Competition for partnership funding

New modelling systems for stratified medicine

FINAL DEADLINE
18 November 2015

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
Competition for partnership funding

**Summary**

Innovate UK is to invest up to £1 million to establish new Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) in developing modelling approaches to support the use of stratified medicine in the UK, across bioinformatics, systems biology, health economics and analytical algorithms.

We are seeking proposals to develop new modelling systems that:

- integrate healthcare and science data to better predict if a new product is likely to have an effect and improve patient outcomes
- provide new multi-parameter algorithms that can be commercialised to diagnose treatments
- provide health economic models for innovative products that will create new clinical care pathways

This targeted competition for KTPs aims to help businesses achieve access to modelling expertise that will allow development of new diagnostic approaches and improve the earlier evaluation of diagnostic products.

It is part of the Stratified Medicine Innovation Platform that is currently funding a £50 million programme of research and development over 5 years.

We fund part of the cost of running the KTP project, with the level of grant depending on the size of the company. Project costs vary, with the average being about £60,000 a year, of which a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) might contribute about one-third, but this depends on the individual project.

The competition opens for applications on 2 March 2015 and remains open on a rolling basis for applications until noon on 18 November 2015. A briefing webinar for potential applicants will be held on 19 February 2015.

**Background**

Stratified medicine means providing the right treatment, at the right time, to the right patient. The grouping, or stratifying, of patients according to the nature of their disease and their response to a particular treatment will improve patient outcomes and reduce ineffective treatment.

This has driven the need for new effective diagnostic tests that will guide patient selection for the most appropriate care pathways. Increasing development costs of new products and reduced healthcare budgets mean that these diagnostic tests need to be validated and evaluated for their potential impact on patient care pathways as early as possible.

Innovate UK’s Stratified Medicine Innovation Platform works in partnership with organisations including government, research councils and leading medical research charities to accelerate the development and uptake of stratified medicine in the UK.

It has identified the need for new modelling approaches to:

- enable companies to assess more quickly the feasibility and validity of new diagnostic products through bioinformatics and systems biology modelling
- demonstrate the value of diagnostic tests, evidenced through potential changes to current clinical care pathways, which would justify adoption by care providers and allow real market value to be forecast

These modelling skills are in short supply and still reside within the academic community. The objective of this competition for KTPs is to increase the awareness and application of modelling within the related industries of diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and medical technology. This will lead to new and relevant economic value models for current healthcare providers and payers, and boost the potential market and speed of adoption for UK businesses.

Using modelling to integrate biological and healthcare data for diagnostics will also enable new diagnostic algorithms and statistical approaches to be evaluated by the regulatory bodies and provide the industry with new systems to enhance their route and speed to market.

NB: This document provides information on the targeted competition for KTPs only. Those wishing to apply for other stratified medicine competitions should visit interact.innovateuk.org
**Scope**

Successful partnerships will enable businesses to advance a product for a stratified approach to treatment, requiring the use of new modelling systems that will either:

- integrate healthcare and science data, to predict the likelihood of a product demonstrating the intended effect or value in a clinical setting, incorporating approaches such as systems biology or bioinformatics
- provide innovative multi-parameter algorithms that enhance the predictive strength of a diagnostic test and allow commercialisation
- provide innovative health economic models for products that will establish new clinical care pathways and allow product adoption

This competition aims to allow healthcare-related businesses to use KTP projects to access the modelling skills necessary to improve decision-making and the evaluation of diagnostic tests. This will allow for faster, more predictive and more accurate development of stratified medicine approaches.

**Out of scope** will be any modelling approaches that:

a) do not address a stratified approach to patient treatment
b) are not related to the advancement of a potential product

**Funding allocation and project details**

We have allocated up to £1 million to fund projects that address the technical challenges outlined in the scope.

We will fund part of the cost of running the KTP project, with the level of grant depending on the size of the company.

KTP is open to all UK companies and the UK-wide knowledge base.

As an example, a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) might contribute around a third of the project costs, with the remainder being paid as a grant. Larger companies generally receive a lower level of funding.

Annual project costs will vary, depending on the type and duration of the project, but the average is currently around £60,000. Projects may run from 6 months to 3 years.

The grant is paid through the academic partner. Your local KTP adviser will be able to provide more details on funding levels.

**What is KTP?**

KTP is Europe’s leading programme helping businesses to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance through the better use of the knowledge, technology and skills available within the UK knowledge base. The programme is UK-wide, headed by Innovate UK, and supported by 12 other public sector funding organisations.

A KTP involves the formation of a partnership between a business, an academic institution (or knowledge base partner) and a recently qualified person, known as the associate. The aim of the partnership is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and embed new capability within the business.

Through collaboration, these partnerships can:

- find highly qualified people to spearhead new projects
- access expertise to take an organisation forward
- devise innovative solutions to help an organisation grow
- develop the capacity and capability to innovate more effectively beyond the life of the KTP project

Looking for partners to work on your project? Go to [connect.innovateuk.org/](https://connect.innovateuk.org/) to find collaborators and networks
Application process

If you are interested in applying you should first discuss project ideas with a university KTP office or contact one of our regional KTP advisers directly through the KTP website at http://ktp.innovateuk.org/advisers.

The application process involves:

**Stage 1:** expression of interest (EOI)

**Stage 2:** we invite approved EOIs to submit a grant proposal and application form

**Stage 3:** KTP partnership approvals group (PAG) establishes suitability as a KTP project *

**Stage 4:** Innovate UK assesses whether the application fulfils the scope of this competition.

Both the EOI and application are agreed with a KTP adviser before submission by the academic partner to the PAG. Applications received will be considered at the next available PAG meeting.

* If your proposal is not within the scope of this competition you may still be eligible for a KTP grant. There is a general scheme open for applications year-round and supporting projects in many fields. Contact your local KTP adviser for more information.

Help for SMEs to grow faster

Small businesses that combine the funding they receive from us with additional business support are more likely to grow faster. If you are an SME and receive funding through this competition, you will automatically gain access to a growth workshop, an online diagnostic tool and a growth expert to help you develop a growth plan. This may include coaching, mentoring and entrepreneurial skills training.

Key dates

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open for applications</td>
<td>2 March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing webinar</td>
<td>13:00 19 February 2015</td>
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| Deadlines(s) for applications – to be considered at the next available partnership approvals group (PAG) meeting | noon 15 April 2015  
noon 17 June 2015  
noon 19 August 2015  
noon 30 September 2015  
noon 18 November 2015 |

More information

For more information about your eligibility for KTP or the suitability of projects for this competition please contact your KTP regional adviser or local university KTP office. Adviser contact details are available on the KTP website at http://ktp.innovateuk.org/advisers.

Publicity

As part of the application process all applicants are asked to submit a public description of the project. This should adequately describe the project but not disclose any information that may impact on intellectual property, is confidential or commercially sensitive. The titles of successful projects, names of organisations, amounts awarded and the public description will be published once the decision to offer an award has been communicated to applicants by email. Information about unsuccessful project applications will remain confidential and will not be made public.

Email pressoffice@innovateuk.gov.uk with any queries.

Competition helpline
0300 321 4357

Email support@innovateuk.gov.uk