



**Swindon & Wiltshire**  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

# **ERDF Digital Industries Call information session 15 January 2018**

## **Swindon and Wiltshire ERDF Technical Assistance 2014-2020**



# ERDF Priority 1: Progress to date

## Monies allocated to Swindon and Wiltshire for Priority 1

<b>ERDF priority 1</b>	<b>Allocation in £</b>
PA1 allocation	<b>£6.73m</b>
<b>Project commitments to date</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovate2Succeed</li> <li>• Porton Science incubator</li> <li>• Health &amp; Life science hub</li> </ul>	<b>£4.0m</b>
<b><i>Remaining amounts</i></b>	
Current Call – Digital Industries – open now	<b>£0.5m</b>
Future Call - Research Infrastructure – in 2018	<b>£2.2m</b>

# ERDF Priority 1: Call Details

**Promoting Research & Innovation - Digital Industries**

**£500,000**

## **Time line for applications – [download forms](#)**

- Closing date 23:59 - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## **Project timeline – [call details](#)**

- Realistic start date is November / December 2018
- Duration 3 years for revenue-based projects

## **HM Treasury guarantee**

- Contracts made before 29 March 2019 will be honoured regardless of situation on Brexit

# Local Priorities: Strategic Fit

- Call document section 3.2 **‘Local development need’**
- [ESIF Strategy](#) and local policy inform local priorities
- Emerging SWLEP digital strategy, Industrial Strategy, etc
- Local committee advises Managing Authority on Outline and Full Application assessments, but it does not decide.
- Alignment to **national eligibility criteria** and operational programme is critical for selection

# Local Priorities: Development needs

## Local development needs

- Support to non-digital traditional industries – Industry 4.0
- Help (local) digital industries start-up and grow

### *Firstly ...*

- Digitisation – changing processes – new modes of production
- New products – difficult, barriers – innovation necessary
- Across sectors – not just industrial – eg; healthcare *and* cultural

### *Secondly ...*

- A call to help digital industries start-up and develop by linking them to the innovation needs and opportunities of non-digital industries

# Local Priorities: Outcomes

- Improved capacity and capability of all businesses to recognise the gains from investment in digital technologies
- Bespoke diagnostic and support services for SMEs
- Targeted and tailored access to new knowledge, skills and networks to give all digital technology businesses the confidence to innovate and develop new ideas to the point of commercial release
- Actual new digital-based products and services developed and brought to market by businesses based in the area

# Local Priorities: Call Priorities

- Deeper and lengthier support targeted at smaller businesses
- Working with and in local infrastructure - reaching out
- Working with the SWLEP and other projects through Growth Hub
- Relevant and contemporary technology introduction and relay
- 1-2-many sessions across a spectrum of societal & economic issues
- Working with public sector where there is opportunity (and data)
- Not just a grant scheme – small grants schemes + support

# Strong applications: Outline assessment

## Gateway assessment

1. Is the applicant eligible to use funds from ERDF?
2. Is the activity and spending eligible within the rules?
3. Is the proposal relevant to the call for proposal?

## Core Selection criteria

- A. Strategic fit – with ERDF programme, national priorities, etc
- B. Value for money
- C. Deliverability
- D. Management and control
- E. Compliance – with State Aid, Procurement rules & publicity
- F. Cross-cutting themes Equality and Sustainable Development

## [Selection criteria guidance](#)



# Strong applications: Process

## The ERDF Application Process

- **Outline Application** - Assessment - ESIF sub-Committee - Managing Authority decision
- **Full Application** - Meeting - Appraisal (iterative) - ESIF sub-Committee - Managing Authority decision
- **Grant Funding Agreement (GFA)** - pre-GFA conditions - GFA completion - contractual conditions
- **Project Inception Visit (PIV) and On-the-Spot-Verification (OtSV)**
- **Project Management** – Claims and compliance - Audit checks / visits

[Project life cycle guide](#)

# National Priorities: Eligibility

## Project activity – investment priorities

- Coherent application should begin with scoping activities to fit programme
- Call doc. (3.3) - proposals must be within scope of **Investment Priority**
- Priority 1a and 1b both apply – call focus is 1b – generally for revenue costs
- Must have fit with at least one of the **Specific Objectives**
- Project should aim to carry out a number of **Indicative Actions**

## Costs

- Costs should be set out in the Application Annex
- Outline Application should make reasonably accurate explanation of the costs of carrying out the activities to deliver the project

## Beneficiaries

- SMEs are focus – Priority 1 allows projects to work with larger businesses in cooperation with their supply chains

# National Priorities: Outputs and value

## Outputs [Full list of local ERDF targets](#)

- **Input** (costs) enable **projects** working on a range of **Indicative Actions** to deliver **Outputs**
- Outputs are discreet to each **investment priority**
- [Read the Guidance](#) – meanings are obscure, evidence is prescribed
- C1 is 12 hours assistance - most other outputs are subsets

## Value for Money

- Input monies delivering proposed no. of outputs = vfm assessment
- Programme *ready reckoners for cost per output* are used to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of outline proposals

# Programme priorities: Technical

## State Aid

- Rules under general block exemptions (GBER)
- Supporting businesses may qualify as *de minimis aid*
- You will need formal advice at Full Application stage

## Procurement

- Competition rules apply – open published tenders
- Rules apply to partners and grant-aided beneficiaries

## Income generation

- To prevent incompatible subsidy with grant when project creates income – discounted grants or clawback apply

# Strong applications: Delivery

## Expenditure

- Capital or revenue – follows **indicative actions**
- Project budget – separate accounts

## Partners

- Lead partner is responsible for the project – will hold contract (“GFA”)
- Delivery partners have legal agreements with lead partner to deliver particular activities – this allows lead partner to work with who it wishes
- Often, delivery is sub-contracted, but this must be publicly procured

# Technical Assistance: Any Questions?



**Read the Guidance** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-2014-to-2020-european-structural-and-investment-funds>

# Thank you very much

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<https://growthhub.swlep.co.uk/community/swindon-wiltshire-esif-eu-funding-programme>

[https://www.swlep.co.uk/programmes/European-Structural-Investment-Fund-\(ESIF\)](https://www.swlep.co.uk/programmes/European-Structural-Investment-Fund-(ESIF))

