

Technology Pipeline Fund (TPF)

Principles and Guidelines for Applicants

2020



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The objective of the TPF is to increase the early stage pipeline of opportunities that may be further developed towards new spin-out companies. Project funding is available to aid early stage assessment of such opportunities and to position them for follow-on funding (e.g. through Enterprise Ireland CFF or CF, or other sources of proof of concept funding) and to encourage more researchers to engage in commercialisation.

Enterprise Ireland via Knowledge Transfer Ireland have jointly awarded the 'East-West Consortium' €120,000 to undertake this programme. The 'East-West' Consortium comprises UL, DCU, DkIT and LIT €120,000. The consortium is led by their TTOs. The TTOs have formed a separate committee to allocate investment funding to eligible submitted projects. Enterprise Ireland via Knowledge Transfer Ireland will issue individual funding contract to all successful projects.

This document sets out the principles for the fund and guidelines as to how it will be operated and how assessment will be made.

In summary:

- Up to €15k per project may be awarded.
- Projects must be completed within 6 months of the start date and all projects must be completed by the end of 2020.

Eligible expenses relate to the direct costs of undertaking the project:

- costs of further developing the scope of an invention,
- costs of undertaking proof of concept study,
- additional experimentation aimed at strengthening intellectual property by providing critically important exemplification data,
- external research associated with developing the business proposition (excluding market research which is available under the CFF).

The Application Form is available from your Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent).

Call Close Date: 24th April 2020

Contracts for successful applications are expected to be issued in late May. EI / KTI have indicated that there may be some flexibility on start dates as a result of the disruption caused by Covid-19.

1 DECISION MAKING AND APPROVAL PROCESSES

1.1 Project Submissions

Project submissions are to be made via your institutions Technology Transfer Office of Equivalent using the relevant application form. From there the application will be evaluated by the Technology Pipeline Fund Committee (TPFC).

The TPFC will consider each application and whether it fulfils the criteria and how that application fits with the TPFC Objectives.

The TPF committee will respond to each application in one of the following ways:

- i) Decline funding
- ii) Funding approved subject to conditions defined by the TPFC.
- iii) Funding approved.

1.2 Opportunity Assessment

When considering a new opportunity there are three main areas the TPFC considers:

- Eligibility
- Viability
- Outcome

For a project to be funded it must adequately satisfy all of these criteria..

2 BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

Funding shall be made to each institution directly by Enterprise Ireland / Knowledge Transfer Ireland for each project funded.

2.1 Eligible expenses

Funding of TPF projects is designed to generate sufficient preliminary data in order to establish the viability of an approach before seeking more substantial funding (e.g. Commercial Feasibility Fund, Commercialisation Fund). This may include e.g. further developing the scope of an invention, additional experimentation aimed at strengthening intellectual property by providing critically important exemplification data. Funding under the TPF is not intended to duplicate any existing funds such as the Enterprise Ireland [Commercialisation Feasibility Fund](#) (CFF) or [Commercialisation Fund](#).

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Excluded costs:

- Overheads
- Legal fees, including patent and IP protection costs
- Marketing/Sales
- Conference, trade shows and travel
- Research costs incurred prior to the commencement date
- Capital equipment
- Training
- Mentoring

2.2 Reporting

Applicants will be required to report on

- a) Four monthly reports (4 months from commencement date) on progress of funded projects.
- d) A report tracking outcomes from the TPF at 10 months following the end of the funding period.