

Innovate UK

Results of Competition: Smart Round 1 2015-16 - Proof of Concept
Competition Code: 1503_SmartRnd1_PoC

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
Oralign Supplies Ltd	Live Video Streaming of Orthodontic Assessments through an Integrated Patient Platform	£155,907	£93,544
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>The starting point for any orthodontic treatment is the visit to a General Dental Practitioner(GDP), who will refer the patient's records to a specialist orthodontist for assessment. It is essential that the records contain the most accurate depiction of the patient's teeth and communication between the GDP and orthodontist is quick, secure and reliable. However the approach to deliver these requirements has shown to have deficiencies in record transmission and imaging. Oralign proposes to overcome these challenges by using a secure, integrated patient platform that enables GDPs immediate access to specialist orthodontists, the ability to virtually upload records instantaneously and the capacity to live video stream orthodontic assessments.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Guidance Marine Ltd	SafeSurround Marine Hazard Detection System	£236,670	£100,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>This project aims to bring collision avoidance technology to the marine market. Like a vehicle parking sensor, the SafeSurround concept aims to provide audio and visual alarms to warn ships' officers of collision hazards. However, the technical challenges to achieve this are much greater than for a vehicle parking sensor, when the vehicle is a 90m-long vessel being buffeted by waves. The need for a hazard detection system has been raised by the Marine Safety Forum as a result of an increasing number of vessel collisions with offshore oil installations. This is partly because increased size and power of support vessels increases their capability to cause damage, and also because inexperienced crews are failing to adhere to safety procedures and guidance. In 2005 a support vessel collided with the Mumbai High North processing platform, causing a fire that resulted in 22 deaths, the destruction of the platform and \$195m in lost revenue and clean-up costs. Guidance Marine Ltd (GML) is the leading developer and supplier of local position reference sensors for Dynamic Positioning (DP) and other vessel control systems. GML's laser and radar sensors can be integrated by all major DP manufacturers and are used on a daily basis by most Offshore and Platform Supply Vessel operators. GML's products accurately measure the relative position of the target in relation to the sensor to enable the vessel to hold position and operate safely in close proximity to an installation. SafeSurround is envisaged as the final piece of the DP jigsaw, giving close-range (<300m) relative position information for hazard detection to work alongside laser and microwave DP sensors. The ultimate goal is to integrate SafeSurround into DP systems, but first the concept must be proven as a stand-alone system. The project will test the positioning and configuration of sensors required to protect a vessel from collisions, in a range of environments from harbours to oil rigs to the open sea.</p>			

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2iC Ltd	Innovative Digital Interoperability Proof-of-Concept for Operational Policing	£166,521	£99,913
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>2iC is an innovative UK company that develops novel software solutions to integrate diverse systems that are usually unattended, man-worn or vehicle-borne. 2iC's software enables flexible, secure coordination across both old and new digital systems. 2iC has previously invented and delivered an innovative approach for secure interoperability to the UK Ministry of Defence, winning a prestigious global defence innovation award in recognition of the inventiveness and utility of its work. 2iC is now seeking to expand its product portfolio outside of the defence market. Using validated operational scenarios developed in conjunction with prospective users this project aims to prove the feasibility of improving the interoperability and data integration of low-powered devices used by the UK Police Forces, to reduce costs, increase capabilities, whilst improving public services and the welfare of its officers. It's anticipated that, by 2019, every UK police officer will be wearing low-powered, microcontroller-based monitoring and communication devices that will need to be tightly integrated with Command systems via secure mobile data solutions. This project aims to develop a Proof-of-Concept (PoC) system, demonstrating open and flexible integration of microcontrollers (chips usually costing less than £1 - ubiquitous in small devices) with a secure Services Orientated Architecture (SOA). The outcome is intended to be open and flexible integration from very low-powered microcontrollers, through deployed platforms, up to enterprise-class systems, with none requiring intimate knowledge of any other, yet all working together. The proposed approach will not only facilitate adoption of the Home Office's Digital Policing Vision but also has a potentially wider application across multiple markets including other emergency services, telehealth, military, energy, transport and consumer (Internet of Things) sectors.</p>			

