

Innovate UK

Results of Competition: Smart Round 1 2015-16 - Proof of Market

Competition Code: 1503_SmartRnd1_PoM

Total available funding for this competition was £7.8M 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
Blackstar Amplification Ltd	Soundshaper	£41,687	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Soundshaper is the core technology concept that evolves BlackStar's innovative & potentially patentable 'Superwide Stereo' proven concept found in their successful ID:Core electric guitar amplifiers, that were developed through previous grant funding and have now been fully commercialised with significant success. Through this PoM grant, we will investigate the market opportunity to develop Soundshaper in different ways via completely new markets and product types. The home audio market could be a completely new market for Blackstar and a diversification from Blackstar's core guitar amp product range. Our proposal priority investigates a user-friendly, high-quality portable speaker that differentiates from current offerings but matches the abilities of expensive difficult to set-up home audio systems, and we will consider the additional potential to provide 3D stereoscopic sound in personal headphones. Soundshaper will feature 'Superwide Stereo' which uses clever audio techniques to disperse the sound and create a highly immersive feel. Creating a high-fidelity immersive sound is difficult to achieve but very valuable. Soundshaper could unlock a varied but substantial market, across home cinema, high-quality audio/music reproduction, and significantly, gaming technology - where Soundshaper can greatly contribute to the TOTAL immersive and real-time sound experiences that the gaming industry is pushing towards via AR and VR visual technology and the visual screen and content developers seek to support sophisticated visual technology SOA advances eg Ultra High Definition TV.</p>			

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Circa Sustainable Chemicals Ltd	Greener Aprotic Solvent	£40,187	£24,112
Project description - provided by applicants			
Green Chemistry focuses on replacing hazardous chemicals with benign alternatives, lowering the risk to the environment and human health. Policies such as REACH (Registration Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) ensure a high level of protection of human health by restricting use of dangerous substances and in some cases, banning them altogether. REACH and other legislation could make the use of several aprotic solvents difficult or impossible to use in developed nations. Circa Sustainable Chemicals is developing a greener solvent; the project will explore the potential for using the solvent in a number of industry sectors.			

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Micropply Ltd	Micropply TerraPrinter-TurfX - a multi-colour autonomous turf marking 'robot'	£41,820	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>This project aims to demonstrate market feasibility of an autonomous multi-colour turfmarking'robot' and'turf-friendly' colourant ink cartridge'refill'.Sports Pitch Markings (logos/media messages) are a versatile and recent addition toprofessional turf playing surfaces in stadia. They play an important function incommunicating advertising/ sponsorship to public, feeding a US\$trillion ad industry, as wellas delivering social messages (e.g. stop bullying). As such, turf markings give facility ownersability to construct education and advertising in prime locations (on both playing surface andsurrounding areas) which are televised to >100m viewers/wk in over 150 countries. This hasled to a wealth of global opportunity for both stadia owners and businesses providing turfmarking services.There are 100,000+ professional stadia globally, together providing 7.5bn seats to ticketholdersevery week. The total global markings industry is estimated at US\$50bn, andemployees >250,000 people. The new turf logo segment is estimated at US\$1bn (Gartner,2014). However, current multi-colour turf logo marking is done manually, requires a 6-8person team with expensive equipment (pumps, compressors, paint applicators), and requiresbespoke disposable templates designed/manufactured in advance to ensure proper logoappearance when televised. A further problem with current methods is that pigments inexisting turf paints used can only be removed by applying a chemical, which does not entirelyremove pigment from the turf, leaving visible stains. Further, current pigments are notcompostable, so remain in the ground substrate, preventing drainage and irreparablydamaging the turf. This is a major concern since a professional turf playing surface costs >£1m to install and is 95% of what is televised during a live sporting broadcast.TerraPrinter-TurfX solves these problems</p>			

