

Innovate UK

Results of Competition: Newton Fund - India-UK Collaborative Industrial Research &
Competition Code: 1511_CRD_NEWTON_IndRd3

Total available funding for this competition was £2.5M

Note: These proposals have succeeded in the assessment stage of this competition. All are subject to grant offer and conditions being met.

Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
Snap Out Ltd Moorfields Eye Hospital University of Surrey	Automated Telemedicine Enabled Screening for Eye Diseases Using an Affordable and Simple to Use Smartphone Based Imaging Device	£436,052	£343,528
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>There are nearly 285m people worldwide with visual impairments and nearly 90% of this is in developing countries. 80% suffer from one or more forms of preventable blindness. A country like India has a significant population at risk of blindness due to acute conditions such as cataract and corneal diseases (estimated at nearly 19m) and a significant population at risk for blindness due to chronic conditions like glaucoma, AMD and diabetic retinopathy (estimated at nearly 21m). Year-on-year increase in burden is estimated at nearly 18%. The low specialist doctor-patient ratio in India of 1:8300, necessitates the need to implement programmes for decentralised screening for eye health. Such models require an affordable, easy to use, portable imaging device that is telemedicine-enabled to allow for remote capture of images, together with an automated software that allows non-specialists to triage patients screened based on the sensitive detection of clinically relevant pathologies. This application seeks to build the world's first fully automated, portable disease detection and triaging device in screening for eye health - at a fraction of the cost of existing desktop technologies.</p>			

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CatalySystems Ltd	Environmental remediation of wastewater using advanced photocatalytic AOP	£287,016	£200,911
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Within key industrial manufacturing sectors in India there is a desire to further reduce the chemical oxygendemand loading of wastewater effluent and work towards recycling and zero discharge of wastewaters. It hasbeen found that refractive COD is particularly difficult to treat in an economically, energy efficient andenvironmentally friendly way, with existing traditional wastewater treatment processes both at small and mid-size manufacturing sites. exisitng processes produce a by-product of sludge or solids waste which currentlygoes to landfill. The hybrid photcatalytic process being demonstrated during this project, produces no residuals sludge and at less than <0.3kW/cu.m of energy, is one of the most energy efficient AOP processes to becomeavailable. The consortium have secured the support of the VIA (Vapi Industries Association) to undertakedemonstration testing across a number of its members sites during the course of this project. Outputs will bemade available as case studies, and data will be validated independently by a recognised international academicexpert from the UK and a recognised Validating Agency in Gujarat.</p>			

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Arecor Ltd	Development of differentiated product concepts of insulin glargine	£443,684	£310,579
Project description - provided by applicants			
Availability of low cost insulin products, particularly products that can be distributed and used outside the coldchain is critical to developing an effective healthcare system that can deal with the rapidly increasing incidenceof diabetes. This project will combine the expertise and technologies of Arecor and Cadila Pharmaceuticals todevelop a innovative, low cost basal insulin product that can be distributed and used outside the cold chain. Inaddition validated technology will be employed to extend the duration of action of insulin glargine withbeneficial consequences to the control of hypoglycaemia. The scope of the project will allow formulationdevelopment and optimisation, stability testing and pre-clinical development. Following successful completionof the project, the project partners will progress the asset into clinical development and commercialisation. Thefinal product, which will draw on Arecor's proprietary formulation technologies and Cadila's excellent trackrecord in therapeutic development and commercialisation, will represent an attractive commercial opportunityas well as having a strong positive impact on the economic development and social welfare in India.			

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Unilever U.K. Central Resources Limited Aberystwyth University	Development of pearl millet hybrid seeds and novel food products: An affordable resource in the prevention of Type 2 diabetes.	£450,030	£292,515
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>The number of (type 2) mainly non-insulin dependent diabetics in India is currently estimated at 65 million and rising. Pearl millet is a sustainable cereal with superior glycaemic control over wheat and rice, with a high consumer acceptance in India due to its use in traditional foods. This project will use unusual varieties of pearl millet identified from seed banks in India that have properties associated with improved glycaemic control. These will be incorporated into breeding programmes to develop pearl millet cultivars that will be optimised for both agricultural sustainability and glycaemic control, which will then be developed into palatable and affordable breakfast products for the Indian market. These lines will be made available as both improved food crops for direct growth and consumption by smallholder farmers and also as a valuable raw material for products that, when consumed regularly, will help to prevent the development of insulin resistance.</p>			

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Scientific Event Ltd Heriot-Watt University	Industrial research on a clean process for delivering arsenic free safe water to affected communities in India	£331,062	£256,038
Project description - provided by applicants			
<p>Arsenicosis leading to skin cancer remains a significant threat to 50+ million people in eastern Indian states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar through consumption of arsenic rich groundwater. Published literature indicate that arsenicosis can only be mitigated through provision of clean water to affected communities. Pump-and-treat filtration methods, although suitable for businesses, struggle due to high adsorbent use rates as well as waste disposal problems and fails miserably in mitigating arsenicosis. This project proposes to merge two award winning green technologies, viz. Subterranean Arsenic Removal (SAR) Technology from Prof Bhaskar Sen Gupta's team and Amal filter from IEST (formerly BESU Shibpur) to provide affordable safe water. SAR does not use any chemical, produces no waste and can reduce arsenic from 200 ppb to 20 ppb, while Amal filter would remove the rest of the arsenic to comply with WHO/USEPA limit of 10 ppb. Three such plants will be installed as part of industrial research. UKPL and IPL are aiming to commercialise the process with further technical/design input from HWU and IEST after two years' of industrial research.</p>			

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