



MHS Business Engagement

Funding Opportunities for Collaborative Projects with Industry Partners

Medical Research Council

[MRC Confidence in Concept](#)

Internally managed scheme providing ~£1.1m in total funds

- Addressing prevention, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of significant health needs (all diseases and types of intervention)
- Project duration **6 to 9 months**, up to **£100k** project costs
- Supports **preliminary work** or **feasibility studies** to establish the validity of an approach
- Activities can include:
 - Developing candidate therapeutic entities (e.g. drug discovery)
 - Pre-clinical testing of novel therapeutic entities
 - Early-phase clinical studies of novel therapeutic entities (phases 1 and 2)
 - “Repurposing” clinical studies – using existing therapies for new indications
 - Developing and testing novel devices
 - Developing and testing diagnostics (including biomarker validation)

Rolling Deadlines

[MRC Biomedical Catalyst: Development Pathway Funding Scheme \(DPFS\)](#)

Managed by the Medical Research Council (MRC)

- Addressing prevention, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of significant health needs (all diseases and types of intervention)
- Supports **pre-clinical development** and **early clinical testing**
- Activities can include:
 - Developing candidate therapeutic entities (e.g. drug discovery)
 - Pre-clinical testing of novel therapeutic entities
 - Early-phase clinical studies of novel therapeutic entities (phases 1 and 2)
 - “Repurposing” clinical studies – using existing therapies for new indications
 - Developing and testing novel devices
 - Developing and testing diagnostics (including biomarker validation)
- **Early Stage Awards:** Project duration up to **3 years**, up to **£3m** project costs
- **Late Stage Awards:** No formal duration or cost limits

Deadlines every 4 months

[MRC-Industry Asset Sharing Initiative](#)

- MRC is working with 7 industry partners (AstraZeneca, GSK, J&J, Lilly, Pfizer, Takeda and UCB) to provide researchers access to their deprioritised compounds
- A long standing initiative with a 'virtual library' of assets held on the MRC website that applicants can use in their experimental medicine research studies
- All projects funded under this Initiative will be collaborative studies between academic researchers and a participating company.

Pre-clinical studies

- To enable and inform further clinical insight to disease
- Applicants must demonstrate clear "line of sight" to clinical benefit and enable investigation of mechanisms of human disease.
- For example, providing in vitro or in vivo evidence that a specific pathway is involved in disease pathology; validating models of human disease; informing patient selection hypotheses; etc.

Clinical research studies

- Using compounds in new disease areas, which build upon evidence that the specific pathway plays a role in disease pathology
- Pre-clinical and clinical data on the relevance of the selected mechanisms and compounds in new disease areas
- Pre-clinical and clinical data to support patient stratification (selection of responder vs. non-responder populations) strategies in clinical development
- Data to support the validation of translational models (in vitro and in vivo)

Rolling deadlines: 23 April 2015, 25 June 2015, 27 August 2015, 29 October 2015

[MRC Research Boards](#)

Managed by the Medical Research Council (MRC)

Responsive funding opportunities under the following areas:

- Infections & immunity
 - Molecular & cellular medicine
 - Neuroscience & mental health
 - Population & systems medicine
 - Global health
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[MRC Technology](#)

Develop projects to a stage where they have strong commercial potential, and then work with their industry partners to continue development to market

[Call for Targets](#)

- Development and expert input for novel drug targets.
- MRCT cover the cost of their own works so grant funding not required
- Work in collaboration with academics to develop lead stage small molecules and therapeutic antibodies to novel drug targets
- Can provide advice, tool compounds and results to advance your research and publications

[Call for Diagnostics](#)

- Offer collaborative diagnostic assay development and validation to bridging the gap between early stage diagnostic research, its commercial exploitation and ultimately its use in clinical diagnostics/patients
- Suitable for projects with an early stage research assay and/or assay enable technology that addresses an area of unmet clinical need but with limited resources, data and proof of concept to progress the opportunity further
- Interested in RNA/DNA/protein –based diagnostics, particularly in the areas of oncology, infectious diseases and pharmacogenomics

Apply at any time

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

[BBSRC Collaborative Funding Opportunities](#)

- Supports collaborative research projects in the following areas:
 - Animal health
 - Bioenergy: generating new replacement fuels for a greener, sustainable future
 - Combatting antimicrobial resistance
 - Data driven biology
 - Food, nutrition and health
 - Healthy ageing across the lifecourse
 - New strategic approaches to industrial biotechnology
 - Reducing waste in the food chain
 - The replacement, refinement and reduction (3Rs) in research using animals
 - Sustainably enhancing agricultural production
 - Synthetic biology
 - Systems approaches to the biosciences
 - Technology development for the biosciences
 - Welfare of managed animals

[Industrial Partnership Award](#)

- **Research grants** with financial support from **industrial partners**
- Industrial Partner contributes min. of **10%** project costs
- Typical project duration **3 years** and **£500,000** project costs (can vary from 2 months to £2m)

[BBSRC 'Stand-alone' LINK Award](#)

- **Pre-competitive research** funding
- Industrial Partner contributes min. of **50%** project costs
- Project duration up to **5 years**, up to **£2m** project costs

Apply at any time

[Flexible Interchange Programme \(FLIP\)](#)

- Movement of people between different organisation to exchange knowledge/technology/skills
- Enhances opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, technology and people between the research base and user communities and vice versa for economic and/or societal benefit

