

## Funding Calls and Competition Reminders

### Commercialisation Funding Calls for Academics and SME's currently open:

Scheme	Description	Closing Date
<b>Enterprising Birmingham Fund</b>	The University has created this source of funding focused on strong opportunities for commercialization connected with proof of commercial viability. Eligible activities will include (but need not be restricted to): prototyping; market analysis and validation; business modeling; and business planning. Email Catherine Mansell at <a href="mailto:c.mansell@bham.ac.uk">c.mansell@bham.ac.uk</a>	<b>Open all year</b>
<b>Royal Society: Brian Mercer Feasibility Awards</b>	These awards aim to provide initial support to test the feasibility of a project and enable holders to investigate the technical and economical feasibility of commercialising an aspect of their scientific research. Four awards worth up to £30,000 each are available. For further information see: <a href="http://royalsociety.org/grants/schemes/brian-mercer-feasibility/">http://royalsociety.org/grants/schemes/brian-mercer-feasibility/</a>	<b>Not stated</b>
<b>Knowledge Transfer Secondment</b>	The Knowledge Transfer Secondment (KTS) scheme provides funding to help ensure the exploitation of the University of Birmingham's research and expertise in the engineering, physical and biomedical sciences. Deadlines for applications will occur on a quarterly basis. For further information see: <a href="https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/finance/ris/research-support/Managed-Calls.aspx">https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/finance/ris/research-support/Managed-Calls.aspx</a> If you are considering an application to the fund, please contact <b>Tariq Khan</b> , ( <a href="mailto:t.khan@bham.ac.uk">t.khan@bham.ac.uk</a> , x47093) to discuss your idea.	<b>Next deadline TBC</b>
<b>The University of Birmingham Follow On Funding (FOF) Scheme</b>	The Follow-On Funding (FOF) scheme supports the development of outputs from existing or previous research at the University of Birmingham. The aim is to ensure the translation and/or commercialisation of the University's research outcomes in the engineering, physical and biomedical sciences. For further information see: <a href="https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk">https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk</a> If you have any queries, please contact: <b>Tariq Khan</b> ( <a href="mailto:t.khan@bham.ac.uk">t.khan@bham.ac.uk</a> x47093)	<b>Next deadline TBC</b>
<b>ABIA</b>	The ABIA project provides funding for West Midlands SMEs to carry out collaborative projects with University of Birmingham academic researchers. The costs of postgraduate Masters, doctoral and postdoctoral researchers can be supported, where applications in engineering and physical, life and environmental and medical and dental sciences are welcome. For further information see: <a href="http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/partners/sme-support">http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/partners/sme-support</a>	<b>Open all year</b>

<p><b>UoB Precision Medicine Proof of Concept Award</b></p>	<p>The University of Birmingham is launching a competition for SMEs looking to undertake proof of concept, feasibility or development work around new diagnostics or companion diagnostics. £30,000 Innovation Vouchers are available for successful applicants to access the expertise of the University of Birmingham to accelerate their ideas towards commercialisation.</p> <p>Contact Sue Wild-Greer for further information, call 0121 414 7416 or email <a href="mailto:S.Wilde-Greer@bham.ac.uk">S.Wilde-Greer@bham.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>TBC</b></p>
<p><b>Wellcome Trust Technology Transfer Funds</b></p>	<p>Wellcome Trust funds help to bridge the gap between fundamental research and commercial application by funding applied research and development projects to a stage where they are attractive to a follow-on funder, such as venture capital firms, industry and public-private partnerships.</p> <p>They provide six major types of funding: Translation Fund, Health Innovation Challenge Fund, Seeding Drug Discovery, Affordable Healthcare in India, Sustaining Health and the Pathfinder Awards.</p> <p>For further information see: <a href="http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding">http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding</a></p>	<p><b>Various see website for details on the separate funds</b></p>
<p><b><a href="#">BBSRC/RSE Enterprise Fellowships</a></b></p>	<p><b>Enterprise Fellowships</b></p> <p>Funded by BBSRC and delivered by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Enterprise Fellowships are designed to encourage the development of a new business, building on previously funded BBSRC research, around a technological idea developed by the Fellow (either individually or with others) and within which the Fellow would be expected to play a leading (though not necessarily the leading) role. They provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A year's salary to provide time to develop a full business plan and seek investment</li> <li>• Access to mentors, business experts and professional advisors</li> <li>• Business training to help develop the required skills</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/commercialisation/enterprise-fellowships.aspx">http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/commercialisation/enterprise-fellowships.aspx</a></p>	<p><b>TBA</b></p>
<p><b>BBSRC NIBB</b></p>	<p>The BBSRC, with support from EPSRC, have committed £18M to fund 13 unique collaborative Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (BBSRC NIBB). The 'Crossing Biological Membranes' network hosted at The University of Sheffield fosters collaborations between academia and industry. This will lead to the development of enabling technologies that are crucial for the future of almost all cell based Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy applications.</p> <p>Awards from £5000 to £100,000 available.</p> <p>Please see: <a href="http://cbmnetnibb.group.shef.ac.uk/funding/">http://cbmnetnibb.group.shef.ac.uk/funding/</a></p>	<p><b>Various – see website for details</b></p>
<p><b>ESRC Impact Acceleration Account</b></p>	<p>The ESRC IAA is a flexible and dynamic fund designed specifically to support knowledge exchange and impact from excellent social sciences research. Three new internal funding schemes will run to 2018, offering awards of up to £20,000 to support the delivery of timely impact initiatives that will generate positive change and engage non-academic stakeholders across all sectors.</p> <p><b>Urgency Fund</b></p>	<p><b>No Deadline</b></p>

