



InnoValley Proof of Concept Fund (IOV PoC)

Advancing Life Sciences Oeiras Research towards the translational pathway

Application Form 2021

The InnoValley Proof of Concept Fund is co-funded by the OeirasValley, IGC and ITQB NOVA.

SCOPE

The goal of InnoValley PoC is to identify and fund projects in a translational stage that have shown promising and exciting results with innovation potential and need further validation/proof of concept in any of the scientific fields of IGC and ITQB NOVA. All proposals should have a clear translational focus.

IOV PoC aims to help IGC and ITQB NOVA projects move forward in the translational pathway to stages where the data package is robust enough to fill for Intellectual Property Protection and/or be engaged in activities with industry and/or investors. The PoC is not intended to fund the creation of spin-off companies *per se*.

The scheme typically supports projects inline within the Technology readiness levels (TRL) 2-4



The total budget for the 2020 call is €200k. Awards are typically in the range of €40-50k directly incurred costs only, for up to 12 months. Projects seeking lower amounts will be considered.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

IOV PoC provides funding for projects that:

- propose new solutions in the fields of biology (molecular, cellular, populational), chemistry, biochemistry, plants, bioinformatics – i.e. any of the scientific fields of IGC and ITQB NOVA – and also project that promote science communication, public engagement, and outreach
- have already demonstrated successful results in the research environment and need further validation
- have progressed beyond the stage where research funding opportunities are typically available, but capital from industry or an investment partner is unlikely to be secured at that stage

IOV PoC shall NOT provide funding for proposals:

- to fund basic research, to generate models, new projects, or assess the feasibility of a research project;
- with prior funding by any other source, i.e. industry sponsorship, an investment partner, or research grant support, unless funds from such sources are devoted to match these of the PoC

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants can be one or more IGC or ITQB NOVA Principal Investigators or Post-Doc researchers.

Co-investigators from other organizations can be added to the application in cases where such co-investigators already share the ownership of prior results, or that agree to share with or assign future rights to IGC or ITQB NOVA as it applies. In such cases, joint ownership or similar agreement needs to be in place, or at least the minimum terms and conditions for joint ownership must be agreed in advance amongst institutions. Such co-investigators from other organizations can only perform up to 10% of the project and those costs are not eligible to request funding from the IOV PoC.

In case of leaving the institution, the award does not follow.

In the case of Post-Doc as lead applicant, the respective PI needs to be in agreement and compliance with either internal IGC or ITQB NOVA rules is mandatory.

PROJECT SUBMISSION AND SELECTION

Application launch – 13th December 2021

Application submission deadline – April 1st 2022, 17h00

Review Panel meeting – April 2022

Event for the announcement of awarded projects – May 2022

Start of projects – not before June 1st 2022, not after Sep 31st 2022

Applications will be evaluated by an external and international panel of experts.

Panel review will be supported by the Innovation Department, which will have no vote in the project's decisions. Selection will be made based on a clear background IP, the commercial potential of the technology, as well as the commitment of the researcher and the feasibility and suitability of the suggested plan. Projects will be ranked and granted according to available resources. Final decisions for selected projects will be communicated by mid-May 2022.

Despite eligibility and selection, a detailed plan with steps, milestones, timelines and budget duly identifying Go/No Go decision points and alternatives for development will be critical for funding. Funding will be provided in two tranches, only to be provided based on the positive achievement of the proposed project milestones.

The following criteria will be considered during the evaluation of applications:

- Unmet societal and/or market need
- Originality
- Feasibility
- Potential

All the IP related to the proposal must belong to IGC or ITQB NOVA (as the case may be), and be available for licensing (i.e., not encumbered by any prior obligations, such as existing license, sponsored research agreement, ongoing collaboration with an industrial partner, ongoing licensing negotiation, or consulting agreement), or

If IP is jointly owned, joint ownership or similar agreement needs to be in place, and IGC or ITQB NOVA (as the case may be) must have a lead role in commercializing the technology. Any new intellectual property developed as a part of the funded PoC project must be assignable to IGC or ITQB (as the case may be unless matching funds from the other institution is in place).

There is no limit on applications per research group. However, only one project can be awarded for the same research group.

Only projects evaluated above the cut-off defined by the panel will be financed.

Additional information:

- Compliance with project progress reporting, written reports and/or oral presentations, to members of InnOValley and possibly panel members is a condition of InnOValley PoC award acceptance.
- One page of supporting data may be included as part of the application as an appendix. Please refer to the figures in the application text.
- No overheads will be charged for the award. Please fill in the budget, and directly incurred total cost only sections, without overheads.
- If your project employs the use of biological materials, you will need to provide PDF copies of valid ethical approval:
Where ethical approval has been granted to undertake your project, please provide a PDF copy of such
- The opening of the call and submission deadline of completed applications will be announced.
- Completed application forms, including a budget, are to be emailed to the InnOValley Head: if from IGC – innovationunit@igc.gulbenkian.pt; if from ITQB NOVA innovationunit@itqb.unl.pt

InnoValley remit check pre-application
Have you contacted the Innovation Unit to check that your project is within remit? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Section 1: Project Summary

1.1 Title (max 150 characters)
<i>Please provide a title suitable for inclusion in open access fora (website, newsletter)</i>

