

# Innovate UK

**Results of Competition: Analytical technologies for biopharmaceuticals**

**Competition Code: 1509\_CRD2\_HVM\_AATBP**

**Total available funding for this competition was £3,402,284 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.**

<b>Participant organisation names</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Proposed project costs</b>	<b>Proposed project grant</b>
<b>GlaxoSmithKline Research and Development Ltd</b> Cell Therapy Catapult LGC Ltd	RaSTA (Rapid Sterility Testing Approach)	£992,842	£634,526
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Current safety methods for product release such as the compendial sterility test are inadequate for a largenumber of autologous cell and gene therapy products due to their short shelf life. This problem is exacerbatedby the long complex manufacturing processes during which microbial contamination can occur. As a resultsterility testing has to be performed during manufacture and the products released with an element of risk. This project, led by GSK and supported by the Cell Therapy Catapult and LGC, will address this issue bydeveloping a rapid sterility test (<1hr) based on a novel technology to allow real time product release. Theproject will also develop a high sensitivity approaches which will quantify live and dead microbial contaminantsfor in-process testing and be used to validate the readout of the rapid sterility test. These technologies will be amajor innovation for the field and will provide a much needed technical solution to allow cell and genetherapies to be tested for safety prior to their use.			

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Malvern Instruments Ltd Paraytec Ltd University Of Central Lancashire Centre for Process Innovation Ltd GlaxoSmithKline PLC Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies UK Ltd Medimmune Ltd	Towards a condensed screening platform for aggregation profiling	£1,032,915	£598,349
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Biotherapeutic drugs are an increasingly important class of new medicines and their effective action in the therapeutic treatment of disease has attracted interest from both academic and industry sectors. Despite the overwhelming benefits to patients, the availability of these drugs at point-of-care is inextricably linked to their affordability. Currently, the costs associated with the development and production of safe and effective biotherapeutic drugs are extremely high, and such costs must ultimately be passed on in the final drug product. One of the major risk areas in drug development is the occurrence of bundles of drug molecules known as aggregates, which can result in unwanted side-effects in patients or in a reduction of therapeutic effectiveness. This project brings together biopharmaceutical companies, academic research leaders and developers of scientific instruments in order to produce novel sensors that can improve the detection of drug aggregates throughout the drug development process. With this novel analytical technology, we aim to attenuate the risks associated with aggregation to ensure the delivery of safe and cost-effective drugs in the future.			

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<b>GEA Process Engineering Ltd</b> Bluefrog Design Ltd IS-Instruments Ltd Ocean Optics B.V. CPI Innovation Services Ltd OncoLytika Ltd National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) Fraunhofer UK Research Ltd De Montfort University Nottingham University	AtlasBio - Analytical Technologies for the Lyophilization and Stabilization of Biopharmaceuticals	£1,143,541	£804,931

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

The AtlasBio project will strengthen the UK knowledge base in science and engineering in the areas of freeze-drying product and process development, & influence the future directions and strategy in biopharmaceutical product and freeze-drying process development. The need is for new measurement technology for concurrent product and process design and the development of more efficient continuous processes, moving away from batch and increasing process efficiency and reducing waste. The project aims to develop and demonstrate scalable PAT to support freeze drying of biologics in order to support (i) scale up of batch freeze-drying (from high-throughput formulation screening to process development and scale-up), (ii) development of freeze drying processes for next generation biopharma products, by designing more robust, scalable processes via the in situ evaluation of interactions between critical material attributes and critical process parameters, thereby enabling (a) drying efficiencies (drying rate), and (b) the development and implementation of continuous freeze-drying methods.

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Celltech R&D Ltd Applied Photophysics Ltd Centre for Process Innovation Ltd	Practical application of Circular Dichroism for biopharmaceuticals	£321,609	£231,155
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
Circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy is an analytical technique routinely used in the biopharmaceutical industry to study the effects of manufacturing, formulation, and storage conditions on protein conformation and stability. The difficulty in data interpretation of CD is limited to demonstrating conformational comparability after a manufacturing/formulation change using qualitative assessments of overlaid spectra, which is fundamentally subjective and prone to error. This project will standardise data collection and analysis and build model based approaches for quantitative analysis of Higher Order Structure using CD. The data collected will allow for the generation of platform models and data sets to widen the application of CD into bioprocess development.			

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<b>Applied Photophysics Ltd</b> Centre for Process Innovation Ltd Medimmune Ltd University of Cambridge	Biopharmaceutical HOS analysis by automated fast hydrogen deuterium exchange	£837,597	£614,374
<b>Project description - provided by applicants</b>			
<p>Knowledge of a biopharmaceutical product's higher order structure (HOS) and conformational dynamics, and how these relate to its mode of action and/or degradation, are central to enable effective and streamlined biopharmaceutical development through QbD-based approaches. Hydrogen deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX MS) is a technique increasingly used to characterise the HOS of peptide and protein therapeutics. HDX MS can determine structural perturbations in a protein that elicit changes in conformational dynamics or solvent accessibility. Commercial implementation of automated HDX MS analysis, has greatly increased the utility of HDX MS in the biopharmaceutical industry for HOS analysis. But there are limitations with these systems where unstructured or highly dynamic, solvent exposed protein regions are not able to be differentiated or analysed. This team propose to develop a system that will allow routine analyse of these proteins and peptides with HDX MS.</p>			

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