

# Innovate UK

**Results of Competition: Smart Round 3 2015-16 - Proof of Concept**  
**Competition Code: 1507\_SmartRnd3\_PoC**

**Total available funding for this competition was £7.5M from Innovate UK**

**Note: These proposals have succeeded in the assessment stage of this competition. All are subject to grant offer and conditions being met.**

Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Quiver Software Ltd	Artificial Intelligence for Email Security	£167,248	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>For most organisations email is the main artery of communication and a channel across which highly sensitive information is communicated and shared. Email is a highly vulnerable facet of an enterprise's overall information infrastructure given the frequency and ease by which workers send emails every day and entire cyber security initiatives can be rendered redundant by a simple misaddressing error. Founded by a team of Imperial College trained engineers, ex-Investment Bankers and current finalists of the 3D Fintech Challenge 2015, CheckRecipient is an email security platform used by world-leading organisations to prevent confidential information being sent to the wrong person. Currently, there are two modules, CheckRecipient RuleBuilder, which allows organisations to design and implement customised, rule-based email communication policies and CheckRecipient AI, which performs a historical analysis of a sender's email account to learn sending patterns and predict when an incorrect recipient may have been copied in on an email by mistake. Having developed and sold both of these products to a set of early customers, we are now looking to substantially transform CheckRecipient AI by incorporating natural language processing and machine learning technologies applied to the textual content present in email data to improve both the accuracy of predicting misaddressing errors and also develop the functionality of the product to protect against other email security risks. There is a strong market demand for an email security platform that is both able to work autonomously and with minimal disruption to the end user. Currently there exist a number of platforms on the market that look for predefined, specific text patterns (such as presence of social security numbers), but there are no products currently available that are analysing complex and unstructured textual content in emails to infer meaning and determine sensitivity and appropriateness for a set of recipients.</p>			

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Plaquetec Ltd	Proof of concept study on a novel manufacturing process and design features for a coronary artery liquid biopsy system	£166,954	£100,000

### **Project description - provided by applicants**

Proof of Concept application for R&D on the design and manufacture of a novel, intra-arterial catheter used to sample biomarkers associated with coronary artery disease (CAD). Initial clinical studies with the device have uniquely shown that high concentrations of biomarkers exist at sites of CAD. These biomarkers allow biological processes underlying the progression of CAD to be better understood. PlaqueTec's business model is to sell access to its coronary biomarker IP & to provide bespoke studies to Pharmaceutical companies as a tool to a) discover new drug targets and b) greatly de-risk the development of both novel and in pipeline CVD drug therapies. The applicant has regulatory approval to market its catheter in Europe and currently manufactures the catheter using a short run batch release process. This is a largely manual process that results in high production costs & limited throughput and this restricts broader market uptake. The applicant seeks to simplify the production process using innovative design & manufacturing technologies but at this stage the concepts are unproven. The enclosed project seeks to provide the body of R&D needed to identify design/process improvements that can deliver significant improvements in cost and throughput without compromising compliance with medical device regulations. This project is a study on the most safety critical element of the catheter, the deployable mixing structures (termed 'baffles'). It will explore latest innovations in biomaterials, plasma treatment, micromachining, joining & other manufacturing technologies to address three main challenges 1 ' Can design improvements deliver equivalent clinical performance to current baffles at lower cost/higher throughput; 2 ' Can technology and process improvements (e.g. semi automation) deliver the current baffle design more efficiently and 3' Can methods be developed to demonstrate equivalence in baffle performance (post changes) without requiring clinical trials.

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mOm Incubators Ltd	A novel low-cost and compact solution for neonatal care by mOm Incubators	£225,350	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 1 million children die needlessly every year due to the complications of premature birth. 75% of these deaths can be prevented overnight with simple treatments such as incubation. Current incubators are incredibly large, needlessly complicated and expensive. mOm was designed to overcome these issues and therefore increase access to incubation services for premature babies world wide. mOm is a low-cost, robust, easy to use compact and energy efficient inflatable infant incubator. Whilst mOm was inspired as a solution for refugee camps, it also has applications in the developing world, in disaster relief zones, during hospital evacuation procedures, in transportation and for use as a precautionary device in geographically disparate areas. We plan to prove the feasibility and safety of the mOm concept in a clinical evaluation that will be carried out in the environment that it is designed for. This will enable us to learn more about how it will be used and whether or not it meets the requirements of an infant incubator so that we can make necessary changes to reach design freeze, achieve regulatory approval and turn mOm into a commercially available product. mOm aims to be a recognised British medtech company that develops and exports novel solutions to solve big problems around the world.</p>			

