



Working with *TrusTECH*

Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme Information about the Future Product Development Funding streams

Why have the i4i Future Product Development (FPD) funding streams been established?

- To help to develop new healthcare products that meet the needs of the NHS.
- To progress a potential healthcare product once some basic research has been conducted and there is some evidence that the product/technology will work.
- To take the product to the point where large scale clinical trials or healthcare technology assessments can be carried out.

What are the FPD funding streams?

There are four funding options (see also summary overleaf):

FPD1 - Feasibility study

Up to one year investigation led by a clinician or an academic research group, to determine if prior basic research or a new innovative use of an existing technology can satisfy an existing or emerging healthcare need, and then to identify the barriers that would need to be overcome before implementation. There must be a potential for any device based on the technology investigated to be developed through further applied research and development. The study must also identify the barriers that would need to be overcome before implementation.

FPD2 - Applied research project

A detailed investigation of up to 3 years led by a clinician or an academic research group that builds on the results of a completed assessment of the feasibility (funded by FPD1 or elsewhere) to produce a medical device or product through technological improvements or developments. This includes providing further evidence of the product's capacity to deliver improved healthcare outcomes and commercial opportunities.

FPD3 – Commercial viability study

Investigations lasting up to one year involving collaboration between at least one industry and one research (academic or clinical) partner, aimed at:

- determining whether an innovative use of an existing or emerging product or technology can be used to meet a healthcare need
- identifying the barriers that would be need to be overcome.

FPD3 funded projects serve primarily as the first stage of a full collaborative applied research project. Deliverables should include:

- analysis of the clinical need and proof of concept demonstrated
- technical solution and risks specified
- robust plan for commercialisation
- formation of a strong consortium to take the commercialisation plan forward.

FPD4 – Collaborative applied research project

A detailed investigation of up to 3 years involving collaboration between at least one industry and one research partner (academic or clinical) that builds on the results of a completed assessment of feasibility (not necessarily funded by FPD). This will provide further evidence of the capability to deliver improved healthcare outcomes and commercial opportunity. The project should deliver an advanced prototype with user/patient feedback, along with a strategy for gaining regulatory approval; and plans for intellectual property exploitation and commercialisation (including manufacturing costs and pricing plan).

Summary of i4i Future Product Development funding streams

Name of stream	Who leads	Maximum funding available	Funding level (% total project costs)	Duration
FPD1 (Feasibility)	NHS or Academic	£100K	100%	1 year
FPD2 (Applied Research)	NHS or Academic	£150-250 per year	100%	Up to 3 years
FPD3 (Commercial Viability)	NHS, Academic, or Industry	£75K	75%*	1 year
FPD4 (Collaborative Applied Research)	Academic, NHS or Industry	£100K-300K per year	50%*	Up to 3 years

* Note: Non-funded contribution can be in kind, for example, salary or capital acquisition.

What types of activities will FPD fund?

Depending on the stream, funding can be used for:

- Gaining evidence that device meets healthcare need
- Gaining evidence that product could be commercialised
- Assessing the clinical need
- Proof of concept and assessing technical risks
- Prototype tests (lab or clinical)
- Developing a commercialisation plan
- Patent protection
- User involvement
- Assessing manufacturing costs and selling price

General points on FPD funding:

- Flexible entry points (e.g. apply just for FPD2, or go from FPD1 to FPD3)
- Close co-ordination between funding streams
- There are 3 calls per year for FPD1, FPD3 and FPD4
- There are 2 calls per year for FPD2
- Applications are made online

Where can I get more information?

- For more information on the funding available and the current calls for proposals visit: <http://www.nihr-ccf.org.uk/site/programmes/i4i/default.cfm>

Where can I get assistance on completing a funding application?

- If you are a member of NHS staff working in the North West and would like guidance on completing a FPD funding application, please contact: Dr Joanne Thomas, Senior Technology Manager, **TrusTECH: joanne.thomas@cmft.nhs.uk**
- If you are working in a company that wishes to submit an FPD funding application with an NHS organisation, please contact: Dr Paul Hanmer, Business Development Manager, Commercial Services, **TrusTECH: paul.hanmer@cmft.nhs.uk**

Contact us:

For more information about TrusTECH, the North West NHS Innovation Hub, please visit: www.trustech.org.uk