InnOValley Proof of Concept Fund (IOV PoC)

Advancing Life Sciences Oeiras Research towards the translational pathway

Second Edition, 2022 call

The InnOValley Proof of Concept Fund (IOV PoC) is co-funded by the Oeiras Valley, FCG-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 (IP) 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 2022 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 could be considered. The InnOValley PoC is fully aligned with United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), namely SDGs 2, 3, 9, 15, and 17, among others.

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;
- 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 <u>NOT</u> provide funding for projects that:

- are basic research, to generate models, new ideas with no previous preliminary data, 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. In any case applicants need to agree and comply with the internal rules of the affiliated institute. In the case of post-Doctoral as lead applicant, it is mandatory that the respective PI agrees with this application.

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

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 the applicant.

PROJECT SUBMISSION AND SELECTION

Application launch – November 16th 2022

Application submission deadline – **January 31st, 2023, 5pm Lisbon time**

Evaluation by external panel – February-March 2023

Panel consensus meeting – end-March/beginning of April 2023

Event for the announcement of awarded projects – end-March/beginning of April 2023

Start of projects – not before May 1st 2023, not after July 1st 2023

PROJECT EVALUATION criteria

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

Panel review will be supported by the Innovation Unit, 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. A panel consensus meeting will occur among the evaluation panel for the final decision of selected projects to be awarded. Awarded projects will be communicated in an event to occur by end-March/beginning April 2023.

Despite eligibility and selection criteria, a detailed plan with steps, milestones, at least 1 mid-term milestone, timelines and budget duly identifying Go/No Go decision points and alternatives for development will be critical for funding awarded. Funding will be provided in <u>two tranches:</u> the first upon signing the declaration of acceptance of award, and the second following the achievement of the

proposed mid-term milestone. Therefore, it is mandatory that each project defines at least 1 mid-term milestone (as per section 5.2 of the application form).

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 are in place).

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 table with the "directly incurred" total cost sections, without overheads.

- There is no limit on number of 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.

- If your project employs the use of biological materials (such as animal work, human data, human samples, and/or pluripotent cell lines) you will need to provide as part of project submission a PDF copy of valid ethical **approval. If the** approval has not been obtained yet, the applicant is expected to i) have an understanding on the rules and timelines to obtain such, and ii) consider such process when defining the starting day of the project, if awarded. Bottom line, projects should not be delayed because of pending ethical approvals.

- Completed and signed application forms, including a budget, the Gantt chart and the optional one-pager supporting data are to be emailed in a single pdf file to the InnOValley email: if from IGC – innovationunit@igc.gulbenkian.pt; if from ITQB NOVA innovationunit@itqb.unl.pt. Both the email subject and the single PDF should have the following name/subject: IOV PoC 2022 – LEAD APPLICANT NAME.

Application Form 2022

InnOValley remit check pre-application
Have you contacted/meet the Innovation Unit to check that your project is within remit?   Yes ☐   No ☐

Section 1: Project Summary

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

1.2   Non-Confidential Abstract (max 150 words)
Please provide a non-confidential abstract suitable for inclusion in open access fora (website, newsletter, news)

1.3   Technical Summary (max 400 words)
Please provide a technical summary of your project

1.4 Project Duration and Cost	
Proposed start date (dd.mm.yyyy)	*Earliest May 1st, 2023, latest July 1st 2023*
Proposed duration of award	*minimum 6 months, up to 12 months*
Funding requested	*In the range of €40-50K directly incurred costs only. Lower amounts will be considered. Do not include Overhead costss*

Section 2: Lead Applicant Investigator Details

2.1 Principal Investigator or Post-Doctoral Researcher	
Name	
Post Held	FCG-IGC or ITQB-NOVA
Research Group	
Institution	*FCG-IGC or ITQB-NOVA*
Email and Telephone No.	

