

ECC Newsletter

Дата: 15.11.2011

Предмет: **“Support for research and development in the Bulgarian enterprises”**
Operational Programme “Competitiveness” 2007-2013Краен срок: **08.02.2012 / 09.04.2012 / 08.06.2012**

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

1. Eligible applicants:

- ❌ legal entities or sole proprietors registered under the Commercial Act or the Cooperatives Act;
- ❌ have at least 3 completed financial years before submission of the project proposal;
- ❌ **do not** carry out their main economic activity in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture, coal mining;
- ❌ **are not** micro enterprises with a main office or a branch in the rural municipalities that have submitted project proposals which include activities carried out in the rural municipalities or micro enterprises that operate in the field of processing and/or marketing of forestry products;
- ❌ **do not** perform their main activity in **Sector C** (as per the NACE – 2008), code of economic activity 10 “Manufacturing of food products” and 11 “Production of drinks” (with some exceptions).

Eligible applicants under Component 2 will be only micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) pursuant to the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Act¹.

2. Eligible project partners:

- ❌ SMEs;
- ❌ research and development organizations.

The project partners under Component 2 which are research and development organizations have to be SMEs.

3. Eligible activities:

- ❌ **Component 1, Variant A “Industrial scientific research”:**
 - ❌ research, measuring, testing and research and development carried out by hired staff or by external subcontractor;
 - ❌ using equipment and tools (own or hired) for the purpose of the project activities;
 - ❌ using buildings and premises for the purpose of the project.
- ❌ **Component 1, Variant B “Experimental development”:**
 - ❌ creation or completion of a test sample;
 - ❌ experimental production and testing of products, processes and services.

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

- ❑ **Component 2 “Support for SMEs with regard to industrial property rights”:**
 - ❑ preparation, filling in and assessment of the request for protection document over the industrial property objects;
 - ❑ validity protection of the copyright during the official assessment of the request and the probable litigation in case of raised objections.
- ❑ **Component 3 “Consulting services for project proposal preparation and visualization of the project”:**
 - ❑ project proposal preparation – up to BGN 10 000;
 - ❑ visualization of the project – up to BGN 2 000.

The project must include activities under Component 1, Variant A or Component 1, Variant B.

Planned project duration **must not exceed 30 months**.

4. Grant amount per project: up to BGN 500 000

Grant Intensity				
Component / Variant		Enterprise category		
		Micro and small	Medium	Large
Component 1 and Component 2	Variant A: Industrial scientific research	70%	60%	50%
	Variant B: Experimental development	45%	35%	25%
Component 3		70%		

The intensity for the activities under Variant A and Variant B within Component 1 can be increased with 15% (up to maximum 80%) if the project is implemented in partnership, as well as if the project results under Variant A within Component 1 are published.

Payment mechanism – the approved applicant is entitled to receive:

- ❑ advance payment – **up to 20%** of the grant amount after provision of a bank guarantee covering the total amount of the requested advance payment;
- ❑ interim payments;
- ❑ final payment – **minimum 20%** of the grant amount.

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

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

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