SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub

Small Grant Fund (<£10k) 2014

Issue Date:	6th June 2014
Closing Date:	Ongoing
Type:	Invitation for proposals

Proposals are invited for research-related activities which support the SUPERGEN Bioenergy hub's core objectives. The *Small Grant Fund* call is ongoing and applications can be made at any point, which will be considered regularly by the SUPERGEN Bioenergy hub core management group. Funding from this call is not intended to cover basic research, but to support the activities of **UK bioenergy researchers** that are more difficult to fund via other established mechanisms.

The funding can be used to **support bioenergy research** and **research-related activities**, including exchanges and visits to develop new research collaborations, preparatory work for large strategic bids, feasibility studies, work with industrial partners to advance implementation, work with other stakeholders to support bioenergy policy development, secondments to improve research impact etc.

The funding is provided by EPSRC and information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding is available in the EPSRC funding guide: http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/apprev/basics/Pages/fundingguide.aspx).

NB: It is a condition of funding that **successful applicants engage** with the SUPERGEN Bioenergy hub in relation to the funded activity.

Background:

The SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub aims to bring together industry, academia and other stakeholders to focus on the research and knowledge challenges associated with increasing the contribution of UK bioenergy to meet strategic environmental targets in a coherent, sustainable and cost-effective manner. The hub objectives are to:

1. Act as a focal point for sharing and dissemination of scientific knowledge and engineering understanding to facilitate near-term deployment of technologies
2. Investigate and develop new approaches for dealing with the very significant engineering challenges associated with deployment of more novel technologies
3. Improve scientific understanding of the fundamental aspects of different forms of biomass and its conversion
4. Take a whole-systems perspective to comprehensively evaluate the potential of future technology options

5. Adopt an interdisciplinary approach to look beyond the engineering and technical aspects of bioenergy and ensure adequate consideration of the impacts on ecosystems, social responses to technology deployment and the economic context of policy development

Substantial funding has been made available from EPSRC and other research councils for basic research in bioenergy, particularly through the EPSRC Challenge Calls. However, gaps often remain where additional funding is required, particularly to support objectives 1, 2 and 5 above. This call therefore provides additional funding to help ensure that UK bioenergy research and the associated knowledge base is developed and applied coherently in line with industrial and other stakeholder priorities.

Funding Available:

The SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub ***small grant fund*** aims to provide flexible, responsive funding of up to £10,000 (at 80% of full economic costs) to cover a range of bioenergy research-related activities.

Funding from this call is not intended to cover basic research, but to support the activities of UK bioenergy researchers that are more difficult to fund via other established mechanisms. There is considerable flexibility around the range of activities that could be funded from the ***small grant fund*** and researchers are encouraged to be imaginative about what would actually move things forward in their area. The SUPERGEN Bioenergy hub project manager is available for informal conversations about the eligibility of specific suggestions, but it is envisaged that these could include research visits, secondments, development work on larger proposals, proof of market, collaborative workshops etc. Funding can also cover staff time at eligible institutes, travel, subsistence, consumables and small items of equipment relevant to the activity.

Eligibility:

The funding is provided by EPSRC and information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding is available in the EPSRC funding guide:

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/apprev/basics/Pages/fundingguide.aspx).

Funding is available in principle until the end of August 2017, but is limited. The scheme will be kept under review by the SUPERGEN Bioenergy hub core management group, who will endeavour to give at least 3 months notice of closure of the scheme to new applications.

How to apply:

To apply for a SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub ***small grant***, applicants should complete the attached ***small grant fund*** application form. This should clearly outline the activity for which funding is requested, the partners involved, any relevant related research work and explain why the application is being submitted to the SUPERGEN Bioenergy small grant fund.

All applications must be supported by a breakdown of eligible costs. Applications to the ***small grant fund*** can be submitted throughout the year. Applications will be assessed and approved by the SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub core management group who meet regularly throughout the year.

Evaluation:

Proposals will be judged against the following criteria:

- **The extent to which they support the hub's objectives**
- **Their potential to generate longer term activity or impact**
- **The extent to which they add new partners or new research areas to the SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub**

While the funding is provided by EPSRC, sustainable bioenergy development requires progress in a range of disciplines and interdisciplinary areas. Therefore topics that might normally be considered to be the remit of other councils (ESRC, BBSRC, NERC etc.) are eligible, but the application must make it clear how those topics support the hub objectives.

Conditions of funding:

Successful applications will be issued with an award letter confirming the funding level and a return form which they must complete to confirm acceptance.

Payment will be made on verifiable completion of the activity and the applicant will be required to invoice The University of Manchester to trigger payment. Contact details and a pro forma for invoicing will be provided to successful applicants.

Successful applicants are expected to engage with the SUPERGEN Bioenergy hub in an appropriate way and provision for this should be made in the funding application e.g. this could include attending and presenting at the hub annual assembly or researchers' meeting, participating in activities of the SHARE network for early career researchers, inviting hub members and stakeholders to events or disseminating results or outcomes via the hub. Provisions for these costs should be

included in the application and the hub project manager is available for consultation in advance to help clarify likely costs.

The contribution of the SUPERGEN Bioenergy hub must be acknowledged in all funded activities and appropriate electronic logos, templates etc. will be provided to successful applicants to facilitate this.

Other information:

The SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub website (www.supergen-bioenergy.net) provides detail on each of the current projects and research outputs. For more information on operational hub activities please contact Laura O'Keefe (SUPERGEN Bioenergy Project Manager) on 0161 275 4330 or via email Laura.O'Keefe@manchester.ac.uk.

SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub

APPLICATION FORM

Applicant Details
Name: Organisation: Email: Address: Telephone:
Project Summary
Briefly describe what the project is going to do, why you are doing it and what you expect to achieve (Max 250 words):
Proposed Start Date: Proposed End Date:
SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub Objectives
How does this work contribute to the SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub aims and objectives? (Max 150 words)

Delivery Partners		
Partner Organisation (inc non-academic partners)	Role(s)	Key Personnel

Resources Requested

Total Project Costs: £

Resources Requested (max 80% total costs): £

Provide a brief cost summary and justification of resources.

Impact

Describe the potential impact of this activity, how it would move things forward in the area and what you will do to ensure that the impact is maximized. (150 words)

Links to Other Research Activity

Please describe the links between this activity and any other research work.