GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Future Health Research & Innovation Fund

Innovation Seed Fund 2023-24

Guidelines and Conditions

Minimum Data Form due by:
1:00 pm (AWST) Tuesday 28 November 2023

Application due by:
1:00 pm (AWST) Tuesday 12 December 2023

fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au

Contents

1. Introduction

The Innovation Seed Fund (the Program) is a funding program of the Western Australian (WA) Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund.

The FHRI Fund provides a secure source of funding to drive health and medical research, innovation and commercialisation and through these activities, improve the health and prosperity of all Western Australians. It also provides an opportunity to diversify the economy, create jobs, improve the sustainability of the health system and position WA as a leader in research and innovation.

The Program contributes to the FHRI Fund Priority Goal: Establish innovation programs to support topical and/or early stage ideas and enable opportunities for these innovative ideas to secure follow-on funding from commercial/other funders.

The expected outcomes are in alignment with the following objectives of the *Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012*:

- improving the health and wellbeing of Western Australians
- improving the financial sustainability of Western Australia's health system
- improving Western Australia's economic prosperity
- advancing Western Australia to being, or maintaining Western Australia's position as, a national or international leader in research and innovation activities.

The Program is administered by the Office of Medical Research and Innovation (OMRI), WA Department of Health (Department of Health). Queries may be directed to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Program is to provide the opportunity for WA innovators to develop and commercialise their innovations, create high-level health sector jobs and enhance the production/manufacturing capacity of the State.

The aims of the Program are to:

- increase the number of new health and medical innovation start-up companies in WA
- improve the success of WA innovation initiatives in accessing additional funding/investment to assist in taking the innovations to market.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- advance the innovation maturity level of the funded innovations
- encourage non-government funding/investment for the progression of more advanced innovations.

3. Program description

This Program aims to support the validation of inventive concepts, the feasibility testing of proposed solutions, and the advancement of developed solutions towards the path of commercialisation.

The funding is intended to support key de-risking activities that advance the innovation to a maturity level where the innovation is better positioned to attract investment from traditional innovation funding sources (such as commercialisation funds, venture capital investors or through equity raising) to commence, or progress, the commercialisation process.

Funding will be available for early to intermediate stage start-ups, emerging spin-outs or small to medium enterprises.

Funding will be provided to innovation proposals that demonstrate potential to develop and commercialise novel (new) processes, products and/or services that may have major impact on the health and/or wellbeing of the WA community. The innovation may result in incremental or transformative/disruptive change.

As such, this funding is to support activities that would be undertaken at Innovation Maturity Levels (IMLs) 3 to 7 as outlined in Appendix 1. These include various stages of the innovation development life cycle, including proof of concept or feasibility, proof of value or preliminary validation, and confirmatory validation of more advanced solutions.

The Program is directed towards activities that fall within the health and medical innovation and commercialisation stream of the FHRI Fund.

Funding cannot be used to support activities that are deemed to be research, unless these are an integral part of the innovation Activity and are feasible to be undertaken within the timeframe of the Activity.

Funding will be awarded through a competitive and merit-based process.

The Activity Lead will be responsible for coordinating the Activity and ensuring its timely execution.

The Responsible Entity* will be accountable for the governance and financial management of any funding awarded.

* *It is acknowledged that the term Administering Institution has traditionally been used by universities and research institutes, however the term Responsible Entity is inclusive of industry and reflects that grant agreements are the responsibility of the contracted entity*.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for this Program, all of the following criteria apply:

- The Responsible Entity must:
  - have an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
  - have a physical and operational presence in WA.
- The Activity Lead must:
  - be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, or have an appropriate work visa in place for the period of the Activity
  - be based in WA for a minimum of 80 per cent of the period of the Activity
  - have no overdue reports for any OMRI or FHRI Fund grant funding programs from any year (excludes authorised extensions)
  - ensure that an OMRI or FHRI Fund grant has not been awarded for any component of the Activity
  - have a position or title at the Responsible Entity for the period of the Activity
    The Activity Lead will be required to specify which of the following applies:
    (a) employee of the Responsible Entity; or
    (b) honorary or adjunct title at the Responsible Entity.
    In the case of (b), if the Activity Lead is employed by another entity (the Employer), this entity must have a physical and operational presence in WA, and confirmation must be provided that either:
    i. an affiliation agreement exists between the Responsible Entity and the relevant Employer; or
    ii. the intention is for this Activity to be subcontracted to the relevant Employer.
- The proposed innovation Activity to be undertaken must be within the range of IML 3 to IML 7 (as outlined in Appendix 1).

