

# BMW S&E Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020

## Implementation Plan: Marine Research Programme (Revised May 2018)

Operational	BMW and S&E Regional Operational Programme		
Programme	2014-2020		
Priority	1: Strengthening RTDI in the BMW and S&E Region		
Thematic Objective	1: Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation		
Investment Priority	(a) enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest;		
Scheme	Marine Research Programme		
Categorisation Code	060		
ERDF Certifying Body	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform		
Managing Authority	Northern and Western Regional assembly and Southern Regional Assembly		
Intermediate Body	Marine Institute		
Grant Beneficiaries	Higher Education Sector, Public Research Bodies and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises		
Grant Rate	Up to 100% (100% HEI/Public Research Body, 75% SME)		
EU Co-financing Rate	50% of public eligible expenditure declared		

## **Objective of Intervention**

The objective of the Marine Research Programme is to provide funding to the marine sector in Ireland that will:

- Build new research capacity and capability;
- Enable sharing of existing knowledge and technology transfer;



- Increase competiveness and opportunities for sustainable economic growth;
- Protect and conserve marine resources;
- Inform public policy; and
- Increase public awareness of our maritime heritage.

#### **Description of Intervention**

The Marine Research Programme administered by the Marine Institute aims to achieve the above objectives by providing support for a range of grant awards including MSc/PhD scholarships, Post-Doctoral fellowships, industry-led awards, research projects, infrastructure and networking/technology transfer initiatives.

Funding will be offered by the Marine Institute to provide assistance for appropriate marine research activities that support the goals of *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland* (2012) and the implementing actions of the *National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021*, and/or complement the objectives of other national and European marine strategies e.g. Food Harvest 2020, Research Prioritisation Steering Group Report/Innovation 2020, EU Blue Growth Strategy and EU Strategy for the Atlantic.

The Marine Institute will launch competitive calls for funding of marine research activities, which will be open to both the public sector and to industry, and will co-fund relevant marine research that aligns with Ireland's strategic objectives, as set out in the *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth* and the *National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021*, which are also consistent with Priority 1 of the Atlantic Strategy Action Plan, in the BMW and S&E Regions

The Marine Institute will also catalyse funding from other funding agencies (e.g. Environmental Protection Agency, Science Foundation Ireland, Irish Research Council, Geological Survey of Ireland, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, etc.) through co-funding initiatives aimed at achieving common research objectives.

In a report published by the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit, NUI Galway four emerging marine industries were identified as having potential for further growth and expansion. Two of these industries 1) marine biotechnology and bioproducts, and 2) high tech marine products and services sectors, have a combined turnover of €85m per annum (2010). These sectors are underpinned by marine research.



These initiatives will increase the level of research activity taking place in the BMW and S&E Regions aligned with Ireland's marine research priorities and in support of a growing marine economic sector, thus contributing to the specific objective of the investment priority.

## **Responsibilities of Intermediate Body**

The Marine Institute is designated as the Intermediate Body in respect of the co-funded Marine Research intervention of the Regional Operational Programmes 2014-2020.

The Marine Institute will enter into Administrative Agreements with both Regional Assemblies, which will set out in detail the responsibilities of each party. This agreement will be prepared by the Regional Assemblies in consultation with the Institute. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform will be a party to this Agreement.

The Marine Institute will be responsible for ensuring satisfactory compliance arrangements are in place with Grantees and that the Marine Institute maintain and operate satisfactory control procedures for co-financed activity under the Marine Research Programme.

The Marine Institute will be responsible for ensuring that all payment claims for European Structural and Investment Fund expenditure, submitted by Grantees are supported by receipted invoices and audit documents, and that a clear and sufficient audit trail exists. Spot checks will by carried out by the Marine Institute and/or by other bodies on their behalf (e.g. independent audit and accountancy firms and the Comptroller and Auditor General) on management and control systems both in Grantee Organisations and in the Marine Institute.

These checks will include procedures to verify the delivery of the research projects co-financed and the reality of expenditure claimed and compliance with applicable national and Community rules on, in particular, the eligibility of expenditure for support, public procurement, State aid - including the rules on the acccumulations of aid, protection of the environment and the horizontal principles.

