

**The University of Manchester  
EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account  
2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals**

**Closing Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals for funding under the following mechanisms:

- Relationship Incubator Scheme
- Concept Development and Feasibility Study Scheme
- Exploitation Secondment Scheme
- Knowledge Exchange Fellows

The closing date for applications to this 2<sup>nd</sup> call is **27<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 12 noon.**

## ***Outline of IAA funding opportunities***

### **Relationship Incubation**

The scheme aims to overcome the 'market understanding – technology awareness' and relationship barriers by supporting the secondment-out of academics to organisation(s) to explore the exploitation opportunities for their EPSRC research, or enabling the secondment-in of users to explore opportunities offered by an identified range of EPSRC research. **(£10k max)**

### **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'. **(£30k max)**

### **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. **(£60k max)**

### **Knowledge Exchange Fellows**

Support for the employment of KE Fellows where there is demand and opportunity for significant engagement and collaboration with industrial partners. The aim of this scheme is to provide a mechanism to respond to immediate short-term 'problem focused' industrial projects, in the application of knowledge generated through EPSRC research. **(£160k max)**

### ***Eligibility***

Applications are only permitted for projects focused on the exploitation or application of knowledge or technology generated through EPSRC-funded research. Eligible external collaborators are UK-based businesses, UK sites of international businesses, UK-based charities, and UK public sector organisations.

### ***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](http://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.

### ***Assessment Criteria***

Applicants should write their proposal for a non-specialist audience. 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. Assessment of the various bids 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

### ***Further details***

Please contact the KE Team on 0161 306 6815 or [ke@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ke@manchester.ac.uk)

Further information and case studies of completed projects can be found at [www.manchester.ac.uk/business/ke/](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/business/ke/)