If lead applicant is a post-Doctoral researcher, name and email address of the nominated PI	*If the lead applicant is a post-Doc, 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.*

2.2 External co-investigators (can only be tasked with up to 10% of the project activities)	
External is anyone that is not affiliated with ITQB NOVA nor IGC	
Name and post held	Institute/Organisation/Company

Section 3: Need and Proposed Solution

3.1   What is the need you are seeking to address?   (max. 300 words)
What problem\pain\need are you addressing? For whom is it a problem? To what extent? How relevant is it?

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

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)
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.

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

Section 5: Deliverability

5.1	Describe the current status of the project. (max. 300 words)

What work has already been completed and what are the key hurdles to progression? If adding supporting data, this is a good place to make reference to it

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. A minimum of 1 mid-term milestone is mandatory. 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, GMO, 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 extend 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)
Why is your solution better than others? Why would the target users\clients choose your solution over others in the market?

7.3   What new IP is the project expected to generate? (max. 200 words)
Do you anticipate any patent with the development of the PoC? O

Section 8: Additional Information

8.1   Approvals, agreements, and staff recruitment. If you would require recruitment of any staff, please consider such process when defining the starting day of the project, if awarded. Bottom line, projects should not be delayed because of recruitment processes.
Does the project require ethical approval? Yes ☐ No ☐   If so, is this already in place? Yes ☐ No ☐ Does the project require agreements to be in place, for example, material transfer agreements etc.? Yes ☐ No ☐ Does the project require the recruitment of any staff? Yes ☐ No ☐
8.1a   If yes to any of the previous questions, please expand on the information provided in 8.1a by providing some context (max 200 words)

8.2   Industry engagement.
Does the project have an industry partner? Yes ☐ No ☐ If so, will matched funds be provided? Yes ☐ No ☐ In direct funds: Yes ☐ No ☐ In-kind contribution: Yes ☐ No ☐

8.2a	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 ☐   TRL 2 ☐   TRL 3 ☐   TRL 4 ☐   TRL 5 ☐   TRL 6 ☐   TRL 7 ☐   TRL 8 ☐   TRL 9 ☐

Section 9: Budget and Signature Form

Details of support requested in Section 1.3 above:

- The Award is for Directly Incurred costs only – meaning excluding overheads. 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). The category *Other* (no more than 3% of the award) can be used to justify costs not fitting other categories. Dissemination, such as Publications or Conferences, is not an expected outcome of the Fund, therefore these costs are not eligible, unless if clearly justified why it would benefit the technological development or commercialization of the project The InnOValley Innovation Unit has its own IP protection funds, independent from the PoC. Applications are not expected to have IP filling costs as part of the budget.

Type	Description (please provide reasonable detail of cost components, including the names of staff to be appointed)	fEC (Full Economic Cost) (€)	Contribution from other sources, if any (€)
9.1 BUDGET: (Note: funding will be in the range of €40-50k directly incurred costs only – overheads excluded)			
Directly Incurred Costs			
Staff Costs		€	€
Equipment ≤20% total		€	€
Consumables		€	€
Use of Facilities		€	€
External Services ≤40% total		€	€
Other ≤3% total		€	€
TOTAL		€	€

9.2 DISCLAIMER

I am aware of and consent to the processing of my personal data for the purposes of management of applications and award of grants "InnOValley Proof of Concept Fund", by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as stated in the Privacy and Cookies Policy. Yes ☐

9.3 SIGNATURES

LEAD APPLICANT:		
I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct. Yes ☐		
I declare that I agree and comply with the internal IGC institutional rules: Yes ☐		
Name (print):	Digital Signature:	Date:
(Required If the lead applicant not a Group Leader)		
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: I declare that I agree with this application. Yes ☐		
I declare that the application and candidates comply with the internal IGC institutional rules: Yes ☐		
Name (print):	Digital Signature:	Date:

Please submit the application and respective annexes, in one single PDF document.
Please do not submit a scanned PDF.