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Nemesis Bioscience Ltd	Transmids: A Novel Vehicle for Delivery of Polynucleotide Constructs into Bacteria	£42,000	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Nemesis Bioscience Ltd has invented, developed and protected a family of novel biological therapeutic agents that inactivate resistance to antibiotics, so allowing well-established safe generic antibiotics to be effective again. The company has proven in the laboratory that its 'Nemesis Symbiotics' convert antimicrobial resistant (AMR) bacteria to antibiotic sensitivity and also prevent bacteria from acquiring AMR ' opening the possibility of protecting patients pre-operatively, or even pre-admission, to lower the risks of subsequent AMR infection. To date, delivery systems into target bacteria have been developed for these symbiotics using different vehicles for either treatment or protection. A single delivery method for both treatment and protection in a clinical setting is essential for regulatory approval, clinical utility, and economic feasibility. The company has now invented such a delivery mechanism ' Transmids. Transmids can be used clinically in the main focus areas of overcoming and preventing AMR without needing separate regulatory approvals. However, the unique properties of Transmids also may make them ideal for use in existing synthetic biology and industrial microbiology applications where manipulation of bacterial genetics is fundamental ' for example, the microbial production of biochemicals, biofuels and therapeutics. All of these applications require specific, efficient delivery of genes into target bacterial cells. The structure and mode of action of Transmids should offer significant advantages over existing methods and the company now needs to explore the commercial and market opportunity for these Transmids.</p>			

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It does lighting ltd	A novel wearable circadian lighting device	£24,000	£14,400
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>1928 heralded the discovery by CE Keeler of photoreceptors in the eye that were not rods or cones but which controlled our body clocks; but it's only recently it has become truly researched and more thoroughly understood. Leading researchers are discovering other ways daylight (circadian light) affects health and well-being of our bodies from birth to old age. Many are now researching ways to treat conditions such as heart disease, obesity, cancer and our main focus - Dementia. Our focus is on delivery of light and how best to administer it to those who need prescription like doses to keep body clocks in rhythm. It is our aim to personalise light so that each person's prescription can be changed as they age and as their eyes receive light in an diminished way due to ageing of the eye. For Dementia patients, as their symptoms develop their sleep/wake cycle can shift out of phase. Lack of sleep negatively affects anyone of any age so for those already suffering dementia it can be disorientating and frightening. Drugs are often used to keep patients calm and to help them sleep, at a cost of up to £300 per person per month. However this can throw patients even further out of sync with natural rhythms and exacerbate symptoms in a vicious cycle. Our aim is to develop a wearable device used by people in early Dementia stages to improve quality of life by enhancing natural circadian body rhythms; potentially enabling people to spend longer at home before professional care is required. By elongating time spent before care home support is required can save upwards of £500 per week per patient plus the cost of drugs required. This market assessment study seeks to identify an optimal market entry point for our circadian lighting device by consulting stakeholders and key influencers in dementia care industry (care homes, carers, and dementia charities, social and medical care opinion leaders) directly to assess their willingness to adopt a new approach.</p>			

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Econic Technologies Ltd	NovCAT - examining the technical and market feasibility of extending adoption of Econics novel catalysts	£41,150	£24,690
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Econic Technologies is developing a breakthrough family of catalysts that incorporate carbon dioxide (CO₂) into economically viable polymers, replacing 30-43% of the non-renewable raw materials, thus significantly reducing carbon footprint, offering new, high-value properties, costs savings and potentially increasing market acceptance. This project - "NovCAT" - will examine the technical and market feasibility of extending adoption of Econics novel catalysts for the production and downstream market acceptance of polycarbonate and thermoplastic blends. The innovative catalyst technology will enable inherently safer, low-carbon thermoplastic polycarbonates with enhanced properties to be manufactured from the co-polymerisation of epoxides and CO₂ to produce novel polycarbonates such as polycyclohexene carbonate and polypropylene carbonate. Currently polycarbonate is manufactured through a process combining phosgene and bisphenol A (BPA). These constituents are non-renewable, hazardous and toxic. BPA exhibits hormone-like properties that can cause potential adverse health effects. BPA-free PC products will remove public safety concerns for food packaging and storage due to leaching of BPA. Phosgene-free processes will be more economical, and present significant OH&S benefits, with the elimination of inline phosgene production and associated safety measures. The new catalyst has already been demonstrated to be highly robust to typical contaminations within captured waste CO₂, which is readily available from power production or other manufacturing processes. Customers will be interested in adopting such a catalyst to achieve the combination of improved polymer sustainability and cost structure, with high-value characteristics in areas such as high barrier properties for food packaging, UV resistance, clarity, flame retardant properties, and process safety and public health benefits from removal of toxic materials</p>			

