



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

CISTE DO THEICNEOLAÍOCHT AGUS NUÁLAÍOCHT SHUAITEACH

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## DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES INNOVATION FUND

### Reference Document for Applicants

This document provides applicants with an explanation of the types of project eligible for funding under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) and the method of assessment to be used.

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Prepared for Project Ireland 2040 by  
The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation  
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie)

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## **WHAT TYPES OF PROJECT WILL BE FUNDED?**

Collaborative research, development and innovation projects using disruptive technology to transform business are invited to apply for funding under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF). Projects focussed on industrial research are sought. We are seeking impactful projects of up to three years' duration involving enterprises collaborating together and/or research performing organisations (RPOs) including Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and other partners. The **consortium is led by either an existing or potential client company** of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta, or **an eligible Irish-based Research Performing Organisation** (see list on page 18).

## **Objectives of the First Call under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)**

- To support enterprises in Ireland to exploit the enterprise opportunities associated with “disruptive technologies” by de-risking collaborative projects.
- To support enterprises in Ireland to collaborate together and with the public research system in order to engage with and be prepared for challenges associated with new “disruptive technologies” that will have a transformative impact on the way we work and live in the future.
- To build on research undertaken in Ireland and to leverage that research further by supporting the delivery and exploitation of new technology-based solutions from that research.
- To foster deeper and wider RD&I collaborations between the public and private sectors in key technology areas and in particular to support collaborations between large firms and SMEs in Ireland.
- To strengthen spin-out, spin-in and other start-up activity associated with disruptive technology.
- To prepare Irish enterprises and public bodies to engage in European and global partnerships around the development and deployment of disruptive technologies.

## **What do we mean by Disruptive Technologies Innovation?**

For the purpose of this first call, disruptive technology is taken to mean that which has the potential to significantly alter markets and their functioning and significantly alter the way that businesses operate. While it may involve a new product or process, it can also involve the emergence of a new business model. Disruption is about the combination of technology and business model innovation.

This Fund will help achieve the National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) set out in Project Ireland 2040, in particular National Strategic Outcome 5 (A Strong Economy supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills).

Applications to the Fund are expected to address the development, deployment and commercialisation of one or more disruptive technologies to deliver new solutions through investment in the development and implementation of new products and services. Ultimately, the projects funded will create the jobs of the future.

We are seeking projects of scale and impact and collaboration is an essential requirement. Therefore, the amount of funding sought by a project/collaborative partnership should be at

least €1 million over 3 years. Large-scale projects in the range of €5-10 million total cost, inclusive of enterprise co-funding, are encouraged. No maximum figure has been set. However, total DTIF funding to end 2022 is set at €180 million. Co-funding from enterprise partners will be required and DTIF funding will be provided subject to State Aid rules and value for money for the State (see page 5).

The intended **Scope and Impact of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)** are informed by Project Ireland 2040 and the Research Priority Areas 2018-2023.

The **Scope** of this first call under the DTIF draws from the **Research Priority Areas 2018-2023**<sup>1</sup> and applications should align with the following:

| Themes                                    | Priority Areas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ICT                                       | Future Networks, Communications and Internet of Things<br>Data Analytics Management, Security, Privacy, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (including Machine Learning), Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality<br>Digital Platforms, Content and Applications |
| Health and Wellbeing                      | Connected Health and Independent Living, Medical Devices, Diagnostics, Therapeutics                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Food                                      | Food for Health, Smart and Sustainable Food Production and Processing                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Energy, Climate Action and Sustainability | Decarbonising the Energy System and Sustainable Living                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Manufacturing and Materials               | Advanced and Smart Manufacturing, Manufacturing and Novel Materials                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Services and Business Processes           | Innovation in Services and Business Processes                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### Impact

Project Ireland 2040 calls out **10 National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs)**<sup>2</sup>. Applications should target **NSO 5 (A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills)** and potentially one or more of the other NSOs:

- 1. Compact Growth**
- 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility**
- 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities**
- 4. Sustainable Mobility**
- 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills**
- 6. High-Quality International Connectivity**
- 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage**
- 8. Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society**

<sup>1</sup> For full details of the exercise undertaken to identify the Research Priority Areas 2018-2023 please see: <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Research-Priority-Areas-2018-to-2023.html>.

