

STFC Innovations Partnership Scheme

State Aid Reference no: N 473/2005

1. Member State

United Kingdom

2. Region

None

3. Title of aid Scheme

Innovations Partnership scheme (IPS) formerly PPARC Industry Programme Support Scheme (PIPSS)

4. UK Legal Basis

The measure is based on the Science and Technology Act 1965¹ ² which establishes the Research Councils and describes further powers of the Secretary of State and Minister of Technology.

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) is one of the seven Research Councils of the UK. It is an independent organisation formed by Royal Charter in April 2007 by amalgamation of the existing research councils PPARC and CCLRC. It is a non-departmental public body of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS). As such, the majority of funding is public money from DBIS.

The objects for which the Council is established and incorporated are:-

- To promote and support high-quality scientific and engineering research by developing and providing, by any means, facilities and technical expertise in support of basic, strategic and applied research programmes funded by persons established in Our United Kingdom and elsewhere.
- To promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related post-graduate training in astronomy, particle physics, space science and nuclear physics and research in any other field which makes use of scientific facilities where access is provided, arranged or otherwise made available by the Council, having regard to the objects of the other research councils.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1965/4/enacted>

² http://www.opsi.gov.uk/RevisedStatutes/Acts/ukpga/1965/cukpga_19650004_en_1

- To promote and support the advancement of knowledge and technology (including the promotion and support of the exploitation of research outcomes) and to provide trained scientists and engineers, and thereby to contribute to the economic competitiveness of Our United Kingdom and the quality of life of its people, meeting the needs of users and beneficiaries.

5. EC Legal basis

All aid provided under this Scheme will be within the limits set out in Articles 30,31,32 of Commission Regulation (EC) 800/2008 (General Block Exemption Regulation)³

Summary information relating to the Scheme has been registered with the Commission under reference N473/2005

6. Definitions

In this Scheme, the following expressions have the meanings assigned below:

“**SME**” means an enterprise that falls within the criteria and parameters of the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises contained in the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (2003/361/EC), which took effect on 1 January 2005.⁴

7. Objective of the scheme

The aim of the STFC Innovations Partnership Scheme is to support the flow of technology from the STFC funded research of UK universities and laboratories; CERN and ESO; to industry or to academics from other disciplines towards commercialization.

The primary objective of the measure is to transfer knowledge and “knowhow” that will increase the ability of firms utilise the technologies resulting from fundamental research supported by STFC funding.

8. Government body authorised to implement the scheme

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

9. Scope of the Scheme

Applications for IPS funding may be made by:

Organisations that are eligible for STFC Grants - i.e. Higher Education Institutes, recognised academic analogues such as institutes funded by other research councils, and other organisations eligible to apply for STFC funding, including CERN and ESO.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/reform/gber_final_en.pdf

⁴ See annex I. See also the New SME Definition User Guide and Model Declaration http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/sme_user_guide.pdf

Industrial organisations, including research or training organisations and not-for-profit operations. These must

- Apply in collaboration with an academic partner
- Demonstrate that they possess the relevant technical capabilities and capacity to meet the scheme's objectives.

All applications must show that:

- The work proposed will develop technologies and expertise directly from STFC funded projects.
- The resulting work will be aimed towards commercialization and applicants should be able to demonstrate the result of the project will have long term impact to the UK.

10. Duration of the Scheme

Aid under this scheme may be granted until March 31st 2011.

11. Form of Aid

All aid awarded under the Scheme will be transparent and in line with criteria set out in Articles 30,31,32 of the General Block Exemption Regulation. Aid will be awarded by way of grants.

12. Eligible activities to be supported under the scheme

Eligible activities under the scheme are

- Costs of personnel employed in the research activity
- Costs of durable assets (equipment and instruments)
- Costs for consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity
- Additional overheads incurred directly as a result of the research activity

13. Incentive effect

Aid recipients must demonstrate that the aid is required for projects to proceed.

14. Cumulation

In determining whether the individual notification thresholds and the maximum aid intensities are respected, the total amount of public support for the activity or project shall be taken into account, regardless of whether that support is financed from local, regional, national or Community sources.

Aid provided under this Scheme will not be cumulated with other forms of aid nor with aid classed as de minimis aid in regard to the same eligible costs if the result would breach the aid intensities set out above.

15. Budget for aid under the Scheme

The budget over the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2011 will be £7,500 000.

16. Monitoring and Reporting requirements

All recipients of aid under the Scheme will be informed that aid has been provided under the Scheme, registered under N473/2005 pursuant to Articles 30,31,32 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 (General Block Exemption Regulation).

Records will be kept for 10 years from the date of the last award of aid under the Scheme. Records will be sufficiently detailed to establish that the conditions of the Scheme are met, to include confirmation of SME status and eligibility of supported costs. An annual report on the expenditure under this Scheme will be provided to the Commission.

Contact information:
Innovations Directorate
Science and Technology Facilities Council
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1SZ