Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

RCSI
UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES

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TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

embark fund.

FUNDING FOR EARLY-STAGE COMMERCIALISATION PROJECTS

A joint initiative offered by **Trinity College Dublin**, **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland** and **Technological University Dublin**

- Support for validating and enhancing early-stage ideas that may develop into a spin-out company
- Equipping projects to win Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Feasibility Funding and Later-stage Commercialisation Funding

- Available to researchers in Trinity College Dublin, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Technological University Dublin
- Up to €15k available for eligible projects

- Proposals to be submitted to respective Technology Transfer Offices by **COB, Tuesday, March 24th 2020**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ENTERPRISE IRELAND
where innovation means business

KTI
Knowledge Transfer Ireland
Where Research & Business Connect

The Embark Fund is supported by Enterprise Ireland and Knowledge Transfer Ireland under the TTSI-3 Technology Pipeline Fund

embark fund.

CONTEXT

The fundamental objective of the fund is to support the development of early-stage commercialisation projects that may advance to form new spin-out companies.

AIMS:

- Aid early-stage assessment of opportunities: specifically to generate enough preliminary data in order to establish the viability of an approach before seeking more substantial funding.
- Position projects for follow-on funding through, (for example), the Enterprise Ireland Commercial Feasibility Fund or Commercialisation Fund, or other sources of proof-of-concept funding.
- Encourage more researchers to engage in commercialisation and spin-out creation.

The Embark fund is supported by Knowledge Transfer Ireland under the TTSI-3 Technology Pipeline Fund. Funding is administered by Enterprise Ireland in accordance with Enterprise Ireland's standard terms and conditions.

FUND DETAILS

The scheme will provide funding support up to a maximum of 4 months and and the project must be completed by the end of 2020. The maximum amount that can be awarded is €15K per project.

The budget may be used to pay for the direct costs of further developing the scope of an invention, costs of undertaking proof-of-concept study, additional experimentation aimed at strengthening intellectual property by providing critically important validation data, or external research associated with developing the business proposition.

If the project spend is higher than budgeted amount, the Fund will not contribute towards the additional costs. If, on the completion of a project, it is found that the project is under budget, these allocated funds will be returned to the Fund for reallocation.

Please see page 4 for more details on eligible costs.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Applicants must be eligible to apply for research grant funding under their respective institutional rules.**
- **Applicants must be able to demonstrate ability to undertake commercialisation projects.**
- **The idea must be available to commercialise i.e. not committed to a third party.**

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SUBMISSION DETAILS

Applications should be submitted no later than COB, Tuesday March 24th to the applicant's Technology Transfer Office

Please submit to

Trinity College Dublin:

Please submit at **ocpke@tcd.ie**

For queries please contact **ocpke@tcd.ie**

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland:

Please submit at **innovation@rcsi.ie**

For queries please contact **innovation@rcsi.ie**

Technological University Dublin:

Please submit at **hothouse@tudublin.ie**

For queries please contact **hothouse@tudublin.ie**

Applications should be completed in full and accompanied with up-to-date CVs for both lead and co-applicants. *Please see template provided.*

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be assessed according to a set of criteria, which broadly encompass:

1. **Suitability of the project for the Embark Fund**
2. **Commercial Potential**
3. **Realism of project plan**
4. **Project Deliverables**

Applications will be processed in Three stages, described below:

STAGE 1

The TTO will carry out an initial review of the application to determine its eligibility and suitability for the Fund.

STAGE 2

Selected applications will be forwarded to a panel of peer reviewers, including internal and external reviewers, who will recommend whether funding is to be awarded.

STAGE 3

Successful applications from Stage 2 will be approved by Knowledge Transfer Ireland.

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ELIGIBLE COSTS

✔ Direct costs of further developing the scope of an invention

✔ Costs of undertaking experimental Proof-of-Concept study

✔ Costs for experimentation aimed at strengthening Intellectual Property (IP) and data validation

✔ External research costs associated with developing the business proposition (excluding market research)

✔ Development costs up to and including work related to Technology Readiness Level 3 (TRL 3)

Examples (can only be charged for the duration of the project): research consumables, facility access charges, summer studentships, research assistance, consultancy costs not related to ineligible costs.

INELIGIBLE COSTS

✘ Overheads

✘ Market Analysis and validation

✘ Competitor Landscaping

✘ Patent Landscaping

✘ Regulatory advice

✘ Prototyping

✘ Legal Fees, including patent and IP protection costs

✘ Marketing/Sales costs

✘ Conference, trade shows and travel

✘ Research costs incurred prior to the commencement date

✘ Capital Equipment

✘ Training / Mentoring

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants will submit reports upon completion of the project and be available for follow up with their respective TTO offices.

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