

EU Newsletter

Date: 04/06/2010

Subject: **Technological modernization in large enterprises**
Operational Programme Competitiveness 2007-2013Deadline: **07/09/2010**

The Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and the Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) have announced a new call for proposals **Technological modernization in large enterprises** under the Operational Programme “Competitiveness”.

1. **Objective:** promotion of investments in innovative products, processes, services and technologies in order to improve the competitiveness of the Bulgarian large enterprises.
2. **Eligible candidates:**
 - ❌ legal entities or sole proprietors, registered under the Commercial Act or the Cooperatives Act;
 - ❌ **are not** micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises pursuant to the SME Act¹;
 - ❌ have at least 3 completed financial years (2007, 2008, 2009);
 - ❌ have **net sales** for the previous year (2009) **equal to or more than BGN 5 000 000 (five million)**;
 - ❌ **do not** operate in the field of fisheries and aquacultures, agriculture, coal mining, steel manufacturing, shipbuilding, synthetic fibre production;
 - ❌ **do not** carry out their main economic activity in the field of “Manufacturing of Food Products” and “Production of Drinks” (with some exceptions).
3. **Eligible activities:**
 - ❌ purchase and bringing into operation of machinery, installations and equipment, including computer equipment (hardware);
 - ❌ purchase and bringing into operation of software applications and/or computer applications for design and product development, patent rights, licenses, “know-how” or non-patent technical knowledge, etc.;
 - ❌ consulting services for elaboration of the project proposal – not more than BGN 10 000;
 - ❌ visualization (up to BGN 5 000) and audit (up to BGN 40 000) of the project.

The projects must include investments in **long-term tangible assets**.

The planned duration of the project **cannot exceed 24 months**.

¹ Large enterprises are those that have:

1. average number of staff – equal to or more than 250 employees; and
2. annual turnover exceeding BGN 97 500 000, and/or balance sheet exceeding BGN 84 000 000.

4. Total budget of the procedure – BGN 58 674 900

❖ **Amount of the grant aid:**

- ❖ minimum amount – **BGN 1 000 000;**
- ❖ maximum amount – **BGN 4 000 000.**

- ❖ The maximum intensity of the grant aid – **up to 50%** of the total eligible costs.

Payment mechanism – 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 full amount of the requested advance payment;
- ❖ interim payments;
- ❖ final payment – not less than 20% of the total grant amount.

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

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

For further information:

European Funds Section

ecc@unicreditgroup.bg

Ivan Peev
Head of Division
Commercial Strategy

Daniel Enchev
Manager of Section
European Funds