<sup>2</sup> For further details please visit: <http://www.gov.ie/en/project-ireland-2040>.

**9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources**  
**10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services**

**WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?**

**Funding available under the DTIF**

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) have confirmed funding for the DTIF to 2022 as follows:

| Year | DTIF        |
|------|-------------|
| 2019 | €20 million |
| 2020 | €30 million |
| 2021 | €40 million |
| 2022 | €90 million |

This will provide a total capital funding allocation to end 2022 of €180 million. The funding will be deployed in this and future calls and funding may be granted on a multi-annual basis.

**Funding Thresholds**

The funding that we are allowed to pay to enterprise partners through grants is determined by State Aid rules and as set out in the EU-approved [Research, Development and Innovation Scheme, 2014-2020](#). Agency clients, potential clients and RPOs who propose to lead a consortium should consult the aforementioned scheme and their agency for full details of funding thresholds, however, the following may be useful as a guide:

- The minimum request for funding from the DTIF is €1 million, which can be spread over 3 years. Large scale projects in the range of €5-10 million total cost are encouraged.
- Enterprise participants can be funded at up to 50% of their eligible costs.
- There should be at least one SME involved in every consortium with SME(s) in a consortium having an integral role in the project.
- RPOs in a consortium can be funded at up to 100% of eligible costs plus overheads. However, the RPO members of a consortium cannot account for more than two thirds of the DTIF funding request.

Funding may be recommended for feasibility studies where deemed necessary after the Expressions of Interest (EOI) stage. Feasibility studies may be funded up to a maximum of 50% of the eligible costs.

For further details of eligible costs for funding under the DTIF please consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on page 11 and the [Research, Development and Innovation Scheme, 2014-2020](#).

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND MARKING OF PROJECTS

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against eligibility criteria (yes/no) and Selection Criteria to determine which projects will be taken forward through the process.

### Eligibility Criteria

1. The project proposal is **based on the development and/or deployment of novel technologies aligned with the Government's research priority areas** and includes **supporting evidence for delivering economic impact in a 3 to 5 year horizon**. The focus shall be on Industrial Research-based projects as defined in [COMMISSION REGULATION \(EU\) No 651/2014](#) as follows:  
  
"industrial research" means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of component parts of complex systems and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.
2. The proposal is based on a **research, development and innovation (RD&I) collaboration** between two or more enterprises located in Ireland or one or more Enterprises working with one or more Research Performing Organisations located in Ireland. SME participation in the consortium is an essential part of every application.
3. Funding is only provided for work carried out in Ireland. Utilisation of international expertise may be allowed in exceptional circumstances with express approval and for a limited period.
4. The **consortium is led by either an existing or potential client company** of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta, or **an eligible Irish-based Research Performing Organisation** (see list on page 18).
5. Each enterprise partner in the consortium must have the **financial and operational capacity** to engage in the consortium (statements of financial and operational capacity will be validated for those proposals progressing for full application).
6. Proposals to the DTIF are **bidding for at least €1 million from the DTIF** and involve co-funding (cash and/or in-kind). DTIF funding will be provided subject to State Aid rules and value for money for the State.
7. The proposal has **not been submitted to the other NDP Funds** (Urban, Rural, Climate Action).

## Selection Criteria

Expressions of Interest will receive an initial mark based on the criteria and marking scheme below. Projects meeting the minimum threshold for each criterion will be taken forward to full application stage and will be re-scored against the same scoring system. At full application stage, the proposals meeting the minimum threshold for each criterion will be ranked based on their cumulative score where there are more fundable projects than funding available. Full applications will permit inclusion of expanded information to fully cover topics mentioned in the Explanations below.