- For IML 7 activities, it must be demonstrated that funding/investment from **non-government** sources has been received, that at least matches the amount of funding requested through this Program. The matching funding/investment must not be through entities that are part of an industry that produces products or services that may contribute to poor physical health or mental wellbeing of the community.
- Any rights (for example Intellectual Property rights) to develop or implement the innovation must be vested with the innovation team, or otherwise not be vested in another entity in a manner which would preclude the ability of the innovation team to deliver the innovation (Freedom to Operate).
- The grant funding must not constitute the entire financial base of the Responsible Entity.
- Applications must be submitted in accordance with the 'Application instructions' section of this document.

An applicant may submit more than one application to the Program, providing that there is no overlap in the Activity.

OMRI reserves the right to request further information and make final decisions regarding eligibility.

5. Program funding

Funding amounts between $50,000 and $750,000 are available to successful applicants to finance an innovation Activity as per the table below:

Activity Innovation Maturity Level (IML)	Funding available	Maximum Activity duration
IML 3	$50,000 to $100,000	Up to 12 months
IML 4-6	$250,000 to $500,000	Up to 24 months
IML 7	$500,000 to $750,000	Up to 24 months*

** subject to meeting the eligibility criterion regarding matched funding/investment*

Funding will be in accordance with:

- Salary costs:
  - must be directly attributable to the delivery of Activity outcomes
  - may include on-costs up to a maximum of 30%, noting that WA public health system applicants must claim salary on-costs in accordance with the WA Health Financial Management Manual s521 'Internal Salary Recoup (within WA Health entities)' table
  - can include leave entitlements that accrue during the period the salary is being paid by the grant funding. Leave entitlements accrued outside this period, severance and termination payments cannot be paid by the grant funding.
- Non-salary costs:
  - include essential services, supplies, equipment, consumer involvement and other expenses directly related to the Activity
  - for travel will not be approved unless strongly justified as being essential to the undertaking of the Activity
  - may be requested for equipment up to a maximum of $10,000 in total and quotes for each item must be attached to the application.

- Overhead charges:
    - may be requested up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget, noting that WA public health system applicants cannot claim standard overhead charges in accordance with the Financial Management Manual s522 (OMRI is an exempt organisation).

Requested FTE, salary level and activity costs must reasonably reflect the proposed Activity.

Funding is not intended to provide salary for the Activity Lead. An exemption to this rule may be requested, where it is deemed that this salary is crucial to the success of the project. Adequate justification must be provided. Determination of exemptions will be made on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of OMRI.

Funding will only be made available for the scope of work described in the Application Form, or any modifications to the scope of work approved in writing by OMRI. The Department of Health will not underwrite any costs beyond the funding awarded through the Program.

The intention is that funding will be spent within WA unless goods and services expenditure items are not available in WA and/or it is beneficial to WA if goods or services are procured from outside WA.

All budget items should be adequately described and justified as consideration is given to budgets during the assessment process.

Applicants should calculate budgets accurately, as requests for additional funding will not be considered. A change of up to 10% per budget line will not require a formal variation.

Funding is offered subject to budget availability, which could be varied in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Any relevant external funding that has been received for the Activity information must be included in the Budget section of the Application Form.

6. Application instructions

The instructions below must be followed when making a submission:

Minimum Data Form

- The Minimum Data Form (MDF) available from the FHRI Fund website must be submitted by **1:00 pm (AWST) 28 November 2023** to be eligible to submit an Application Form.
- The MDF does not need to be submitted through the Responsible Entity and may be emailed directly by the applicant to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au.
- The MDF and email subject line must be titled as follows:
  Activity Lead SURNAME, First name – ISF 2023-24 MDF
  e.g. SMITH, Alex – ISF 2023-24 MDF

Application Form

- Application Forms will only be accepted if a Minimum Data Form has been submitted by the required date/time above.
- The Application Form available from the FHRI Fund website must be submitted by **1:00 pm (AWST) 12 December 2023**.
- The application must be completed in Arial font 11 point or larger.

