**Smartline Knowledge Exchange:** £1,000Idea Generation Grant – Expression of Interest

The ERDF programme for 2014 to 2020 provides funds to help local areas grow. This project funds support to improve how Small and Medium Sized Enterprises commercialise research and how they collaborate with research institutions. In order to comply with the EU funding rules we need to ensure that your enterprise meets the eligibility requirements for receiving aid. It is therefore essential that you complete the following sections fully.

**Section 1: Organisation Name & Contact Details**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation | | Organisation Contact | |
| Name |  | **Name** |  |
| Address |  | **Position** |  |
| Postcode |  | **Phone** |  |
| Website |  | **Email** |  |
| Trading start date |  | **Date of enquiry** |  |

**Section 2: Eligibility**

*If you have already completed and returned the signed SME eligibility questionnaire, please proceed to Section 3*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation details | | | | |
| Is your company based within Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly? | | | |
| Yes ☐ | | No **☐** | |
| How many people does your company employ (this includes part time, seasonal and temporary staff)?  *Please tick the box that relates to the number of full-time equivalent employees you currently employ* | | | |
| Less than 10 ☐ | 10 to 49 **☐** | 50 to 249 **☐** | 250 or more **☐** |
| How would you best describe the activities of your company?  *Please describe below the activity that best suits your company. For example, Information technology consultancy activities (62020), Engineering related scientific and technical consulting activities (71122), etc.*  Standard industrial classification of economic activities ([SIC](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standard-industrial-classification-of-economic-activities-sic)) code(s): | | | |
| Company number (business registration or social enterprise/community interest business number): | | | |
| Is the company’s balance sheet (total assets) less than 43 million euros (about £36m) OR the company’s turnover (all revenue) less than 50 million euros (about £42m) for the most recent accounting year? | | | |
| Yes ☐ | | No **☐** | |
| Do other firms own more than one quarter of your company?  *Please confirm whether firms with assets or turnover of more than 43 million euros (about £36m) own more than a quarter of the company’s issued share capital* | | | |
| Yes ☐ | | No **☐** | |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Other grants or state aids in the last three years | | | | |
| Has the company received any De Minimis aid in the last three calendar years?  *Please give details of aid the enterprise has received under the De Minimis Exemption and Small Amounts of Compatible Aid Scheme during the previous 3 fiscal years (this being the current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years).* | | | |
| Organisation providing the assistance/aid | **Value of assistance** | **Date of assistance** | **Nature of assistance** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Please tick box if no aid received under the De Minimum Exemption and Small Amounts of Compatible Aid Scheme during the previous 3 fiscal years  ☐ | | | |

**Section 3: £1,000 Idea Generation Grant Outline**

The Idea Generation Grant will be awarded to SMEs to work up an innovative idea that explores a new innovative product, process or service that addresses the aims of the Smartline project.

|  |
| --- |
| £1,000 Idea Generation Grant Outline (maximum 200 words) |
| *Please use this section to provide a brief outline of what project, expertise, facilities the £1,000 Idea Generation Grant is needed for, how the grant will benefit the business, how it addresses the aims of the project and expected timescale (est. start date / duration in weeks).* |

**Data protection**

I understand that this information will be treated in confidence, and give my consent for this information to be made available only to public bodies and independent auditors where requested, who may be required to review this data for funding compliance and output verification purposes.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is a Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement required? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |

**Declaration:**

I declare that the details given on this form are true to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that I am authorised to sign as a director and/or officer of the business and understand the requirements of De Minimis (EC Regulations 1998/2006).

I acknowledge that if we fail to meet the eligibility requirements, we may become liable to repay the full price that would otherwise be payable in respect of the services received.

I can confirm that we are not a business “in difficulty” as defined at 2.1 of the Community Guidelines and State Aid for Rescuing and Restructuring Firms in Difficulty (2004/C22/02) at the date of this declaration.

The information set out above is accurate for the purposes of the De Minimis exemption.

SIGNATURE: ..………………………………………………………………………………………..

DATE: ..………………………………………………………………………………………..

NAME: ..………………………………………………………………………………………..

POSITION: ……………..…………………………………………………………………………..

(Director or equivalent)

**What is State Aid and De Minimis?**

State Aid refers to forms of assistance from a public body, or publicly-funded body, given to organisations and businesses. Under the ‘De Minimis’ exemption businesses can receive up to €200,000 or equivalent of aid in a rolling 3 year period. Further information can be found here: [www.gov.uk/state-aid](http://www.gov.uk/state-aid)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| For office use only: | | | | |
| ERDF eligibility criteria satisfied: | Yes **☐** | | No **☐** |
| Has the business previously been awarded an Idea Generation Grant through this Programme? | Yes **☐** | | No **☐** |
| Do they have a specific project in mind that fits with the parameters of the grant under this programme? (See appendix one for eligibility criteria) | Yes **☐** | | No **☐** |
| Is the project expected to result in one or more new products, processes or services? Give rough estimates of expected Outputs, Impacts & Results below (e.g. new products, jobs, GVA): | | | |
| Proceed with Idea Generation Grant application? | Yes **☐** | | No **☐** |
| Signed Knowledge Exchange Officer: | | Date: | |
| PRINT NAME: | | | |
| Notes (e.g. next steps, outstanding queries, recommendations, referrals, etc.) | | | |

**Appendix One – Paramaters of £1,000 Idea Generation Grant**

**£1,000 Idea Generation Grant: What can it be used for / what is included under ‘idea generation’?**

**The £1,000 Idea Generation Grant**

Smartline has 35 grants to distribute and will be awarded to SMEs to work up innovative ideas that explore new innovative products, processes or services that address the aims of the project.

**What is meant by idea generation?**

Idea generation can take many different forms. It could mean finding more cost effective ways of doing things, adding additional dimensions to existing business products or services or accessing new markets. It could also provide information and expertise on new materials and products, improve business processes or offer research to find a solution to a specific business problem. An idea generation project should add value to the business, helping it to improve competitiveness and profitability.

Businesses will be able to use the Idea Generation Grant to get help with projects where they themselves do not have the technology, facilities or expertise they need to develop new innovative products, processes or services.

It may be possible for small companies to form cluster groups to the Idea Generation Grant for shared access to knowledge base services.

**Eligible** companies will be SMEs based in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly who have the willingness and potential to collaborate on developing innovative products, processes or services.

The Idea Generation Grant will support innovation activities in most sectors, but specific sectors generally ineligible under ERDF rules include:

* Fisheries and aquaculture sectors supported by EFF ;
* Primary production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, supported by EAFRD ;
* The synthetic fibres sector ;
* Coal, steel and shipbuilding sectors ;
* Genearlised (school age) education ;
* Banking and insurance companies ;
* Retail businesses (generally deemed to provide ‘local’ services and supporting them risks displacing other small retailers).

The aim of the programme is to deliver innovation by exploring new innovative products, processes and services under the 5 research themes, so areas of activity that do not meet this requirement will be excluded from support.