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DigitalMR Ltd	Automatic Theme Detection from Social Media Images using Deep Learning (DEEPTHEME)	£165,188	£99,111
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>DigitalMR proposes to investigate methods of determining themes in collections of images that accompany social media posts. The methodology is inspired by recent advances in deep learning that have benefited from the availability of large training data sets along with increased computation power through heterogeneous computing. The concept operates unsupervised and leverages the 'deep learning framework' to determine themes and establish their relevance to brands or organisations using hierarchical structures. The concept also assigns labels to identified themes (topics) and determines ways that describe the theme such that it can be applied to market research and insight management tasks, such as sentiment and semantic analysis. The target outcome of the project is to discover the potential and to reserve the capability of theme detection in image collection for commercial applications. This capability will ultimately enhance listening247, a social media listening and analytics system (text based) whose effectiveness has been proven by a range of private and public sector organisations. The core R&amp;D tasks include methods for learning imbalanced datasets, deep architecture selection, deep learning via dedicated classifiers and ensemble formulations. The project will make use of standard datasets for training and testing. The DigitalMR team will benefit from systematic input by a specialist UK academic team (subcontractor) as well as user feedback from corporate challenge partners.</p>			

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Northwick Park Institute for Medical Research	NuAIR stent: A respiratory stent inspired by nature, achieved through cutting edge architecture and engineering	£126,792	£76,075

## Project description - provided by applicants

Airway obstructions cause breathlessness and difficulty swallowing. They occur in up to 30% of lung cancer patients, where prognosis is often poor and palliative treatment the only option. Additionally, there were over 2,000 patients suffering from tracheomalacia (collapsed airway) and stenosis (abnormal narrowing of the airway) in the UK last year. The current gold standard treatment for airway obstruction is surgical resection. However, surgery is an invasive, time-consuming procedure and complications such as infection may arise during recovery. An alternative is to use Airway stents, hollow cylindrical prostheses that provide support. They can be deployed without surgery and provide significant relief from the discomfort associated with an obstructed airway, a marked increase in quality of life, and in many cases a prolonged lifespan. There are a number of Airway stents on the market, including silicone, metal and hybrid stents. Each of these has significant shortcomings. Silicone stents tend to migrate and require repositioning. Metal stents have a risk of airway perforation and are very difficult to remove or reposition. Hybrid stents are significantly more expensive than either silicone or metal stents. There is a growing, unmet need for the perfect Airway stent. We propose to create NuAIR, an Airway stent customised for patients that possesses all the characteristics of the perfect stent. It will be made using biocompatible collagen and a synthetic polymer to meet the physiological demands of the trachea. The design will be inspired by structural architecture found in nature. This will result in a stent that is strong yet flexible, using the minimal amount of material. NuAIR will be made by 3D-printing, a fast and cost-effective method. Most importantly, this will allow customisation of stents based on computerised-tomography (CT) scans of individual patients. This will reduce unwanted movement and increase comfort - key components of the ideal stent.

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MIATech Biosolutions Ltd	Detection of Hepatitis E virus in slaughterhouse pork.	£138,609	£83,165
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>International trading of food from animal sources is very intensive. Regulations decree that the production of animal products is free from zoonoses that can affect humans. Hepatitis E virus (HEV) can cause liver disease in humans and the chain of transmission from pork meat to humans has been well established. The WHO report that worldwide every year there are an estimated 20 million HEV infections, over 3 million acute cases of HEV and 57,000 HEV related deaths. HEV is usually self-limiting but may develop into fulminant hepatitis, causing acute liver failure. HEV is transmitted via the faecal-oral route. Prevalence is highest in East and South Asia, where mortality is between 1% and 4% and in pregnant women can reach 25%. There is no treatment for acute hepatitis; prevention is the most effective approach against the disease, hence the need for a cost effective detection system at the slaughterhouse to avoid zoonotic infection via the food chain. Building on and developing MIATech's previous work in food contamination, this project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of a magnetometer lateral flow (MLF) assay for the rapid detection and confirmation of HEV in pig meat at the slaughterhouse. This will offer the advantage of immediate, on the spot results, avoiding inventory awaiting positive release and significantly reducing the risk of costly product recalls. The new magnetometer immuno-assay (MIA) system is based on a unique combination of immuno-magnetic capture of paramagnetic particles (beads) with highly sensitive magnetometer instrumentation to detect and quantify HEV. The project will also investigate the potential for a loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP)-based HEV confirmatory assay, which will immediately be able to confirm suspect positive samples at the slaughterhouse and avoid the potential for costly false positive results.</p>			