	<p>This scheme is designed to enable research staff to respond quickly to urgent, rare or unforeseen events (or the consequences from such events), or to take advantage of time-limited opportunities. Up to £5k is available per project and there is no deadline for applications.</p> <p>All details, guidelines and application forms are available on the ESRC IAA at UoB website: <a href="http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/planning/Impact/ESRC-IAA-UoB.aspx">www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/planning/Impact/ESRC-IAA-UoB.aspx</a> All applicants should contact Emily Hargreaves, Research Planning Partner (e.collins.1@bham.ac.uk, x49133) for advice prior to submitting an application, in order to maximise their chances of success.</p>	
<p><b>Armourers &amp; Brasiers Materials Science Venture Prize</b></p>	<p>Applications are invited from UK-based Materials Scientists for a £25,000 prize, which will be awarded to take forward the commercialisation of innovative research in Materials Science. The committee is looking for innovative technologies in Materials Science with clear commercial potential. The intellectual property involved should be protected by patent or eligible for protection.</p> <p>The application form is available from the Venture Prize Competition page on our website: <a href="http://www.armourershall.co.uk/venture-prize-competition">http://www.armourershall.co.uk/venture-prize-competition</a></p>	<p><b>15th March 2015</b></p>
<p><b>eFuturesXD Facility Award</b></p>	<p><b>Maximum award (100% FEC): £20,000</b>  <b>Details:</b> For the use of expensive characterisation facilities such as microscopy, fabrication of novel structures using clean rooms or manufacture of test chips using Europractice. Facilities can be outside the UK if appropriate.          This award is intended for researchers who have a current or recent cross-disciplinary project and require additional resources to take their idea towards commercialisation or require further investment to bridge the gap with follow-on funding. Applications from early stage work are also permitted but evidence of success factors should be included in the application.  <a href="http://efutures.ac.uk/xd/awards/facility">http://efutures.ac.uk/xd/awards/facility</a></p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>

## Competition Reminders for SME's

**Technology and Innovation Futures West Midlands:** Helps qualifying companies to examine their existing technologies, investigate new solutions and implement technological change. Runs **until 2015**. Companies will be supported firstly through a contribution of 50% of the cost of industry specialists and secondly, a number of Peer to Peer Network groups will be established. To qualify, companies must be based in the West Midlands. For further information please contact Technology and Innovation Futures West Midlands: Tel: 02476 158 206 or E-mail: [tifwm@cad.coventry.ac.uk](mailto:tifwm@cad.coventry.ac.uk)

**Innovation Network Grants:** To support 150 West Midlands SMEs with their innovative developments. Applicants can choose between a capital and a revenue grant of £10,000 to help cover their project costs. The applicant will need to be working with two other regional small businesses on the project. The grant needs to be matched with an additional project related spend of £12,500. If you would like to find out more about the scheme, please contact Gill Roberts: Tel: 02476 236 391, E-mail: [groberts@cad.coventry.ac.uk](mailto:groberts@cad.coventry.ac.uk)

**Innovate UK Announcements:** For details of all open Innovate UK (formerly the Technology Strategy Board), administered grant funding opportunities, of interest may be the Innovation Voucher Round 11 and SMART Round 6 and the SBRI as it's company led, please see: <https://interact.innovateuk.org/>

#### **i4i invention for innovation product development awards**

##### **Department of Health including NIHR, GB**

i4i will support projects developing any innovative medical technology including medical devices, active implantable devices and in vitro diagnostic devices. i4i will also support projects which utilise and develop techniques or technologies from other industry sectors that could have a potential impact if applied in a healthcare setting.

<http://www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/i4i/Pages/Home.aspx>

#### **Business Innovation Programme has now launched**

The **Business Innovation Programme** (BIP) is a £8.7 million package of support aimed to stimulate innovation within SMEs to encourage and enable existing businesses to invest for the future, to lever private sector investment, create new and safeguard existing jobs. This new capital and revenue fund is managed by Birmingham City Council across the West Midlands with funds from the European Regional Development Fund Programme 2007 – 2013.

The Business Innovation Programme (BIP) aims to support economic success in manufacturing across the West Midlands. The funding will support new innovative manufacturing processes, including prototyping and products that are “close to market”. The programme looks to provide grant support for existing small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) within the West Midlands region. To find out more information, please visit: [www.birmingham.gov.uk/bip](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/bip)

#### **The Innovation Engine**

The Innovation Engine is a unique project that aims to create new markets through a demand led innovation process driven by challenges from large organisations. It facilitates collaborations between hospitals, universities, public sector and SMEs to develop and deliver solutions to identified challenges and thereby creating new products, services or processes. Please see: <http://www.birminghamsciencecity.co.uk/case-studies/innovation-ecosystem/innovation-engine/> and [www.innovation-engine.co.uk](http://www.innovation-engine.co.uk) for further information.

#### **The Birmingham Post Growth Fund is now open**

Bournville College and The Birmingham Post has launched a new round of its Growth Fund, which provides grant funding to help businesses grow and create sustainable new jobs. Companies can bid for grants of £10,000 to £100,000. The deadline for submitting bids is 1pm on Friday 20th March 2015.

For more information and to apply: <http://www.bournville.ac.uk/employers/birmingham-post-growth-fund/>