- Electronic signatures are acceptable. The onus is on the applicant to ensure approval to use an electronic signature has been obtained.
- The application is to be emailed to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au as a **single** Adobe Acrobat PDF or Microsoft Word file, not exceeding 5 MBs, including CVs, and bibliographic references (if applicable). The application document and email subject line must be titled as follows:
  Activity Lead SURNAME, First name – ISF 2023-24 Application
  e.g. SMITH, Alex – ISF 2023-24 Application
- Applications must be complete, include requested certifications and be submitted by the closing date/time. Applicants are responsible for complying with internal deadlines.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the Minimum Data Form and Application Form will be provided via email to the Responsible Entity and Activity Lead within 5 working days of the closing dates.

Applications including commercially sensitive information should be marked as commercial-in-confidence, noting that the 'Activity summary' section in the Application Form may be used for publicity purposes.

Queries regarding the application process should be directed by email to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au.

7. Selection process

Assessment process

Funding will be awarded on merit, based on a process of assessment and selection

All eligible applications will be assessed by a review panel comprising one or more of each of the following:

- Experts in health and medical innovation.
- Experts in health and medical entrepreneurship and commercialisation.
- Persons with appropriate WA health and medical knowledge/experience.
- Consumer representatives.

Depending on the number of applications received, a review panel may conduct a shortlisting assessment stage to determine those applications that are most aligned with the aims and objectives of the Program.

Conflicts of interest that may arise will be treated in accordance with the WA health system Managing Conflict of Interest Policy and Guidelines.

The assessment of applications will be based on the following criteria and % weightings set out in the table below:

Assessment Criteria	**%**
Significance of the problem • The problem that the innovation addresses. • The relevance and scale of the problem in WA. • The importance of addressing the problem in WA, and at a national and global level.	**15**
Proposed innovation and its maturity level • The proposed innovation and how it is novel (new). • The maturity level of the innovation Activity, which must be within the range of IML 3 to IML 7 and be appropriate for the funding requested and the Activity duration proposed (refer to Appendix 1).	**15**

• The differentiation between the proposed innovation and any existing or emerging competing processes, products and/or services. • The technical merit (proof of concept) of the innovation, including key data that support the innovation.	
Value proposition • The potential impact of the proposed innovation on the problem in WA. • The impact that the innovation will have on the health and/or wellbeing of the WA community. • The economic, social and environmental benefits of the innovation to WA. • The potential commercial value of the innovation, including market size and scalability, at the WA, national and global level. • The advantage of the innovation over any competing processes, products and/or services. • The drivers for clinicians, patients, community and/or industry to adopt the innovation.	**15**
Activity Plan • The activity that will be undertaken, including objectives, methodology and realistic measures of outcomes. • How the activity will contribute to validation or de-risking of the innovation. • How the activity will improve the commercial potential of the innovation and drive investor/partner interest to get the innovation to market. • The achievability of the proposed milestones and timeframe. • The proposed budget to undertake the activity and justification for budget items, including any proposed salary components.	**15**
Capacity, capability and resources • The knowledge, expertise and experience of the Activity Lead and Team Members. • The contribution of the Activity Lead and each Team Member. • Any collaborations with WA health service providers and WA industry. • Access to technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and additional support personnel, if necessary.	**10**
Intellectual Property • Any existing patent filings, including stage and priority dates. • Names of the key inventors and the IP ownership structure. • The IP strategy for protection of the innovation and any potential new IP during and beyond the funding period.	**10**
Consumer involvement • How consumers (e.g. patients, carers, community members) have been involved in the development of the innovation to date, including the development of the activity proposal. • The plan for ongoing consumer engagement in the activity, including their roles and how their lived experience perspectives will inform the activity delivery (refer to Section 8).	**10**
Anticipated commercialisation pathway and strategy • The anticipated commercialisation pathway for the innovation from its current stage to market, including possible timeframes for each stage and go/no-go decision points. • The anticipated funding strategy to take the innovation to market. • The anticipated model for the generation of financial returns through commercialisation of the innovation. • Potential investors and/or natural partners/acquirers of the innovation.	**10**

Selection of recipients

Based on the review panel assessments, the Department of Health will determine and approve the awarding of grants in accordance with the Department of Health financial and procurement processes and delegation authorities.

OMRI reserves the right to offer lower funding rates than requested and/or request modification to the Activity on a case-by-case basis.

