

Innovate UK



Stratified medicine: connecting the UK infrastructure

Competition for development contracts

Register by 28 October 2015

Innovate UK is to invest up to £10m in a two-phase competition to promote the development of new diagnostic products and services for use in stratified medicine.

This SBRI competition aims to accelerate and/or increase the development and adoption of innovative diagnostic tools in order to offer better targeted treatment to patients within the UK healthcare system. It also aims to demonstrate the benefits of companies working within the UK 'enabling infrastructure', which is made up of specialist organisations that can help companies understand healthcare needs and design, evaluate and deliver their products and services into the NHS.

Up to £2m is available for phase 1 of the competition and up to a further £8m may be available in a second phase to further develop successful phase 1 projects. The competition is open to all organisations that can demonstrate a route to market for their solution. Successful organisations will attract a 100% funded development contract of up to £150,000 over nine months in phase 1, with the potential to apply for up to £2m over a further three years in phase 2.

The competition opens on **7 September 2015**. The deadline for registration is at noon on **28 October 2015**, and the deadline for applications is at noon on **4 November 2015**. A briefing event will be held on **15 September 2015**.

Background >

The Stratified Medicine Innovation Platform (SMIP) works with partners in the public and third sectors to maximise the potential of stratified medicine in the UK, benefiting patients, the NHS and the economy.

Stratified medicine is the process of classifying patients with a similar diagnosis into sub-groups, according to which type of treatment and care

management they are most likely to benefit from. Different sub-groups receive targeted care, thereby increasing the overall success rate of treatment and reducing the number of adverse events. The use of stratified medicine will move therapy from a trial-and-error approach to one that selects the most appropriate treatment based on quality science, clinical evidence and economic value. Stratified medicine also includes the development and use of a wide variety of diagnostic tools, to guide clinicians in selecting the best treatment and care for patients as early as possible. This is important when treating a large number of diseases, including cancer, infections, respiratory and inflammatory diseases, musculoskeletal diseases and diabetes.

The slow rate at which UK healthcare providers adopt new innovations is a key challenge to the growth of stratified medicine. However, as resources within the NHS come under ever greater pressure, products that can deliver efficient and cost-effective healthcare and provide better outcomes for patients will become more and more attractive.

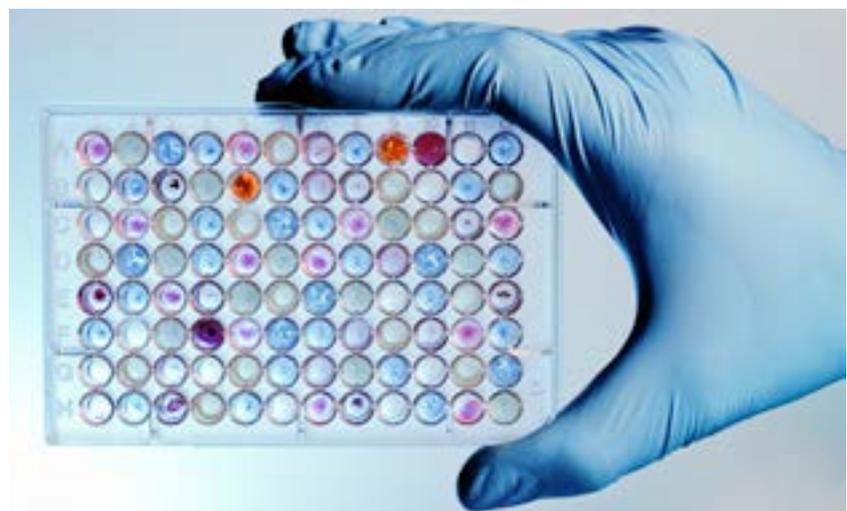
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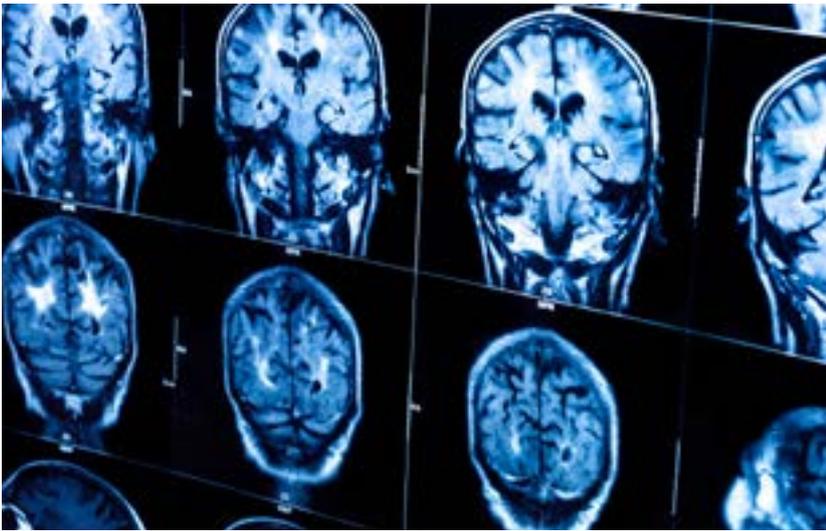
We will support projects that seek to develop tests capable of classifying patients into groups and selecting them for a clinical treatment (or treatments) currently available in the UK.

