

News Release



Innovative High Tech Projects Sought by South Yorkshire's Objective 1 Programme

Bioremediation, Sports Science, High Tech Materials or Knowledge Transfer Proposals Can Receive up to £1 million Investment from European Funds

South Yorkshire's Objective 1 Programme is seeking to commission innovative projects in four high tech sectors: Bioremediation, Sports Science, High Tech Materials or Knowledge Transfer as part of its high tech business cluster plans. Each of these fast track funded projects can receive up to 40% of their total project costs to a maximum of £1 million of grant. The projects can run for up to three years.

Objective 1 is investing around £700 million from Europe in a seven-year programme aimed at building a balanced, diverse and sustainable high growth economy in South Yorkshire. As part of its strategy it is stimulating high tech growth business sectors and will shortly publish plans to develop business clusters in South Yorkshire in the following high tech business sectors: biosciences; environmental technologies; high tech manufacturing; high tech services; creative and cultural industries; and banking, financial and professional services. This exceptional call for innovative proposals is part of the implementation of these cluster plans.

"Investment by Objective 1 can provide significant help to businesses operating in these areas. The return we seek is in terms of increased business turnover, jobs being created and investment secured for South Yorkshire" said Tony Newson of Objective 1.

"Research indicates that successful economic regeneration can be boosted by development of key strategic business clusters that grow and develop together and build a critical mass that encourages further inward investment and development. We are seeking to develop clusters that have long-term growth potential. We, therefore, welcome any proposal for a project that has the potential to bring forward significant investment, contribute to the objectives and targets of the Objective 1 Programme and helps position South Yorkshire as a leading location for the key business clusters and can make a substantial impact on the long term sustainable development of South Yorkshire" said Tony.

Proposals will be appraised in two stages. Simple outline proposals should be sent to Objective 1 by 7 December. Successful outline projects will need to submit a detailed proposal early in the New Year with a final funding decision taken by early spring.

Further details of the four high tech areas eligible for support and the type of projects that Objective 1 is seeking to support in this call for proposals is attached.

A full briefing document can be obtained from Martin Beesley of Objective 1 on 01709 763647 or by emailing martinbeesley.goyh@go-regions.gov.uk.

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Objective 1 Call for Proposals
Eligible Areas of Activity

Bioremediation – is defined as the ‘use of biological systems to remove pollution and environmental contamination’. Proposals should demonstrate how leading edge techniques for biological remediation will exploit existing academic and other expertise in South Yorkshire and/or bring in new technology and investment from outside to develop commercial activity on a substantial scale in South Yorkshire. Eligible projects could include:

- Clean up of contaminated land
- Waste water treatment
- Removal of pollutants from water supplies
- Destruction of chemical and other solid waste

Sports Science – the commercial application of expertise in sports science has been identified as an area that has potential for innovative activity in South Yorkshire and can make a positive contribution to regional GDP. Projects should position sports science within the cluster plans, particularly those for biosciences, high technology manufacturing, high technology services and cultural creative and media. Eligible projects could include:

- Biosciences – eg biomedical aspects of sports medicine, sports injuries, sports performance
- High Technology manufacturing – eg sports equipment, materials, design
- High Technology services – eg sports/leisure software, management,
- Cultural, creative and media – eg sports media, communications, publishing

High Technology Materials – proposals are invited for projects within the South Yorkshire strategic framework developed through the High Technology Manufacturing Cluster Plan, the Metals Related Industry Task Force report, the UK Metals Centre of Excellence study and the Advanced Manufacturing Park at Waverley. Projects will need to demonstrate how they can add value to this framework through the commercial development of new products and processes specifically in the fields of high technology, advanced or intelligent materials, Proposals must focus on the development and applications of high technology materials and not on basic research. Materials developments that give South Yorkshire’s industrial companies a competitive edge and secure intellectual property for the sub-region will be especially welcome. Eligible projects could include:

- High temperature materials like alloy steels, nickel base alloys and metal matrix composites
- Aerospace structural materials such as titanium base alloys, aluminium based alloys, intermetallic alloys and light weight composites
- Corrosion resisting materials such as stainless steels and biocompatible materials
- Coatings and surface engineering such as treatments to prevent corrosion and wear or nanotechnology for practical applications
- Innovative materials such as functional materials, intelligent materials or new tool materials

Knowledge Transfer – proposals are invited for projects which enhance the innovative capacity and competitive performance of companies in South Yorkshire in the six target sectors through the systematic design and delivery of improved access to, and exploitation of, sources of world class expertise, knowledge and intelligence for technological development and technical problem solving. Eligible projects could include:

- Gathering international information on technologies and markets for dissemination to the South Yorkshire sub-region
- Accessing and assessing technology options for technology transfer
- Information on technologies with respect to ownership, availability, intellectual property rights and exploitation cost
- Transfer of knowledge on existing or new technologies for industrial consideration, especially on a cross-sector basis
- Support for data collection and dissemination with regard to systems development, information retrieval and storage and technical support

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