### Proposal Scoring System – Criteria and Marking

|                                                 | Scale     | Minimum Threshold |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Strength of the Disruptive Technology Dimension | 0-10      | 6                 |
| Excellence of the Overall Proposal and Approach | 0-5       | 3                 |
| Economic and Market Impact                      | 0-10      | 6                 |
| Quality and Efficiency of the Collaboration     | 0-5       | 3                 |
| <b>Total (max score)</b>                        | <b>30</b> | <b>18</b>         |

### Explanation of the Criteria for Applicants and for Reviewers

#### Strength of the Disruptive Technology Dimension

- Proposal demonstrates strong potential to develop or deploy novel or “disruptive” technologies in a setting relevant to Ireland and relevant to market opportunities for Ireland.
- Proposal will build on excellent scientific research and will advance that research to deliver new solutions.
- Proposal demonstrates strong alignment with novel and disruptive technology areas identified in the context of the Government’s policy of research prioritisation.
- Proposal is largely focussed on industrial research.
- Risk profile of the proposal provides justification for State support – i.e. project presents risks associated with innovation especially for growth-, sustainability- and productivity-enhancing disruptive technologies such that the industrial partners may be unable to justify funding the project through usual channels.

#### Excellence of the Overall Proposal and Approach

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives across its scientific, technological and innovation dimensions.
- Soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology.
- Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground breaking objectives, novel concepts and applications).
- Project is sound and deliverable (in a typical 2-3 year timeframe) based on the work packages described.

#### Economic and Market Impact

- The proposal is significant and has the potential to significantly alter markets and their functioning and significantly alter the way that businesses operate through the creation of new business models.
- Proposal demonstrates potential to enhance innovation capacity of enterprise partners (RD&I performance, ability to engage with and deploy disruptive technologies in the future) and especially SMEs.

- Proposal demonstrates potential to create significant new market opportunities and exports, support job creation and retention, strengthen competitiveness and growth of the partner companies within a 3 to 5 year timeframe.
- Spillover benefits of the project to wider enterprise base but especially SMEs in Ireland are demonstrated.
- Proposal demonstrates potential spin-out, spin-in and other start-up activity associated with disruptive technologies.
- The project will help achieve the National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) set out in Project Ireland 2040, in particular, National Strategic Outcome 5 (A Strong Economy supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills).

**Quality and Efficiency of the Collaboration**

- Strength and credibility of the partners in the consortium to deliver on project goals.
- There should be at least one SME involved in every consortium with SME(s) in a consortium having an integral role in the project.
- Financial and other resources mobilised across the consortium provides appropriate co-funding against the DTIF contribution.
- Quality and efficiency of the (outline) work plan including extent to which resources assigned in work packages are in line with objectives/deliverables.
- Appropriateness of management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.
- Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium, as a whole, brings together the necessary expertise.
- Appropriateness of allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.

**The Scoring System**

|      |                                                                                                                   |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0    | The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.       |
| 1/2  | Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.                          |
| 2/4  | Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.                         |
| 3/6  | Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.                        |
| 4/8  | Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.        |
| 5/10 | Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion, any shortcomings are minor. |

## **ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS ON PROJECTS**

### **Deadline for Expression of Interest (EOI) Form – 15:00 hours on Friday, 17 August 2018**

The Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) is a competitive offer. Applications for funding will be invited under this first call for funding commencing in 2019. Subsequent calls will be announced in due course. All applications will be subject to the assessment and selection process.

#### **Who will assess and evaluate the applications?**

- An Advisory Board chaired by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and comprised of nominated members of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland Science Foundation Ireland, along with nominated members of other Government departments and public sector organisations.
- A panel of independent national and international experts comprised of both technical and commercialisation experts.

#### **How will my application be assessed?**

Once received, the Expression of Interest (EOI) form will be screened for eligibility. Only eligible applications will be put forward for assessment by the Advisory Board and the panel of experts. Assessment of applications meeting the eligibility criteria is based on the Selection Criteria (see pages 7-8). The possible outcomes at the Expressions of Interest stage are:

- Applicants are invited to submit a full application as they meet the eligibility criteria and have met the minimum threshold in the selection criteria;
- Applicants are invited to avail of feasibility funding for project development. This may happen where the eligibility criteria are met but it is deemed that further project development is required.
- Applicants are informed that the project does not meet the eligibility criteria. Where applicants do not meet the eligibility criteria, the selection criteria are not applied.

Projects that are deemed ineligible for this first call under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) may still be able to apply in subsequent calls.

It is envisaged that decisions on EOI applications will be made in September 2018.

