

# SME Instrument: Cell technologies in medical applications

The SME Instrument is a European funding programme and part of the Horizon 2020 framework, supporting innovative, internationally oriented SMEs

## SMEInst-05-2016-2017-a:

2016 deadlines phase 1: 24 February, 03 May, 07 Sept, 09 November 2016

2016 deadlines phase 2: 03 February, 14 April, 15 June, 13 October 2016

The SME instrument is a European funding programme intended for high-potential innovative, internationally oriented SMEs. The instrument supports SMEs that are close to bringing a breakthrough innovation to market.

Activities funded could be: clinical validation, upscaling of manufacturing, risk assessment, design or market studies, intellectual property exploration. The project should be aligned to the business strategy, helping internal growth or targeting a transnational business opportunity. SME funding is divided into three phases:

- Phase 1: demonstrate commercial feasibility
- Phase 2: demonstration and market replication
- Phase 3: support commercialising (no direct funding)

Participants can apply to phase 1 or directly to phase 2

## Scope of the programme

Cell technologies include cell manufacturing (culture, multiplication, scale-up and automation), preservation, banking and transport; identification, cell sorting and delivery, imaging, tracking, process and quality control; genetic engineering and gene editing; production of therapeutic biomolecules. The medical applications of cell technologies include diagnostics and biosensors; cell and gene therapy, tissue engineering, bio-artificial organs, haematology, immunotherapy, and vaccine and antibody production; predictive toxicology, synthetic biology, and modelling development and disease

processes. The challenge addresses cells from any eukaryotic source though their eventual application must be to human medicine.

Particular attention should be given to dialogue with regulators and compliance with safety and regulatory requirements, such as those pertaining to cell procurement, GMP, ethics, clinical trials, ATMPs and medical devices.

## Benefits for companies

- External validation for your innovation
- Non-dilutive funding

## Conditions for SME instrument:

- The call is intended for SMEs only. The SME may partner with other SMEs and subcontracting arrangements are possible. Academic parties may only take part as a third party partnering with an SME as main applicant.
- The SME Instrument supports the development of ideas for products, services or processes that are ready to face global market competition.
- Only one proposal may be submitted per SME per cut-off date, and only if no concurrent submission or implementation of another SME-Inst is ongoing.
- The SME instrument is not meant as a company creation vehicle/instrument, but start-ups without balance sheets are not excluded from participation.
- Proposals for phase 2 must include a first commercialisation plan
- In Phase 2: applicants will have to present convincing measures to ensure the possibility of commercial exploitation ("freedom to operate").

Indicative budget	EUR 35 million from the 2016, and EUR 45 million from the 2017 budget
Duration	<b>Phase 1:</b> 6 months <b>Phase 2:</b> no limitations, 2-3 years on average
Consortium	All beneficiaries need to be SME's, single applications possible
Project size	100% funding rate. <b>Phase 1:</b> EUR 50 K <b>Phase 2:</b> EUR 5 M
Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement:	Upcoming deadline: <b>24 February 2016</b> (Ph1) and <b>3 February 2016</b> (Ph2), 17:00u Outcome of the evaluation about 4 months after submission Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: 8 months after deadline