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Blackstar Amplification Ltd	Kennet - Digital Acoustic Reproduction	£154,354	£92,612
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Through Proof of Concept grant funding, we aim to develop the technology to accurately analyse and reproduce the dynamics of an acoustic instrument to provide a true representation of that sound at higher volumes. We will do this through Digital Signal Processing (DSP) within the amp and by calibrating and utilising the benefits of digital amp technology. Through development of 'Kennet' technology, we look to enter the acoustic amp market and develop further applications for the DSP solution. In the short term (3-5 years) we aim to create a range of innovative acoustic guitar amplifiers. In the longer term (5+ years), we will develop a range of spin-off products such as guitar pedals, rack processors and Virtual Studio Technology Plug-ins. This project will build upon the success of Blackstar's ID:Series & ID:Core range of digital amps for electric guitars. Developed on the back of TSB grant funding, they have become the 2nd best selling guitar amplifiers in North America, in front of well-known brands Marshall and Peavey. With two further patents, Blackstar have gained an international reputation for innovation and engineering quality. In the last 12-months, sales of our digital amps have grown to 50% of our total revenue. With the acoustic guitar amplification market set to increase, Blackstar will benefit from funding at this stage to develop Kennet technology to meet the needs of acoustic guitarists & capitalise on this growing market whilst significantly expanding its business potential. In turn, we believe we can deliver new abilities for musicians to hear the true sound of an acoustic instrument and broadcast it to the widest possible audience. As musicians ourselves, we see this as the greatest value.</p>			

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Smart Sail Systems Ltd	Smart Sail	£125,257	£75,154
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Yachts often have many different, expensive sails ranging from £1k to >£100k, which are removed about regularly from storage to yacht and back, all managed manually. Accurate inventory is a priority for individual owners, fleet owners, racers and maintainers. In addition it is difficult to accurately measure the sails exposure to use ' particularly damaging flogging and UV which breaks down the material structure. Smart Sail Systems Ltd has identified two gaps in the yachting market for the introduction of an innovative new product. Our sensors will be able to both store static (birth certificate/passport) type data and also monitor the degradation and store data reflecting sail usage enabling users to accurately record sail condition for the first time.</p>			

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Pragmatic Printing Ltd	FastNCMOS	£166,841	£100,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>The project will open-up a business opportunity based on a new circuit design concept(FastNCMOS) and integrated production process for flexible integrated circuits (ICs) toenable low-cost, fully compliant near-field communication (NFC) tags. There is a growingecosystem and infrastructure for NFC including new applications, business models andproducts. NFC allows consumers to intuitively communicate with everyday items such asproduct packaging. Food labels could be updated remotely to change with demand/usagedates,bottles could sense when they are empty and need to be replaced/refilled, or pharmapackaging could indicate when it is time for the next dose of medication or prevent overdose(e.g. insulin). All of these uses and more represent a first step towards the 'internet-of-things'(IoT). Existing approaches use silicon-based solutions which have the benefit of maturetechnology and integration processes. A printed electronics (PE) approach offers a muchlower cost potential and more attractive (flexible, ultra-thin) form factor. Key advantages ofPragmatIC's technology is that it is flexible and can be produced exceptionally cheaply inhuge quantities. However, to meet all NFC specifications is a significant challenge to currentflexible IC technologies due to the complexity but, more critically, the need for highfrequency(speed) performance. FastNCMOS will demonstrate a new circuit design conceptwhich overcomes limitations of current NMOS technology without requiring anyimprovement in materials performance or reduction in critical feature-size. This will allow thetags to be read with any NFC-enabled smartphone without any change to firmware/software ora dedicated 'app', and is a critical requirement to maximise the commercial exploitation offlexible IC tags.</p>			

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Change of Paradigm Ltd	Change of Paradigm	£166,467	£99,880
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>This project aims to investigate the feasibility of developing a hardware/software solution capable of faithful acquisition and reproduction of the appearance of textiles. Our proposed approach works through the design, implementation and characterisation of a novel acquisition setup that captures an unprecedented 'complete set' of visual characteristics of textiles. In contrast to current approaches that use photographs or simple 3-D models, our proposed new approach to appearance acquisition leads to 'relightable' ie lighting adjustable 3D models, greatly improving the realism at which an object's appearance can be developed and viewed within a digital workflow and virtual environments. The application of this is highly relevant for the advancement of high quality simulation of clothing for animated characters in Fashion, Film and Games, as well as textile simulation for the Interiors, Automotive and Cultural Heritage sectors. We intend to develop a prototype proof of concept, testing technology to show a capability to simulate to a high quality the complex, transmissive, light-scattering properties of a wide range of fabrics suitable for realistic virtual and 3D textile and clothing applications. The project team is uniquely positioned to drive this opportunity as recognised experts in current state of the art research in the field of appearance acquisition and industry expertise in the application of 3D simulation for Fashion eCommerce</p>			