Please consult the FAQs for further details of the application and assessment process.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Post-approval stage**

The Department will inform the lead partner in the consortium of the decision in their case.

### **False Statements**

If, for the purposes of obtaining aid under this Fund, a person knowingly makes a false or misleading statement or withholds essential information, the person who made such false statements or withheld essential information shall be liable for the full amounts of the funds paid, on discovery or reasonable suspicion of any circumstances all further funding will be withheld.

### **Intellectual Property**

Intellectual Property (IP) arrangements for any collaboration involving RPOs should be in line with the National IP Protocol 2016. Other partnerships will need to have an IP agreement in place by the time of project approval for funding. Please consult [Knowledge Transfer Ireland \(KTI\)](#) for guides to managing IP in Ireland.

### **Information and Publicity**

Prospective applicants should note that summary details of awards made under this Fund will be published in line with State Aid Modernisation rules on Transparency<sup>3</sup>.

### **Confidentiality**

DBEI and agencies will not release any information received as part of this application except as may be required by law, including the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. In the event of a Freedom of Information request, the client will be given reasonable advance notice in order to contest such disclosure. Any personal information which you provide to DBEI or its agencies will be obtained and processed in compliance with the [General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679](#). The information in the Expression of Interest and Application Forms will be used by DBEI and its agencies in the processing of your application and for ongoing administrative purposes between you and DBEI and its agencies.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2014:198:FULL&from=EN> - paragraph 119

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### General

#### Who is running this Fund?

This is a Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation (DBEI) managed Fund.

#### How many Calls for Proposals Will be Announced?

The DTIF was launched in May 2018 with the first call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) announced on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018. It is expected that the first tranche of project proposals to receive funding under the DTIF will be announced in November 2018 and will receive funding in January 2019. It is anticipated that DBEI will announce further Calls for Proposals on an annual basis from 2019 until 2022.

#### What do we mean by Disruptive Technologies Innovation?

Disruptive technology is that which has the potential to significantly alter markets and their functioning and significantly alter the way that businesses operate. While it may involve a new product or process, it can also involve the emergence of a new business model. Disruption is the combination of technology and business model innovation. For this Fund, it is about supporting enterprise through collaborations that drive the development and deployment of disruptive technologies using industrial research as defined in [COMMISSION REGULATION \(EU\) No 651/2014](#) (see definition on page 17).

#### What are the Project proposals Expected to Address?

The proposals are expected to address the development, deployment and commercialisation of one or more disruptive technologies to deliver new solutions through investment in the development and implementation of new products and services.

#### What are the Research Priority Areas<sup>4</sup>?

| Themes                                    | Priority Areas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ICT                                       | Future Networks, Communications and Internet of Things<br>Data Analytics Management, Security, Privacy<br>Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (including Machine Learning), Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality<br>Digital Platforms, Content and Applications |
| Health and Wellbeing                      | Connected Health and Independent Living, Medical Devices, Diagnostics, Therapeutics                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Food                                      | Food for Health, Smart and Sustainable Food<br>Production and Processing                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Energy, Climate Action and Sustainability | Decarbonising the Energy System and Sustainable Living                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Manufacturing and Materials               | Advanced and Smart Manufacturing,<br>Manufacturing and Novel Materials                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Services and Business Processes           | Innovation in Services and Business Processes                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

<sup>4</sup> For full details of the exercise undertaken to identify the Research Priority Areas 2018-2023 please see: <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Research-Priority-Areas-2018-to-2023.html>.

### How much funding is available under the DTIF?

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) have confirmed funding for the DTIF to 2022 as follows:

| Year | DTIF        |
|------|-------------|
| 2019 | €20 million |
| 2020 | €30 million |
| 2021 | €40 million |
| 2022 | €90 million |

This will provide a total capital funding allocation to end 2022 of €180 million.

### Partner Profile

#### Is collaboration necessary?

Yes. Collaboration involving at least two partners is a mandatory eligibility criterion which must be fulfilled. The proposal is based on a **research, development and innovation (RD&I) collaboration** between two or more enterprises located in Ireland or one or more Enterprises working with one or more Research Performing Organisations located in Ireland. SME participation in the consortium is an essential part of every application.

