



Industry-led Proof of Feasibility Funding Call - 2020

The following document provides call guidance and key information on the Grow MedTech industry-led funding call for 2020.

Opportunities overview

One of the aims of Grow MedTech is to facilitate collaboration, connect capability and develop partnerships for industry, providing a brokerage role to strategically match companies to researchers for industry driven projects. Although these calls do not fund industry/commercial organisations directly they aim to stimulate and strengthen interaction and collaboration between our partner universities and industry.

Grow MedTech supports medical technology innovation in the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions. It focuses on technology convergence and the de-risking of medical technologies, by bringing together leading medical technology and translational expertise in the Leeds and Sheffield city regions. The programme aims to unlock the full potential of the region and make it a leading area for medical technology innovation and commercialisation in the UK.

Grow MedTech's Industry-led Proof of Feasibility call is a new package of support available for small and medium sized enterprises to develop innovative medical technologies by connecting with academic capability. We can help businesses to access the specialist expertise needed by teaming up with the relevant Grow MedTech researchers to de-risk and advance the development of new medical technologies in order to build confidence for further investment.

All projects must be based on:

- Collaboration (industry with academia)
- Co-investment (industry match*)
- Industry needs
- Global market opportunity
- Clear clinical drivers, patient benefits
- Expertise within a Grow MedTech University
- Developing a commercially viable product

*30% micro and small companies, 40% medium companies of the total project costs (in-kind and direct cash paid to the university partner)

Grow MedTech supports the development of medical devices including materials, and software, but does not support the development and discovery of pharmaceuticals.



Application guidance

Scope of funding

Funding is intended to support Proof of Feasibility projects in which the proof of market and clinical need has already been established and where connecting to Grow MedTech academic capability will allow the development of a new medical technology. Grow MedTech does not fund industry directly in this call.

Proof of Feasibility awards of up to £20,000 and of a duration of 6 months, are available through this call, which fit with the award scope.

Grow MedTech Proof of Feasibility funding can support:

- Investigating or demonstrating the feasibility of a technology concept
- Validating the initial concept
- Early prototype development and testing
- User-centred design and PPI activities
- Small projects that build on promising research outcomes. This would allow IP to be secured, pilot data obtained and/or de-risking of the project.
- The results should be used to apply for more substantial translational funding.

Eligibility

State aid

Any UK business applying for funding must be eligible to receive state aid at the time we confirm you will be awarded funding. If you are not sure please take legal advice.

Your Project

Your project must start by 31 July 2020 and end no later than 31 January 2021.

Project Leads

Each project should have an industry lead and an academic lead from one of the Grow MedTech partner universities.

Industry Lead

To lead a project you must:

- be a UK registered SME business that is a small or medium sized enterprise (SME) defined as:
 - Having fewer than 250 employees AND
 - A turnover of under £40m OR a balance sheet of under £35m
 - Not being part of a larger group of companies that takes it over this threshold
- carry out your R&D project activity in the UK and intend to commercially exploit the project results from or in the UK

Academic Lead

To lead a project you must:

- be an academic (from post-doctoral to professorial level) based at one of the six Grow MedTech partner universities - University of Bradford, University of Huddersfield, Leeds Beckett University, University of Leeds, Sheffield Hallam University and the University of York.
- If you are a postdoctoral researcher you will need the approval and signature of your academic supervisor.

Partners with no funding

Your project can include academic partners outside of the Grow MedTech consortium, non-UK business and clinicians that do not receive any of this competition's funding. Their costs will count towards the total eligible project costs and be classed as additional match to the project.

Multiple applications

UK registered businesses can only lead on one application in each competition round. All partners can collaborate on any number of applications.

Funding

We have allocated up to £160K to fund innovation projects in this competition and the maximum award value per project is £20K.

This competition provides state aid funding under article 28.4 'innovation advisory and support services for SMEs' of the General Block Exemption Regulation 651/2014 ("GBER"). It is the responsibility of the industry partner to make sure that they are eligible to receive state aid.

It is a requirement of our funding that the industry partner should provide match to the project, this can be cash or in-kind, if in-kind it should have an explicit value. The industry match should be 30% for small and micro enterprises and 40% for medium enterprise of the total eligible project costs.

Proof of Feasibility grants can only be used towards directly incurred costs of the Grow MedTech University partner up to a total value of £20K. Ineligible grant costs include directly allocated costs and indirect costs and are expected to be covered by the Grow MedTech University partner. This University match is part of the aid amount to the company.

This call does not directly fund industry/commercial organisations.

What can be funded?

Grants of up to £20,000 will be awarded for innovation support for companies to access academic capability in a Grow MedTech University to develop a new medical technology. Requested costs must be fully justified and appropriate for the project. **Grant funding can be requested for the following costs occurred within academia and research institutions within the Grow MedTech consortium:**

- Directly incurred staff in to undertake specific project activities to accelerate the commercial opportunity.
- Support for demonstration of 'proof of feasibility': validation of initial concept; feasibility of technical concept
- Support for early stage prototype development
- Patient and public involvement activities
- Travel expenses and consumables

What will not be funded?

- Indirect or directly allocated staff costs (i.e. tenured academic staff) will not be supported.
- Support for intellectual property protection, exploitation or freedom to operate reviews. It is envisaged that as the respective institutions and/or their partners will own the IP generated through this process, that they will provide the required IP support as part of the co-investment process.
- Development of new drug and pharmaceuticals is outside the scope of Grow MedTech and will not be supported.
- This call does not directly fund industry/commercial organisations.

We advise that you talk to a Grow MedTech Technology Innovation Manager about your proposed technology to ensure that it is in scope for support - for contact details please see: <https://growmed.tech/about/#>.

How to apply

Funding is via a single stage process. Application forms can be provided by and should be co-developed with a Grow MedTech Technology Innovation Manager – for contact details please see: <https://growmed.tech/about/#>.

It is expected that the application development phase will involve support and involvement of the industry, academic and clinical partner(s) with support from Grow MedTech Innovation Managers.

All applications should have a strong emphasis on patient benefit with plans for patient and public involvement and strong clinical engagement is encouraged.

Projects must be able to demonstrate:

- Fit with the funding scope outlined above.
- Clear achievable project outputs with a well-defined product concept that has defined commercial application.
- Clear demonstration of how technical uncertainty and risk will be identified, addressed and removed.
- The technology under development will have attained Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 by the end of the project funding.
- Clear benefit in harnessing the research and development strengths of the University Partner(s) and, where possible, partnership with NHS hospital trusts.
- Leadership by an academic with a good track record in the selected technology.
- Direct industrial contribution and company involvement.
- Clinical need and/or benefit.
- Patient and public involvement activities to date and future plans.
- Evidence that Grow MedTech support can add value, including an indication of how the involvement of Grow MedTech in the development of the project is expected to add value beyond the provision of funding.

Completed Proof of Feasibility application forms should be emailed to info@growmed.tech by the application deadline listed below.

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by the Grow MedTech Opportunity Management Panel, which will include independent advisors with expertise in translation, innovation and commercialisation of medical technologies and patient representatives.

The applications will be presented by the Grow MedTech Technology Innovation Manager supporting the project and assessed against the criteria listed above to select those that offer significant commercial potential and address technical uncertainty and risk that can be further developed through Proof of Feasibility award.

During these panel meetings recommendations to fund, decline or ask for further clarification will be made. Applicants will be informed of the decision and given the opportunity to clarify and further elaborate on the proposal if required.

Following approval a State Aid Declaration form will need to be completed and a Grow MedTech Technology Innovation Manager will work with successful applicants throughout the life of the project to ensure it delivers to time and on budget.