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IMA Ltd	A novel contamination sensor to make multi-species, multi-drop, lossless measurements for complete characterisation of natural gas in high pressure pipelines - LineGas	£163,972	£98,383

Project description - provided by applicants

Pipelines have formed an integral part of our natural gas transportation infrastructure for decades and their importance is growing, as resources are depleted and demand increases. Contamination in pipelines is a serious issue commercially, for safety, and reliability of supply. Early detection of contamination is key and will result in the issue being dealt with before it becomes a commercial problem and most importantly an urgent safety issue. Commercially available technology capable of identifying contaminants is expensive, difficult to maintain and calibrate, and slow to operate. Our idea is to introduce a novel Raman spectrometer and measurement cell at existing tapping points in pipelines in order to rapidly determine the gas composition. This will enable monitoring of various safety related chemical species, such as O₂ or H₂S, so that the correct course of action can be decided upon before it becomes a serious issue. In addition, other standard gas parameters can be monitored, including Wobbe index, which relate to the energy content of the gas and forms a part of the supply specification. Our goal is to establish a clear 'proof of concept' for a novel spectrometry system, including a novel measurement cell and state of the art Raman spectrometer with unprecedented sensitivity. The safety, economic and social benefits are numerous and the system would be retro-fitted onto existing pipelines in the global supply network. This technology will be designed to be compatible with other novel contamination sensors to make multi-species, lossless measurements for complete characterisation of natural gas in high pressure pipelines. At a time of change in the global energy industry in terms of changing sources of gas and security of energy supply, this innovative technology will provide the UK with a competitive advantage in the global energy supply market. Oil and gas multinationals have already shown great interest in the concept.

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ROLI Ltd	ROLI Ltd. - ShellPOC (Shell Proof of Concept)	£148,601	£89,159
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>This project will seek to prove the technical feasibility and design concepts of the 'Shell' interface platform for mobile computing devices (MCDs). Through the Seaboard GRAND, ROLI has proved a market need for high resolution, high bandwidth human computer interfaces that make use of our industry-leading design approach and technology. MCDs have increased in processing speed and efficiency with every release, but their touch input interfaces have not matched this pace of innovation, which is significant because the interface defines our lived interaction experience with them. As MCDs now make up an increasingly large percentage of our computing time, the potential benefits of a breakthrough in this area are growing larger and becoming more important. However, innovation has stilled since the maturation of capacitive touch screens. Although an unprecedented challenge of engineering and design, increasing the affordance of MCDs can make users' lives more comfortable, productive and expressive, and this is what ROLI wants to achieve with the Shell platform. We seek to further push the boundaries of our SEA Interface technology and adapt it for MCDs, which will require a number of innovations to be successful, in order to satisfy the formal constraints and cost requirements of mobile computing. The results of this work could have a profound impact on this UK company, but also the mobile computing industry globally.</p>			

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TextThing Ltd	TextThing Limited Proof of Concept	£163,034	£97,820
Project description - provided by applicants			
TextThing is an online service that radically simplifies the creation and management of text in organisations. It abandons the pervasive mental model of the printed document. It replaces existing tools for handling text - word processing software, email and document management systems - with a simple, fast and flexible online service that will change the way organisations and the people in them work with text. The idea is genuinely revolutionary and the business potentially huge. TextThing. Text. Rethought			

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Nemein Ltd	Development of a Novel ThermoElectric Generator for Powering Downhole Processes in the Oil and Gas Sector (TEG)	£165,892	£99,535
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>The Oil and Gas sector globally is worth \$3 trillion and provides 440,000 UK jobs. Industries within O&G includes exploration, equipping wells and other activities to the point of shipment. A key part in O&G exploration and extraction involves essential downhole processes such as measurements while-drilling (MWD) and logging-while-drilling (LWD) for borehole surveying and formation evaluation. They are currently powered by lithium batteries, and using power cables from the surface is not practical. The O&G sector has thus adopted the use of batteries as there is no viable alternative. There are however several concerns with these batteries such as fire, explosion, venting, susceptibility to shock and vibration, logistical issues with transportation. The Oil and Gas sector is therefore seeking an alternative that is both safe and reliable. Nemein, has a potentially promising battery-less power generation technology that needs further development and could meet this industry need, it is based on energy harvesting.</p>			

