**Innovation and Industrial Engagement Fund**

**Guidance for applicants**

The scheme aims to pump-prime, via Research and Knowledge Exchange Centres, innovative knowledge exchange projects that are most likely to generate sustainable income and-or impact. (up to £40K).

**Intentions of the scheme**

* To develop innovative and sustainable projects that address genuine industrial or public service requirements.
* To support the growth of sustainable, high quality RKE centres which combine the broad range of research and business engagement activities including collaborative projects, contract research, IP commercialisation and KTPs.
* To develop broader, sustained partnerships with industry and other organisations, which directly address regional economic and societal priorities.
* To accelerate the economic and societal impact of our research by channelling funding through clear routes.

**Eligibility:**

* The scheme is open to all academic staff working with at least one business partner who is prepared to contribute to the project, either cash or in-kind.
* Applications can be for research, consultancy, or IP commercialisation but must demonstrate very strong innovation and commercialisation potential, aligned to the university’s research and knowledge exchange priorities.
* Projects without a business partner but which meet the criteria for innovation potential and commercialisation of research will be considered.
* Teaching-related activity is not eligible for funding through this scheme.

**Outputs**

1. Innovative and sustainable KE project aligned to the work of a university Centre for RKE.
2. Strong industrial/commercial engagement or public sector partnerships.
3. Disclosure of viable intellectual property
4. A plan for sustainable income development
5. Impact (research impact or broader social, economic, environmental etc.)
6. Project report / case study

**Conditions for award**

The investment will be awarded to projects that can demonstrate potential for:

* Moving closer to market (increasing technology readiness levels)
* Addressing an unmet market requirement
Generating sustainable income and/or impact.
* Aligned to at least one UCRKE.

All spending to be completed by 31 July 2019

Eligible Expenditure

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible Costs** | **Ineligible costs** |
| * Purchase of technical or scientific equipment essential for product or service development or delivery. (not laptops or I-pads etc)
* Expert staff to take the offer to market.
* Expert staff to facilitate deliver offer/ service.
* Market research.
* Product or service development or testing.
* Digital service development.
* Product/service refinement services.
* Staff to back-fill academic time required for commercialisation work.
* Delivery of a marketing plan.
 | * Indirect costs
* Discount or subsidy for the cost of a project to a client
* Laptops, I-pads, cameras and phones are excluded. Equipment must be technical, specialist or scientific equipment necessary to facilitate business engagement.
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| **MAXIMUM VALUE OF AWARD** | £40000.00 |
| **NUMBER OF CALLS** | One call, deadline 2nd November 2019 |

**Selection criteria and assessment process**

Awards will be made against the following criteria:

* Quality of the proposal and link to university research and knowledge exchange priorities
* Potential to lead to impact
* Potential for a beneficial business relationship and/or genuine partnership working
* Meets an unmet market need
* Potential for sustainable income/ generation of surplus

Applications will be reviewed by the PVC for Research and Knowledge Exchange and the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange.

Applicants should work with their Faculty Business Development Manager. All applications should be approved by the Head of University Research & Knowledge Exchange Centre, and Faculty Head of RKE.