The term 'test' is being used in the broadest sense and includes in-vitro and in-vivo diagnostic tests, physical measurements and the use of data to provide medical intelligence and guide clinical decisions. Tests carried out in hospitals, clinics, GP surgeries and the community are all in scope.

Applicants should describe the use and development path they anticipate for their proposed diagnostic product or service. They should also explain how it will facilitate patient stratification, address unmet clinical need, create new clinical care pathways (where appropriate) and interact with the UK's 'enabling infrastructure' – organisations that allow companies early access to researchers, regulators, the NHS and commissioners across the UK. Some of these organisations have been established over the last five years with the assistance of SMIP and its partners. Engaging with them will allow companies to establish the best ways to implement their tests, establish their clinical value and demonstrate their potential for commercialisation and uptake.

This infrastructure includes the National Institute for Health Research's Translational Research Partnerships, Diagnostic Evidence Cooperatives and Academic Health Science Networks, and organisations such as the Precision Medicine Catapult, the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre, the Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre, the Molecular Pathology Nodes supported by the Medical Research Council and the





Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The creation of the Farr Institute and databanks such as SAIL add to the opportunities to exploit stratified medicine in the UK, as do the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's Diagnostic Assessment and Scientific Advice Programmes. Companies can also engage with clinical research organisations and any other bodies that will assist in the development and/or effective trial of their products and services in the healthcare service and generate evidence to support their uptake across the UK.

Phase 1, lasting for up to nine months, will fund organisations to develop the economic case for producing their product or service and to draw up a detailed project plan for developing and trialling that product/service within the NHS. Applicants will have the opportunity to generate further evidence that the proposed diagnostic tool can classify patients into sub-groups (for example, by collecting further data on the use of biomarkers to distinguish between different patient groups or by refining algorithms to improve patient stratification). In addition, projects can use the funding available in phase 1 to begin to address challenges around transferring their product into the NHS in preparation for phase 2.

Only projects supported in phase 1 will be eligible to compete for phase 2 funding, which will finance the development and evaluation of products and/or services described in phase 1.

By the end of phase 1, successful applicants must provide a report that will form the basis of their phase 2 application. Where appropriate, the report – along with the phase 2 application – should describe the health and economic benefits of the proposed product, the healthcare challenge(s) it addresses, its development plan, and the costs and regulatory approvals required to bring it to market. Further information is given in the *Guidance for Applicants*.

We are looking to fund projects that include the following:

- a diagnostic test that will lead to better treatment for patients
- a description of how the company will interact with 'enabling' organisations within the UK to overcome barriers to adoption of their product, including changes to clinical care pathways where appropriate
- an initial draft of the development plan for preparing the product for market (this will need to be in more depth in phase 2)

Out of scope

In this competition we are not funding projects covering:

- the development of diagnostic tests that do not give rise to patient stratification
- diagnostic tests for treatments that are still in development
- biomarker discovery experiments

What is SBRI?

The SBRI programme 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 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 businesses, 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.

Funding allocation >

In this competition, we will reach out to companies in the field of diagnostics. We will invest up to £2m in phase 1 projects that meet the challenge outlined in the scope. We expect the value of contracts to be between £80,000 and £150,000 each. A further £2m of investment may be available to successful phase 1 projects (see the *Guidance for Applicants* for further information). Organisations wishing to extend phase 2 beyond three years and to receive more than £2m in funding should contact Innovate UK to discuss this.

Application process >

This competition opens for applicants on **7 September 2015**. The deadline for registration is at noon on **28 October 2015**, and the deadline for applications is at noon on **4 November 2015**. Contracts will be issued by **January 2016**.

- A briefing for applicants will be held on **15 September 2015** to highlight the main features of the competition and explain the application process. **Applicants are strongly recommended to attend this event**. Applicants should register for this event at <https://connect.innovateuk.org/events>

Note: All deadlines are at noon.

Key dates >

Competition opens	7 September 2015
Briefing event	15 September 2015
Registration deadline	28 October 2015 noon
Deadline for applications	4 November 2015 noon
Contracts awarded	January 2016

More information >

For more information and all the documents you need to read before you apply, including the *Guidance for Applicants*, go to the web page for this competition at <https://interact.innovateuk.org/>

To apply you must first register with us through the competition page on the website. Registration opens when the competition opens and closes a week before the deadline for applications.

Get help to understand the future market for your innovation before you apply at <http://horizons.innovateuk.org>

Competition helpline:
0300 321 4357

Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

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 and a growth expert to help you develop a growth plan. This may include coaching, mentoring and entrepreneurial skills training.

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.

Innovate UK is the new name for the Technology Strategy Board – the UK’s innovation agency. We know that taking a new idea to market is a challenge. We fund, support and connect innovative businesses through a unique mix of people and programmes to accelerate sustainable economic growth.

The Technology Strategy Board is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and is incorporated by Royal Charter in England and Wales with company number RC000818. Registered office: North Star House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UE.

Telephone: 01793 442 700
Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk
www.innovateuk.gov.uk

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