**Innovate UK, Microbials Accelerator Application Form**

Applications are invited from companies interested in benefiting from the Innovate UK Microbials Accelerator programme that meet the following criteria:

* Are a UK-based SME according to Innovate UK definitions, or an academic in the early stages of forming an SME. Note the company must be incorporated with a bank account by the end of the Accelerator which is 31st October 2023.
* Have an innovative idea to develop a novel product, technology, or process which is in scope of the “Microbials” area (as defined below) and that directly impacts upon a clear evidenced and sizeable healthcare challenge.
* Are developing a technology, product, process or service with a clear and obvious route to market that will lead to a commercial opportunity.
* Have a technology, product, process or service which could form the basis of an application to an Innovate UK Biomedical Catalyst Feasibility Award call. As a result, this Accelerator programme is designed for projects that have developed an innovative concept or carried out experimental proof of concept (TRL 3-5) but have not validated the technology.

Microbials scope: Technologies, products, processes, and services which have the potential to impact on microbial communities or biofilms related to health, including new technologies to protect beneficial microbiomes or to control harmful microbial communities or biofilms. Across Health and Life Sciences, Microbial technologies are relevant to a broad range of health sectors and allow prevention or proactive management of health and chronic conditions. Novel products could:

* Be intended for delivery through Primary Care, the Tertiary Health Service or through supply to global healthcare companies or via the consumer market.
* Establish tailored treatments that change an underlying disease or condition.
* Be implemented at the level of the individual, organisation or community.

These technologies, products, processes, or services may relate, but are not limited, to microbiomes, biofilms, new non-traditional modalities for prevention, reduction of transmission or treatment of microbial infections or contaminants, phage-based interventions or live biotherapeutic products.

Please note that the development of “new antibiotics to combat AMR” and “microbial diagnostics” are out of scope.

Any information provided in this application must be **non-confidential**. By completing and submitting the application you agree to the Terms and Conditions as detailed below. All applications must be sent to [microbialsaccelerator@bionow.co.uk](mailto:microbialsaccelerator@bionow.co.uk) with the subject line of ‘Innovate UK Microbials Accelerator Application’. **The deadline for submission is midday on 6th June 2023**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **You and your company** |  |
| Applicant Name: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Gender: | Female/Male/Prefer not to say/Prefer to self describe |
| Race/Ethnicity: | Asian/Asian British Black/African/Caribbean/Black British Mixed/multiple ethnic groups Other ethnic group Prefer not to say White |
| Are your activities ever affected by a disability, impairment or long-term illness which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? | Yes/No/Prefer not to say |
| Company/Institution Name: |  |
| Contact details (incl. address and telephone number): |  |
| Website: |  |
| Date company was established: |  |
| Stage of incorporation of your business: |  |
| Status of the IP. Is it owned/licensed by the company? If not when will this be finalised etc: |  |
| Do you have a bank account? If not when will this be opened?: |  |
| Number of employees: |  |
| T/O in last financial year’s accounts: |  |
| Details of funding raised to date: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Your proposition:** |  |
| 1) Provide a summary of your company, technology and business model (150 words max): |  |
| 2) Provide details of your technology, product, process or service, detailing how it is innovative, how it meets the scope of this Microbials Accelerator as defined above and the technical challenges which remain (500 words max): |  |
| 3) Describe the need or challenge and business opportunity. Note: This should also contain details on risks, IP and competitive landscape (300 words max): |  |
| 4) Provide details on the market, route to market, barriers and how you will grow your business. Note you should also consider regulatory aspects here (300 words max): |  |
| 5) Explain your commercial progress to date, funding requirements and how this will achieve your vision for the business (200 words max): |  |
| 6) Describe your team and their experience identifying any gaps and how these will be filled (200 words max): |  |
| 7) How have you considered ED&I, environmental and sustainability aspects and how will the approach address health inequalities? (300 words max): |  |
| 8) Explain how participating in this Accelerator programme will help you and what you hope to get out of it (100 words max): |  |

Terms and Conditions

Any information provided in this application must be non-confidential. By completing and submitting the application you agree to the Terms and Conditions as detailed below.

All information provided will be treated in confidence and only distributed for use in the selection and delivery of the programme. The process will be competitive, and the decision of the panel will be by majority and is final.

Following the closing date, applications received will be assessed according to the Assessment Criteria detailed below by a small panel of assessors with relevant technical and commercial expertise.