#### Does my company qualify to be a partner in a consortium?

The **consortium must be led by either an existing or potential client company** of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta, or an **eligible Irish-based Research Performing Organisation (RPO)**.

All public bodies are eligible to participate as part of a consortium but must be self-financed for this first call under the DTIF.

SME participation in a consortium is an essential requirement.

#### What are eligible Research Performing Organisations?

For this Fund, eligible Research Performing Organisations are as listed on page 18. Please note that that additional public research bodies not listed may be eligible to apply for funding. Please email specific queries to [DTIF@dbei.gov.ie](mailto:DTIF@dbei.gov.ie).

#### Can collaborations with more than one academic or industrial partner apply?

Yes. Multi-partner consortia are encouraged to apply.

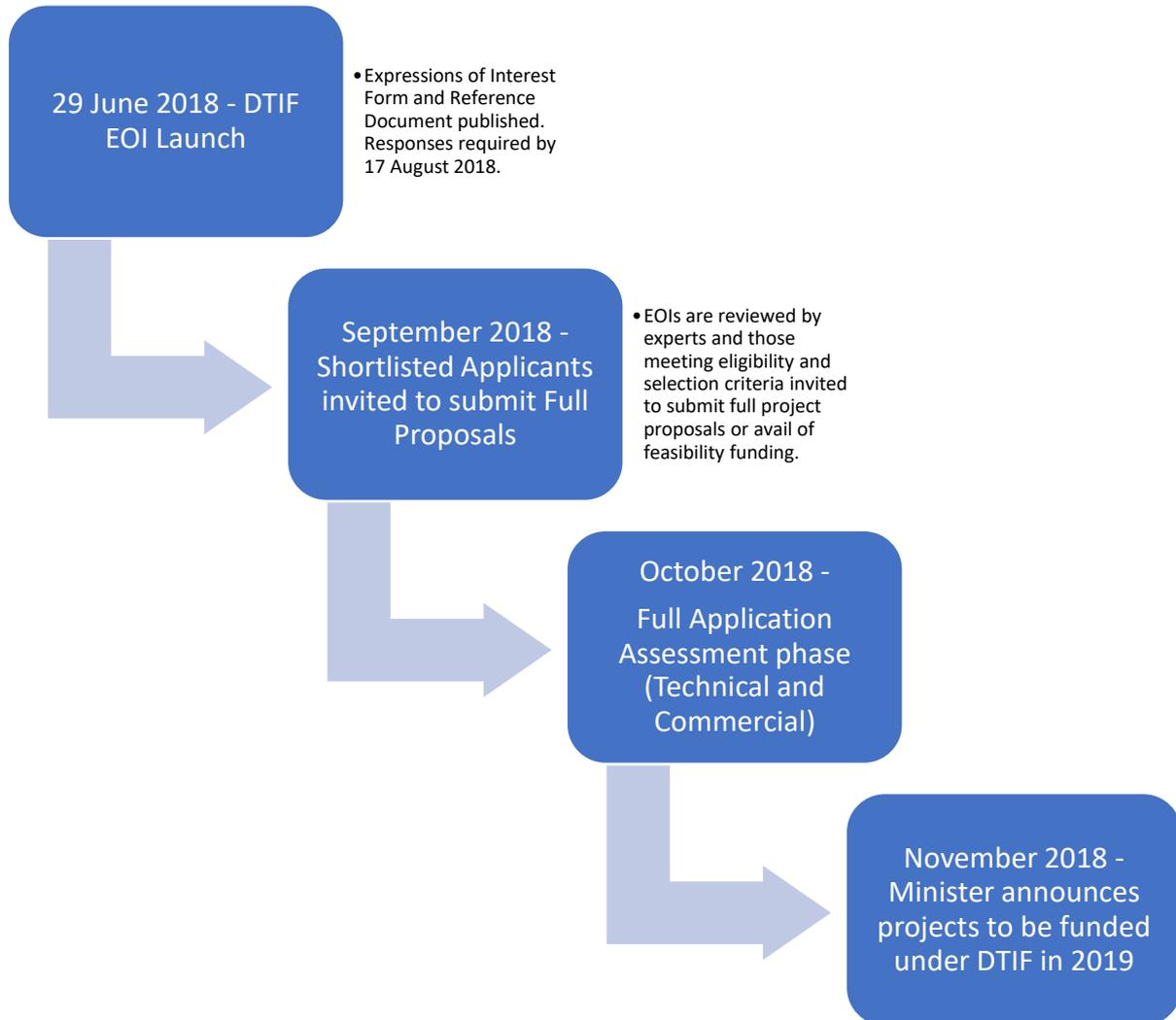
#### Can a company outside of Ireland participate as part of a consortium?

