



Network in biocatalyst discovery, development and scale up, a BBSRC NIBB

## Proof-of-Concept Application Form

### Application Details

#### Funding Background

Funding is available to all BIOCATNET members for short-term Proof-of-Concept (PoC) projects. These projects are designed to stimulate collaborations between BIOCATNET members leading to further applications for funding.

#### Objectives

The PoC awards will support short-term, precompetitive research projects and scoping exercises in order to de-risk future research and development projects, thereby increasing chances of success and opportunities for uptake of biocatalysis in industry. PoC awards will support high quality integrated research and development projects that bring together key academic and business components of the UK Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy community. Interactions can be either academic-only collaborations or academic and business collaborations but must be led by the academic partner. All projects will be expected to take into account the sustainability, social, economic and environmental aspects of the processes and products that are being developed.

#### Scope and Challenges

Projects should address one or more of the following challenges:

- Biocatalyst discovery and screening
- Biocatalyst development and optimisation
- Biocatalyst scale-up

The proof-of-concept projects will serve as a basis for further funding applications, therefore, successful participants in these projects will benefit from enhancement in their understanding of a particular technology area and thus improving their ability to apply for further funding to continue the development of said technology area.

#### Key Features of the Proof of Concept award

- Projects must be precompetitive
- Projects must not contravene the European Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation<sup>1</sup>
- Projects must be academic led
- Funding is available at 80% of fEC
- Funding is only available to academic partners; standard BBSRC and EPSRC eligibility rules will apply
- Business involvement is encouraged, but business partners must cover their own costs

- Subcontracting to SME's will be funded up to 20% of the total project costs for, provided that specific requirement for subcontracting can be demonstrated. Subcontracting cannot be used to fund core research activities. Subcontracting will be funded at 80% of fEC.
- Projects must apply BBSRC's data sharing policy [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/policies/position/policy/data-sharing-policy.aspx](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/policies/position/policy/data-sharing-policy.aspx)
- The typical duration of a project will be between 1 and 12 months. The maximum duration of a project is 12 months.
- Payment will be made in arrears subject to successful completion of work and reporting requirements (see Terms and Conditions).

### Competition Process

The submission deadline for PoC applications will be one calendar month from the date of the call opening. Applications should be submitted to the Network Manager via email ([biocatnet@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:biocatnet@manchester.ac.uk)) with the subject line "Proof of Concept funding application, *unique identification number*, and the name of the lead partner institution". Assessment of applications will be conducted by the BIOCATNET management board.

### Notes on completing this form

The text entry areas within this form are fixed sizes. Applicants must ensure that their content is contained within the boundaries of the text areas. Any content entered which is not visible on the form will not be considered by the assessors of the application. The typeface and font size in the text entry areas are predetermined and must not be changed.

### The Application Form

The application form consists of sections which allow applicants to provide their details about the lead organisation making the application, project title, subtheme, project timetable and an abstract of the proposed project. The main body of the application form is broken down into three main sections; Project Background, Funding and Added Value, Partner Details.

**Project Number** – this number is assigned by BIOCATNET. Please quote this number on any correspondence with BIOCATNET.

**Project Title** – Please enter the full title of your project.

**Subtheme** – Please identify which BIOCATNET subtheme your application comes under.

**Applicant Details** – Please provide details of the lead applicant.

**Project Timetable** – Please indicate the proposed start date and duration of the project.

**Public Summary** – We request that all applicants provide a short abstract of the proposed work to be undertaken.

**Project Background** – Describe the relevant IB challenges that you are seeking to address and how this project will accomplish this. Where relevant outline any prior experimental/technical evidence and explain how the previous results bridge to the proposed study. Provide an overview of your work plan, including the technical approaches and milestones. Please attach a Gantt chart or similar highlighting major milestones and projecting a timeline for applications for further funding based on the outputs of the PoC project.

**Funding and Added Value** – Applicants will provide details of how this PoC funding will lead to further funding applications. Explain how these further funding applications would not be possible without conducting the

proposed PoC project. Overseas partners (Industry or academia) can participate as collaborative partners in projects but only UK academics are eligible for funding.

**Partner Details** – Please provide details on any partner organisation within the project. Explain the nature of the consortium and how this adds value to the application. Also, for any industrial partners please provide details of their financial contribution to the project.

**Conflicts of Interest** – the application will be reviewed by members of the BIOCATNET Management Board. Please identify the existence of conflicts of interest. If this section is left blank then BIOCATNET will assume that no conflicts of interest exist and will treat the application as such. It is the applicant(s) responsibility to ensure that this section is completed correctly, BIOCATNET cannot be held responsible in the event of disclosure of information contained herein should there be a failure to provide the necessary information by the applicant(s).

**Finance Summary** – breakdown of costs according to FEC. Please note that the costs of equipment purchases are not eligible for funding under the Proof-of-Concept scheme, although costs relating to the use of existing equipment (for example, purchase of time on a service instrument) may be eligible.

<sup>1</sup>The Community Framework for State Aid for Research & Development & Innovation states that there will be no aid to the industrial partner/end user or the RO if one of the following conditions is met:

- The undertaking(s) bears the full cost of the project; or
- The results are widely disseminated and IP rights allocated to the RO; or
- The RO receives compensation at market price for the IP rights which result from the activity of the RO and which are transferred to the participating undertakings; or
- Where there is a contractual agreement between partners under which IP rights and access rights to results are allocated to the partners in a way which reflects their interests, work packages and financial contributions to the project.

If the conditions above are not met the Commission will consider the contribution of the RO to the research project to be aid to the undertakings (businesses). [www.bis.gov.uk/files/file49310.pdf](http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file49310.pdf)

<b>Project Number</b>	
<b>Project Title</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Subtheme</b>	Choose an item.

<b>Applicant Details</b>	
<i>Provide details of the lead applicant for the project.</i>	
<b>Name</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Organisation</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Address</b>	Click here to enter text.
	Click here to enter text.
	Click here to enter text.
<b>Postcode</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>email</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Phone</b>	Click here to enter text.

<b>Project Timetable</b>			
<i>Please indicate the proposed start date and duration of the project.</i>			
Proposed Start date	Click here to enter a date.	Duration of Project	

<b>Public Summary</b>
<i>Please provide a short public summary of the content and objectives of your project including what is innovative about it.</i>
Click here to enter text.

## Project Background

*Please provide a detailed background to the project. Applicants are required to identify how the project aligns with the objectives of BIOCATNET.*

Click here to enter text.

SAMPLE

## Project Background

Click here to enter text.

SAMPLE

### Funding and Added Value

*Identify how this funding will help accelerate further funding applications.*

Click here to enter text.

### Partner Details

*Please describe the consortium structure and introduce the consortium members. Provide a brief description of their expertise and track record.*

Click here to enter text.

### Conflicts of Interest

Please identify any potential conflicts of interest.

Click here to enter text.

### Finance Summary Table

	Fund Heading	Total Cost @ 100% fEC	Requested funding @ 80% fEC
Directly Incurred	Staff	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
	Travel & Subsistence	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
	Other Costs*	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Directly Allocated	Investigators	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
	Estate Costs	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
	Other Directly Allocated	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Total		Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

\*please note that equipment purchases are not eligible costs for funding under the Proof-of-Concept scheme.

### Declaration on *de minimis* state aid regulations

I agree that I have read and understood the *de minimis* regulations and confirm that we would not in breach of these regulations by accepting this funding