



**Bwyd a Diod Cymru
Rhwydwaith Clwstwr
Food & Drink Wales
Cluster Network**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME BRIEF

Doc IP_WG_001

July 2018



**Bwyd a Diod Cymru
Food & Drink Wales**

SUMMARY

The Welsh Government Food and Drink Division are inviting collaborative projects to develop innovative food and drink solutions which address societal and public sector challenges and common issues facing small groups of businesses within the food and drink industry. The programme will support collaborative projects which are business led and comprise of at least one other business, research institution or public sector organisation.

Projects are invited to compete for a share of up to £750,000 for the research and development of new products, services or processes. This programme is supported by the Welsh Government.

BACKGROUND

The Welsh Government Food and Drink Division are launching the Innovation Partnership in Action Programme to support business led projects to maximise collaborative opportunities in the development of new products, new services or processes, which will accelerate growth by increased innovation and route to market development. The Innovation Partnership in Action programme aims to address the core areas of the Well Being for Future Generations Act (2015), to facilitating innovation in areas such as health, sustainability, and environmental through collaborative engagements. The Innovation Partnership in Action Programme aims to stimulate innovation in a collaborative environment allowing businesses to work with partners in industry, academia and the public sector.

The programme will deliver expertise and resources to accelerate the development of innovative food and drink businesses in Wales and accelerate growth through UK Trade or Export opportunities through high impact innovation investment. Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014 – 2020 sets out the Welsh Government's ambition to grow sales in the food and drink sector by 30% to £7 billion by the year 2020. The development of both existing and new export markets for Welsh food and drink products will be essential towards realising our vision.

Clustering initiatives are collaborations between public and private sector actors/firms, government agencies and academic institutions. Cluster development is about removing the isolation of firms, especially SMEs, and other actors, and connecting all into more innovative systems. Many governments around the globe have in recent years turned to cluster development to stimulate innovation and economic growth. Food Clusters are key to assisting Welsh businesses in achieving their own and our vision.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Identify projects which can:

- Maximise collaborative opportunities in the development of new products, services or processes, which will accelerate growth by increased innovation and route to market development.
- Address the core areas of the Future Generations Act, to facilitating innovation in areas such as health, sustainability, and environmental through collaborative engagements.
- Tackle societal and public sector challenges and common issues facing small groups of businesses.

THE CHALLENGE

This programme will support collaborative projects to develop innovative food and drink solutions which address societal and public sector challenges or common issues facing small groups of businesses within the food and drink industry. The funding will be provided to stimulate innovation in a collaborative environment allowing businesses to work with partners in industry, academia and the public sector.

This programme is seeking collaborative projects which are business led and consist of at least one other partner which include a business, research institution or a public sector organisation. Lead businesses must be members of the Food and Drink Cluster Network and be a SME registered in Wales. Businesses wishing to join the Food and Drink Cluster Network should contact FoodBIS@wales.qsi.gov.uk

Collaborative feasibility studies

Purpose: Analyse the potential for consortiums to work together in the development of new products, services or processes. This funding is designed to demonstrate the technical and commercial feasibility of the proposed concept. The funding will enable projects to analyse and evaluate the potential of concepts and ideas supporting the decision making process.

This programme is interested in projects which incorporate the following areas although projects are not limited to these specific areas:

- Advanced Engineering Capability
- AI and the Internet of Things
- Energy Efficiencies
- Health and Nutrition

Out of scope

Projects considered out of scope include:

- Single organisation projects
- Proposals which exceed the maximum duration and cost
- Projects which lack innovative concepts
- Solutions requiring substantial regulatory approval (applicants should check with the competition team to check if their solution would be eligible for funding).

FUNDING ALLOCATION AND PROJECT DETAILS

A funding contribution of 75% will be available for projects of up to the maximum grant contribution of £75,000 (inc. VAT). Projects will be required to match fund 25% of the total eligible costs in the form of cash contributions from the public, private or third sectors. The lead business within the consortium must claim funding through this competition. Projects will be for a duration of 4 months and projects must conclude by 1st March 2019.

This programme is designed to initiate and stimulate innovation in a collaborative environment. The programme will run for one phase, however there might be further phases in the future depending on policy objectives. Funding through this phase of the programme does not guarantee any further funding for future research and development.

Projects will be selected by an open competition process and retain the intellectual property rights (IPR) generated from the project.

BRIEFING EVENTS

Briefing events for organisations interested in finding out more about the programme will be held at the Vale Resort, Hensol on Tuesday 11th September 2018 at 1pm and the Quay Hotel, Deganwy on Wednesday 12th September 2018 at 1pm. These events will provide an opportunity for interested applicants to ask questions about the competition and meet experts from the Welsh Government Food and Drink Division. The briefing events will also provide organisations with the opportunity to network and form collaborations.

The events are free to attend but please ensure you register for the events and confirm your attendance as soon as possible. Spaces at the events are limited; these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. To reserve a place at either of the events please send the names and contact details of the attendees clearly marked as **BRIEFING EVENT** to FoodBIS@wales.gsi.gov.uk (No more than 2 per organisation, if there is a high demand for spaces you may be informed that only 1 space is available). An agenda for the briefing event and directions to the venue will be provided following registration. If you experience any difficulties or wish to seek additional clarification, please contact us.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Directions on how to enter this competition can be found in the Guidance Notes Document (IP_WG_002).

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme will be administered by Menter a Busnes on behalf of the Welsh Government Food and Drink Division.

DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAMME

- Programme Brief (IP_WG_001)
- Guidance Notes (IP_WG_002)
- Application Form (IP_WG_003)
- Application Form Guidance Notes (IP_WG_004)

KEY DATES

Programme launch	July 2018
Briefing events	11 th & 12 th September 2018
Deadline for applications	28 th September 2018
Assessment day	15 th October 2018
Contracts awarded	October 2018
Projects commence	29 th October 2018
Projects conclude	1 st March 2019

Please note dates are subject to change

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any enquiries about this competition e-mail: FoodBIS@wales.gsi.gov.uk