

EU Newsletter

Date: 31/03/2010

Subject: **Support for creation and development of innovative start-up enterprises**
Operational Programme Competitiveness (2007 – 2013)

Deadline: **Open**

The Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and the Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) continue the application process under scheme **Support for creation and development of innovative start-up enterprises** of the Operational Programme Competitiveness.

1. **Objective:** to increase the influx of innovations in the economy through support for innovative start-up enterprises in the development stage of basic innovative product or process.

2. **Eligible candidates:**

- ❶ legal entities or sole proprietors, registered under the Commercial Act and the Cooperatives Act;
- ❷ registered up to 3 years before the date of submitting the project application;
- ❸ micro, small and medium-sized enterprises pursuant to the SME Act¹;
- ❹ are created with the purpose of developing and introducing the specific innovation;
- ❺ the innovation, subject of the project proposal under this scheme, is a result of own research and development.

3. **Eligible activities:**

- ❶ creation of programmes and methodology for research, measuring and testing related to the elaboration of the innovative process or product, as well as their implementation;
- ❷ elaboration of technologies for production/creation/realization of innovative products or processes;
- ❸ elaboration of a test sample, functioning tests of new products and/or processes;
- ❹ creation of industrial design;
- ❺ industrial property protection on national and international level and the necessary expert support;
- ❻ elaboration of business plans, market researches, financial and marketing plans for commercial realisation of the innovative product or process;
- ❼ organising demonstrations, participation in exhibitions, fairs, development of a website of the enterprise and other promotional activities;
- ❽ consulting and legal services related to licensing, incomes from industrial property rights, technologies and equipment delivery;

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

- ❑ elaboration of economic, financial and technical assessment of the developed innovative product or process
- ❑ visualization (up to BGN 2 000) and audit of the project (up to 1% of all eligible costs).

The planned duration of the project **must not exceed 24 months**.

4. Eligible costs:

- ❑ remuneration for a manager and qualified personnel;
- ❑ business trips in Bulgaria and abroad;
- ❑ purchase of aggregates, details and units, which are used for elaboration of parts from or of the whole test sample;
- ❑ purchase of intangible assets;
- ❑ fees for registration of a patent, useful model or industrial design;
- ❑ third-party services related to a financial, technical and economic assessment, for working out of business plans, a test sample, industrial design, patent dossier, useful model, promotional materials, development of a website, rental, constructions and equipment;
- ❑ rental of premises and equipment – 10% of the direct costs;
- ❑ consumables and materials necessary for scientific research and development;
- ❑ organisation and management costs – up to 5% of the direct costs;

5. Grant aid: total budget of the procedure – **BGN 27 219 586**

Amount of the grant aid:

- ❑ minimum amount – **BGN 40 000**;
- ❑ maximum amount – **BGN 391 166**.
- ❑ **Maximum intensity – up to 90 %** of the total eligible costs of the project;

Payment mechanism:

- ❑ advance payment – **up to 20%** of the amount of the grant aid against a bank guarantee, covering the full amount of the requested advance payment;
- ❑ interim payments;
- ❑ final payment – **not less than 20%** of the total grant aid amount;

6. The projects shall be submitted to the Directorate-General “Intermediate Body and Project Implementation” of BSMEPA at 3A, 165 Str., Izgrev, Sofia 1970, Bulgaria.

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

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