

DFID Health Research competition for the development of new technologies to improve health outcomes in low and middle income countries

Frequently asked questions and answers

Q. The guidance provided for structuring the expression of interest does not contain any instructions concerning the specific product(s) from the applicant organisation, or any particular product development activities for which funding will be requested.

Should this kind of information included in the EoI, ie the particular products and development phases for which funding is requested to DFID (if yes, in which format should this information be provided), or will DFID select the EoIs only on the basis of the overall product portfolio of the organisation applying?

A. The norm is for DFID to take a portfolio approach to product development research. Funding may be awarded to support an organisation's research portfolio in full or in part. Details of the specific product portfolio for which DFID funding is requested should be made clear in your response to tiret 4 (Please give a brief description of your product portfolio) under the " What does the organisation do?" section of the Guidance note on preparing submissions for funding.

Q. In the section of the document referring to the "Scope of the call", in the sentence copied below there seem to be some words missing, currently it says:

"The competition is open to all relevant areas of global health but at the present time areas of particular interest to DFID." etc

Could you please review and provide the complete sentence.

A. Sentence revised as follows: "The competition is open to all relevant areas of global health but at the present time areas of particular interest to DFID include those in the bulleted list, below."

Q. Is this programme of funding equally suitable for conducting research on how to translate, adapt and optimise existing health technologies (proven effective elsewhere) into contexts of development and lower income settings? Or is it only focused on providing funding for the development, testing and implementation of new technologies?

A. The call is primarily focussed on providing funding for the development, testing and implementation of new technologies.

Q. Is the competition open to academic institutions?

A. Yes, the competition is open to all organisations that meet the criteria set out in the Call for Expressions of Interest.

Q. Regarding the scope of EoIs, is the call limited to ‘technologies’ in the sense of pharmaceutical and surgical interventions, or can it cover broader innovation in the delivery of health services?

A. The call is for the development of products. It is appropriate to consider how products under development can subsequently be taken up at scale in low and middle income countries but the call does not cover health systems research per se.

Q. We note that the health issues outlined under Scope are illustrative examples, although most involve control of communicable diseases. Are you also open to EoI submissions which are primarily or substantially about non-communicable disease and mitigation of antimicrobial resistance?

A. The call is not restricted to communicable diseases.

Q. Does DFID require that funded groups conduct full development of new products, or are you also open to proposals from smaller groups which fill a gap by adapting and improving existing products? It would be very helpful if you could make any more information available about DFID’s funding to other PDPs, such as which specific activities DFID funds and how large an implementing team is expected.

A. We are open to receiving proposals that are focused on adapting and improving existing products. DFID’s support to currently funded PDPs (listed as a footnote in the call) is on a portfolio basis. Further details can be found on the DFID website at <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk> and on individual organisation’s websites.

Q. Could you confirm if a single organisation can submit more than one application to the call that will ultimately be published by DFID, in case the applications target different diseases or technologies? If this was possible, should only a single Expression of Interest be submitted at this stage?

A. Yes, a single organisation can submit multiple Expressions of Interest and, if successful, proposals, each of which would be evaluated on its own merit. It is for individual organisations to decide whether to: submit a single application covering the full range of work for which they are seeking funding support; or submit individual applications based on disease/technology areas.

Q. Is the competition open to private, for-profit companies?

A. There are no eligibility restrictions on the type of organisations that can apply. It should be noted that the primary objective of the work to be supported by DFID is public health rather than a commercial goal.

Q. Do bids need to focus on Infectious Diseases, or can a bid primarily focus on mental disorders?

A. There is no stipulation in the call that bids need to focus on infectious diseases.