

EU Newsletter

Date: 31/03/2010

Subject: **Development of start-up innovative enterprises through support for implementation of innovative products, processes and services**
Operational Programme Competitiveness 2007-2013Deadline: **Open**

The Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and the Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) have announced a new call for proposals **Development of start-up innovative enterprises through support for implementation of innovative products, processes and services** under the Operational Programme Competitiveness.

1. **Objective:** support for implementation and market realisation of innovative products, processes and services with high added value

2. **Eligible candidates:**

- ❑ legal entities or sole proprietors registered under the Commercial Act or the Cooperatives Act;
- ❑ micro, small or medium-sized enterprises pursuant to the SME Act ¹;
- ❑ registered up to 3 years before the date of submitting the project application;
- ❑ own or are in process of acquisition of intellectual property rights over the implemented under the project innovative product, process or service.

Non-eligible candidates:

- ❑ micro enterprises operating in non-agricultural sectors in the rural municipalities;
- ❑ micro enterprise processing and/or marketing forestry products;
- ❑ enterprises that perform their main activity in the **C sector** (as per the NACE – 2008), code of economic activity 10 “Manufacturing of food products” and 11 “Production of drinks”.

3. **Eligible activities:**

❑ **Investments component:**

- ❑ purchase of new machinery and equipment;
- ❑ purchase of complete elements, units and details envisaged for the creation of parts or whole production line manufacturing the innovative product/realisation of the innovative process;
- ❑ purchase of specialised software;

¹

1) Small and Medium-sized enterprises are those that have:

1. average number of staff – less than 250 employees, and
2. annual turnover not exceeding BGN 97 500 000, and/or balance sheet not exceeding BGN 84 000 000.

(2) Small enterprises:

1. average number of staff – less than 50 employees, and
2. annual turnover not exceeding BGN 19 500 000, and/or balance sheet not exceeding BGN 19 500 000.

(3) Micro enterprises:

1. average number of staff – less than 10 employees, and
2. annual turnover not exceeding BGN 3 900 000, and/or balance sheet not exceeding BGN 3 900 000

- ❑ construction works directly bound to and necessary for bringing into operation of the purchased equipment – not more than 30% of the total eligible project cost.
- ❑ **Services component**
 - ❑ consulting services related to invention/optimization of technologies for manufacturing the innovative product or for implementation of the innovative process/service;
 - ❑ consulting and legal services related to protection of the intellectual property rights over the implemented under the project innovative products/processes/services;
 - ❑ consulting services related to development of marketing plans and strategies for realisation of the implemented innovative products/processes/services;
 - ❑ engineering and technical services related to the implementation process of innovative products/processes/services;
 - ❑ services related to certification of the innovative process or service, product compliance certificate for the innovative product according to the applicable standards;
 - ❑ visualization and audit

The project proposal must include **activities under Investments component**.
The planned duration of the project **cannot exceed 24 months**.

4. Grant Aid – total budget BGN 19 558 300.

Maximum intensity of the grant aid:

- ❑ micro and small enterprises – **70%**
- ❑ medium-sized enterprises – **60%**

Amount of the grant aid:

- ❑ minimum grant amount – **BGN 50 000**
- ❑ maximum grant amount – **BGN 1 000 000**
- ❑ maximum grant amount under the Services component – **BGN 391 166**

Mechanism of payment – the approved candidate is entitled to receive:

- ❑ advance payment (up to 20% of the amount of the grant aid after providing a bank guarantee, covering the total amount of the requested advance payment);
- ❑ interim payments;
- ❑ final payment

5. The project proposals shall be submitted to the regional offices of BSMEPA in the cities of Bourgas, Blagoevgrad, Varna, Vratza, Pleven, Plovdiv, Rousse, Sofia, Stara Zagora and Veliko Tarnovo

The full package of application documents can be found [here](#).

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