8. Consumer involvement

In line with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) definition, consumers are people who have lived experience of a health issue. They include patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health care services. Consumers can also be people who represent the views and interests of a consumer organisation, a community or a wider constituency.

There is increasing recognition of the benefits of involving consumers in research and innovation. Effective consumer involvement can ensure research and innovation is relevant to the WA community and improves translation into policy and practice.

Applicants should engage with health consumers during the development of funding applications and embed them in the proposed Activity by including them in the team where appropriate and providing a detailed description of their role and contribution.

Consumer involvement should incorporate:

- Clearly defined relationships with health consumers or community groups who have 'lived experience' of the issue the Activity addresses.
- Demonstrated understanding of the benefits derived from involving people with a lived experience.
- Inclusion of consumers in the Activity where appropriate.
- Plans to involve consumers in the Activity throughout the delivery timeline.
- Budget strategy with funds allocated to support, implement and acknowledge consumer involvement (e.g. training opportunities, honoraria and payments, additional time to support involvement activities, administration support and consultations and events associated with involvement activities).

Guidance on consumer involvement can be found at the Consumer and Community Involvement Program website and the NHMRC Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research 2016.

It is encouraged that all team members complete the free online 30 minute Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research course (or equivalent).

9. Contractual arrangements

Grants to entities external to the WA public health system are offered in accordance with the Department of Health Grant Funding Agreement (and its Terms and Conditions) which is a legal agreement between the Department of Health (Us) and the Responsible Entity (You). Within the WA public health system, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be entered into.

The Responsible Entity must ensure that appropriate agreements are in place with the Activity Lead, team members and participating entities.

The Department of Health reserves the right to withdraw an offer of award to a Responsible Entity if the Grant Funding Agreement and/or Grant Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions, or MOU, cannot be agreed between the parties.

Insurance

A Responsible Entity external to the WA public health system will be required to provide evidence of insurance as a condition of the Grant Funding Agreement.

Note that Activity that requires site governance approval will also be required to provide evidence of appropriate insurance during the governance process, which may vary depending on the site.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property (IP) that arises out of the Activity will vest with the Responsible Entity (You). However, consideration will be given to the provisions of the *Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy 2023* (or any future iterations of this), and that IP rights should be allocated to optimise the economic, social or environmental benefits for WA from the use, commercialisation and disposal of the IP. Applicants should make themselves aware of the IP clause that will apply to this Program:

1. The ownership of any Intellectual Property generated by undertaking the Activity shall vest in You.
2. The ownership of any background or pre-existing Intellectual Property and associated Moral Rights, used or incorporated in the Activity that is presently vested in a Party shall remain vested in that Party, unless otherwise agreed.
3. Each Party will be entirely and solely responsible for the use in the Activity of any Intellectual Property and associated Moral Rights it has provided to the undertake the Activity which belongs to, or is licensed from, any other party, and indemnifies the other Party against all claims by a third party arising out of use of that Intellectual Property and associated Moral Rights.
4. You will negotiate in good faith with Us to provide, in a fair and reasonable manner for both parties, any product to which this grant funding has significantly contributed, to the WA (public) Health system, or agreed components of this, either free of charge, or at the cost of production, for a mutually acceptable period of time after its production, providing that this in no manner compromises the attraction of additional funding, and/or the commercialisation by You of the product.
5. You indemnify and will keep indemnified Us and all Our respective officers, employees and agents from and against all costs, losses, expenses, actions, suits, demands, claims, damages and other liabilities resulting from Your failure to comply with this agreement, or otherwise resulting from the actual or alleged infringement of the Intellectual Property rights or associated Moral Rights of any third party by You.
6. Your obligations under this Agreement are continuing and survive expiration or termination of the Agreement.

Where relevant, agreements between the Activity Lead, team members and participating entities must include relevant permissions to use third-party IP required to deliver the Activity and have Freedom to Operate for the Activity. When a team includes a member(s) from the WA public health system as a participant in the Activity (i.e. the WA public health entity is not the Responsible Entity), the IP agreement must be authorised at an appropriate level by the relevant WA public health system entity.

Any questions regarding such IP matters should, in the first instance, be directed to OMRI (DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au).

Requests for variation

Requests for variations to the Grant Funding Agreement or MOU, such as Activity description, Budget (if a line varies more than 10%), Activity Lead or Responsible Entity, must be directed to OMRI. Approval of the variation will be at the discretion of the Department of Health. If variations are not approved this could result in termination of the grant with associated funding reverting to, or being recoverable by, the Department of Health, where for example eligibility or viability of the Activity is affected.