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Firesouls	Development of the Firesouls platform - an online, closed bid Social Value auction	£38,679	£23,208
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Firesouls aims to provide all UK government organisations with a software-as-a-service(SaaS) auction platform that generates new resources for local communities.It does this by applying the Social Value Act to government procurement. Under law,government suppliers can be obliged to create extra community benefits as part of theprocurement process. The Firesouls platform provides a means of both maximising thebenefits for communities while at the same time keeping the supplier contract viable.Currently, take up and application of the Social Value Act has been low. For example, only15% of local councils have developed an approach. Those that have tend to evaluate on acontract by contract basis to generate community benefits This is labour intensive, costly andinefficient. The Firesouls platform offers an online, automated auction platform that bothtakes the pain away from government procurement teams, and allows market forces - throughmatching 'Social Value buyers and sellers' - to determine the proper amount of communitybenefit to be drawn from government contracts.At a time of severe public spending cuts and growing demand for local public services,Firesouls offers a way to generate new resources for local communities, year on year. We alsoallow suppliers to focus on delivering the contract - we ask suppliers to give the resources tolocal communities to create Social Value, rather than the suppliers doing it themselves. Ourargument is that suppliers should supply government services, local community organisationsshould deliver Social Value - they just need the resources to do it.</p>			

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The Sustainable Home Survey Company CIC	Multi-Sensory 3D Imaging System for Domestic Properties (SISD)	£41,113	£24,500
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>The Sustainable Home Survey Company (SHS) is a leading community-focused energy assessment company and social incubator, with insight into the condition of UK homes having delivered 10,000+ domestic assessments to date. SHS has developed a prototype design for a multi-sensory 3D imaging system for domestic properties (SISD) that integrates spatial analysis, thermal sensors, and ultrasound to detect characteristics of underfloor spaces. The potential UK market for retrofit underfloor insulation is ~8.3m (DECC, Ofgem 2014) of 23.4m homes ' although long payback periods are currently limiting market uptake. At the moment, insulators physically remove floorboards to inspect underfloor voids. This is time-consuming and costly: for every potential insulation work, disruption occurs. Yet ~10% of the time, voids are found unsuitable for insulation. Secondly, joist and space maps are necessary to plan insulation approaches. SISD can streamline works, increase cost efficiency, and minimise disruption. SISD consists of (1) a multi-sensory monitor to be rolled above flooring, (2) software to analyse raw data, and (3) a user interface presenting output data and 3D images. SISD takes advantage of maturing sensor technology (spatial rendering, thermal, ultrasound) to map cavities without ripping-up floorboards, and provide data on joist position, material density, moisture, leakage, and more. Once only suitable for large-scale application, cost and size reductions in sensor technologies present an opportunity for domestic use. This makes underfloor insulation a more efficient and cost-effective intervention, improving margins, spurring uptake and helping to meet UK CO2 emission targets. Successful deployment requires coordination among many stakeholders and detailed market research. This study's objective is to prove our value proposition, qualify existing alternatives, and produce a technology development plan prior to securing Proof-of-Concept funding.</p>			

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Ridiculous Innovations Ltd	LiveUI	£42,360	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
Our objective is to investigate potential markets for a LiveUI software platform which allows remote changes to mobile apps on any platform. LiveUI will be an innovative framework that allows content to be changed remotely on the fly in apps. It will integrate into all major app platforms quickly and easily.			

