

Factsheet: Call for Proposals

Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking

The First Call for Proposals

The first call for proposals launched by the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking (IMI JU) will be published on 30 April 2008. This call for proposals will provide support to research activities which aim to reduce bottlenecks in the drug development process.

The selection procedure will take place in two phases with independent peer review of all proposals after each stage. The selection process for the first research projects to be funded will start before the end of 2008.

Research Pillars

The first call for proposal will cover three of the four main pillars of the IMI's Research Agenda:

1. Improving the Predictivity of **Safety** Evaluation: This addresses problems and bottlenecks related to safety evaluation and benefit-risk analysis. Research in this area will be key to enhancing safety prediction and development of better and more widely applicable models of toxicity.
2. Improving the Predictivity of **Efficacy** Evaluation: This addresses the bottlenecks related to better understanding of disease mechanisms, predictive pharmacology, the identification and validation of biomarkers, patient recruitment and benefit-risk assessment.
3. Closing the gap in **Education and Training**: This addresses bottlenecks related to gaps in the expertise in biomedical R&D knowledge, skills and capabilities. The training pillar will also ensure that Europe's biomedical educational landscape is enhanced to provide maximum support to revolutionise the conventional drug discovery and development paradigm.

The following Pillar will be covered in future calls:

4. Closing the gap in **Knowledge Management**: This addresses bottlenecks related to shortcomings in information technology, e.g. by providing platforms to analyse large amounts of information in an integrated and predictive way. This area will be key to maximising the potential from the knowledge gained through new platform technologies such as genomics, and in analysing and interpreting data generated by IMI in a consistently integrated manner

Financial Allocations

The first call shall be jointly funded through:

- a financial contribution from the European Community to the IMI JU of around EUR 123million and
- non-monetary contributions (contributions in kind) by the research based companies that are members of European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations with resources (such as personnel, equipment, consumables, etc.) at least equal to the financial contribution of the Community.

Selection Process

The first stage of the call process will be an invitation to “Applicant Consortia” to submit an application to the IMI JU expressing interest in one of the call topics. These “Applicant Consortia” may consist of academia, SMEs and patient organisations. A peer review committee will evaluate each of the expressions of interest primarily focusing on scientific excellence.

Following the first peer review, the best proposals from “Applicant Consortia” will be invited to join EFPIA industry members to form a “Project Consortium” which shall jointly develop the full project proposal including a complete project plan with cost estimates.

These full project proposals shall also be sent to the IMI JU for evaluation by the second peer review committees.

Only project proposals that have been favourably reviewed at both stages of the process can be selected for funding. Following the evaluation process successful proposals will be invited to conclude a Grant Agreement governing the relationship between the selected “Project Consortium” and the IMI JU. A Project Agreement shall be concluded between all the members of the consortium governing their relationship. This will also outline the intellectual property rights based on the IMI JU intellectual property rights policy.

	<p>IMI Research Agenda</p> <p>Scientific Priorities</p> <p>Call (Including Call Topics)</p>	<p>Call Definition Including definition of EFPIA member companies consortia for each call topic</p>
~ 5 months	<p>Expression of Interest</p> <p>1st Peer Review</p> <p>Invitation to Submit Full Proposal</p>	<p>Stage 1: Scientific Excellence Expression of Interest submitted by Applicant Consortia (e.g. academia, SMEs, patient organisations)</p>
~ 3 months	<p>Full Project Proposal</p> <p>2nd Peer Review</p>	<p>Stage 2: Feasibility and scientific excellence (draft project agreement) Written by Project Consortia (Applicant Consortium of stage 1 plus EFPIA consortium)</p>