The Marine Institute will also be responsible for ensuring in respect of cofinanced Intervention/projects, that only eligible expenditure actually incurred is submitted to the Managing Authority. The Marine Institute is responsible for the certification of all eligible expenditure incurred by the Grantees.



## **Grant Beneficiaries**

The Marine Institute has, within the context of its role as the managing agency for the Marine Research Programme, overall responsibility for the administration of grant-aid; including information and publicity, grant administration, financial management and control, monitoring and evaluation, IT, interim reporting and consideration of horizontal principles. The Marine Institute's roles in relation to the Marine Research Intervention include:

- Overall scheme design
- Verification of beneficiary grant claims
- Integration of Horizontal principles
- Information and publicity
- Project selection and approval
- Ensuring that a clear audit trail exists
- Co-operation with OP-level evaluations

The Marine Institute will ensure that the beneficiaries are provided with a grant award document setting out the conditions of support for each operation, including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered under the operation, the financing plan, the time limit for execution and the conditions for use of the E-Cohesion IT System 2014-2020.

## **Contribution to (prioritised) Horizontal Themes**

#### **Environmental Sustainability**

The quality of the marine environment underpins the value of the marine resource and in particular the quality and marketability of its seafood and tourism sectors. It is widely accepted that knowledge must inform environmental management and sustainable development.

The acquisition of this knowledge; its use in environmental management along with policy formation and implementation is central to meeting the requirements of national and EU strategies and directives (e.g. Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth, Food Harvest 2020 EU Marine Strategy Framework, Water Framework and Habitats/Natura Legislation).



The aim is to apply the knowledge derived from research and obtained by monitoring the marine environment to inform public policy, governance and regulation of the sector, assist in spatial planning and support the delivery of a more innovative, customer driven and market conscious ethos and practice in the public sector.

*Criteria for project definition* include:

- Will the research advance the environmental sustainability of marine businesses?
- Will the research undertaken advance the sustainable development and management of marine resources?
- Will the research undertaken create knowledge of relevance to the management of Ireland's future environmental well-being?
- Will the research undertaken generate scientific knowledge that enhances our understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems and supports the development of evidence-based marine related public policy?

*Indicators* include:

- No. of projects that advance the sustainable development and management of marine resources
- No of projects that enhances our understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems and/or create knowledge of relevance to the management of Ireland's future environmental well-being

#### **Gender Equality**

*Gender Equality* has also been identified as a priority horizontal principle for the Marine Research Programme of this intervention.

The EU principle of gender mainstreaming applies, and the Marine Institute is committed to ensuring that equal access for both genders to research funding. In addition specific actions may be taken to advance women, where there has been under representation in the past e.g. as scientific leads on research projects. However, evaluation of research proposals is based purely on the scientific and technical merit of proposals and the track record of applicants.

Funded applicants are asked to report on the breakdown of male/female researchers subsequently appointed to work on the research project and this will be reported on.



As a pro-active means of promoting gender equality the Marine Institute:

- Has committed to covering social costs (including maternity cover) for funded researchers in the event that these arise during the course of projects.
- Will actively seek to achieve gender balance in the make-up of research proposal and award evaluation and review panels.
- Will support conferences/workshops focusing on women in marine science and research.

## **Equality Principle**

The Marine Institute is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity and treatment in its procedures, practices and policies with respect to the award of marine research funding.

## **People with Disabilities**

The Marine Institute's policy is to develop and sustain positive measures to encourage the recruitment, development and retention of people with disabilities.

## **Social Inclusion**

The Marine Institute is committed to promoting active participation in marine research, and particularly encourages mature graduates who have retrained or returned to full-time education later in life. For example, the Marine Institute has expanded the Networking and Travel Grant Scheme to allow access to funding for Job-Bridge/Interns to attend marine conferences, workshops or training courses overseas.

## Selection Processes and Criteria - Marine Research Programme (2014-2020)

#### **1.Selection Process**

Marine research funding will be administered via competitive calls for proposals from both the research community and industry. Research proposals are evaluated by a panel of national and international experts maintained by the Marine Institute and drawn from third-level, public and industry sectors.

