Grow MedTech

Evaluation of our innovation management process – invitation to quote

# Background

Grow MedTech is a major UK programme providing specialist support for innovation in medical technologies, involving a consortium of six universities across the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions. Our sector-specialist innovation support is helping to put these regions at the forefront of the UK’s medtech sector.

We act as partnership brokers, proactively connecting people from academia, industry and clinical practice to collaborate on developing new medical technologies. Our six, skilled and experienced technology innovation managers are based in our partner universities, but work collectively as a team, connecting with academics, companies and clinicians from across the regions. Our ambition is to involve patients at every stage of the journey.

We provide funding for technologies from initial concepts at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 2 and 3 through to proof of commercial concept at TRL 5. We also provide support for projects at TLR 5+. More importantly, academics and companies can access sector-specialist expertise and advice to help them progress their technologies, create effective partnerships and leverage additional funding from other sources. We help projects bring together different disciplines and technologies – including digital and AI – to enable our partners to access the strongest market opportunities.

Grow MedTech is a collaboration between the Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds Beckett, Sheffield Hallam and York, led by the University of Leeds and funded through the [Research England Connecting Capability Fund](https://re.ukri.org/knowledge-exchange/the-connecting-capability-fund-ccf/). Our track record in successful innovation support is well proven and our model and processes can be used as good practice in other sectors and regions.

**Vision**

Our vision is to make the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions the best place in the UK for medtech innovation.

**Aims**

* To work with companies to understand their technology development and innovation needs, and barriers to engaging with the knowledge base.
* To collaborate with clinicians, patients, and health and social care organisations to identify local and national challenges and priorities.
* To strategically match academics and companies, some of whom may not currently apply their know-how to medtech challenges, to create combination and convergent technologies that are ripe for commercial development.
* To work with academics and company partners to validate and de-risk new technologies to progress them towards market deployment and safe clinical practice.
* To provide a managed pool of proof of market, feasibility, and proof of commercial concept funding – leading to: validated and de-risked technology opportunities with established market need; technical prototypes that are positioned to secure proof of commercial concept funding; and product prototypes that have been de-risked to provide investor confidence.

Further information: <https://growmed.tech/>

# Purpose of the evaluation

Through this evaluation project, we aim to:

* evaluate the extent to which we have met our innovation management programme objectives
* explore the value of our approach to innovation
* inform our reporting back to funders and other stakeholders
* inform the evolution of current innovation management activities and the development of future programmes
* understand whether we have demonstrated good practice in areas of activity, identify which themes these are and, where appropriate, inform the development of good-practice guides to share with peers and complimentary programmes

# Brief – evaluation of our innovation management process

We require an evaluation consultancy to evaluate our programme as it comes to the end of the funding period:

* Has the programme met its objectives and original KPIs – particularly in respect to innovation management?
* Has it met the aims of the Connecting Capability Fund aims and objectives?
* Does the programme demonstrate areas of good practice in knowledge exchange (KE) – particularly in respect of our innovation management processes – in comparison to our previous work and other KE programmes of a similar nature? If so, what are these?
* What significant outcomes has our approach to innovation management resulted in?
* Has our process for innovation made a difference and overcome KE barriers?

We envision a mixed approach of secondary desk-based research including analysis of programme documentation and primary research collecting qualitative evidence to evaluate the programme as outlined above.

Interviewees/participants for qualitative evidence will be agreed at the project kick-off meeting but should involve key programme stakeholders, both internal and external to the programme. Examples of programme documentation we can provide is listed below - this is not an exhaustive list:

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* Innovation KPIs and objectives
* End of project reports
* Quantitative metrics of outcomes and outputs
* Guidance documentation for our funding awards
* Case studies, opinion pieces, glossy mid-term reports and other content outlining project and programme successes
* Logic model

Barriers and enablers from our impact strategy

Consultants must provide evidence of conducting similar work, preferably for evaluation in higher education. Experience of the medtech sector is advantageous but not essential.

# Timescale

Delivery by 30 June 2021

# Key deliverables

Interim report and meeting to review outcomes so far and provide a useful framework for planning subsequent good practice guides

Written final report addressing requirements outlined above, with recommendations of suggested elements to develop into good practice guides.

# Budget

The budget for this work is up to £20,000 (excluding VAT and including all expenses).

# Quotes

Prospective consultants should outline:

* experience and track record in conducting similar work
* named people who will be involved in the work, together with CVs where relevant
* the approach they would adopt to address the requirements described above, including approach to primary and secondary research
* Suggestions for additional activities that may support the delivery of the evaluation or good practice guides. These additional value adding activities should include associated costs
* a detailed breakdown of costs and timescales
* approach to data protection processes and compliance with GDPR

Deadline for responses: email R.H.Grant@leeds.ac.uk by 12pm, 31 March 2021

# Contact

If you have any questions or require further information, contact:

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