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GPF One	Proof of market for a novel coloured carbon fibre composite	£41,664	£24,998
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Carbon fibre reinforced polymer was invented ~50 years ago by a team of engineers at the Royal Aircraft Establishment. It is a structural composite material with a unique combination of properties that makes it strong, stiff and light: carbon fibre structure of equal strength will often weigh 1/5th that of steel. Virtually all CF manufactured worldwide is used in combination with a binding matrix to produce carbon composites such as carbon fibre reinforced plastics. The weight saving achieved through use of carbon composites has made them a material of choice for many industries looking for efficiency gains, such as aerospace, automotive and wind turbines, opening up new engineering possibilities. However, although carbon fibre composite offers many structural advantages, as well as a distinctive and desirable visual appearance due to the woven structure of the fibres, its use in product design has been restricted by carbon fibre's intrinsic black colouration. Where colour has been mandated for performance and/or aesthetic reasons, it has been applied during post-processing, incurring expense, adding unwanted weight, and, frequently, the requirement for routine maintenance, often in challenging environments, e.g. off-shore wind turbines. Utilising proprietary technology and expertise initially developed for Formula 1 motor racing, GPF One is seeking to develop and commercialise a portfolio of coloured carbon composites. In the proposed project, GPF One intends to assess the market potential for its novel coloured carbon composite through engagement with industry specialists and prospective users.</p>			

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Gravity Sketch Ltd T/A Gravity Sketch	Gravity Sketch - Intuitive 3D Creation	£44,692	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Gravity Sketch is an intuitive 3D design tool that enables people to sketch in 3D their ideas and visualize them in a quick and intuitive way. As you draw, 3D objects appear in real time. From brainstorming sessions in a meeting to 3D printing at home, Gravity Sketch empowers people to create 3D models as easily as sketching on a piece of paper. Your creation can be exported to other 3D softwares, animated, shared online or even 3D printed. In addition, Gravity Sketch has been designed to work with Virtual Reality (VR) and can natively take advantage of the possibilities VR opens. We offer a simple mobile creation tool that requires only the use of a tablet, or an immersive creation tool using VR mask, for which we have developed our own hardware and software resolution that we patented in February 2014. As you sketch on the tablet, a virtual object appears on the screen or in the VR mask. A series of controls allow you to move and rotate each sketch in space, helping you to quickly represent an object or building in 3D. Gravity Sketch's unique intuitiveness is the result of initial experiments on the creative process and spatial cognition conducted in consultation with designers, engineers, architects and teachers. Gravity Sketch is the bridge between the sketchpad and the CAD software that makes design and subsequent additive manufacturing faster and more accessible.</p>			

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Zigoorat Ltd	proof of market potentials and economics of a state of the art condition monitoring technology for wind turbine applications	£43,508	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>A cost-effective Condition Monitoring (CM) technique is essential to raise the availability of large Wind Turbines (WTs), whether onshore or offshore for the following reasons: The high construction cost of large WT's increasing the need to improve payback; Large WT's are prone to failure from extreme environments, such as rain, sand, lightning, tornado, snow and ice, and also subject to constantly variable load; large WT's breaking down have long downtimes due to access difficulties; and furthermore, in most large WT's, subassemblies are installed in the space-limited nacelle on the tower at a height over 60 (m) making replacement difficult. The use of a reliable CM system will enhance the maintenance and prevent critical WT subassemblies from being fatally damaged. However, to date, an appropriate CM system, specifically designed for WT, is not existed. This is an essential need for wind farms because the monitoring signals collected from a WT are non-stationary and nonlinear, both in time and frequency, while the conventional CM Systems are notorious in dealing with nonlinear and non-stationary signals. The inaccurate analysis of WT signals results in frequent spurious alarms, which cause unnecessary shut down of the WT's, whilst, sometimes not detecting real faults. This imperfect performance leads to serious reduction in wind farms availability and hence increases the cost of wind power. A novel WT CM technology has been developed by Zigoorat Ltd, which is distinguished by both its excellent capability in processing non-stationary/nonlinear signals and its efficient computational algorithm. In addition, it has substantially greater fault detection precision as well as easy installation mechanism compare to existing products in the market.</p>			

