

# Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (NIBB)

Fostering cross disciplinary communities

**Full application deadline (invite only): 16 July 2013**

## Summary

In association with EPSRC, TSB and the BioKTN, CIKTN and HealthKTN we wish to support a number of cross-disciplinary, community-building networks as part of its two-component strategy in supporting Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (IBBE). The expansion of IBBE approaches and expertise will underpin the development of a sustainable UK Bioeconomy with the potential to maintain future energy security, create innovative bio-based products, and increase the efficiency of a wide range of manufacturing processes, generating sustainable economic growth and creating jobs. A brief description of IBBE, as it relates to this call, is provided in the call text.

Once established, the networks will foster **collaborative activities** between academic researchers and business at all levels to identify and develop new approaches to tackle major research challenges and help deliver key benefits in IBBE through the application of a **range of approaches**, including genomic, systems and synthetic biology as well as the underpinning sciences such as biochemistry, enzymology, metabolism and microbiology. The networks will be **cross-disciplinary**, working across the boundaries of biology, chemistry and engineering. Participation from other disciplines including mathematics, computational modelling, environmental science, economics and social science is strongly encouraged.

## Funding

Up to **£15M** has been allocated for this networking initiative and aims to **fund approximately 10 networks** of varying scales.

## Aims

- **To support a number of networks in industrial biotechnology and bioenergy** and through them, facilitate the development of internationally competitive cross-disciplinary communities capable of undertaking innovative research and attracting further investment from UK and international sources
- **To provide the resources to support proof of concept funding for a range of research projects** identified by the networks, ultimately leading to more competitive, collaborative, cross-disciplinary and integrative research proposals to BBSRC and elsewhere
- **To encourage the interaction between the academic research base and technology-deploying, associated value-chain and end-user businesses**, promoting the translation of research particularly involving genomic, systems and synthetic biology
- **To enable the supported networks to provide the leadership** to develop, in collaboration with business, challenges to be addressed by the IB Catalyst fund

## How to apply

Full application is by invite only.

**Please read the Full NIBB call text carefully.** Applicants must also fill in and submit the NIBB exceptions spreadsheet.

Applications should be submitted through the Je-S system (see external links).

## Application downloads

- [Full NIBB call text \(PDF 497KB\)](#)
- [NIBB exception spreadsheet \(XLSX 33KB\)](#)

## The 2014 IB Catalyst call

In 2014 the Networks will be followed by the launch of a BBSRC/TSB IB Catalyst that will provide funds to support **major integrated research projects** involving collaborations between the academic and business communities. The IB Catalyst is modelled on the MRC/TSB Biomedical Catalyst and will encourage major challenge-led research projects derived from the networking activities: the initial call will allocate funds up to a value of £25M.

**Only members of the networks will be eligible to apply for funding from the IB Catalyst.**

## Timeline

<b>Registration deadline to attend town-meeting</b>	8 or 14 February 2013
<b>Town meetings</b>	15 (York) and 21 (London) February 2013
<b>Outline application deadline</b>	16 April 2013
<b>Assessment of outline applications</b>	22 May 2013
<b>Meeting with PIs (in London)</b>	12 June 2013
<b>Call launch for full applications deadline</b>	31 May 2013
<b>Full application deadline</b>	16 July 2013
<b>Assessment of full applications</b>	Mid October 2013 TBA
<b>Research grants awarded and projects start</b>	November 2013 to start in early 2014

## Contact

Michael Booth  
[nibb@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:nibb@bbsrc.ac.uk)  
tel: 01793 418013