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xim Ltd	XIM: Ximvision - non-contact preventative health monitoring for older people	£165,398	£99,238
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Conventional methods of monitoring older people's health either rely on labour-intensive manual checks or alarm systems which are often too late to receive healthcare intervention that could save a life. For older users in particular, wearable devices can be complex, inconvenient and uncomfortable, and for those with dementia can easily be forgotten. By combining state of the art computer vision techniques with data analytics xim is aiming to create a prototype technology that will predict a heart attack up to 24 hours before it occurs without the need for wearable devices or expensive specialist equipment. In this project, Xim will create a basic prototype and in conjunction with University Hospital Southampton, perform pre-clinical tests to validate this technology. This technology has significant potential to solve a global problem of providing early preventative alerts for older patients at low cost. The technology also has high potential for transferability in sectors such as security and general wellbeing.			

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<b>The Hiring Hub Ltd</b>	"iCReS" - Integrated Cloud Recruitment System	£162,667	£97,600
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Large companies use enterprise recruitment software to manage their recruitment suppliers and processes. However, this software is too expensive and complex to serve SMEs and there is no true equivalent software on the market to meet the needs of the 102,340 SME companies with between 20-499 employees in the UK. As a result, the SME community uses ad hoc and inefficient methodology to manage recruitment. The Hiring Hub Limited is a UK tech company that has built a successful innovative online recruitment marketplace connecting UK SMEs to over 1000 specialist recruitment agencies. The objective of this Proof of Concept project is to develop an advanced software suite that will provide intuitive tools to support these SMEs in managing the complete end-to-end recruitment process. HH will develop the Integrated Cloud Recruitment System (iCReS), a novel candidatesourcing and recruitment data management engine for desktop and mobile devices, creating a bespoke algorithm to interpret volume data from a variety of sources and stack candidate applications in order of relevance. iCReS will enable SME companies to: source suppliers, store and manage applicants; rank candidates; collaborate with colleagues; integrate with social media feeds; design automated workflows; integrate SME software/tools like Outlook, Gmail, iCloud; measure everything; and mine, use, and exploit 'big data'. Better recruitment decisions equate to a reduction in costs, increase in productivity and staff morale, lower staff turnover and an overall impact on company performance, with a corresponding impact on the economy. Poor decisions lead to absenteeism and stress that have an impact outside of the workplace, on the individual employee, their families and their social circle. Poor hiring also contributes to work related stress associated with a range of health issues estimated to cost British society £1.3bn each year.</p>			

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eCow Developments Ltd	Milkalyser	£149,992	£89,995
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
This project will design and build a prototype to prove the concept of integrating biosensors into milking systems to detect dairy cow disease and fertility.			

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Emteq Ltd	ALERT- Adaptive Learning Eyeware & Remote Tracking	£166,808	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Fatigue causes reduced mental or physical performance. It can be caused by sleep loss, extended wakefulness, 'body clock' mismatch (jetlag) or excessive workload. It can lead to errors, sometimes with grave consequences. Workers operating in safety-critical environments, such as pilots and surgeons, have strictly enforced rules governing working hours. Surgeons should not work longer than 48 hours per week. However, there are examples where legislation to avoid fatigue does not exist. Private motorists and light vehicle drivers represent a far greater number of the total UK population and fatigue for these people too can have serious consequences. Analysis suggests that driver fatigue contributes to ~20% of road traffic collisions (RTCs) that result in death or serious injury (KSI). 50-70% of those affected are aged 15-35 years old and require expensive long-term care. Through KSIs, fatigue could cost the UK economy up to £1.4Bn per year. Current methods of measuring fatigue are either highly subjective, self-reports by drivers themselves, or using technology to measure bodily changes. This includes cameras that track drivers' blinking and head position. However, these methods are inaccurate in poor light and do not allow the use of sunglasses, limiting wider adoption. This project offers an alternative to these limited ways of measuring fatigue. ALERT is a fatigue monitoring device incorporated into one of the oldest examples of wearable technology, a pair of glasses. ALERT will measure additional indices of fatigue, including blink parameters as well as heart rate, facial muscle tone, head posture and temperature. ALERT will enable the first individualised, objective assessment of fatigue. This will allow us to attract partners for a second project to commercialise ALERT. These partners could be insurance firms or large fleet operators, who increasingly realise that they have a legal duty of care to protect staff and the public from fatigued drivers.</p>			

