



## **University of Glasgow Innovation Network**

**First Step Awards**

**Dr Sylvia Morrison**



## First Step Awards - Overview



- A key feature of the University's Innovation Network initiative
- Up to £5,000 grant for small projects between the University and Scottish SMEs.
- To build relationships and facilitate collaborative work that will lead to new commercial opportunities that benefit the participants and the Scottish economy.
- Projects that allow participants to assess the potential and feasibility of a new product, process or market are strongly encouraged.

## Funding



- Innovation Network Programme funded by ERDF, Scottish Government SEEKIT Programme and Scottish Enterprise.
- First Step funding is to “buy out” the academic’s time spent on the project.
- SME participants are expected to make a contribution to the project, which can be in-kind.
- Grant payable to the University department or academic involved - on submission of a satisfactory Final Report.



## How to Apply



- Find a suitable partner/project.
- Applications can be made by either the company or the academic.
- Download the application form from the Innovation Network web site.
- Contact a member of the Innovation Network team for assistance.
- Complete and submit application form.
- Applications can be submitted at any time.

## Assessment Criteria

- Involvement of two or more partners, one of which must be an SME based in Scotland.
- Will the collaboration ultimately lead to new commercial opportunities?
- Quality of the work proposed in the project.
- Potential for creation of new long-term relationships between SMEs and the academic base
- Leverage further funding potential
- Value for money

## Outcomes

- Final Report.
- Two parts, produced jointly by the partners but led by the academic partner:
  - Part 1 describes the work done during the project and outlines the outcome(s) of the study. This may be made available for publicity purposes.
  - Part 2 is **not** for publication and will only be available to the project partners and the funders. It will include detailed accounting of all project expenditure and full details of the SME contribution plus any confidential material relating to the project.

## Current Status



- 27 FSAs approved (15 completed):
  - Arts 1
  - Engineering 7
  - FBLS 2
  - FIMS 3
  - LBSS 8
  - Phys. Sciences 2
  - Veterinary 4
- A further 22 in pipeline.
- Remaining grants to be awarded by end of June 2011.

## Case Study



### **Nodesys Ltd and Professor Tim Drysdale, (Electronics & Electrical Engineering)**

#### **Title:**

Industrial Scale Treatment for Food, Alcohol Production and Waste Recycling – a collaboration in the field of hybrid microwave / mechanical treatment

## Case Study



- **SME contribution:**  
valued at £8000, included provision of equipment, software license and in-kind management time.
- **Academic contribution:**  
valued at £5000, included Literature Search, CAD drawings, simulations, mechanical drawings, and final report.



## Case Study



### Outcomes

*“all planned tasks were completed, including the development of 3D computer models of the prototype machine and workload, the design of a microwave applicator, rigorous 3D electromagnetic modelling on the applicator structure, and mechanical drawings. The prototype machine and applicator are now under construction and testing is scheduled to begin....”*

*“the First Step Award accelerated the development of the prototype by facilitating access to the expertise at Glasgow University and allowed us to meet and exceed our originally intended goals....”*

## Case Study



### Future Prospects

- Patent being applied for
- Innovation Grant from Scottish Enterprise awarded
- New and separate collaborative project identified
- Collaborative EPSRC grant proposal being considered



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## Further Information

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/businessandindustry/>

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