**Bridging for Innovators Challenge Statement Form**

*Bridging for Innovators (B4I) is designed to assist companies overcome existing product or service issues through STFC Facilities and expertise. The programme is not designed for any aspect of early product/service development or primary research (see* ***note 1****).*

*Since the COVID pandemic the B4I Regional Centre Wales has adapted to offer support locally rather than at national facilities through the Advanced Imaging of Materials (AIM) Facility at Swansea University and through TWI Wales.*

**To apply for B4I funding:**

1. Complete the sections below. The Challenge Statement should be limited to approximately 500 words.
2. An optional video may be supplied in mp4 format which should be no longer than two minutes and 50MB in size.

Once completed please forward to: b4i@swansea.ac.uk or a.j.odonovan@swansea.ac.uk

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| --- |
| **What is the problem?**Describe the problem you are encountering in sufficient detail that allows the reader an understanding of the challenges you face. This should include:* Brief introduction that provides background and context for the reader;
* Clear description the problem;
* The expected technical outcomes of overcoming the problem.
 |
| **How does resolving the problem benefit the productivity of the company?** Explain the value of solving the problem and how it improves the productivity of your business and/or national UK productivity. This may include statements on company competitiveness, revenue, profitability and/or turnover, production efficiency improvements and cost reductions. The most impactful descriptions contain measurable or quantitative information that are translated into values (£). For example:…..overcoming this problem will reduce wastage during the production process by 50% and will result in £100,000 savings to the company per year.or…..overcoming the issue will reduce the time spent manually searching documents and reduce the cost of providing the service to the customer by 25%. *(See* ***note 2****, in notes for applicants, for further guidance; also see Appendix 1 at end of this document for examples of metrics)* |
| **What attempts have been made to solve the problem?**Describe what previous attempts have been made to solve the problem. * Approaches taken, including analytical methods used;
* Conclusion of these efforts.

*(See* ***note 3****, in notes for applicants, for further guidance)* |

**Applicant company details**

Please complete the boxes below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company name |  |
| Companies House registration number |  |
| Company’s registered address (head office) |  |
| Company’s trading address (if different) |  |
| Postcode where majority of work will be carried out |  |
| Lead contact at company and contact details |  |
| Total number of staff and size of organisation *(See* ***note 4****, in notes for applicants, for further information)* |  |
| Where did you hear about B4I Programme |  |
| Suggested technologies or equipment to be used (if known)*(See* ***note 5****, in notes for applicants, for further information)* |  |

**Notes for applicants**

Note 1: The proposal should relate to an established product/service or a prototype product/service that is in, or close to, the implementation stages of deployment. Examples of projects that are in-scope may include:

* Removing bottlenecks from manufacturing or service processes;
* Overcoming intractable analytical problems that reduce the effectiveness of your business;
* Overcoming problems with new product/service development that will result in the commercialisation of said product/service.

In this competition we are not funding projects that are related to:

* Fundamental research;
* Early applied R&D activities;
* Market analysis;
* Testing and measurement services.

Note 2: Challenge statements should be clear on how the problem relates to productivity and the value to the company in solving the problem. Higher priority is given to challenge statements that link the problem to company productivity. Further explanation of productivity can be found in ‘*Bridging for Innovators Overview and Application guidance’.*

Note 3: When describing previous efforts to solve the problem, an effort should be made to highlight the analytical methods and approaches used. Greater priority is generally given to challenge statements that can leverage the unique expertise, facilities and equipment STFC has to offer, also that the Advanced Imaging of Materials (AIM) Facility and TWI Wales has to offer.

Note 4: The company size can be determined using the criteria shown in the table below. The size of the company determines the level of funding available if successful.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Company Size** | **Company Size Criteria** | **B4I contribution of STFC Costs** |
| Micro | Staff headcount <10Turnover ≤ €2m **OR**Balance sheet total of ≤ €2m | 70% |
| Small | Staff headcount <50Turnover ≤ €10m **OR**Balance sheet total of ≤ €10m | 70% |
| Medium | Staff headcount <250Turnover ≤ €50m **OR**Balance sheet total of ≤ €43m | 60% |
| Large | Staff headcount >250Turnover > €50m **OR**Balance sheet total of > €43m | 50% |

Note 5: Information describing the facilities and expertise available at STFC can be found at <https://stfc.ukri.org/innovation/our-facilities-and-services/>.

The capabilities and expertise of the AIM Facility in Swansea University can be found here: <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/engineering/aim/>

The capabilities and expertise of TWI facilities can be found here:

<https://www.twi-global.com/who-we-are/corporate-governance/twi-group/twi-technology-centre-wales>

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| **FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY** |
| **Facilities to consider** |  |
| **Comments:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

APPENDIX 1:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Will there be an increase in revenue from sales? (Include estimated value in £). |  |
| Will there be an increase in revenue from licensing? (Include estimated value in £). |  |
| Will there be an increase in revenue from exports? (Include estimated value in £). |  |
| Will the quality of products or services improve? **4** |  |
| Will there be an increase in employment of staff? |  |
| What impact on productivity could be achieved? **5**(Include efficiencies in processes, cost reductions in products or skilled services)  |  |
| Will the successful completion of the project provide a technological advancement to gain competitive advantage? **6**  |  |
| What timescale would you expect to realise the benefits described above? **7** |  |
| Will the successful completion of the project accelerate the route to market for your product or service, and if so how? |  |
| What benefits could the project have more widely to your industry? **8** |  |
| What benefits could the project have more widely to your geographical region? **9** |  |
| What other impacts could be expected from this work? **10**  |  |