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Scanimal Trackers Ltd	Scanimal	£217,518	£100,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Fraud in both the human food chain and the buying, selling and welfare of pleasure horses is rife. Horses and ponies are principally identified by a paper based 'passport' and sometimes with micro-chips or branding. Passports are hand written and prone to error, falsification and fraud. Passports are often forged or illegally 'recycled' from dead animals, meaning horses are slaughtered and wrongly enter the food chain, containing dangerous substances such as 'bute'. Horses can be stolen and resold easily 'duplicate passports are easy to come by and the law is not enforced. Purchasers of horses for food or leisure purposes have no certain way of knowing that the horse they're looking at is the one in the passport. Microchips, once seen as the complete answer to this problem, are also susceptible to fraudulent actions: they can be removed or destroyed externally, cloned or more than one can be inserted. We are developing a new equine identification method for end users such as vets, Defra and other animal welfare agencies to enable them to reduce fraud both in the food chain and for leisure horse owners. Scanimal uses a unique 3D image capture and recognition system which, via smartphone apps, can provide unique identification of horses by recording their individual markings. The innovation is in our visual solution (patent applied for) to search images of equines so that one can be identified without the need for documentation or a microchip scanner.</p>			

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Navtech Radar Ltd	Radar Sensor for Airport applications	£166,038	£99,622
Project description - provided by applicants			
Navtech Radar is a world-leading innovator and multi-award winning designer and manufacturer of commercially deployed radar detection solutions. Our ground-breaking technology is utilised by clients across many industry sectors, from Security Surveillance and Industrial Automation to Traffic Incident Detection. Navtech has harnessed the power of the latest technology for commercial applications at a fraction of the cost, and to the most exacting quality and standards. Renowned for investing heavily in innovation and R&D, Navtech Radar has earned an unrivalled reputation for products that are high performance, robust and extremely reliable. Our systems are often used in mission-critical applications where safety and security are vital. This project aims to develop yet another innovative solution to increase safety in airports worldwide.			

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Byotrol PLC	Natural Antimicrobial Compounds from Seaweed	£157,457	£94,474
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Biocides deter or exert a controlling effect on harmful organisms, bacteria and fungi. The use of biocides, in disinfectants and antiseptics, is a key component for many effective programmes in the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections. However, serious concerns about the resistance of bacterial pathogens to biocides has been growing for a number of years. Hence there is an increasing demand for different biocides to be found. This is rather difficult due to the majority of current biocides (99.5%) being chemically derived and containing halogen, metallic and phenolic compounds. As a result, the biocides industry has been severely challenged on the lack of sustainability and levels of toxicity. Byotrol proposes to overcome these growing concerns and limitations by extracting and formulating biocides from the alternative, renewable and natural resource of seaweed.</p>			

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The Sustainable Home Survey Company CIC	Sustainable Home Survey (Ufloor - Underfloor insulation for suspended timber floors)	£161,264	£96,758
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>The Sustainable Home Survey Company (SHS) is a leading community-focused energymanagement assessment company and social incubator. To date, SHS's management team has delivered over 15 low carbon ventures and actively supports team members in identifying and growing spin-out companies. SHS have developed a prototype design for a low cost under floor insulation system (Ufloor) that eliminates the need to remove and replace floorboards ' speeding up the process and reducing costs. It achieves this by using a proprietary telescopic applicator (with an integrated camera for guiding movement) that can access the subfloor void through existing or newly installed airbricks. The U.K. has made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050. Fabric insulation represents the lowest cost/highest impact method for delivering home energy efficiency improvements. Despite significant traction made in the easy-to-install insulation market (e.g. roof and cavity wall insulation), floor insulation accounts for only 2% of the 964,401 insulation methods delivered under ECO, due to various technical and commercial barriers. A TSB SMART 'Proof of Market' study confirmed potential demand for a low cost/high impact solution to unlock the potential in the floor insulation market. The experienced management and advisory team together with established contractors, such as the Green Building Store and Ecologistics Ltd will develop a "Beta" device tested and verified with suitable insulation material, de-risk the business and deliver the Project objectives within the £161,264 budget in 15 months.</p>			

