



SILVER

Supporting Independent Living for the Elderly
through Robotics

Denisa Naidin, Innovate UK



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no °287609.



What is SILVER?

The SILVER project aims to develop new robotics based technologies to assist elderly people in their everyday lives. It uses a Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) process to encourage companies to bring to the market innovative robotic solutions that will enable municipalities to care for 10% more elderly care recipients with the same number of care staff.

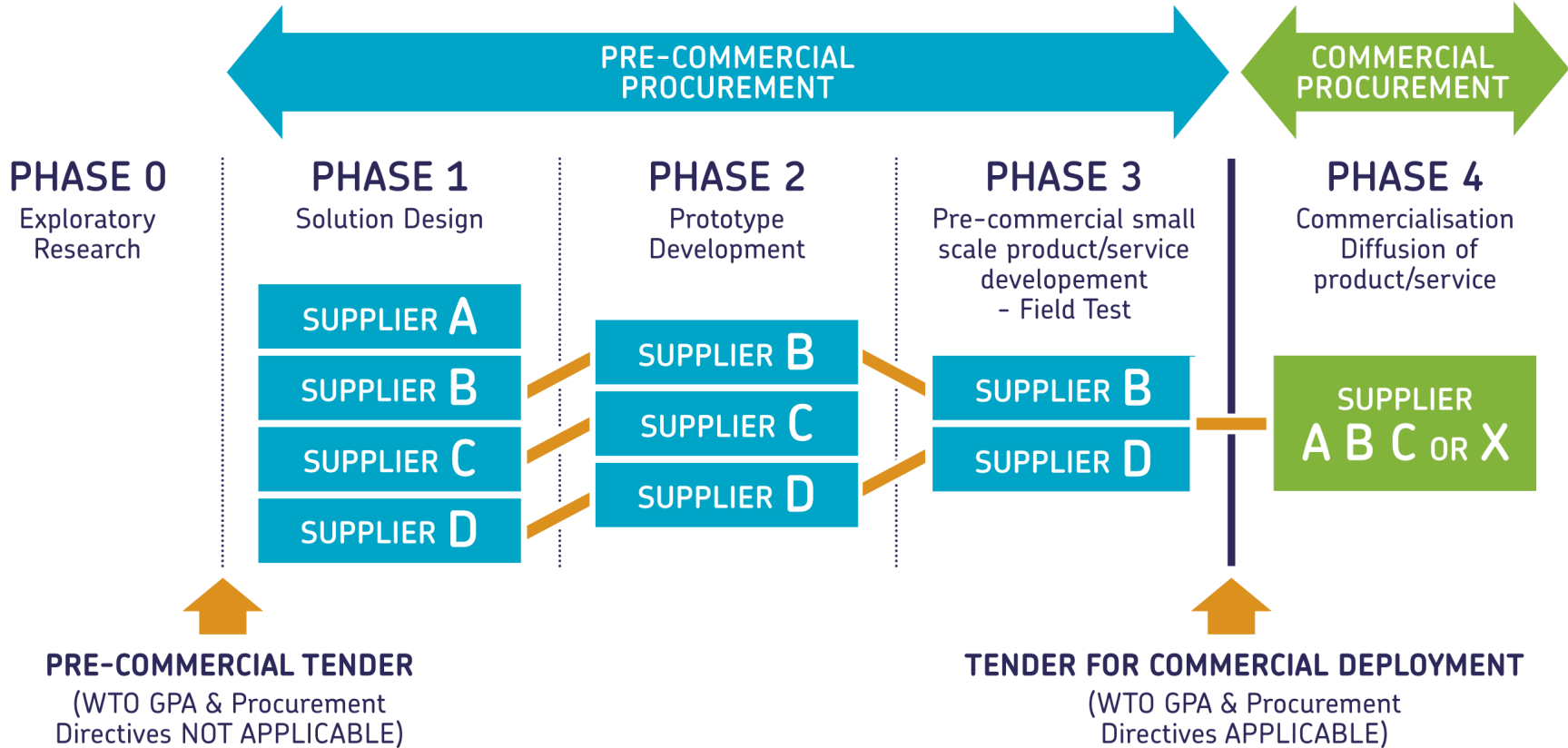
- Funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7)
- Consortium led by Innovate UK, bringing together 6 local authorities in 5 countries and other regional and knowledge partners
- Purchasing budget: 2,150,000 EUR