Research themes and projects are defined by the Marine Institute in consultation with advisory teams and are aimed at addressing the



agreed objectives and RTDI requirements of national and European strategies.

To ensure that the best quality scientific research is undertaken, the Marine Institute carries out ongoing project monitoring from grant award to final report that focuses on the achievement of planned project outputs and deliverables.

#### **2.Selection Criteria**

Potential beneficiaries are advised of the eligibility rules and evaluation criteria in the Guidelines for Applicants.

Step	Description	Carried out by
1. Eligibility Check	To ensure comply with eligibility rules	Research Funding Office,
		Marine Institute
2. Individual Expert Evaluation	Evaluated against pre-defined evaluation criteria	Independent Experts
3. Consensus Evaluation	Evaluators agree consensus scores	Independent Experts
4. Final Project Confirmation	Based on ranking by expert panel and	Research Funding Office,
	available funding	Marine Institute

Proposals received are evaluated as follows:

#### Evaluation Panel Membership

Research proposals are evaluated by a panel of national and international experts maintained by the Marine Institute and drawn from third-level, public and industry sectors. The names of the experts assigned to individual proposals are not made public. However, the Marine Institute makes available lists of all the experts participating on its evaluation panels at regular intervals. These will be reported on a gender-disaggregated basis.

#### Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria vary depending on the nature of awards (projectbased versus researcher-based), see below:



## **Project-Based Award Criteria & Scoring**

Criteria	Marks
1. Understanding of the strategic context of the project and the specific research topic	10%
<ol> <li>Extent to which the project addresses the objectives of relevant national/international marine strategies including benefits and impacts of the project</li> </ol>	15%
<ol><li>The scientific and technical quality of the research proposal</li></ol>	30%
<ol> <li>Evidence within the research proposal of ability to address the specific deliverables required in the project Terms of Reference</li> </ol>	10%
<ol><li>Scientific quality/track record of the project team and technical capability to carry out the project</li></ol>	15%
<ol> <li>Proposed project management commitments/arrangements</li> </ol>	10%
7. Costs and value for money	10%



## Industry-Led Award Criteria & Scoring

Criteria	Marks
1. Understanding of the strategic context of the project and the specific research theme	10%
<ol> <li>Extent to which the project addresses the objectives of relevant national/international marine strategies including benefits and impacts of the project</li> </ol>	20%
<ol> <li>The scientific and technical quality of the research proposal including the technical capability of the project team to carry out the project</li> </ol>	30%
<ol> <li>Evidence within the research proposal of ability to address the specific deliverables required in the project Terms of Reference</li> </ol>	15%
5. Management of the project	10%
6. Costs and value for money	15%

Applicants must demonstrate the following:

- Excellence of science/research, including track record of applicant and research team
- Strategic context for undertaking research
- Impacts of research, measurable outputs and value for money

In addition, although not evaluation criteria *per se*, applicants are asked to:

- State how the proposed project will contribute to sustainable development and protection of the environment; and
- Identify and address the possible negative and/or positive impacts of the processes and outputs from the research.

#### Note:

Under criteria 1 and 2 applicants would be expected to demonstrate in their proposal:

 How the proposed project will contribute to sustainable development and protection of the environment; and



 How the research will contribute to Ireland's efforts to meet EU and international legislative/policy requirements (e.g., EU Water Framework, Marine Strategy Framework and Habitats/Birds Directives), particularly with regard to protecting and managing the marine environment

## **Procedure for dealing with appeals**

Proposals are ranked based on consensus scores following evaluation by independent experts.

Award offers are issued to the highest ranked proposals within the available funding allocation.

All applicants receive a consensus evaluation report that provides their scores and comments under each evaluation criteria. It also provides guidance on how the application could have been improved.

The Research Funding Office also provide advice to applicants on how to address the evaluation criteria and present the best application possible, as there are common causes for proposals receiving a poor score, for example:

- Scientific objectives not clearly stated, or too ambitious for the time frame of project.
- Not demonstrated knowledge of current research developments in the field, especially recent technology advances.
- Poor work plan or allocate of tasks and responsibilities within the team.
- CV including publication record not included for all named members of the team.
- Collaboration or multi-discipline nature of research not demonstrated.
- Not demonstrating the strategic context of the research.
- Value for money not clearly demonstrated.