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SageTech Medical Equipment Ltd	SageTech Medical Equipment - Proof of Market for an Anaesthetic Recycling Service	£36,293	£21,776
Project description - provided by applicants			
SageTech Medical Equipment Ltd (SME) is a UK company that specialises in the development and commercialisation of patented technology that recycles anaesthetic agents. This technology aims to reduce the cost and environmental impact of anaesthesia in the UK and globally. This Proof of Market project will establish the best way in which to bring SME's technology to market, and address questions of customer demand and perceptions of the technology.			

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C-Probe Systems Ltd	Low carbon geopolymer (pre-cast concrete)	£40,461	£24,276
Project description - provided by applicants			
Corrosion is the single most serious cause of deterioration of reinforced concrete structures. It leads to expansive corrosion products, cracking, staining, spalling from the surface and ultimately structural weakness and health and safety concerns. C-Probe (working with Sheffield Hallam University) has developed a low carbon geopolymer cement binder for use as a concrete repair mortar and new build concrete. The project will explore the potential of using the geopolymer as a pre-cast material for construction integrated with structural health care technology thereby futureproofing construction.			

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BB Photonics UK Ltd	Next Generation Datacentre Communication Link Components	£40,497	£24,298
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Data transfer in large scale data centres is based on optical communication via fibre optic routing. As consumer demand for data bandwidth continues to explode the data center has seen the proliferation of ever broader bandwidth and faster parallel inter-server communication links. Today, 1Gb/s - 10Gb/s Ethernet Links are standardised, with a current drive towards 100Gb/s as the emerging minimum deployment standard. The team at BB Photonics (BBP) have IP related to a platform approach which relies on the monolithic integration of multiple photonic functions on a single compound semiconductor chip based on Indium Phosphide (InP). The technology enables lower cost, higher transmission speeds and hence a smaller transceiver footprint with a lower energy consumption. A potential initial application for the platform technology is a Photonic Integrated Circuit (PIC) for the 100Gb/s Ethernet Transceiver Market. Our InP technology operates at 1310nm, an established telecoms wavelength standard that meets the requirements for implementation in multi-level encoded and multiplexed wavelength applications. In this study we propose to look at the feasibility of leveraging this platform to produce multichannel high speed detectors (4 x 25Gb/s) for emerging 100Gb/s transceiver solutions. The study will examine both technical requirements for emerging products and commercial considerations such as component pricing, barriers to entry, and market introduction strategies.</p>			

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Histocyte Laboratories Ltd	Voice of Customer and market analysis of a proposed analyte control for use in colorectal cancer and the diagnosis of Lynch Syndrome	£18,767	£11,260
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>HistoCyte Laboratories Ltd is developing, manufacturing and commercialising analyte controls for same slide use in immunohistochemistry and in-situ hybridisation. These assays are performed in pathology laboratories globally on patient samples mounted on microscope slides. The analyte control is designed to be used on the same slide in order to demonstrate that the assay has worked appropriately. While these are not a diagnostic they do confer diagnostic confidence to the pathologist. Currently laboratories use either batch controls, which are not applicable as slides are treated individually or inappropriate material is employed. The most frequently used material is tissue, which while useful, is finite and often prone to variation as an artefact of how it is fixed and processed. The use of cancer cells with known levels of markers as analyte controls means provision of an inexhaustible and standardised material is possible. In this project HistoCyte Laboratories Ltd intends to investigate the market need for an analyte control for markers used in the assessment of colorectal cancer. Conducting voice of customer and market analysis will allow us to validate that there is a market need for this product and a commercial justification to enter into development.</p>			

