

SURGICAL MEDTECH CO-OPERATIVE FUNDING COMPETITION 2021/22

The NIHR Surgical MedTech Cooperative is inviting industry, researchers and clinicians working in colorectal, HPB, vascular and neurosurgery to apply for pump-prime or clinical session funding. Funding is available to support the development of new concepts, demonstration of proof of principle, expedite translation of research to the clinic, and devise new research protocols for new medical devices, healthcare technologies or technology-dependent interventions for surgical technologies.

We are particularly interested in applications that address the unmet clinical needs listed on our website - <https://surgicalmic.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/>.

Applicants can apply for up to £10K to further develop ideas and solutions.

Requirements:

- All applications must have a clinical collaborator.
- Industry-led applications must include matched funding which can be financial or in-kind support.
- Successful applicants will work in conjunction with the NIHR Surgical MIC and its extensive network in order to successfully prototype and/or validate their idea(s) (i.e. show proof of concept/principle).

The number of projects funded and the allocation of funding will be dependent upon the number of high-quality applications received.

Incubator Packages

This is a seed funding call (up to £5K) for the early development of novel technology-based solutions applicable to colorectal, HPB, neuro and/or vascular surgery (including wound care).

Applications are invited from academic institutions, NHS Trusts, third sector organisations and industry.

Incubator packages are designed to support the development of new medical technologies and they help teams to develop and progress their idea. Incubator packages are suitable for applicants that are looking to conduct the following activities (not limited to these activities):

- Feasibility research on a new device/technology
- Prototype design and development
- Filing of Intellectual Property, Patents etc...
- Focus groups and engagement activities (i.e. academic/clinical/industry)

Submission Deadlines

Applications must be submitted by one of the following deadlines:

- 04 February 2022
- 29 April 2022
- 16 June 2022
- 28 July 2022

Applications are expected to be translational or have clearly planned translational aspects in the near or long term.

The number of incubator packages funded and the allocation of funding will be dependent upon the number of high-quality applications received. An important aspect in evaluating submitted projects is the potential to develop into a more substantial project that can apply for external funding.

Projects must use allocated support by 31 March 2023.

Additional notes:

Projects should aim to bring together researchers, clinicians, patients/public and industry. All components are not expected to be present for the duration of the project however, the applicant is advised to consider how they will be incorporated in the medium and longer term.

All applications should have a strong emphasis on patient benefit with plans for patient and public involvement. Industry involvement is recommended where possible, projects leveraging industry or third-party funding to translate research for clinical impact are also important to the NIHR Surgical MIC.

Review Panel

All proposals will be considered by the Clinical Director, Clinical Theme Leads, Academic Work Stream Leads, our Patient and Public Involvement Committee and the University of Leeds/Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Innovation teams. Additional panel members will be called upon from the following: health economists, clinical trials unit, industry key opinion leaders, and members of our network.

Scope of Funding

It is expected that funding will be used to support:

- independent small-scale projects – a small project that can develop independently from other projects. This would allow IP to be secured, pilot data obtained and/or de-risking of the project. The results would be used to apply for more substantial research funding.
- dependent small-scale projects – a small project that can utilise current or upcoming research projects as a basis of exploring new avenues that could later develop in to a larger, separate project. This would allow IP to be secured, pilot data obtained and/or de-risking of the project. The results would be used to apply for more substantial research funding.
- Staff time – for small scale development projects for example implementing algorithms, processing historical data to support new projects, etc.

Suitable resources

Pump priming funding can be used to support:

- Equipment (software and hardware)
- Consumables
- NHS Staff time

How to apply

Application forms for the Strategic Call and Incubator Packages are available on our website - <https://surgicalmic.nihr.ac.uk/support-available/funding-competitions/>

Some things to think about:

- How does your project align with the NIHR Surgical MIC unmet needs and clinical themes?
- Include details on the maturity of any research/technology/intervention under development, the translational aspects, clinical impact, the patient benefit and the impact of healthcare provision.
- Dissemination of research to patients and the public, involvement in development of research.
- Has there been any industry support/interaction for this project, if not then future plans for engaging with industry or why no industry interaction is planned.
- Explain the deliverables in the short, medium and longer timeframes.
- If applying for funding for clinical session support please indicate the start and end dates for position.
- Successful applicants make a strong case for how the Surgical MIC funding will be used to leverage further funding to continue resulting work.
- Staff of any role, responsibility, department or grade are encouraged to apply.
- Only novel ideas will be supported through our funding.
- Applicants must be prepared to comply with their respective organisation's Intellectual Property policy and the [NIHR Intellectual Property requirements](#).