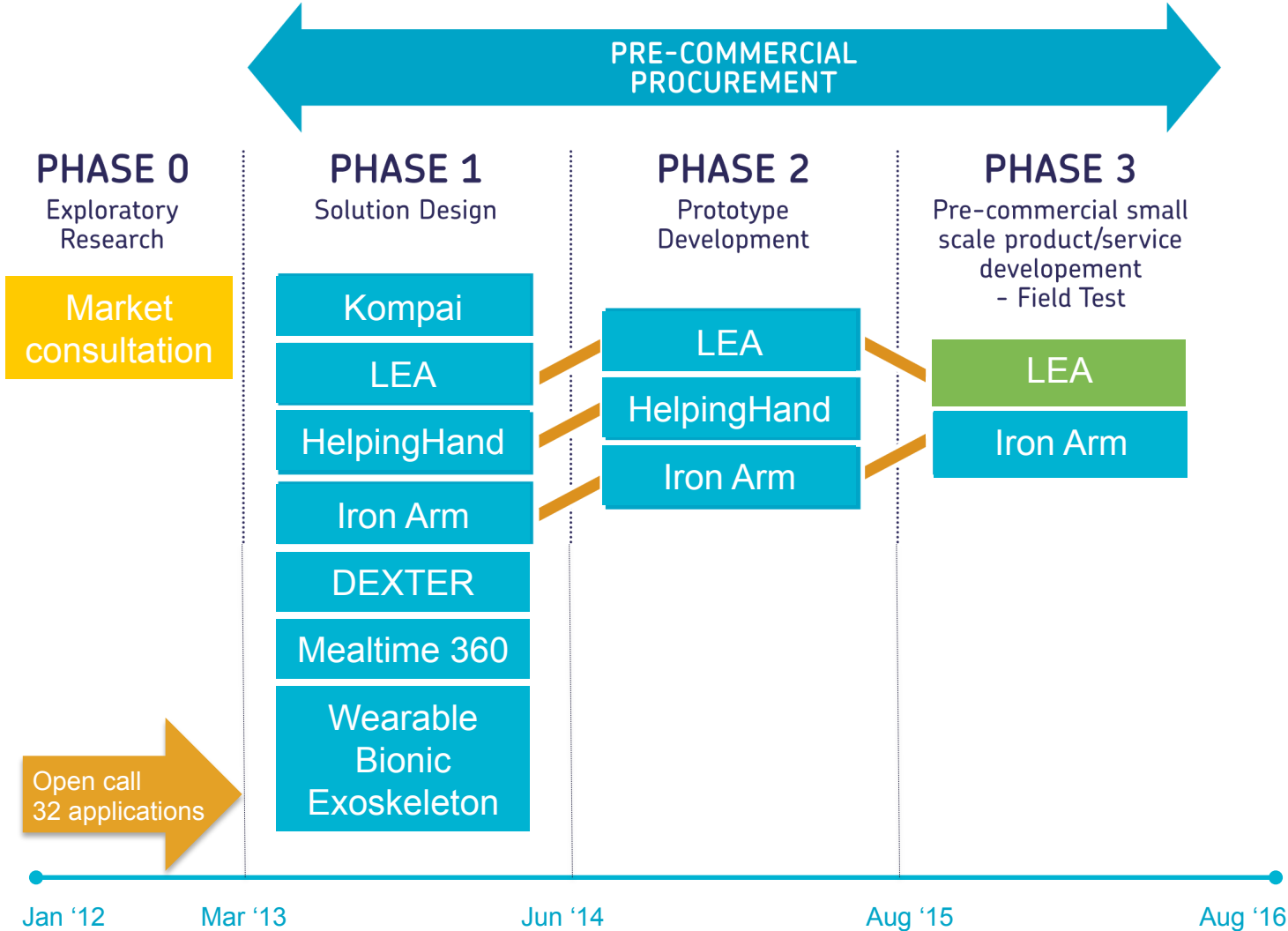


PCP process





Source: European Commission





What kind of solutions?



Functional specifications...

- No technical specifications, only descriptions of needs
- End user needs covered in detail
- Public authority needs covered by the business case



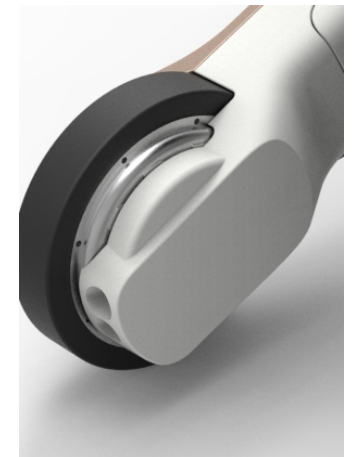
... so wide variety of solutions

- Robotic walkers
- Exoskeletons
- Robotic prosthetics
- Robotic arms
- Companion robots... etc



Example: LEA

- LEA (Lean Elderly Assistant) is designed to assist the elderly in daily living tasks in a home environment
- Offers functional transfer of goods, for example picking up objects, transferring them and placing them
- Cognitive software capabilities can support memory
- Has won the Herman Wijffels Innovation Award and has been shortlisted for a Livewire award.





What have we learnt so far?



Steep learning curve...

- It takes time to set up a transnational PCP
- Little understood process beyond frontrunner countries
- Products developed need to fit the needs of all procuring authorities
- PCP often requires inter-departmental cooperation
- Relationship with contractors needs to be nurtured
- Trust and commitment from both sides is key



...but worth it!

- Exploration of local needs and requirements
- Protect against lock-in and reduce costs in the long term
- Understand the market and establish close relationship between businesses and public procurers
- Step-change innovation
- Supports more businesses than other forms of purchasing or grants
- Seed money



Example: Kompai - MARIO

- Kompai was a robotic solution that was awarded a contract in Phase 1
- Contract allowed for further refinement of idea and partnership development
- Now transformed into the MARIO robot aimed at supporting people with dementia
- SME collaborates with Stockport City Council and has received further funding from Horizon 2020





Thank you!