All applicants are encouraged to take account of the advice provided in the consensus report, and apply for future calls.



In keeping with norms for funding agencies, the Marine Institute does not have a formal appeals process. The highest calibre experts are used to evaluate proposals in order to ensure that best research proposals are selected for funding.

The Research Funding Office's role is to support the process and ensure that the panel evaluation is carried out in a fair and proper manner. The Research Funding Office will also provide feedback and clarifications in relation to the consensus report to unsuccessful applications, if required.

## **Priority-level Output Indicators**

Indicator	Measurem ent Unit	Fund	Categor y of Region	Targe t Value BMW	Target Value S&E	Total Target Value	Sourc e of Data	Frequen cy of Reportin g
Number of marine research MSc/PhD and Post-Doctoral Researchers funded	No. of researchers	ERDF	More Develop ed	9	21	30	MI	Annual Breakdow n by Gender will be provided
Number of projects/awards that advance the sustainable development and management of marine resources through investment in SMEs	No. of projects/ awards	ERDF	More Develop ed	3	7	10	MI	Annual
Number of projects/awards that enhances our understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems and/or create knowledge of relevance to the management and protection of Ireland's environment and resources	No. of projects/ awards	ERDF	More Develop ed	4	8	12	MI	Annual
Number of North/ South Collaborations	No. of collaboratio ns	ERDF	More Develop ed	1	3	4	MI	Annual
Number of Research Visits for Networking, Training and Technology Transfer	No. of inward/ outward research visits	ERDF	More Develop ed	6	14	20	MI	Annual



Note: These monitoring indicators will not form part of the performance framework of the OP, but will be provided solely for the information of the OP Monitoring Committee



#### **Financial Management - Grant Beneficiaries**

Financial management for the theme will be in accordance with the financial management and control requirements relating to the implementation of ERDF co-funded assistance to be set out by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Managing Authority. All expenditure being reported will be declared via the E Cohesion IT system 2014-2020 to the Managing and Certifying Authorities..

The Marine Institute shall prepare procedures manuals in accordance with the advised format.

The Marine Institute (Reseach Funding Office) is responsible for reporting and certifying the accuracy, actuality and eligibility of the expenditure to claimed by the Grant Beneficiaries and completing the expenditure report for submission to the Managing Authority. The Marine Institute certifies that the required management and control procedures are in place and that an adequate audit trail exists. Each expenditure report will be accompanied by the required back-up documentation, as appropriate.

The Marine Institute will have responsibility under the following phases:

#### 1) Payment Phase

The approved level of funding for each project is set out in the letter of offer and grant-aid agreement The first advance payment (typically up to 25% of the total approved funding) is made following signing of the grant-aid agreement to allow projects to start. Subsequent stage payments, in the form of reimbursement of certified expenditure, are made during the life of the project, based on the receipt and review of Interim Reports (Technical and Financial).

#### 2) Verifications of Operations on-the-spot

The Marine Institute will implement procedures to verify the delivery of the project; reality of the expenditure; and compliance with the regulatory requirements, in accordance with Article 125 (5) of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 1303/2013. These procedures include the verification of operations on-the-spot at the level of the grant-aid recipients (Grantees).

#### 3) Irregularities & Errors

Any administrative or financial mismanagement that comes about either by act or by omission whether or not there is an actual loss of funds is considered as an irregularity.



The extent of the definition of 'irregularity' means that the Marine Institute must have systems and resources in place to detect, record, report and follow-up on identified irregularities. The Marine Institute will:

- <u>Identify</u> irregularities and record sufficient detail to assist in identifying any evidence of a breakdown of systems or a need to take action to correct emerging systemic weaknesses in the management and control arrangements that are in place:
- <u>Report</u> on a regular basis all irregularities to the Managing Authority: and
- Take action to <u>follow-up and correct</u> all recorded irregularities, recover the grant where appropriate and take steps to ensure that the irregularity is not repeated.

