

THE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME:  
NOVEMBER 2004 COMPETITION FOR FUNDING

## Micro & Nanotechnology Manufacturing Initiative

### Summary

The Government is fully aware of the large potential market in the emerging areas of micro and nanotechnologies and has allocated £90m to help build up the UK's capabilities.

In recognition of this, an indicative £15m of DTI funding has been allocated in this competition to support Collaborative R&D projects that address the following broad areas:

- Healthcare
- Energy

### Background

In July 2003, Science and Innovation Minister Lord Sainsbury announced a cash injection of £90m over a six year period to help industry harness the commercial opportunities offered by Nanotechnology.

Under this initiative, the DTI has allocated £50m for a Collaborative Applied Research programme to support R&D projects. The previous competition for funding in this area closed in July this year and 25 projects have been selected to receive the first £15 million of DTI support.

UK-based firms and organisations may now submit Proposals for funding through one of our business support products: **Collaborative R&D**.

The main objective of this product is to improve the UK's innovation performance. This will be achieved by increasing the breadth and depth of collaborative research and development between the UK science, engineering and technology (SET) base and UK-based firms.



## Scope for Applications

The first competition for funding was open to all applications of micro and nanotechnologies. The scope of this competition is focused on applications in:

- Healthcare  
E.g. drug delivery, bio-compatible materials for implants and medical devices, anti-bacterial wound dressings and catheters, micro-arrays for bio-assays and drug screening, sensors for monitoring, new non-invasive scanning techniques etc.
- Energy  
E.g. novel materials for photo-voltaics and fuel cells, new batteries, hydrogen storage materials, sensors, coatings for gas and steam turbine blades, new catalysts etc.

Proposals must be collaborative and include at least two UK companies. Details on eligibility of organisations may be obtained from [www.dti.gov.uk/nanotechnology](http://www.dti.gov.uk/nanotechnology)

If your project has an energy application please highlight this in the 'Project Abstract' section of your application form. Note that there are opportunities to apply for funding for photo-voltaics and fuel cells in the Energy Technologies area of this competition if your project does not put a significant emphasis on micro or nanotechnology.

## Project Details

As part of the Micro and Nanotechnology Manufacturing Initiative, proposals that address the above technology application areas are invited in the following categories under our Collaborative R&D product. These are:

- R&D projects involving two or more collaborators who are seeking to undertake **applied research**. By this, we mean: 'original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective'. This type of research may be categorised by the creation of a project to take forward the results of a basic research programme
- R&D projects involving two or more collaborators who are seeking to undertake **experimental development**. By this, we mean: 'systematic work, drawing on existing knowledge gained from research and practical experience, that is directed to producing new materials, products and devices; or to installing new processes, systems and services; or to improving substantially those already produced or installed'

Both of these types of projects may involve consortia in which the collaborators are drawn from both industry and the science, engineering and technology (SET) base or alternatively consortia in which all of the collaborators are drawn from industry alone. Both types of collaboration must include at least two UK companies. Note that DTI are not seeking basic research project proposals in this technology area.

In particular we would encourage projects that can demonstrate benefits to a number of business sectors, and ideally should include at least one partner with defined end-user needs.

Typically a project would have 2-4 year duration and require DTI support of up to £1m, although larger projects able to demonstrate substantial economic benefits will be considered. Projects will generally aim to implement significant business change in a 5-7 year time frame, rather than offer immediate payback.

### Other Funding Opportunities

There are no direct opportunities for co-funding nanotechnology projects through the Technology Programme, however, applicants may independently seek to bring in other sources of public funding to proposals where appropriate, for example, from Research Councils, Regional Development Agencies, Devolved Administrations or other government departments. Note that total public funding for each project cannot exceed the limits indicated in the Guidance for Applicants.

### Contact

If you have any queries about this technology area, please contact Steve Flynn at the DTI.

**steve.flynn@dti.gsi.gov.uk**  
**020 7215 2980**

For general enquiries on the application process please e-mail **info@mnt.org.uk**

Deadline for registering your  
intention to submit an application:  
31st January 2005

Outline application submission  
deadline: 7th February 2005

For details on how to register  
and apply go to  
**[www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme](http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme)**

