

NHS Innovations London Xpedite Fund Guidelines for Application

The NHS Innovations London Xpedite Innovation fund aims to support pre-commercialization activities for NHS technologies or inventions with good commercial potential. It provides the financial resources for inventors and researchers to demonstrate the commercial applications and viability of their technology in order to attract further investments from external sources by turning their research into viable business propositions. The Intellectual Property remains under the ownership of the NHS body from which it originated.

1. Defining and Measuring Outputs

The use of Xpedite Innovation funding should result in one or more of the following:

- Attracting other sources of investment (e.g. commercial R&D collaboration, seed funding)
- A business plan
- A licence deal
- A joint venture
- A spin-out
- A product prototype
- A patent filing
- Realisation of a lack of potential in an idea.

2. Eligibility Criteria

The Xpedite Innovation fund is open to all NHS researchers and staff members with no restriction on the field of technology or invention.

Qualifying Conditions

- The technology should have a clear commercial application that fulfills a particular healthcare and/or market need;
- The development should lead to commercial activities and not further research;
- The output of the development provides exploitable competitive advantage;
- The technology has the potential to create commercial ventures or be licensed to an established company;
- The timeline required for the Xpedite Innovation Fund should be less than 12 months.

Activities applicable for the funding include but are not limited to:

- Verifying early results;
- Full scale lab demonstration of the technology;
- Pre-production development/prototyping;
- Performing alpha testing and pre clinical trials;
- An assessment of market potential;
- An assessment of manufacturability;
- Match funding of development activities with commercial partners.

The Xpedite Innovation fund is not a research grant and cannot be used to fund basic research or replace grant funding or be used as 'bridging' monies between research contracts. Applications of such nature will not be considered.

College researchers or employees on an honorary contract are not eligible for the fund. The fund can also not be used to develop service improvements in a Trust.

3. Application Process

Your application will be co-coordinated by NHS Innovations London and the IP Lead from your Trust.

- Expressions of interest should be submitted to NHS Innovations London with a copy to the IP Lead by 30th April 2008.
- Expressions of interest will be assessed by NHS Innovations London during the technology screening stage.
- If your technology will be short-listed you will be invited to apply for the funding by submitting the Xpedite Innovation Fund application form (available from NHS Innovations London) to NHS Innovations London.
- All formal applications for the Xpedite Innovation fund will be submitted for approval to the Intellectual Property Management Committee (IPMC). You will be informed of the success of your application in June 2008.

Upon expression of interest you may be assigned a mentor to assist in the application after the technology screening by NHS Innovations London to meet the objectives of the Xpedite Innovation fund. You will also be assigned a NHS Innovations London Project Manager to assist in planning including the setting of milestones and to carry out progress reviews over the course of the project. Continued funding will be dependent on adequate reporting and meeting of milestones to the satisfaction of the Project Manager.

While funds are available the application process will be continued on a regular basis with the following deadlines in 2008:

- 30th April
- 31st July
- 30th September

4. Funding and Awards

The Fund provides up to the following:

- For Pharmaceutical applications: £100,000
- For Medical Device and Diagnostic applications: up to £50,000 with the possibility of a second application of up to £50,000 if the outcomes of stage 1 are successful.
- Other applications: Maximum of £50,000

The funding will be provided retrospectively on a quarterly basis against evidenced expenditure.

The costs eligible to be claimed under this fund are but not limited to:

- Manpower;
- Sub-contracting services required for the development;
- Prototyping;
- Consumables
- Relevant training
- Purchase of special equipment

The given fund does not cover any overhead cost. Only eligible expenses incurred after successful Xpedite Innovation fund application is covered by the fund. All purchases and expenditure must be properly documented for audit.

5. Deliverables

Upon completion of the development, you will be required to produce a short report to NHS Innovations London covering: -

- The results and outcome of the development with respect to the objectives;
- Brief summary of expenditure;
- Disclosures necessary to secure IP (it may be necessary for this to be undertaken during the course of the project).

For more information please contact NHS Innovations London on 0207 380 1700 or email poc@nhsinnovationslondon.com