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pECM Systems Ltd	pECM Systems Ltd: Advanced PECM machine tool & Components	£193,738	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Electro Chemical Machining (ECM) has advantages over conventional manufacturing(milling/turning) i.e. less material waste, able to machine any conductive metal &amp; higherquality surface finish. pECM systems Ltd (PSL) believe ECM technology could be advanced.Current cathode development is lengthy &amp; high cost, machined to high surface finish frommaterials like copper/tungsten, requires much iteration till final production cathode geometryis achieved capable of producing finished components.There are few manufacturers of ECM equipment; machines are typically single axis (machineone side at a time) &amp; custom built to repeatedly manufacture identical components. ECMprocess requires 2-3mm additional material on roughed components, enabling removal ofdefects after ECM to achieve final geometry, wasting expensive material.Pulsed ECM (PECM) offers increased efficiency, improved energy use, better surfacefinishing allows components to be nearer net shape pre process, thus less wasteful ofexpensive material. This is critical for industries such as aerospace, where expensive alloysare used.The problem facing PECM/ECM is that machine tools are bespoke &amp; single axis. PSL believethat current art can be significantly advanced with the proposed project.</p>			

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Constellation Lighting Ltd	Safeled	£131,352	£78,811
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Whilst AC LEDs are common in homes and offices, heavy industry and specialist commercial organisations use DC LEDs. DC LEDs are heavy because of their drivers and these drivers are often prone to failure resulting in a reduced LED lifespan and/or increased maintenance scheduling and costs. This is often aggravated due to the height, remoteness or hazardous location of the lights. Since 2013, we have supplied high gantry lights for container cranes and hoists in ports and oil and gas platforms in the UK and USA. We carried out market research with the quarrying and below ground mineral extraction industries i.e mines and tunnelling and found that organisations already using DC LEDs expressed a need for lighter LEDs with greater reliability and less complexity for easier installation and maintenance; easier to move and manhandle in confined spaces with more focus on safety, particularly damage from debris and reduced risk of fire and explosion. Many of these industries use traditional metal halide and SON lights but are often resist LEDs because of their higher initial cost, even though their SONs and MH regularly fail because of vibration issues. Therefore, Constellation lighting is keen to prove the concept of a modular AC powered LED (no driver required) with an integrated hardwired PCB. This would significantly reduce the weight and complexity, and hence improve installation time and 'in service' life. A sealed explosion proof lens would enable the LED to be used in hazardous and confined spaces. We aim to produce a module weighing ~1.5Kg producing ~60W, that can be joined to other modules to create a range of 'bespoke' lighting solutions. We aim for a competitive manufacturing price, which would result in a very competitive sales price when compared to traditional and other LED lighting systems. The system would be called SafeLED.</p>			

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Spectromics Ltd	Rapid antimicrobial susceptibility diagnostic	£292,937	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>We are developing a 10 minute diagnostic test to help doctors effectively chose antibiotics totreat urinary tract infections (UTI). The test will be simple to carry out and low cost.Providing results for a range of antibiotics so that the most effective one is used, protectingour more important antibiotics, which are needed for more severe infections.Today, prescription of antibiotics for UTI is essentially guided by a doctor's'best guess' atwhich will be most likely to treat the infection. More importantly, there is limited testingcarried out to show that the UTI is caused by bacteria, so antibiotics may be given when theyare not needed, i.e. when the symptoms are not caused by bacterial infection.Our 10 minute point-of-prescription test will advise the doctor not only whether there is abacterial infection, but also which antibiotic/s from a panel of 8 will be effective against thebacterium causing the UTI. Such a test will allow us to use our precious antibiotics selectivelyand wisely, ensuring they are only given when it is known they will eradicate the bacterialinfection.If we do not develop these new tests and continue to use antibiotics on patients withoutbacterial infections, or on patients where the particular strain of bacteria has resistance to thefirst choice antibiotic, the prevalence of resistance will continue to increase.Our test will allow cost-effective treatment: it will guide the use of a single active drug, onlywhen the patient requires an antibiotic.There are many complex ways that bacteria can become resistant to antibiotics and bacteriaare always evolving new ways to quickly outsmart antibiotics. Our test being phenotypic willkeep up with bacterial mutation unlike genotypic tests.</p>			