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RoboScientific Ltd	Rapid 'Real Time' Detection of Avian Influenza	£40,200	£24,120
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Avian flu in its various forms is a disease of great concern to poultry producers across the world. Unlike Salmonella or Campylobacter, a diagnosis of influenza requires that the entire flock be destroyed and the entire farm deep cleaned. The 2007 Bernard Matthews H5N1 outbreak required 159,000 turkeys to be culled at a cost of £590,000 and at least £20m was lost in sales and costs. Underlying this is the fear that the disease might mutate across to humans with Western governments stockpiling anti-viral drugs at immense cost; over £300m in the UK. Speed of diagnosis is essential so that bio-control measures can be implemented quickly to avoid the infection spreading. Currently the main signs of influenza in birds include a swollen head; loss of appetite, diarrhoea and fewer eggs. The infection may go unnoticed until many birds become ill. Ducks and Geese show no visible symptoms of the disease. Confirmation of infection relies upon laboratory testing; which varies from country to country. Most available tests are slow (up to 14 days before a result), therefore time is lost at the diagnostic stage. RoboScientific is currently field trialling an advanced air sampling device with an integrated electronic nose, capable of detecting Campylobacter infections in poultry flocks. The company is now investigating how this monitoring instrument can also detect the symptoms of avian influenza. There is clear scientific evidence that avian influenza changes the odour of faeces in ducks (Kimball BA et al. (2013) Avian Influenza Infection Alters Fecal Odor in Mallards), therefore monitoring the air above flocks should detect the presence of avian influenza. This is a 'real time', early stage monitoring system, using VOCs (volatile organic compounds) detected in poultry houses. The sales market in the UK is for 15000 units. However the total market needs to be identified and investigated in greater depth. The Proof of Market study will be a basis for the marketing strategy.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Russell Hatfield T/A ROSH	Early Alert - Exploiting Innovative Technology to Reduce high impact crimes	£64,686	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
We aim to conduct an assessment of the commercial viability of an innovative and discrete technology solution which can autonomously detect and respond to threats. Although the product usage can span multiple markets, the Proof of Market project will focus on a specific market sector and will:- Assess the potential market size- Consult with customers and existing service providers to identify additional product functionality requirements- Identify the Intellectual Property positionThe output from the project will be a clear roadmap to bringing the product to market. A further output will be a clear strategic plan, detailing how the product can/and will, extend to additional markets			