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Tidal Harness Ltd	Tidal Power Generation	£166,401	£99,839
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Carbon Trust (UK) identified that as the marine energy industry is moving toward commercialisation stage (~2020), there is a need to lower cost of generation by improving reliability of tidal energy devices, achieving lower installation, operation and maintenance costs and lower manufacturing costs. Offshore wind turbines require on average 2 servicing visits per year even though wind power is a mature technology. Given that access to maintenance and retrieval of a tidal turbine is an order of magnitude more difficult than that of an offshore wind turbine, it is therefore preferable to have a simpler but effective technology in the former. Tidal Harness Ltd's design philosophy is simplicity and with simplicity comes greater reliability and lower CAPEX & OPEX. This project addresses an effective and scalable tidal turbine with a direct-drive generator. This project aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of such a tidal turbine in converting kinetic energy to electrical energy.</p>			

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Magnomatics Ltd	Advanced Pseudo Direct Drive Motor	£166,653	£99,990
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>This project is concerned with the development of a novel rotor system for a magnetically geared motor (Pseudo Direct Drive or PDD) to demonstrate low noise and vibration with a clear route to manufacture. The technology is aimed at providing next generation compact, lightweight, efficient and low noise and vibration electric motor technology to address the growing urban and suburban rail markets. These markets include light rail, very light rail, monorail, Airport People Movers (APMs) and Diesel Multiple Unit (DMUs). Against a backdrop of rapidly increasing city populations (Mumbai current growth rate is 63%[1]) and road transport, and more stringent CO2 emissions regulations across the world, modern urban rail solutions provide an economical and environmentally sound transportation alternative, and optimisation and rationalisation of the drivetrain is already a major focus point for realising the attendant benefits. The advantages of the PDD have already been demonstrated in two TSB funded projects under the LCV IDP programme with Volvo Powertrain and a consortium including Dennis-Eagle and MIRA in which the motor demonstrated significant efficiency and packaging advantages over existing state-of-the-art technology. During dynamometer tests, the noise and vibration performance was found to be in need of improvement. So far, the motors produced by Magnomatics have been in prototype quantity, and the sub-assemblies manufactured using largely first generation designs. This project looks to develop rotor concepts to simultaneously address the issue of noise and vibration whilst enhancing the thermal management and production techniques through investigation of different manufacturing approaches. The benefits are increased TRL and MRL and lower manufacturing costs which will open up growing markets by displacing incumbent technologies such as expensive and relatively high loss gearboxes and direct drive through diesel-electric or electric traction.</p>			

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Surgical Synergy Ltd	SSL - Proof of Concept for Medusoscope	£195,430	£100,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>This Proof of Concept project will take the designs for a new endoscopic surgery instrument(Medusoscope) developed by Surgical Synergy Limited over the last 2 years and turn them into a basic working prototype. The project has been defined to confirm, through physical modelling and prototype development, that the detailed designs can be manufactured cost effectively and will deliver the anticipated benefits. This will enable a robust and informed decision to be made on developing this prototype into a workable instrument capable of clinical testing, then proceeding to accreditation for use in live surgery. Endoscopic surgery has increased in scale and scope every year for the last 25 years, becoming the preferred intervention for many conditions such as those treated in prostate and gall bladder surgery and is now increasingly accepted and advocated in joint surgery, neurosurgery and spinal surgery. Many of the instruments used for endoscopic interventions remain similar to those used 200 years ago by surgeons, excepting only their smaller size. The constraints imposed by these instruments have directly led, through discussions with surgeons from a number of disciplines, to a detailed set of requirements and statement of improvement needed. This is the design brief that underpins the product definitions to be tested through this project. This instrument, especially its 2nd generation flexible version, will allow more types of operation to be undertaken endoscopically to the significant benefit of patients: quicker operations, less scarring and pain, less collateral damage and infections - resulting in faster recovery and return to normal. The Medusoscope represents a radical new disposable approach, uses a range of modern synthetic materials, adopts a modular design and a multifunctional purpose. It will be usable across all surgical disciplines to complement existing high tech</p>			

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Innovate UK

Results of Competition: Smart Round 1 2015-16 - Proof of Concept
Competition Code: 1503_SmartRnd1_PoC