10. Funding conditions

Payment instalments

Funding will be provided in instalments to the Responsible Entity as follows:

- The first instalment will be subject to execution of a Grant Funding Agreement or MOU.
- Subsequent instalments (if applicable) will be subject to satisfactory progress being achieved against the Activity milestones, as demonstrated in Progress Reports.

If ethics and governance approvals are required (refer to 'Approvals' section of this document), then the Responsible Entity may only release the first instalment to the Activity Lead once all approvals for the Activity have been obtained and lodged with the Responsible Entity.

Additional funding sources

Applicants are permitted, and encouraged, to seek additional sources of funding for the duration of the Activity, provided it complements, but does not duplicate, the Activity for which the funding was awarded.

Partial payment or suspension of funds

The Department of Health reserves the right to:

- provide funding instalments in parts, based on milestone achievement and risk assessment of future milestones
- suspend payment of funding instalments or part instalments where Activity viability has become uncertain.

Termination of funds

Funds shall revert to, or be recoverable by, the Department of Health in instances where:

- eligibility requirements are no longer met, unless a request for variation to address this is approved by OMRI
- the Activity is terminated by OMRI as a result of insufficient progress being made at the time of Progress Reports or any interim Progress Report, or it has been otherwise determined by either the funding recipient or OMRI that the Activity is no longer viable
- funding for the Activity is obtained from another source
- funds are used for purposes other than those for which they were awarded
- funds were spent on activities that require ethics and/or governance approvals and such approvals were not obtained before undertaking the activities

- funds are not fully expended at the conclusion of the Activity (including any extensions approved by OMRI)
- other entities fund this Activity that are part of an industry that produces products or services that may contribute to poor physical health or mental wellbeing of the community
- it is determined that misleading or fraudulent information has been provided.

11. Approvals

Research ethics and research governance

Funding cannot be used to support Activities that are deemed to be research, unless these are an integral part of the innovation Activity and are feasible to be undertaken within the timeframe of the Activity.

The Responsible Entity, and any participating entity, will be responsible for obtaining and lodging all relevant research ethics and governance approvals that are required for undertaking funded activities, and ensuring these are maintained as required for the duration of the Activity.

Research ethics approvals must be obtained from relevant ethics committees (human and/or animal). Research governance authorisation (also known as site specific assessment or access request review) must be obtained from each relevant institution/site conducting the Activity or providing access to data, participants or tissue samples.

For information on research ethics and governance submission requirements for the WA public health system please refer to the following websites: Research Ethics; Research Governance; Multi-centre Research.

Use of data collections

An Activity that requires access to and use of WA Department of Health data collections requires review and approval for data release in accordance with the *Health Services Act 2016* and the *Health Services (Information) Regulations 2017*. This is in addition to research ethics and governance approvals and will include a feasibility assessment to determine whether the data requested is appropriate for the purposes of the study and approval for use of the data from the data custodian.

Preliminary cost and time estimates can be obtained from contacting DataServ@health.wa.gov.au. Cost estimates should be included in the proposed budget and an estimate of time for release of the data should be incorporated into the milestones in the Application Form.

For further information please review the Data Linkage Services website.

Should the application for funding be successful, we recommend you immediately begin the data request and approval process.

12. Reporting

The Activity Lead and Responsible Entity are responsible for meeting reporting requirements over the duration of the Activity and at its conclusion.

All reports are to be completed on templates provided by OMRI.

Progress Activity Report

Progress reports outlining the progress against the milestones listed in the Activity plan will be required as stipulated in the Grant Funding Agreement or MOU.

OMRI reserves the right to request a progress report at any point.

OMRI reserves the right to suspend or withdraw funding where insufficient progress has been made.

Final Activity Report

A final report detailing the Activity and outcomes is to be submitted to OMRI at the conclusion of the Activity. Failure to submit the final report at this time may render all team members ineligible for further funding from the FHRI Fund and OMRI until the final report is received.

Financial Report

A financial acquittal statement outlining the expenditure of funds must be submitted to OMRI at the conclusion of the Activity. Acquittal statements must be certified by an authorised finance officer (or equivalent) of the Responsible Entity.

OMRI reserves the right to request interim financial reports at any stage during the Activity.

