BRIEF – Innovation Fund for PREVENT

SUMMARY

Funding Body	The Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, in the Home Office, works to counter the threat from terrorism. Our work is covered in the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST[1]. As part of CONTEST, the aim of the Prevent Strategy[2] is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy specifically: • responds to the **ideological challenge** of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it; • **prevents people from being drawn into terrorism** and ensures that they are given appropriate advice and support; and • works with **sectors and institutions** where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.
Background and Challenge	We are looking for innovative proposals to support delivery of the Prevent Strategy and to help us to counter the threats that we face. The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qa'ida associated groups. The Prevent strategy was changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and with non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) is attempting to radicalise people in this and other countries. The vast majority of people want nothing to do with ISIL. But some can be misled by the propaganda and a few are being persuaded to join ISIL in Syria and Iraq. There have been recent tragic examples, including families and young women. Stopping radicalisation needs to be done with families and community organisations in partnership with government. We have community based initiatives up and down the country which have had major impact, stopping people going to Syria and Iraq. Our work with social media providers has disrupted on line ISIL propaganda. We have programmes to help young people who are being groomed by terrorist organisations. From 1 July of this year we have put Prevent on a statutory footing. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 Act 2015 requires specified authorities in

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[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011;

England, Scotland and Wales (listed in Schedule 6 of the Act, and including local government, the police, prisons, schools and HE/FE institutions) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Guidance to support the Prevent duty has been published[3]. In complying with the duty, all specified bodies should demonstrate an awareness of the risk of radicalisation in their area, institution or body. There are three themes throughout the guidance on demonstrating effective leadership, working in partnership and demonstrating appropriate capabilities and information sharing protocols.

The Act also places Channel on a statutory footing and related guidance has also been published[4]. Channel is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Through Channel, we can: identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; assess the nature and extent of that risk; and develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Our approach to date has focused on delivering the Prevent Strategy through statutory bodies and civil society groups. The aim of this fund is to broaden the range of organisations delivering work to prevent people from being radicalised.

Scope →

Eligible activities

The following types of activities are eligible under this competition:

- Particularly innovative projects developing new methods and /or developing new technologies with a potential for replication nationally;

- Projects promoting understanding and learning, identification and dissemination of best practices and innovative approaches; and

- Pilot projects, including in sectors covered by the Prevent duty.

We are particularly interested in proposals that:

- **respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;**

- **protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism; and**

- **work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.**

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[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance;

[4]https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf

- *We would specifically welcome proposals as follows:*

Schools (excluding Higher and Further Education)

- to ensure school staff have the appropriate tools and Prevent products to support their work; and

- to ensure that young people have access to positive role models and the knowledge, information, critical thinking skills and support to protect themselves from the negative influences of radicalisation and extremism. We would like to receive a broad range of project ideas for primary schools and secondary schools.

Higher Education and Further Education

- to help identify where there are risks relating to extremist ideology and progress projects in the sector to tackle it;

- to equip institutions and student groups to challenge those ideas and manage the risks associated with extremist speakers on campuses; and

- to bring together the universities and colleges in their region to provide training and share good practice, in terms of Prevent staff awareness and building Prevent into institutions' policies.

Health

- to promote Prevent awareness through mental health organisations that could protect vulnerable individuals from radicalisation and extremism.

Faith

- to build the capacity of faith leaders and faith institutions to challenge extremist and terrorist propaganda and promote counter narratives.

Online

Our aim is to encourage ideas for countering terrorist use of the internet, including by*:*

- Reporting - increase awareness of online terrorism and extremism – the propaganda associated with it - and how to report it;

- Digital resilience - equip target groups (women, young people and frontline staff) with an awareness of terrorist and extremist propaganda online, and the skills to protect themselves from it; and

- Filtering – technical solutions to protect those in key sectors (schools etc.) from terrorist content online; and

- Understanding – better understand the manifestation and dissemination of terrorist content online.

FUNDING, TIMING AND PROJECT MONITORING

Budget Available

We would welcome proposals costed up to £100,000 (including VAT).

Award Criteria

Funding will be granted to those organisations which clearly demonstrate how their proposed project will tackle threats and reduce vulnerability in an area, sector or with a target group.

Organisations must:

- o describe their proposed idea/ technology to address the challenge (30% of total assessment score);

- o describe what is innovative about the project including how Intellectual Property will be handled (15% of total assessment score);

- o demonstrate a clear management plan and methodology for delivery of the project (25% of total assessment score);

- o demonstrate that they have the right skills to deliver the project (15% of total assessment score); and

- o provide value for money, with the cost per head reflecting the level of intervention received by recipients (15% of total assessment score).

Eligibility

The competition will be open to:

- Businesses, including Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs);

- Specified authorities named in Section 6 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015;

- Civil society and community and voluntary groups; and

- Registered charities.

   NB. Non-commercial organisations must demonstrate a route to market for their project outputs

Organisations must agree to undertake the British Values test, to ensure that we do not allow funds to be accessed by organisations with links to extremist organisations.

Evaluation

All projects funded through the Innovation Fund for Prevent will use robust and rigorous evaluation to determine whether they are effective. They will be required to provide monitoring information such as the number of individuals participating in projects or the number of sessions/workshops held. The approach to evaluation will be determined in conjunction with the Prevent social research team. Where possible evaluations will be carried out in line with the approaches used to evaluate other Prevent projects.

Timetable

See annex A.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Directions on how to enter this competition can be found in the Invitation to Tender (SBRI_HO_292_001).

AN INTRODUCTION TO SBRI

SBRI is a mechanism which enables public sector bodies to connect with innovative ideas and technology businesses to provide innovative solutions to specific Public Sector challenges and needs.

The Public Sector is able to find innovative solutions by reaching out to organisations from different sectors including small and emerging businesses. New technical solutions are created through accelerated technology development, whilst risk is reduced through a phased development programme. SBRI also provides applicants with a transparent competitive and a reliable source of early-stage funding.

SBRI competitions are open to all organisations that can demonstrate a route to market for their solution. The SBRI scheme is particularly suited to small and medium-sized business, as the contracts are of relatively small value and operate on short timescales. Developments are 100% funded and focus on specific identified needs, increasing the chance of exploitation. Suppliers for each project will be selected by an open competition process and retain the intellectual property generated from the project, with certain rights of use retained by the contracting Authority. This is an excellent opportunity to establish an early customer for a new technology and to fund its development.

More information on this and other competitions may be obtained at
https://interact.innovateuk.org/

SBRI_HO_292_002 Brief v2

ANNEX A

Timeline for the Innovation Fund

Process	Milestone	Indicative timing
Fund open	Fund opens for proposals	02 Nov 2015
Project assessment/ set up	Fund closes	02 Dec
	Outcome of assessment of proposals	Dec
	Submit to Ministers recommending proposals to fund	Dec
	Funding agreements awarded	Jan 2016
	Obtain financial details for direct suppliers	4 Jan
Implementation	OSCT Research Analysts evaluate projects	Ongoing
	Monthly monitoring return and payments	W/c 1 Feb
	Monthly monitoring return and payments	W/c 29 Feb
	Monthly monitoring return and payments	W/c 4 Apr
Evaluation	Evaluation reports received	May