Yes, provided that the activity takes place in Ireland.

## Application Process

### What are the Steps in the Process?

The following is an outline of the steps involved for this first call under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF).



### **Is it Mandatory to Submit an EOI?**

Yes, an EOI must be submitted by each consortium in order to be assessed against the eligibility criteria to be invited (if successful) to submit a full proposal.

### **I've submitted my EOI. When can I submit a Full Proposal?**

Full Proposals may only be submitted when the consortium has been requested to do so by the DBEI-led Advisory Board. Invitations will issue in September 2018.

### **What happens to my EOI if I fail any of the Eligibility Criteria?**

If the EOI fails one or more of the eligibility criteria, the lead partner of the consortium will be informed of the criteria failed and the reasons for same. The project may be re-submitted in future calls when the consortium has addressed the issues concerned and may be eligible to receive funding in subsequent calls.

### **What happens to my EOI if I'm not asked to submit a Full Proposal?**

EOI's that have passed the eligibility criteria but are deemed to require further preparatory feasibility work may be advised to undertake a feasibility study under the DTIF and the consortium may be in a position to re-submit under subsequent calls.

### **After submission of a Full Application, when can I expect a result?**

Decisions will be confirmed to applicants by end 2018. The lead partner will be informed of the decision made.

### **What are the key submission deadlines?**

Completed EOI forms must be submitted by **17 August 2018**. For applicants invited to submit a full application, this will happen in early September 2018.

### **What documentation is required?**

At **EOI stage**, a completed EOI form is required. Applicants should also indicate if an Intellectual Property (IP) agreement is required between partners as **this will be required to be submitted prior to formal approval of the project for funding**. [Knowledge Transfer Ireland](#) provides a useful guide to IP Management in Ireland.

At **full application stage**, the following are required:

- an overall project plan explaining the overall vision and scope and the contribution by each partner to that;
- Technical project plans for each partner in the consortium setting out the activities to be carried out and the outputs expected;
- Detailed project costs for each partner in the consortium;
- A strategic commercialisation plan for each partner showing how the project supports the company business plan;
- Full financial statements for each partner and corporate governance arrangements.

## Funding, Costs and Payments

### How much funding can I obtain under the DTIF?

The funding that we are allowed to pay to partners through grants is determined by State Aid rules and as set out in the EU-approved [Research, Development and Innovation Scheme, 2014-2020](#). Agency clients and potential clients who propose to lead a consortium should consult the aforementioned scheme and their agency for details of funding thresholds, however, the following may be useful as a guide:

- The minimum request for funding from the DTIF is €1 million. Large-scale projects in the range of €5-10 million total cost, inclusive of enterprise co-funding, are encouraged.
- Enterprise participants can be funded at up to 50% of their eligible costs including overheads.
- There must be at least one SME involved in every consortium with SME(s) in a consortium having an integral in projects.
- RPOs in a consortium can be funded at up to 100% of eligible costs plus overheads. However, the RPO members of a consortium cannot account for more than two thirds of the DTIF funding request.

### What costs are eligible?

Eligible costs will vary depending on the type of partner involved (Large company, SME, RPO etc.). Please consult the EU-approved [Research, Development and Innovation Scheme 2014-2020](#) for full details of the costs eligible for each type of project and partner. However, broadly speaking, aid may be provided as follows:

- To companies and SMEs – up to 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research (including overheads);
- To RPOs – up to 100% of the eligible costs for industrial research plus overheads.

Clients and potential clients of the agencies who propose to lead a consortium should consult the aforementioned scheme and their agency for full details of funding thresholds.