Any unexpended funds must be returned to the Department of Health. Any over-expenditure is the responsibility of the Responsible Entity, and no claim may be made against the Department of Health.

Community Stakeholder Brief

In order to provide feedback to stakeholders, a one-page *Community Stakeholder Brief* which includes an outline of the Activity, its outcomes, and next steps is to be provided to all participating consumers and a copy submitted to OMRI with the Final Activity Report.

13. Publicising, acknowledgements and publications

The Minister for Medical Research and/or the Department of Health will publicly announce recipients, including the title of the Activity. All other parties must withhold announcement/media coverage until after OMRI advises this has occurred.

Acknowledgement of FHRI Fund support must be made in publications, conference presentations, public discussion, press statements etc.

In order to maximise knowledge exchange, funding recipients must comply with the NHMRC's 'Publication and dissemination of research: a guide supporting the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research', which can be downloaded from the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research page, and the NHMRC's Open Access Policy.

All peer-reviewed publications that are supported in whole or in part by the FHRI Fund must be made immediately open access, that is, without any embargo period at the time of first online publication, regardless of whether such publication is an advanced or early online publication or the Version of Record. Funding recipients are encouraged to upload to a pre-print site any draft publication or report resulting in whole or in part from the funded Activity prior to submission to a peer-reviewed publication (if permitted by the publisher) The funding recipient must notify OMRI of all publication DOIs. If the paper is peer-reviewed and published, the funding recipient must notify OMRI of the publication DOI. The corresponding author's ORCiD should also be notified to OMRI.

If successful, the Activity Lead, or a suitable team member, are encouraged to submit an abstract to, and attend, the annual Science on the Swan conference following the first year of the grant. However, this will not apply if submission of an abstract will breach confidentiality provisions, restrict the ability to publish results or to obtain patents.

14. Confidentiality

Activity title, Activity Lead, funding amount, Responsible Entity, plain language summaries and sections indicated on applications or reports may be used for publicity purposes.

All other information provided in applications and reports will be maintained confidentially by OMRI, review panels, evaluation panels and the FHRI Fund Advisory Council. If requests are received by OMRI to make public any aspect of the Activity, other than the aspects listed above, the authorisation of the Responsible Entity will be sought, notwithstanding information requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)* or information pertaining to the receipt of State Government financial assistance tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia.

15. Evaluation

OMRI undertakes evaluations of Funding Programs, which will include unsuccessful applications. All parties in the application, including team members and consumer representatives, are required to contribute to the evaluation.

16. Complaints

Applicants who feel that their interests have been adversely affected by an action taken by OMRI in administering the Program may lodge a complaint. Complaints can only be considered when they refer to the administrative process and not to the funding decision. Complaints must be submitted via email (marked Confidential) to: Deputy Director General (OfficeoftheDDG@health.wa.gov.au).

Appendix 1 – Innovation Maturity Level (IML)

The proposed innovation Activity to be undertaken must be within the range of IML 3 to IML 7, as highlighted below.

Note: Funding amounts and Activity duration available differ between IML 3, IML 4-6 and IML 7.

	IML 1	IML 2	IML 3	IML 4	IML 5	IML 6	IML 7	IML 8	IML 9
	Need	**Idea**	**Proof of Concept**	**Proof of Feasibility**	**Proof of Value**	**Preliminary Validation**	**Confirmatory Validation**	**Approval and Launch**	**Uptake**
Description	Identification of problem or unmet need	Potential solution described, evaluated and selected (where applicable, in comparison with any existing, inferior, solution)	Key concepts validated and value proposition tested	Feasibility of solution demonstrated, which aligns with stakeholder and/or potential user feedback and/or expectations	Solution developed to a stage where it is recognised to have value by stakeholders and/or potential users	Production of prototype, minimum viable product, or equivalent, and collection of relevant data. As required, is attractive to further developmental investment.	The solution is definitively demonstrated to be effective and to be of value to stakeholders and/or users. The solution is ready to be taken to market (or equivalent).	Institutional and regulatory approval received (as required) and solution launched	The solution is implemented/used by stakeholders and/or users

Adapted from the Innovation Maturity Levels (IMLs) of the MTPConnect *BioMedTech Horizons* program, which is based on the Consortia for Improving Medicine with Innovation & Technology's *Navigating the HealthTech Innovation Cycle*.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.