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Naturioli Bangor Ltd	Proof of concept for a new insecticidal soap	£99,982	£59,982
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Insecticidal soaps, based on natural fatty acids, have been known for many years and are approved for use in controlling a wide range of insects. However, their application is severely limited by the fact that, if they are applied at a concentration above 2 %, they can cause extensive damage to the plant itself. In some markets, such as the US, this has meant that their use has been severely restricted, and often there is no alternative available, particularly for 'organic' crops. We have developed a novel modified insecticidal soap and shown that it is equally effective in controlling a range of insects, but that it causes no phytotoxicity at 4 - 6 % application levels. We have carried out a detailed market survey of potential applications, have been provided with support in patenting the invention, and identified potential partner companies keen to take the product to market. This award would allow us to take the initial small scale formulation work and field trials we have already done to provide a completed proof of concept that the product can be produced at a commercially acceptable cost, that it is a very effective insecticide (against a range of species such as mites, thrip, aphids and whitefly), that it shows low phytotoxicity (towards a number of sensitive plants such as vines, peach, nectarine, cucumber, ornamentals, peppers, aubergine) and that there is a clear route to market, with partner companies in place to provide security of supply, and distribution in markets in the UK, Europe, US and the developing world.</p>			

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<b>Irresistible Materials Ltd</b>	Metal containing resists for next generation photolithography	£166,746	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Irresistible Materials (IM) is developing next generation photo-resist materials for the semiconductor industry. A photo-resist is a material that undergoes a change in physical or chemical properties when exposed to radiation. Within the semiconductor industry, silicon substrates are coated by a photo-resist, the resist is then selectively exposed to radiation using an 'exposure tool' to create a pattern (photo-lithography). The resist is then treated such that either the exposed or unexposed areas are dissolved. The remaining resist patterns serve as a barrier that protects the underlying substrate, and once the substrate is processed, the resist layer is stripped leaving lines that function as the 'wires' within modern day micro-chips. Resists are thus critical to the semiconductor industry, and the ever-decreasing size of microelectronics is possible only through continuous advancements in lithography and resist technologies. The progression to decreased size is mapped out in the International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors (ITRS), revised annually by a worldwide panel of semiconductor experts, which sets out performance goals for the industry. Existing photolithography (where the radiation used is 193nm wavelength light) is reaching its limit (the wavelength is too large for the target feature sizes), and next-generation lithographies (NGL's) are needed. The leading NGL candidate is extreme ultraviolet lithography (EUV), where the wavelength of the radiation is reduced to 13.5nm enabling higher resolution patterns, and thus smaller micro-chip wires. However, there is presently no resist solution that meets industry targets for the planned EUV introduction in 2018, creating a major need within the semiconductor industry. IM has developed a patented EUV resist material that directly addresses this need, and which has the potential to continue to address industry targets through 2022 and beyond.</p>			

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The R & D Factory Ltd	An new approach to creating light-weight plastic parts with good surface finish using tap water to create structural foam mouldings - Streamould -	£165,877	£99,526

### **Project description - provided by applicants**

The global structural foam market is expected to reach \$31.9 Billion by 2020, with annualized growth of ~6% between 2015 & 2020. US & Asian markets dominate, while EU market share is ~23% of this (\$7.4bn by 2020). Demand & growth is driven by the automotive & construction sectors. The major materials used are polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyurethane. Structural foam moulded parts have a cellular foamed core with a relatively solid skin outer, produced by a form of injection moulding using a chemical blowing agent or gas such as nitrogen, butane or carbon dioxide. The process usually employs low pressure. Structural foam is significantly lighter than solid plastics, with high strength-to-weight ratio and lower cost tooling. The automotive sector is the main driver to structural foam growth as lifetime energy & CO2 savings drive the need for light weight components. So there is growing demand for thick & thin section foam mouldings with good surface finish. Problem ' Chemical blowing agents cause ozone depletion & will be phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Gases such as butane & pentane are an inherent fire risk, while N2 & CO2 are relatively expensive to use, require storage alongside the mould m/c. Structural foam parts suffer from relatively poor surface finish especially when low injection pressure is used. Part surfaces have a characteristic swirl pattern caused when the blowing agent becomes trapped between the mold surface & skin of the part. Our Big Idea - Streamoulding is an innovative new process to make structural foam moulded light-weight parts. It uniquely uses tap water to foam polymer. Our patented process produces a foam structure by controlled expansion of water to steam. Water is introduced into the melt during the injection phase of the moulding cycle through a specially designed retro-fit replacement mixing nozzle. Streamoulding offers up to 40% weight saving, 40%+ cycle time reduction & 30%+ energy savings.