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Innovate UK

Results of Competition: Smart Round 1 2015-16 - Proof of Market

Competition Code: 1503_SmartRnd1_PoM

Total available funding for this competition was £7.8M 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
LittleData	LittleData Proof of Market v2	£35,491	£21,294
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Web Analytics is a rapidly growing market as more and more businesses use online methods for their marketing. There is now a tsunami of data available from Search Engines, SocialMedia, e-mail marketing engines and other behaviour tracking. Interpreting this mass of data into meaningful business information is proving harder and harder to achieve. A shortage of technical graduates required with mathematical AND programming skills, especially in the UK, will lead to data analysis becoming a much bigger cost for companies over the next 5 years. Although online analytics platforms have existed for two decades, an exponential increase in the amount of data generated on the Internet has precipitated an inflection point within the analytics industry. Traditional modes of measurement, which allowed for guesswork, are outdated, and marketers now demand definitive models around metrics that help them identify the perfect digital marketing mix. We plan to offer genuinely intelligent analytic tools using advanced mathematical techniques which remove the need for mundane data processing and searching for patterns by human analysts. Our disruptive approach leapfrogs current web analytics solutions, improving data interpretation and information timeliness, reliability and accuracy by large margins. This is a platform technology with market applications across multiple business data sources from web marketing to financial accounting. Our market assessment study seeks to identify an optimal market entry point for our new solution by consulting users, stakeholders and key influencers in the web marketing industry directly to assess their willingness to adopt a new approach. If successful this will bring a completely new cloud-based, web analytics software tool with a suite of natural language processing capabilities to penetrate an exponentially growing global market for Business Data Analytics software.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Dolaugu Ltd	Notcheckingup - Safe Living Alone. Proof-of-Market to support the development of a stand-alone system.	£15,175	£9,105
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>NotCheckingUp is a system which allows people who live alone to have the security that if something happened to them their relatives/close-friends would be informed quickly. The current proposal is for a proof-of-market study into a standalone system to allow NotCheckingUp to be more seamlessly used by the independent older person. Currently NotCheckingUp is targeted at the numerous healthy adults who live alone, and as a result do not have someone to find them if they suffer illness or injury at home that leaves them unable to get help. It works in a seamless way, interpreting normal IT usage to gather the activity information. Crucially, it does not 'snoop' on the individual - only the minimum amount of data is gathered, and no-one is informed of the individual's status until certain limits are reached. Our current technology predicts an individual's activity through their use of IT. This works well for lone-workers and the younger population, but it is not ideally placed for many independent older people who do not make sufficiently regular use of smartphone or email to gather the necessary information. The current proposal is for a proof-of-market study into a standalone hardware system for use with NotCheckingUp. This system would be designed for use in the individual's home, using simple sensor technology to measure the presence/absence of an individual and communicating a subset of this information to the NotCheckingUp servers. The use of the standalone system would bring additional safety and reassurance to a significant proportion of the population. In the proposed study we will undertake market research activities (including several surveys) along with investigations into the costs and time-scales required to bring the product to market. The NotCheckingUp system can be found at http://www.notcheckingup.com</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
LIG Biowise Ltd	Biodegradable Antibacterial Nanoparticles: The Next Generation of Antibiotics	£41,392	£24,835
Project description - provided by applicants			
Nosocomial infections caused by multidrug-resistant microorganisms such as MRSA and P.aeruginosa are observed frequently in hospital settings; resulting in serious public health problems. The most pressing concern is that they are becoming resistant to almost all antibiotics available at the present time. Nanomedicine offers new possibilities including fewer side effects, minimal damages to human cells, and lower drug concentrations and stability for a longer period. However, despite this significant potential, the translation of nanoparticles to clinical practice is limited by their non-biodegradable nature and long-term toxicity. Hence antimicrobial biodegradable nanoparticles of polyesters and magnesium are an attractive proposition. Initial research from LIG Biowise has demonstrated the feasibility of a new technique that can generate these nanoparticles using picosecond laser ablation.			

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Competition Code: 1503_SmartRnd1_PoM

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
PassivSystems	Intelligent Energy Supply: PassivSystems analysis of market opportunities	£58,186	£25,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
PassivSystems is a leading supplier of home energy solutions and services. The growing market for electric renewable heating solutions and the increasing volumes of renewable energy generation presents an opportunity for energy suppliers to use the flexibility of domestic heating demand to match the variability of renewable generation supply. Doing so would allow energy suppliers to maximise the use of low cost renewable generation and thereby reduce consumer energy bills. This project will build an operating model of this new intelligent supply business model to quantify the potential benefits that can be achieved.			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Revivocell Ltd	Cellblocks - novel cell culture device	£40,182	£24,109
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Cell culture is a process whereby living cells are grown in laboratory conditions for various scientific experiments, without using animals, for example: to gain better understanding of bodily function, disease processes or to develop new drugs. Traditionally, cells have been grown in hard and flat 2-D (two-dimensional) surfaces, either in glass or plastic, and this technology has not changed significantly since the invention of the Petri dish by Julius Richard Petri in 1870s. Researchers across many sectors, including pharmaceutical industry, research organisations and universities primarily apply conventional cell culture for the growth of mammalian cells, bacteria or viruses. Cell culture has played a vital role in many Life Science discoveries such as the development of new drugs or vaccines. However, the results often lack applicability as the cell growth is constrained within the available 2-D surface when compared to the real-world 3-D environment of living tissue. Revivocell Ltd has begun to develop a novel device for the growth of cell cultures in 3-D forms, under laboratory conditions; these can mimic the function of living tissue much more closely. This technology would potentially increase the success rate of developing new treatments and reduce the reliance on animal testing. The objective of this application is to assess the market potential of our newly-developed patent pending device. Revivocell's invention will provide a reliable, fast and cost-effective device that could be used worldwide in Life Sciences laboratories with a potential to become a standard method.</p>			

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