

**Joint BBSRC-DBT Call for Collaborative Proposals to support  
Sustainable Bioenergy and Biofuels (SuBB)**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**A: BACKGROUND TO THE SuBB INITIATIVE**

**1. What is the SuBB Initiative?**

The Sustainable Bioenergy and Biofuels (SuBB) initiative is a joint call for collaborative research proposals supported by the BBSRC in the UK and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in India. The purpose of the call is to build on the combined strengths of academic research groups within India and the UK, to work together on collaborative cross-disciplinary projects that underpin the generation and implementation of sustainable, advanced, bioenergy including biofuels.

**2. Have priority areas been highlighted for this call?**

Yes. A joint BBSRC-DBT workshop was held in New Delhi in October 2011 to identify specific areas of bioenergy research where there would be particular merit, and benefit to both countries, in developing joint collaborative research projects relevant to advanced sustainable bioenergy research. These 3 priority areas are detailed in the SuBB: Call for proposals PDF document [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/guidelines/subb-call-text.pdf](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/guidelines/subb-call-text.pdf)

**3. My proposal does not fall within the priority areas, can I still apply?**

Yes, in theory you can still apply. Whilst the areas outlined in the SuBB: Call for proposals remain key priority areas for this call, providing that a project uses biological feedstocks and relevant biological conversion processes to underpin research that works towards the production of sustainable bioenergy and/or biofuels, other relevant areas of research may be developed into research projects. Applicants considering developing research projects outside the key priority areas outlines above are strongly advised to contact BBSRC or DBT at an early stage of the project development and before submitting the proposal.

Applicants should be aware that requests to fund theoretical projects that are not coupled to experimental work or projects based on networking and knowledge transfer only will not be supported.

Further information on priority areas for this call which were identified at the workshop including links to presentations can be found here:

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/Offices/OfficeinIndia/events/Pages/BBSRC-DBT.aspx>

Additionally, this call will not support research projects that exploit non-biological routes to produce bioenergy, utilize first generation biofuel technologies or use whole crops or grains that could otherwise be used for human or animal feed (e.g. wheat, maize, oil crops).

However, projects utilizing agricultural residues such as straw from food crops are welcomed. Projects involving feedstocks that are specific to either the UK or India (e.g. Jatropha) will not be funded, unless the feedstock is being used to demonstrate a principle that could easily be translated to other feedstocks.

## **B. COMPLETING AN APPLICATION**

### **1. What is the deadline for submission of proposals?**

All proposals must be received by 16:00 local time on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### **2. Is an outline application required?**

UK applicants should complete an intention to submit form which can be downloaded here [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-intention-to-submit.doc](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-intention-to-submit.doc). This form should be returned to [bbsrcdbtbioenergy@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:bbsrcdbtbioenergy@bbsrc.ac.uk) by 16:00 on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The intention to submit form will be used to provide information about project numbers and responses to the call, to perform preliminary eligibility checks of the applicants and institutions and of the project's fit to the scope of the call.

### **3. How do I apply?**

Applicants should use the specific Case for Support Template [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-case-for-support.doc](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-case-for-support.doc). The scientific case for support must be submitted by UK-based applicants to BBSRC and Indian-based applicants to DBT. The completed Case for Support proformas submitted to BBSRC and DBT must be **identical** and must be submitted using the specific template developed for this call.

**UK applicants** must apply using Je-S. Within Je-S, under document type and scheme please select "standard"; within call / mode please select "**12 BBSRC/DBT JOINT BIOENERGY**". Applicants must also complete the standard BBSRC proforma along with the following additional attachments: the specific Case for Support Template; Pathways to Impact; Applicants' CVs; Letters of Support; Justification of Resources; DBT finance proforma (copy of Indian collaborator's submission to DBT, submitted as type 'Other Attachment'). Applicants should refer to the Je-S helptext:

<https://je.s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/index.htm#pages/JeSHelpdesk.htm>.

Please note: Failure to use the Case for Support template will result in the application being withdrawn. Failure of the project coordinators to ensure that all named co-Investigators are eligible to apply will also result in the whole application being withdrawn.

Proposals must be submitted electronically by the Je-S system by 16:00 on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

**India applicants** must apply to DBT using the Case for Support Template [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-case-for-support.doc](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-case-for-support.doc) and a standard DBT finance proforma [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-dbt-finance-proforma.doc](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/forms/subb-dbt-finance-proforma.doc)

Proposals must be submitted to DBT by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

#### **4. How should I structure my application?**

Full details are provided within the SuBB: Call for proposals document: [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/guidelines/subb-call-text.pdf](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/guidelines/subb-call-text.pdf) . Proposals must be written using Ariel font 11 or an equivalent and template margins must not be altered.

#### **5. Can I provide/Do I need a covering letter?**

A short covering letter introducing the application is acceptable but not mandatory.

#### **6. Can I include collaborators from non-eligible institutions?**

Collaborating partners from non-eligible UK or Indian institutions and partners from other countries may be included but they will not receive any funding from BBSRC or DBT. Such collaborators should be included as partners, and not co-investigators, in the proforma. Applicants with eligibility concerns are encouraged to contact the BBSRC and/or DBT office in advance of submitting their application.

#### **7. Can funding for equipment be requested?**

*BBSRC (UK) Applicants:* Changes in how equipment is requested on Research Council grants came into effect in May 2011 in response to the Wakeham Review. Applicants requesting items of equipment costing over £10k will be required to follow the guidelines as set out on the BBSRC website. <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/research-equipment-guidance.aspx>

*DBT (India) Applicants:* see advice within question 8.

#### **8. Should my proposal be costed on an FEC basis?**

*BBSRC (UK) Applicants:* Grants will be awarded on the basis of full economic cost as described on the BBSRC website. BBSRC will fund 80% of the value contained within the application. Applicants should see advice relating to equipment costs in Q7 above.

*DBT (India) Applicants:* DBT will fund eligible Indian academics at 100% of the full economic costs in terms of equipment, consumables, contingency, overheads and manpower salary costs employed under the project.

#### **9. Can PhD students be funded as part of this call?**

*BBSRC (UK) Applicants:* Requests for PhD students are not eligible for support under this call.

*DBT (India) Applicants:* Requests for PhD students are eligible for support under this call as per standard DBT guidelines.

## **C: PEER REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT**

### **1. How will my application be assessed?**

An integrated peer review process involving external referees will be conducted by the BBSRC and the DBT. Peer review will be conducted according to the standard BBSRC peer review <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/application-committee-index.aspx>.

### **2. Who will serve on the Assessment Panel?**

The BBSRC and DBT will select both UK-based and Indian-based experts for the assessment panel; international representatives may also be selected.

### **3. When will the outcome be known?**

It is anticipated that proposals will be assessed by a panel in April 2013 and a final funding decision announced in June 2013.

### **4. When will grants commence?**

It is expected that all awarded grants will commence soon after October 2013.

July 2012.