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
Spontly Ltd	Piebuy: a proof of concept of m-commerce for food and drink pre-ordering at sporting and cultural events (revised). Application by Spontly Ltd	£133,064	£79,838

Project description - provided by applicants

Food and drink ordering at sports stadia and live venues is often inefficient with long queues and unpredictable waiting times. This limits fan usage of event catering services and makes the live event experience less satisfactory. Mobile commerce (mCommerce) offers great potential to improve event catering. Food orders could be placed in advance via a mobile phone and paid for via online credit card payment. Food could then be dispensed without the need for cash or card handling. This would allow faster throughput at point of sale (because cash/card handling is slow) and allow pre-ordering even hours in advance. This would mean shorter queues; more predictable waiting times; more revenue for outlets and venues; less food waste and happier, more loyal fans. There would be societal benefits too: sports and other live events are an important part of national life which bring footfall to town centres and maintain a sense of community. More fans and happier fans multiplies those benefits. With many UK sports clubs and venues facing financial pressures, extra revenues and increased fan loyalty from mCommerce food and drink would be compelling. But there are big barriers to using existing mCommerce solutions in sports stadia and venues in the UK. In particular (a) mobile data capacity is inadequate so connectivity on site is a problem for fans, and (b) point-of-sale infrastructure at food concessions is lacking. This project proposes a solution 'PieBuy' that will provide an mCommerce service for food and drink sales in stadia and venues without requiring major capital investment by the venue and which is robust against limited connectivity. Total UK revenues will be £30M by 2020. This proof of concept project will create a basic prototype of the PieBuy system and demonstrate via limited live trials that (a) fans will adopt it (b) it is compatible with real world connectivity conditions and point of sale infrastructure (c) revenue and efficiency uplifts can be achieved.

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
N W Brown T/A BC Environmental	Testing of innovations to simplify the scale up of Microbial Fuel Cells	£147,604	£88,562
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Two of the key challenges facing us as a global community in the 21st century are climate change & access to clean water. Population growth and increasing usage of water has resulted in ever larger volumes of wastewater. Heightened public awareness & concerns over long term environmental & health effects have resulted in increasingly tight discharge standards. These twin drivers fuel the rise in energy required for treatment. One of the most energy intensive aspects of wastewater treatment is aeration for the aerobic oxidation of organic compounds. Typically half the energy is used for aeration and a key byproduct is a large amount of excess sludge. Treatment & disposal of this sludge is both costly and generates further environmental concerns. The treatment of water is currently the 4th largest sector for energy usage in the UK & global warming concerns mean that the industry is under pressure to achieve higher water quality whilst reducing its carbon footprint. The generation of electricity from the organics in wastewater has been acknowledged fact for many years and the potential benefits have been recognised by the EC (Future Brief 2013). Globally billions of Euros are spent treating trillions of litres of wastewater every year, consuming substantial amounts of energy. However, this wastewater could act as a renewable resource, saving significant quantities of energy and money, as it contains organic pollutants which can be used to produce electricity. Devices that can convert organic compounds directly to electricity are known as microbial fuel cells (MFCs) and combine biological & electrochemical processes. Whilst significant research has been undertaken into the potential of MFCs as a source of renewable energy, no large scale plants have been installed & the research is limited to the laboratory. Existing designs are complex and costly, so this project aims to investigate innovations that will simplify the design to allow low cost scale up of these device</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Tissuemed Ltd	A rapidly degradable tissue adhesive polymer for implantable medical devices	£196,480	£100,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Tissuemed is a Leeds based medical device company, the principal activity of which is the design, development and manufacture of innovative adhesive medical devices for use in internal surgical procedures. The devices are based on the company's proprietary Tissuebond bioadhesive technology and its family of CE marked TissuePatch products are designed to improve clinical outcomes and provide cost benefits to hospitals. TissuePatch is an implantable device, akin to an internal sticking plaster and is used during surgery to provide a sealing effect that prevents intra and post-operative leaks of air, blood and CSF fluid. To open the adhesive polymer technology to new markets, there is a requirement for a novel second generation tissue adhesive polymer with well-defined and controllable/tuneable properties to suit the different applications and product requirements of sealant films, sprayable liquid glues, coated meshes, scaffolds and other medical devices. The development of a new polymer and implantable medical device is a lengthy process. The goal of this project is to undertake proof-of-concept synthetic and analytical chemistry investigations into a novel tissue adhesive. Specifically, this involves the incorporation of certain chemical functionalities into the polymer structure to enable fine-tuning of performance and resorption characteristics whilst retaining the superior efficacy properties of the existing Tissuebond polymer and without compromising safety and biocompatibility.</p>			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Platelet Solutions Ltd	A novel testing service to rapidly identify stroke patients not responding to Clopidogrel antithrombotic therapy, and switch them to alternative effective medication. (Platelet Solutions-RPFT).	£117,946	£70,767