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# Innovate UK

**Results of Competition: Smart Round 3 2015-16 - Proof of Concept**  
**Competition Code: 1507\_SmartRnd3\_PoC**

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<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
Avalon Behaviour Ventures Ltd	CAPTAIN	£163,684	£98,210
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
CAPTAIN is designed to create the first information technology product in the aviation industry that will achieve substantial fuel savings, CO2 reductions, and cost savings for airlines. It will improve fuel efficiency in aviation by directly influencing airline captains' decisions--a radically new way of promoting sustainability. In his latest research, project-lead SME Avalon Behaviour Ventures' co-founder Dr. Robert Metcalfe showed that personalised feedback to airline captains increased fuel efficiency by 10-20%, saving the airline being studied £5.5m and reducing approximately 1.2 million kg of CO2 emissions. This grant will fund the technological scaling of this research into a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) through the acquisition of new knowledge and skills. This research and development project specifically aims to provide proof of technical feasibility through the development and testing of a basic prototype that will: (i) integrate and analyse revealed fuel-use data; (ii) deliver personalised and actionable behavioural solutions to captains; (iii) build in scientifically robust experimentation methodology.			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
GeoLang Ltd	Protection of IP in Supply Chains Proof of Concept	£166,212	£99,727
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Manufacturers increasingly rely upon development in the supply chain; e.g., a typical automotive company has 60% of components manufactured in the supply chain. IP protection and tracking is essential for securely managing supply chains. A significant level of resistance, to sharing and enforcement of IP, is damaging supply chain partnerships and the manufacturing production processes that rely upon them; costs to industry estimated at millions (NFF Symposium, 2013). This project, spanning 12 months and costing £166,213, will build on the success of the Innovate UK funded IPCRESS project in the development of a proof of concept with basic prototyping of a novel solution for protecting intellectual property across enterprise boundaries and will support the creation of the Ascema for Supply Chains solution, based on a patented core technology to protect high value information and IP across enterprise boundaries. To support trusted sharing and enforcement of rights relating to information contained within digital content across enterprise and jurisdictional boundaries there must first be a solution to infringement detection and data tracking that assures the enterprise that their IP is secure ' Ascema offers a potentially disruptive solution. This project will develop a scalable hybrid and multi-tenanted proof of concept prototype of Ascema for Supply Chains verifying the technological, practical and economic viability of a novel Ascema for Supply Chains data loss prevention platform. A planned Stage 2 project will provide a pre-production prototype of a digital information fingerprinting and tracking mechanism across enterprise boundaries that will support the take up of this novel platform within supply chains - a platform that has won GeoLang the title of UK's Most Innovative Small Cyber Security Company 2015 and the predicted savings to UK PLC are estimated to be millions of pounds.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Metail Ltd	Metail - Project Mother - Advanced photography appliance to automate 3D garment photography	£247,385	£100,000

## Project description - provided by applicants

Metail is the leading provider of body shape and garment visualisation tech for onlineretailers. Our system, in use by major retailers in the UK, Brazil and India, allows onlineshoppers to generate images of their own body and dress the model to provide a visualisationof a garment/outfit - giving a virtual fitting room experience and addressing issues that hindermore online clothes shopping.The current system, whilst valuable to shoppers, and reducing returns and increasingconversion for retailers has limitations in two areas: (1) Need for increased garmentthroughput in photography stage to support largest retailers with lower capital costs and simpler operations, (2) High level of manually activities needed to produce a digital garmentbefore visualisation.To address these issues, Metail completed two previously funded projects. Through Vestis &Scrydan Metail has productionised 3 technologies: (1) Automatic separation of garmentimages from the photo background, (2) Automated creation of 3D models of a garment fromthe captured images, (3) Real-time 3D visualisation of the garment.These advances, reduce manual processes and improve realism, but require additionalphotography and thus reduce garment throughput.Project Mother will solve this by developing an automated photography/digitisationappliance, embedding Vestis & Scrydan. The integrated machine has four features: (1)embedded Vestis and Scrydan technology, (2) automated mannequin loading and queuing, (3)automated and standardised photography, (4) use of a single system by multiple users simultaneously to increase throughput.Project Mother will devise solutions to the hardware, photography and operational challenges,conduct component bench tests, develop an integrated prototype, and test in a commercialenvironment.This PoC provides a solution which will accelerate growth, including higher garmentcoverage and larger user base, and enable scope for working with the largest retailers.

