



Malta Council for Science and Technology

*Opportunities for SMEs*  
**National**  
**Research & Innovation Programme**

**Eric Flask**

*R&I Programme Manager, MCST*

# Outline

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# Research and Innovation Programme

## *An Overview*

# Background

- MCST initiative in 2004
- MCST lobbied at highest levels
- Government allocated Lm300,000
- MCST entrusted with design and administration of Programme

# Programme Scope & Focus

- Financial support for research, development and innovation in Science and Technology (acquire new knowledge).
- Key objective: to promote technology transfer between
  - Knowledge providers (academic institution)
  - Knowledge users (Industry or public sector entity)

# Thematic Priorities

## Four Thematic Priorities:

1. Environment and Energy Resources
2. Information and Communications Technology
3. Value-added Manufacturing and Services
4. Health and BioTech

# State Aid

- Operates under *de minimis* state aid regime:
  - Projects in fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture ineligible
  - Industry to ensure they do not exceed allowable limit of aid (€200K gross over 3-year period).
- Complements Malta Enterprise scheme to promote R&D in industry
- Double funding not allowed – checks are conducted

# Participation

- Consortium
  - At least 2 participants, (a) an academic institution and (b) industry or public sector
  - other partners may be included but must add value
- Maltese legal entities (*academia, public, private, NGOs*) eligible for funding
- Foreign entities eligible but not funded
- Project Coordinator must be Maltese legal entity

# Funding Modalities

- Programme Budget: €700K
- Project funding: €20K – €200K
- Project duration: 1yr – 3yrs
- Funding restrictions
  - Up to 75% for individual participant
  - Up to 75% for funding category
  - Up to 25% for Maltese Public Bodies
- Funding levels
  - Public, Academic, NGO: 100%
  - Business: 75%

# Funding Modalities *cont.*

- Allocation of funding
  - Advanced payments in tranches
  - Initial advanced payment 100%
  - Further payments depend on reporting
  - Retention of 10% of final tranche
  - Retention of 20% for single-stage projects

# Process

- Call for Proposals
- Pre-registration
- 2-stage submission and evaluation process
- Shortlisting stage
  - Lightweight preliminary proposal
  - Estimates of timeframes, costings
- Selection stage
  - Full project proposal
  - Details of participants
  - Activities, timeframes, costings

# Four Evaluation Criteria

## 1. Programme Objectives

- Degree of fit with priority sectors
- Extent of collaboration between academia and industry/public entity
- Addresses a genuine need for knowledge transfer

## 2. Concept and Approach

- Conceptually sound
- Clearly defined objectives, ambitious but achievable
- Clearly defined deliverables
- Proposes suitable actions

# Evaluation Criteria *cont.*

## 3. Quality of Consortium

- Participants have necessary knowledge and skills
- Balanced participation and funding

## 4. Potential Impact

- Application and uses of research and deliverables
- Roadmap for realisation of benefits
- Spillover effects

# Estimated Timeframes

<b>Launch</b>	<i>November</i>
<b>Pre-registration</b>	<i>Mid November</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> stage submissions</b>	<i>Mid December</i>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<i>Mid January</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> stage submissions</b>	<i>Mid February</i>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<i>Mid March</i>
<b>Negotiation &amp; Signing</b>	<i>End April</i>

# Previous Research and Innovation Programmes

# Programme Evolution

- 2004: small projects, mainly academia
- 2006: large projects, industry participation
- 2008: large projects, requirement for collaboration led to high industry participation

# R&I Programmes Participation

<b>Programme</b>	<i>Total Proposals</i>	<i>Requested Funding</i>	<i>Available Budget</i>	<i>Total Projects Funded</i>
RTDI 2004	85	Lm3 million	Lm300K	15
R&I 2006	58	Lm3 million	Lm400K	7
R&I 2008	40	€5.4 million	Lm300K	7

# R&I Programme 2008

## Participation

40 applications requesting a total budget of €5.4 million

### Summary of Proposals

	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Requested</i>
<b>Submitted Proposals</b>	40	€ 5.4M
<b>Shortlisted Proposals</b>	11	€ 1.4M
<b>Funded Proposals</b>	7	€ 910K
<b>Total Budget</b>		€ 700K

### Summary of Proposals Breakdown by Sector

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Number of Projects</i>					
	<i>Submitted</i>		<i>Shortlisted</i>		<i>Funded</i>	
<b>ICT</b>	8	20.0%	3	27%	2	28.5%
<b>Environment / Energy</b>	15	37.5 %	3	27%	1	14.5%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	2	5.0%	2	19%	2	28.5%
<b>Health / Biotech</b>	15	37.5%	3	27%	2	28.5%

11 projects shortlisted

7 projects funded

6 funded projects included an industry partner

# Conclusion

# Getting Involved

- Submit your own proposal
  - Max length of proposal
  - Clarity and conciseness
- Get in touch with the University
- Get in touch with MCST for Assistance
  - discuss your proposal with us before submission

# Thank You

## *For Further Information Contact:*

Eric Flask

R&I Programme Manager

Malta Council for Science and Technology

Villa Bighi, Bighi

Kalkara, KKR1320

Email: [eric.flask@gov.mt](mailto:eric.flask@gov.mt)

Tel: (356) 2360 2123

Fax: (356) 2166 0341

Web: [www.mcst.gov.mt](http://www.mcst.gov.mt)