Project description - provided by applicants

PLATELET SOLUTIONS LTD (PS Ltd.) is a micro-SME founded on extensive research and experience in Cardiovascular Medicine at Nottingham University. A stroke occurs when blood flow in the brain is interrupted; either due to blood clots, ischaemic stroke (IS), or an artery bursts (haemorrhagic stroke). One occurs every 3 mins 27 s in the UK striking people of all ages - each year in the UK there are 90.1k ISs, and 46k transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs or mini-strokes, where symptoms resolve in 24 hrs). In 2009 the total annual costs of stroke care were estimated at £9b - 5% of total UK NHS costs - direct care of £4.5b, informal care £2.4b, and indirect costs of £2.1b. Within 5 years of the first stroke there is a ca. 25% risk of recurrence of a more debilitating event. To reduce the risk of another stroke all patients after IS and TIA receive antiplatelet treatment with clopidogrel for life. However, not all patients respond to the drug therapy and no testing is performed to identify them placing this subgroup at higher risk of another stroke. We have developed a commercially and technology innovative testing service to identify patients who are not benefiting from clopidogrel drug therapy and for whom widely available alternative therapy (aspirin with dipyridamole) would be beneficial. We project that full uptake of the service could save the NHS up to £38.5m p.a. in direct medical costs, and the UK economy £79.1m p.a. in informal care and productivity losses. Success of the project will transform Platelet Solutions Ltd. to a SME.

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Sense Innovation Ltd	ALERT- Adaptive Learning Eyeware & Remote Tracking	£166,704	£100,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<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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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Glass Manufacturing Services Ltd	3D LOP	£165,849	£99,509
Project description - provided by applicants			
GMS will develop an innovative machining process for the manufacture of 3D shaped Laser and Optical Parts (3D LOP), to achieve 'inside-out' machining of a glass block to produce components with complex geometrical shapes, to a high precision with minimal waste and at a fraction of the cost of current cutting technologies (which cut from the 'outside-in'). The technology will address an industry need for a low-cost, flexible manufacturing capability of glass components with complex, customised 3D shapes to high precision in short time-frames with reduced labour and energy input. The 18 month project will demonstrate the 3D LOP process in the lab at a TRL=5, developing a laser system demonstrator that can process various components with complex 3D geometrical shapes from a range of materials.			

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Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Brightbook Ltd	OpenINSIGHT	£203,581	£100,000
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Micro, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) make up 99.8% of all enterprises outside of financial services in Europe (European Commission, 2014). SMEs use a wide range of enterprise management software (such as accounting, CRM and project management packages) which they need to be very simple to use and low cost. There are, for example, numerous cloud-based accountancy packages some of which are very simple and cheap (even free) and aimed at micro companies with no dedicated accounting personnel and some of which are geared to larger SMEs who may typically have a Finance Director or CFO. Current solutions, however, only concern themselves with recording & reporting on the user's own business. They do not provide a wider insight into how your business is operating in comparison to other, similar businesses (e.g. performance benchmarking of pricing, input costs or overheads) in order to deliver actionable insight. By their very nature, a Software as a Service offering 'like our own Brightbook cloud-based accounting platform' captures and stores an enormous amount of data from its user base. In parallel the provision of open data from external public and private sources has been shown to enable the basis for innovative applications and initiatives that have delivered economic, social and environmental benefits. An example is opencorporates.com which has information on over 84 million companies in 102 territories and is rapidly becoming the 'go to' destination for anyone needing information about companies globally. This R&D proof of concept project will investigate the technical feasibility of and commercial potential for technology that utilises aggregated user base data and external open data within an enterprise management SaaS platform to deliver valuable actionable insight to managers of small businesses.</p>			

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