#### 4) Certification Process

The certification process as set out in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular requires certification that sound and efficient financial management and control procedures are in place and that an adequate audit trail exists. The Marine Institute (Research Funding Office) is responsible for completing, and submitting to the Managing Authority, the expenditure forms for the Marine Research Programme. Expenditure certification will be declared to the Managing Authority, once it has been incurred and paid by the Grantees, reported to the Marine Institute and the appropriate verification checks completed – please see schedule below.

#### <u>5) Audit Trail</u>

The audit trail requirements for EC co-financed activity are set out in Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular. The procedures to be adopted will ensure that documents that are relevant to specific expenditure incurred and payments made to the projects, co-financed under Marine Research theme are held in accordance with the requirements of Article 140 of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013.

#### **Financial Management - Intermediary Body**

The Financial Management and Control Procedures, which the Marine Institute is required to ensure, are delivered by means of:

# 1) In-depth examination of the expenditure claimed by Grantees (the Grant Beneficiaries)

The process is largely determined by the structure contained in the expenditure forms. The Marine Institute will ensure that these



forms are completed in accordance with the appropriate Department of Finance requirements, and clarify and resolve any issues arising.

2) The completion of ex-Ante Verification Checks by the Marine Institute and to verify the following:

- 1. The practical application and effectiveness of the management and control systems;
- For an adequate number of accounting records, the correspondence of those records with supporting documents held by the Grant Beneficiaries;
- 3. The presence of a sufficient audit trail;
- 4. That the Community financial contributions are within the limits provided for in the applicable Community provisions;
- 5. That the appropriate national co-financing has in fact been made available; and
- 6. That the co-financed operations have been implemented in accordance with Community rules and policies as required by Regulation (EC) 1303/2013 and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular.

Checks should establish whether any problems encountered are systematic, entailing a risk for other EU-aided operations carried out by the same final beneficiary. The causes of such errors should be identified along with any necessary further investigation and corrective and preventative action.

3) The signing off of expenditure in order to forward the claim to the ERDF Managing Authorities for onward declaration to the Certifying Body (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform):

When the expenditure forms have been checked and no financial control weaknesses, risks or irregularities have been identified while carrying out Ex-Ante Verification Checks the Marine Institute will certify expenditure to the Managing Authorities confirming that:

- Management and control procedures in accordance with the Marine Institute's Financial Management processes are in place; and
- Steps including sample checking of information at Phase 1 have been taken to give reasonable assurance that the amount returned is correct and the working papers are available for inspection.



#### **Document Retention**

In accordance with Article140 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EC) 1303/2013 all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on operations for which total eligible expenditure is less than  $\leq 1,000,000.00$  will be kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years from 31 December following the submission of the accounts in which the expenditure of the operation is included. In the case of operations over  $\leq 1,000,000.00$  all supporting documentation shall be kept for a two-year period from 31 December following the submission of accounts in which the **final** expenditure of the completed operation is included.

#### Monitoring and Reporting arrangements

Annual progress reports will be submitted to the Monitoring Committee in the required format to be agreed with the Managing Authority.

The Marine Institute closely monitors all funded projects and interim reports are required on an annual basis. Quantitative data are collated on an ongoing basis via a database of funded projects.

#### **Information and Publicity**

The Marine Institute will advise beneficiaries that they will need to comply with section 2.2 of Annex XII of Commission Regulation 1303/2013 and with Articles 4 and 5 of Commission Implementing Regulation 821/2014.

The contribution of the Irish exchequer and the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 will be acknowledged in all promotional material, annual reports, research laboratories, websites, letters of offer etc, by use of appropriate logo and text references. The relevant Structural Funds regulations on Information and Publicity will be complied with in this regard.

#### **North/South Co-operation**

Currently marine research linkages between the third level sector and public research institutes are strong. There are some links with industry, but some effort needs to be focusing on increasing industry involvement in the North, for example creating awareness of funding opportunities available and brokering exchanges between companies.



It is planned to maintain and further develop existing links between HEIs and PBIs through participation in collaborative research projects, continuing to build on existing expertise in marine research, and leveraging further funding to bring the research closer to commercialisation where possible.