- Facilitates the development of partnerships to foster longer-term collaborations, thereby maximising the impact of previously-funded BBSRC research
- Allows for an expansion of the skill base of individuals, particularly in emerging, niche and vulnerable areas alongside BBSRC strategic priorities
- Covers a contribution to the salary of the interchangers, reasonable travel and subsistence and costs associated with the interchange
- Project duration up to **2 years**, up to **£150,000** project costs

Rolling deadlines

Innovate UK (Technology Strategy Board)

[Innovate UK Biomedical Catalyst](#)

Managed by Innovate UK

- Application led by SMEs
- Supports stratified healthcare, regenerative medicine, diagnostics, eHealth and mHealth solutions, enabling medical technologies and devices
- Activities can include:
 - disease prevention and proactive management of health and chronic conditions
 - earlier and better detection and diagnosis of disease
 - highly effective treatments that are tailored to patients' needs

Feasibility

- Exploration and **evaluation of early-stage idea**
- Project duration up to **12 months**, up to **£200k** project costs
- Funds 75% of project costs

Early Stage Awards

- **Feasibility testing** and **proof-of-concept**
- Project duration up to **3 years**, up to **£2.4m** project costs
- Funds 60% of project costs

Late Stage Awards

- Demonstrating effectiveness of **well-developed concept**
- Project duration up to **3 years**, up to **£2.4m** project costs
- Funds 60% of project costs

Rolling deadlines every 4 months

[Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships](#)

- Collaborative project between industry, academic and associate (recent graduate)
- Must demonstrate **clear business case**
- Project duration **6 months to 3 years**
- Approximate cost for long-term project = **£60,000**
- Funds up to **66%** of project costs

Rolling deadlines every quarter

Innovate UK Collaborative research and development

- **£25,000 to £5m** to fund a R&D programme
- Support to test and develop a new product, process or service
- Runs collaborative R&D funding competitions to solve specific technical or societal challenges
- Grant levels vary but businesses get funding for up to **60%** of project costs
- Eligibility:
 - be a UK business or research organisation
 - work in science, engineering or technology industries
 - work with a research partner or other business on this project

Varying deadlines across targeted research areas

Innovation Vouchers

- **£5,000** from Innovate UK to pay for an external expert to help your business grow
- Funding to access an expert/researcher to develop or improve an innovative idea for a new product, process or service
- Eligibility:
 - be starting up or running a micro, small or medium-sized UK business
 - need help with something that's a real challenge for your business, not just a small improvement or change
 - have not worked with this expert before

Awarded every 3 months

Innovate UK Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)

- Supports research and development of a new product or service for the public sector that will solve a specific problem
- Funding from **£50,000 to £100,000** to test an idea
- Further contracts available worth up to **£1 million** or more to develop the idea
- Eligibility:
 - You can apply for an SBRI contract if you are a business

Varying deadlines across targeted research areas

Innovate UK Smart Awards

- Funding for SMEs to engage in R&D projects in the strategically important areas of science, engineering and technology, from which successful new products, processes and services could emerge.

Proof of market

- This grant enables companies to assess commercial viability, through:
 - market research
 - market testing and competitor analysis
 - intellectual property position
 - initial planning to take the project to commercialisation, including assessing costs, timescales and funding requirements.

- **up to 9 months, up to £25k, up to 60% of total project costs**

Proof of concept

- A grant to explore the technical feasibility and commercial potential of a new technology, product or process:
 - initial feasibility studies
 - basic prototyping
 - specialist testing and/or demonstration to provide basic proof of technical feasibility
 - intellectual property protection
 - investigation of production and assembly options
- **up to 18 months, up to £100k, up to 60% of total project costs**

Development of prototype

- This funding is used by companies to develop a technologically innovative product, service or industrial process:
 - small demonstrators
 - intellectual property protection
 - trials and testing, including clinical
 - market testing
 - marketing strategies
 - identifying routes to market
 - product design work
 - pre-clinical studies for medicines
- **up to 2 years, up to £250k, 35% of total project costs for medium enterprises; up to 45% for small and micro enterprises**

Eligibility

- be an early-stage, micro, small or medium-sized UK business or be thinking of starting a business
- have both the ambition and potential to achieve high growth
- work in science, engineering or technology industries

Always open for calls - unrestricted

European Commission

[Horizon 2020](#)

- EU Funding Opportunity - **~€80 billion** of funding available over the next **7 years**
- Funding research and innovation via academia, research, industry and other stakeholders
- Taking ideas from the lab to the market for a range of areas

National Institute for Health Research

[NIHR Invention for Innovation \(i4i\)](#)

- Advances healthcare technologies and interventions in areas of clinical need
- Need to **demonstrate proof of principle** and **clear route to adoption and commercialisation**
- Expected output: advanced or clinically validated prototype medical device, technology or intervention
- Project duration up to **3 years**, no formal project cost limit

[Product Development Awards](#)

- **Led by company or university**
- Medical devices, active implantable devices and in vitro diagnostic devices
- Early and late stages of research and development (including clinical development of laboratory-validated technologies or interventions)

Next call for application begins Summer 2015

[Challenge Awards](#)

- **Led by NHS organisation**
- Clinical development of laboratory-validated disruptive technologies or interventions, requiring minimal preclinical development
- Based on themed calls:
 - Regenerative medicine technologies
 - Biological therapeutics for cancer

Next call for application begins Summer 2015

Research Professional

[Research Professional](#)

- Comprehensive database of all funding opportunities
- Business Engagement Team will carry out an advanced search following once project proposal has been provided