1.2 Technical Summary (max 400 words)

1.3 Project Duration and Cost	
Proposed start date (dd.mm.yyyy)	<i>Earliest 1st Jun 2022, latest 31st Sep 2022</i>
Proposed duration of award	<i>Minimum 6 months, up to 12 months</i>
Funding requested	<i>In the range of €40-50K directly incurred costs only. Lower amounts will be considered. Do not include Overheads</i>

Section 2: Main Applicant Investigator Details

2.1 Principal Investigator or Post-Doc	
Name	
Post Held	
Research Group	
Institution	<i>IGC or ITQB NOVA</i>
Email and Telephone No.	
If applicant is a post-Doc, name and email address of the nominated PI	<i>If the main applicant is a Post-Doctoral researcher, please nominate a PI who will be ultimately responsible for the award. The nominated PI will also be included in correspondence about this application. Please provide name and email address.</i>

2.2 Co-Investigators (can only be tasked with up to 10% of the project activities)	
Name	Institute/Organisation/Company

Section 3: Need and Proposed Solution

3.1 What is the need you are seeking to address? (max 300 words)
<i>What problem\pain\need are you addressing? For whom is it a problem? To what extent? and how urgent is it?</i>

3.2 What is your proposed solution to meeting this need? Describe the end product you are seeking to contribute to develop (max 300 words)
<i>What do you envision your end solution will be? how will a prospective user\client\partner value your solution?</i>

Section 4: Rationale and Evidence

4.1 What is the rationale and supporting evidence for why your proposed solution will meet the target need? (max 500 words)
<i>e.g. In the case of a therapeutic, is there robust target validation? How feasible is the development plan you are proposing? Focus on technical\functional advantages of the solution.</i>

4.2 Please provide up to 5 references and indicate their relevance (max 80 words)

Section 5: Deliverability

5.1 Describe the current status of the project. (max 300 words)
<i>What work has already been completed and what are the key hurdles to progression?</i>

5.2 Outline the work plan, including tasks, milestones and success criteria for this project. A Gantt chart summarising the key activities and timelines should be included as an additional data attachment. (max 500 words)

Describe the work plan of the project, detailing what tasks will need to be performed, by whom in what timeframe. State the major milestones of the project. If helpful, use the SMART framework to define success criteria for the project (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)

5.3 Describe the resources required for the project. (max 200 words)

All project research staff must be identified by name below, in Section 9

Consumables, Services, Equipment, Staff, outsourcing

5.4 How has the project been funded to date and what funding is currently available? (max 200 words)

Were the current findings funded by a company, a grant or an award?

5.5 What is your plan to enable the progression of the project post IOV PoC funding? (max 200 words)

Once the proof of concept is completed, how do you plan to acquire further funding?

Section 6: Experiments on animals, pluripotent cell lines, human data or samples

6.1 Does your project involve the use of animals, pluripotent cell lines, human data or samples? If so, please specify why this is necessary, which species have been chosen and why this is the most appropriate. (max 150 words)

Section 7: Competitive Position and Intellectual Property (IP)

7.1 What are the competing solutions and their development status? (max 300 words)

Describe other solutions that respond totally or partially to the same problem. To what extent do they solve or not the problem? Are these solutions protected by IP?

7.2	What is the competitive advantage of your proposed solution? (max 300 words)
	<i>Why is your solution better than others? Why would the target users\clients choose your solution over others in the market?</i>

7.4	What new IP is the project expected to generate? (max 200 words)
	<i>Do you anticipate any patent with the development of the POC?</i>

Section 8: Additional Information

8.1a	Approvals, agreements and staff recruitment.
	Does the project require ethical approval? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, is this already in place? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Does the project require agreements to be in place (eg. material transfer agreements, etc) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Does the project require the recruitment of any staff? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8.1b	Please expand on the information provided in 8.1a (max 200 words)

8.2a	Industry engagement.
	Does the project have an industry partner? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, will matched funds be provided? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In direct funds: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8.2b	If there is an industry partner, please expand on the information provided in 8.2a by stating who the industry partner(s) is, the value of any matched funds or if an in-kind contribution is being provided what the nature of this is. (max 200 words)

8.3	Please indicate which Technology Readiness Level (TRL) most fits the stage of development for your project.
	TRL 1 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 2 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 3 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 4 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 5 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 6 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 7 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 8 <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 9 <input type="checkbox"/>

Section 9: Budget and Signature Form

Details of support requested in Section 1.3 above:

- This grant application requires a Full Economic Costing (fEC) and approval from the respective Board of Directors (IGC or ITQB as it may apply). Please provide PDF copy of approval by your respective Board of Directors (it can be an email).
- The Award is for Directly Incurred costs only – meaning excluding Over Heads.
- Budget categories to be funded include: Human Resources, consumables, facilities cost and contracted services (including consultancy for regulatory, freedom to operate, etc, which cannot be more than 40% of the award).

BUDGET: (Note: funding will be in the range of €40-50k directly incurred costs only – OH excluded)			
Type	Description (please provide reasonable detail of cost components, including the <u>names of staff to be appointed</u>)	fEC (€)	Funders Contribution, if any (€)
Directly Incurred Costs			
Staff Costs		€	€
Equipment ≤20% total		€	€
Consumables		€	€
Facilities		€	€
External Services ≤40% total		€	€
Other ≤2% total		€	€
SIGNATURES:			
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR			
I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct.			
Name (print):	Signature:	Date:	