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Dolphin Computer Access Ltd	accessibility-enabled Health (aHealth)	£176,455	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>The risk of many health conditions (e.g., diabetes, dementia, AMD) can be mitigated and the conditions managed in part by living a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, the incidence of health-related concerns amongst blind and visually impaired (VI) people is higher than that of the general population. Devices (e.g., generic wearables such as Fitbit and Jawbone, and more specific devices such as heart monitors) and associated apps for smartphones/tablets exist to collect and monitor health-related information in support of guided healthier lifestyles and monitored wellbeing. Such technologies are not sympathetic to the accessibility needs of blind/VI people, meaning that a core subset of the population which could significantly benefit from the use of these technologies is currently excluded from their effective use. The focus of the aHealth project is to develop an innovative technology that will act as an accessibility layer or service for existing health and wellbeing-related technologies such that they are made accessible to blind/VI people. The aHealth project will: 1) adopt innovative participatory methods to identify and respond to the requirements of people blind/VI and engage them directly in the design of (2); and 2) develop a unified accessibility service which enables the blind/VI community to access and thus benefit from existing and future health technologies. The use of participatory design will empower members of the target market to help direct health technologies that are of value to them, leading to greater long term technology acceptance. The accessibility service will enable blind/VI people to finally realise all the benefits afforded by health technologies with anticipated positive impact on their health (eye and related), independence and wellbeing. Longer term, it is anticipated that the accessibility service will support social and collaborative networks that will also offer appropriate at-a distance community support.</p>			

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<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
<b>Arecor Ltd</b>	Ultra-Long Acting Insulin Glargine	£99,429	£59,657
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>The aim of the project is to use innovative formulation technology to develop a proof-of-concept for insulin product with a consistent, ultra-long release profile. Formulations will first be validated with the use of an in vitro model before demonstrating the ultra-long release profile in a relevant animal model. Arecor is a biotherapeutic formulation company with a technology that has the ability to elongate the time action profile of insulin whilst maintaining a product stability profile suitable for commercialisation. The duration of action for currently marketed products is less than 24 hours in at least a third of patients, which increases the risk of severe life-threatening hypoglycaemic episodes. A consistent, elongated release profile will offer reduced hypoglycaemic risk, whilst in turn improving dose flexibility resulting in improved patient compliance, health benefits and savings for the healthcare provider.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Blackstar Amplification Ltd	SoundShaper PoC	£154,079	£92,447
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>We aim to develop new technology that will enable Blackstar to enter a new market - HomeAudio. As designers and manufacturers of guitar amplifiers and guitar pedals, Blackstar have gained an international reputation for innovation and engineering quality, with several patents. The Soundshaper project creates a set of unique features that allow a portable wireless speaker to achieve the best quality of performance in any size room, wherever the speaker is placed. We will achieve this through a simple App control interface that allows sophisticated audio Equalisation so the user hears a full frequency-balanced sound at all volumes, balancing EQ patterns to the parameters of the room. We will combine Dynamic EQ features with our innovative potentially patentable SuperWide Stereo, (currently used in the ID:Core series of electric guitar amplifiers), to create an increased perception of width providing an immersive audio experience. As well as proving the concept for the above through both hardware and software development, Blackstar will complete testing and trials to judge the effectiveness of Soundshaper technology in different situations and to develop comparisons with potential competitors across mid-range portable, and high-end multipart audio systems. At project end, we expect to have identified new patentable IP for Soundshaper, proven the tech concept, evolving the strategy for further development. Blackstar have proven success with a TSB grant previously funding the innovative tech in our ID:Core range. As a result sales of our digital amps have grown to 50% of our revenue (transitioning us from a primarily valve amp manufacturer) positioning us as 2nd best selling guitar amplifiers in US and UK. Soundshaper offers a massive opportunity to diversify our market and build a brand presence in Home Audio. At \$15b the global Home Audio market is far larger than the \$544m global guitar amp market. This PoC (following a PoM) will be the 2nd step on this journey.</p>			

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Oxford Lasers Ltd	Oxford Lasers high accuracy laser micromachining	£165,981	£99,589
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
The project is to prove that an advanced laser micromachining system can be built with a three-fold improvement in accuracy over current, world leading designs. The main target market will be the microelectronics sector.			

