial trials in a particular field, or ‘scoping exercises’.

Exploitation Secondments

The IAA provides flexible support for secondments between The University of Manchester and external businesses and organisations that focus on the commercial development of specific EPSRC research outputs. Projects can either support the secondment-in of user organisation staff, or secondment out of University staff.

Eligibility

Applications are only permitted for project focused on the exploitation or application of knowledge or technology generated through EPSRC-funded research. Eligible external collaborators are UK-based businesses (or UK sites of international businesses), UK-based charities, and UK public sector organisations. If you have any queries regarding user-organisation eligibility, please contact the KE Team.

Application Process

Further information about the different IAA schemes, guidance notes and application forms are available online at www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange. Prior to submitting an application, academics are strongly advised to contact a member of the KE Team for support and guidance as soon as possible on 0161 306 6815 or kt@manchester.ac.uk

Assessment Criteria

The University’s Knowledge Exchange Schemes Panel will assess applications on a competitive basis, and proposals that demonstrate strategic alignment with Faculty of EPS will be particularly welcomed. Applicants should write their proposal for a non-specialist audience.

Assessment of the various bids will be competitive and will take into account:

- the contribution the University is expected to make relative to the company (gearing).
- the benefits to industry, to the partner, to the University and to the Research Assistant
- the likelihood that the project plans will deliver the expected outcomes and benefits
- fit with School and Faculty Strategy

Further details

Please contact the KE Team on 0161 306 6815 or kt@manchester.ac.uk

Further information and case studies of completed projects can be found at www.manchester.ac.uk/business/ke/