### What type of feasibility funding is available?

Where a project meets the eligibility criteria but is deemed by the expert panels to require further project development, the Advisory Board will write to the lead partner offering funding for further feasibility work. For the purpose of this Fund, the definition contained in [COMMISSION REGULATION \(EU\) No 651/2014](#) is used:

‘feasibility study’ means the evaluation and analysis of the potential of a project, which aims at supporting the process of decision-making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success;

The allowable rates for feasibility studies are contained in the EU-approved [Research, Development and Innovation Scheme, 2014-2020](#) and will not exceed 50% of the eligible costs of the feasibility study.

**Assistance****Who can I contact?**

Email queries to [DTIF@dbei.gov.ie](mailto:DTIF@dbei.gov.ie).

As the EOI is the first step in a competitive process, DBEI and its agencies will only provide answers to questions seeking clarification on the process for application or the eligibility criteria. Questions will be updated weekly on the website [www.dbei.gov.ie/DTIF](http://www.dbei.gov.ie/DTIF).

DBEI will host an interactive communications period whereby information on the Expressions of Interest (EOI) form, eligibility and selection criteria, documentation required during the application process, and the assessment process will be discussed. Details will be provided on our website [www.dbei.gov.ie/DTIF](http://www.dbei.gov.ie/DTIF).

## Some abbreviations and general definitions

### Abbreviations

**DTIF** – Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund

**RPO** – Research Performing Organisation – see ‘Definitions’ below

**NDP** – National Development Plan

**FTE** – Full Time Equivalent

**SME** – small and medium enterprise

**HPSU** – High Performing Start Up

### Definitions

**Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** are defined in the [EU recommendation 2003/361](#).

The main factors determining whether an enterprise is an SME are:

1. **staff headcount**
2. either **turnover** and/or **balance sheet total**.

### Company category Staff headcount Turnover or Balance sheet total

|              |       |          |          |
|--------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Medium-sized | < 250 | ≤ € 50 m | ≤ € 43 m |
| Small        | < 50  | ≤ € 10 m | ≤ € 10 m |
| Micro        | < 10  | ≤ € 2 m  | ≤ € 2 m  |

**The European Commission’s User Guide on the SME Definition is available [here](#). The User Guide states:** “Meeting the staff headcount criterion is mandatory in order to be considered an SME. However, an enterprise may choose to meet either the turnover or the balance sheet total ceiling. It does not need to satisfy both requirements and may exceed one of them without impact on its SME status.”

**Industrial Research** as defined in [COMMISSION REGULATION \(EU\) No 651/2014](#) which sets out the terms under which State Aid can be granted. Article 2(85) states:

‘industrial research’ means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of component parts of complex systems and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation;

**Feasibility Study** as defined in [COMMISSION REGULATION \(EU\) No 651/2014](#) which sets out the terms under which State Aid can be granted. Article 2(87) states:

‘feasibility study’ means the evaluation and analysis of the potential of a project, which aims at supporting the process of decision-making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success;

**Research Performing Organisations are:**

|                                                            |                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT)                      | Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT)                                 |
| Clinical Research Development Ireland (CRDI)               | Marine Institute                                                       |
| Cork Institute of Technology (CIT)                         | National Cancer Register Ireland (NCRI)                                |
| Dublin City University (DCU)                               | National College of Ireland (NCI)                                      |
| Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS)               | National University of Ireland, Cork (UCC)                             |
| Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)                       | National University of Ireland, Dublin (UCD)                           |
| Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT) | National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)                          |
| Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)                     | National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIM)                        |
| Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)              | Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)                            |
| Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT)                 | Teagasc                                                                |
| Institute of Technology Sligo (ITS)                        | The National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) |
| Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (ITB)              | Trinity College Dublin (TCD)                                           |
| Institute of Technology, Carlow (ITC)                      | Tyndall National Institute                                             |
| Institute of Technology, Tallaght (ITT)                    | University of Limerick (UL)                                            |
| Institute of Technology, Tralee (ITT)                      | Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)                                |
| Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT)                 | Meat Technology centre                                                 |
| IMR – Irish Manufacturing Research                         | Dairy Technology Centre                                                |

**Please note that additional public research bodies not listed may be eligible to apply for funding. Please email specific queries to [DTIF@dbei.gov.ie](mailto:DTIF@dbei.gov.ie).**