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Your Hydro Ltd	Virtual Turbine Environment	£166,961	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Your Hydro designs, manufactures, installs and commissions small-scale hydro powerturbines that covers the full range of head and flows up to 5 MW capacity including low-headaxial flow and Kaplan turbines, medium-head Francis and cross flow machines and high-headPelton and Turgo turbines. Your Hydro identifies a market need for improved hydrology andenergy modelling in response to policy pressure on the viability of UK hydroelectric schemesand in order to build its business in value-added engineering services covering the feasibilityand development of hydro sites ' worldwide. Your Hydro will work with modelling andsimulation specialists CFMS and WIKKI Ltd to create a new and customised Virtual TurbineEnvironment for the hydroelectric sector. This will include models for the engineeringassessment of sites and the installation effects of specific turbines. Use will be made of thelatest in computational fluid dynamics simulation, developed for the aerospace sector, runningon supercomputing facilities provided by CFMS at the Bristol and Bath Science Park.			

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<b>Oxford Biomaterials Ltd</b>	Innovative, upscalable and ecological process to produce wildtype silk protein solutions	£129,935	£77,961
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>This 12 months project aims at developing a new economically viable process to produce nonmulberrysilk solutions and to offer scaffolds with increased tissue regenerative potential. Silksolutions extracted from the domesticated Bombyx mori can be assembled into a wide range of materials, from hydrogels, films to sponges and composites, all particularly suited to biomedical applications due to their protein composition. Several varieties of wildtype (or nonmulberry)silkworms have a range of mechanical properties closer to native tissues as well as cellular adhesion motives naturally occurring in their protein sequence, both significantly enhancing the potential to repair or replace damaged tissue. However the exploitation of their protein solutions has been limited so far, as extracting the proteins from their highly crosslinked fibres requires extensive and hazardous chemical treatments, preventing future manufacture. Under this proof of concept project, OBM will develop a new, ecological process to produce non-mulberry silk solutions, with potential for upscale and commercialisation.</p>			

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RentProfile Group Ltd	RentProfile - rent with confidence	£167,000	£100,000
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Development of technology and tools to increase transparency in the rental market with the aim to eradicate rental fraud.			

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Far-UK Ltd	Far-UK Crash Structures for Low Weight Vehicles Including L7	£159,250	£95,503
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
There is a developing and growing vehicle segment based around small light vehicles. Examples of this include the Renault Twizy and the Toyota iRoad plus numerous vehicles such as the autonomous vehicle trials in, for example, Milton Keynes. Although these vehicles are seen as the future there have been a number of instances where the crash performance of these vehicles has been questioned by, for instance, private crash test organisations such as ENCAP. This project looks to build on existing technical knowledge to produce a crash structure for these low weight vehicles. Although a growing market, current market sizes are relatively small in automotive terms and this brings further cost challenges that will also be addressed.			

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ESB Developments Ltd	ESB – Manufacturing Process Innovation	£166,442	£99,865
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>ESB Developments, a dynamic, UK-based SME, specialises in the development and commercialisation of innovative health products. The team has many years' experience of working in the area of Vitamin and PUFA (Polyunsaturated Essential Fatty Acids) nutrition and has a strong track record in the development and commercialisation of novel products, particularly those suitable for vegans and vegetarians. ESB's portfolio includes Opti3, an award-winning Omega-3 product suitable for vegans and a range of other unique nutrient supplement products developed specifically for non-meateaters. In the proposed proof of concept project, ESB intends to evaluate the feasibility of developing a new source of an essential nutrient molecule utilising a novel and innovative approach. The company will work with UK-based partners to explore potential sourcing and processing options that have the potential to support rapid scale-up and launch. A successful project would have a transformative impact for ESB as it would improve both the scalability and potential capacity of this novel product. This would enable it to satisfy a significant unmet market need and to rapidly capture market share both in Europe and on a global basis. This additional revenue would catalyse further investment in UK R&amp;D (particularly to expand on its portfolio of novel ingredients) and UK-based manufacturing facilities, including supporting staff.</p>			

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