Questions 1-6 above will be scored by the panel who will judge each question according to the assessment criteria below. Questions 7 & 8 will not be scored but may be considered when assessing applications, particularly when scores are tied.

The panel will select around 20 applications that will get the opportunity to proceed to the next stage of the Innovate UK Microbials Accelerator programme – the pre-accelerator modules. Applicants will be contacted by 20th June 2023 to inform them whether they have been successful.

The 20 successful applicants selected for the programme must be available to attend 4-5 days of compulsory pre-Accelerator training taking place between 21st June and 21st July 2023.

The small panel of assessors with relevant technical and commercial expertise will also select up to 10 organisations to receive the bespoke Accelerator support. The exact timing of this will be agreed between the successful organisations and the expert providers of the bespoke training elements of the programme. This element of the program will take place between 24th July and 31st October 2023.

For the purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998, Bionow is a Data Controller (see [www.bionow.co.uk](http://www.bionow.co.uk) for more details). To process your application we may collect and process data that you have provided in your application, including your name, address, email address, current job role, and details of your innovation. Please see above for how and with whom we will share your application and your data contained within the application.

Applications will be non-confidential and we will treat them as confidential as far as is reasonably possible. In case of any mutual desire between an applicant and a partner organisation or expert provider to the programme to exchange confidential information, the applicant and the other party shall execute an appropriate confidentiality agreement. Participants are responsible for seeking their own legal advice without any liability to the providers of the Microbial Accelerator.

Application assessment criteria

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Weighting** | **Scoring notes** |
| Is the underlying technology novel? | 10 | The underlying technology/approach is novel with evidence to substantiate this and fully meets the scope=10  The technology/approach has novel elements, but these aren’t fully evidenced or clearly articulated and only partly meets the scope = 5  The technology isn't novel and/or doesn’t meet the scope= 1 |
| Does the idea meet the scope of the competition? | 5 | The idea fully meets the scope of the competition = 5  The idea does not meet the scope of the competition = 1 |
| Is the business model/approach appropriate and innovative? | 10 | A compelling, appropriate and innovative business model = 10.  The model has innovative elements and is an appropriate model = 5.  The model is not appropriate at all = 1 |
| Is there an evidenced clear unmet need? | 10 | A clear and unmet need is identified with evidence = 10  Some evidence of a need but unclear on whether the need is currently unmet =5  No evidence provided to substantiate a need or need stated is not relevant = 1 |
| Is the value proposition clearly identified and aimed at addressing validated customer/patient need? | 10 | The value proposition is significant, evidenced, clearly stated and will directly address the need = 10  The value proposition is stated with some evidence and may address the need = 5  The value position is poorly defined, lacks evidence and won’t address the need = 1 |
| Is the identified IP strategy appropriate for this sector? | 10 | The strategy is clearly defined and appropriate= 10  The strategy is acceptable but could be strengthened = 5  The strategy is not defined or unsuitable = 1 |
| Is there a clear and established market opportunity for the offering? | 10 | There is a clear and established market with an opportunity to secure significant revenues = 10  There is an established market but revenues that can be generated may be limited = 5  The market does not exist and/or unlikely to generate meaningful revenue or sales =1 |
| Is a clear route to market identified, are customers identified? | 10 | Customers are identified along with routes to them with a clear and convincing value proposition = 10  Some potential customers are identified along with outline value proposition = 5  No potential customers or consideration of route to market = 1 |
| Has the exit strategy been considered, and the rationale provided to substantiate this? | 5 | The strategy is strong with relevant benchmarking used to demonstrate feasibility of the approach = 5  No exit strategy is considered or it lacks credibility = 1 |
| Commercial progress to date? | 5 | The business has made good progress towards its overall vision which is viable and exciting = 5  Little or no progress has been made and the overall vision is unconvincing = 1 |
| Has the company identified a validated regulatory pathway and considered the time and financing required to obtain approval? | 5 | Yes fully = 5  Not at all = 1 |
| Is the proposition scalable? | 5 | This is a scalable business model with a compelling strategy in place to enable growth = 5  Scale up has not been considered or the growth strategy is unsatisfactory = 1 |
| Does the team have or know how to access the right mix of technical, commercial, regulatory, expertise | 5 | Yes, the company has access to the skills and expertise required = 5  The team presented lacks many of the skills necessary and has significant gaps with no plans to address these = 1 |
| Total | 100 |  |