

GM PA1 Science Asset Base call 2 – PA1a and PA1b - £7million

Within Greater Manchester (GM) a market gap has been identified in provision of the science assets base which is required to strengthen investment in the seven core specialisms that have been identified in Greater Manchester's R&D knowledge-base: advanced materials (including graphene), health innovation, energy (including nuclear), biotechnology, high performance computing, the built environment and acoustic/interactive technologies. We would particularly welcome bids that focus on **Advanced Materials** (including graphene) and **Health Innovation** (including e-health, stratified medicine and cancer research) as these have been identified as key areas of local strength for which there is global demand.

This call for projects is primarily for **capital** projects (revenue support can also be included) which will aid GM in developing technologies in the priorities identified above; there will be a later call for revenue projects looking at the commercialisation of these technologies. Under this call projects must relate specifically to the ERDF Specific Objectives of:

- increase investment in research and innovation infrastructure that catalyses collaboration with the research community especially in sectors identified through smart specialisation
- promoting business investment in R&I; developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the Higher Education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation; -and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advance manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies.

Applications are invited for **capital** projects (although this call is primarily for capital projects, revenue support is also eligible and funding will be available from Investment Priorities 1a and 1b) GM is particularly seeking projects which will assist us in achieving the challenging IP1b output targets we have been set around the number of enterprises receiving support; number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions; number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products; number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products.

Preference will be given to projects which are able to make a significant contribution to these targets and which will help to ensure that GM continues to develop its influence in these and related areas, and in particular which address these five priority areas:

- Increasing entrepreneurship and business growth
- Improve the productivity of existing science base
- Expand and accelerate the commercialisation of research
- Improve the profile of GM science
- Improve Greater Manchester's Science and Technology skills base*

*ERDF cannot support skills delivery but projects using ERDF will be expected to demonstrate how they will help link to ESF funded provision of skills support. This is in line with the recommendations of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology¹ *“that the training and other costs, as well as the value of the skilled workforce*

¹ Select Committee on Science and Technology, 2nd Report of Session 2013–14 on Scientific

needed to operate scientific infrastructure, are fully taken into account... To maximise the return on investment, ways to facilitate viable career paths must be found”.

Applications should be led by or have close links to local Higher Education Institutions and have strong private sector partner involvement and investment. This supports the GM ESIF aim of “Supporting Manchester’s companies to innovate and exploit the commercialisation opportunities of our areas of strength is crucial to fully leveraging our science and technology assets. This includes driving closer linkages between HEIs, the NHS and the commercial sector.”

Supporting Manchester’s companies to innovate and exploit the commercialisation opportunities of our areas of strength is crucial to fully leveraging our science and technology assets. This includes driving closer linkages between HEIs, the NHS and the commercial sector. Activities will therefore include measures relating to open and collaborative innovation, creation of new centres of excellence linking academic expertise to industry, encouraging entrepreneurship and addressing market failure in funding early stage proof of principle development of emerging technologies and discoveries.

We will make more than one award, subject to the level of demand and availability of resources.

These services should complement, and provide cross referrals, to other business support initiatives including those supported through European Regional Development Fund investment in the Greater Manchester area, and Growth Hub services in Greater Manchester.

Projects must also demonstrate how they will refer businesses to both private and public business support provision. In addition all proposals must show how they will be able to work across all sectors and link into other programmes that support the key sectors identified in GMS. Bidders must also clearly demonstrate how they will work with existing and future growth nodes e.g. science parks, clusters of growth businesses and major developing locations.

Specific Local Context:

Although this call is primarily for capital projects, revenue support is also eligible and funding will be available from Investment Priorities 1a and 1b.

GM is particularly seeking projects which will assist us in achieving the challenging IP1b output targets we have been set around:

- Number of enterprises receiving support (2000)
- Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions (1160)
- Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products (170)
- Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products (350)

Preference will be given to projects which are able to make a significant contribution to these targets.