## Marine Institute Planned ERDF Co-Funding Commitments 2018 to 2020

Year	Call Details	Total Investment
2018	Industry-Led Call	€2 million over 3 years
	(please see summary of scheme and selection criteria below)	
2019	Post-Doctoral Fellowships and Capacity-Building Research Projects	€2.5 million over 4 years
2020	Capacity-Building Research Projects and Networking & Technology Transfer	€0.5 million over 3 years
Total		€5 million

## Expected Drawdown 2020 to 2023 (n+3)

Year	Eligible Public Funding Certified to the Managing Authority	ERDF Co-funding (50%)
2020	€1,500,000	€750,000
2021	€1,500,000	€750,000
2022	€1,000,000	€500,000
2023	€1,000,000	€500,000
Total	€5,000,000	€2,500,000

## Industry-Led Call 2018

#### Call Aim

The funding is aimed at supporting research and innovation costs for the development of innovative technologies, products and services from existing or new marine-based business.

Collaboration with HEIs and other public research bodies is encouraged, but the projects must be led by an SME.



The National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021

identified the need to increase opportunities for SMEs (Small or Medium Enterprise) to participate in marine research as a key implementing action for the strategy. The strategic objectives are to:

- Raise research capacity across the 15 research themes.
- Target research funding, with the overall goal of raising research maturity, to topics matching requirements articulated in state policies and sectoral plans.
- Have coherence in the approach to marine research by the various state actors involved in funding marine research.

This research call is also proposed to be co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under priority 1 – Strengthening Research, Technology Development and Innovation. The regions concerned are the Border, Midland and Western (BMW) Region and the Southern and Eastern Region, which cover the Republic of Ireland.

The objective of the Marine Research Programme is to provide funding to the marine sector in Ireland that will:

- > Build new research capacity and capability;
- > Enable sharing of existing knowledge and technology transfer;
- Increase competiveness and opportunities for sustainable economic growth;
- Protect and conserve marine resources;
- Inform public policy; and
- > Increase public awareness of our maritime heritage.

The research priorities for 2014-2020 aim to support sustainable economic growth, promote innovation, protect marine ecosystems and inform policy, governance and regulation of the Irish marine sector.

The specific proposal evaluation criteria are as follows:

Criteria	Marks
1. Understanding of the strategic context of the project and the specific research theme	10%
<ul> <li>Will the maturity level across the theme be increased by the development of new or significantly improved services, products or processes?</li> </ul>	
• Will networks and relationships be developed and advanced?	



Will the research underpin a sustainable advance in the SME's scientific or technological capability? •

2. Extent to which the project addresses the objectives of relevant national and international marine strategies including benefits and impacts of the project	20%
Will the research:	
Develop new research capacity and capabilities in Ireland?	
<ul> <li>Create new industrial and commercial opportunities for companies in the marine sector?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Stimulate the application or use of scientific or technical knowledge and</li> </ul>	
expertise to advance the competitiveness or environmental sustainability of marine companies?	
<ul> <li>Support the generation of new knowledge in areas of importance to Ireland's economy?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Enable the sustainable development and management of marine resources?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Address and contribute to the management of Ireland's future economic, social and environmental well-being?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Have the benefits and impacts been clearly demonstrated?</li> </ul>	
3. The scientific and technical quality of the research proposal including the	30%
technical capability of the project team to carry out the project	
<ul> <li>Scope and complexity of the research proposal</li> </ul>	
Excellence of the research proposal	
<ul> <li>Originality/degree of novelty in the proposed approach/methodology</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Competences to be developed by the project</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Qualifications of the proposed research team</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Suitability of the expertise and experience of the proposed research team</li> </ul>	
• Participation in other research programmes (past & current)	
4. Evidence within the research proposal of ability to address the specific deliverables required in the project Terms of Reference	15%
<ul> <li>Proposed approach to meeting the specific deliverables of the project</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Track record and expertise of the team in areas targeted by the deliverables</li> </ul>	
5. Management of the project	10%
<ul> <li>Is there a clear project plan?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Are tasks identified and time allocations realistic?</li> </ul>	



- Consideration of commercialisation potential
- 6. Costs and value for money
  - Total cost
  - Detail of costs
  - Facilities and other contributions from the SME

15%