



Investment for the future

Action: "Major Innovation Support Programme"

World Innovation Competition

"Early Funding Stage" Specifications

The Innovation 2030 commission, directed by Anne Lauvergeon, identified seven major ambitions relying on strong, growing, societal expectations, for which our country disposes of strong assets. The Major Innovation Support Programme aims to finance projects initiated by companies and establish the French champions of tomorrow, creators of wealth, exportations and employment.

To do so, in accordance with the other innovation support measures and the competitiveness clusters' national policy, a multidisciplinary commission selects, within the framework of a competitive process favourable to SME and original ideas, companies' projects presenting major innovation projects and answering one of the seven Ambitions.

There are 3 stages in the selection process. The first one, known as the early funding stage, will select 100 projects at the very beginning of their development. The second step, known as risk reduction, will accompany the most promising projects in their R&D works. And the last step, that of development, will accompany the industrialisation of innovations, after a selection of projects based on previous works.

The early funding stage of the World Innovation Competition opens on 2nd December 2013.

Two intermediate closings will occur on 30th January 2014 and 31st March 2014 at noon.

Applications must be filed on line, in French or English, at the latest on 30th June 2014, at noon on the <https://extranet.oseo.fr/PSIM-amorcage> website.

The competition ends after a selection of 100 projects maximum.

(Details of the application file are available on the following websites:

www.bpifrance.fr and www.competitivite.gouv.fr)

1. PERIMETRE: SELECTED THEMES

Applications must comply with one of the following seven ambitions for innovation:

Ambition #1: Energy storing

Ambition #2: Recycling materials: rare metals

Ambition #3: Promoting the value of marine resources: metals and seawater desalination

Ambition #4: Vegetable proteins and phytochemistry

Ambition #5: Personalised medicine

Ambition #6: Silver economy, innovation serving longevity

Ambition #7: Promoting big data

The seven ambitions are detailed in the report “One Principle and Seven Ambitions” which you can download from this link:

<http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/var/storage/rapports-publics/134000682/0000.pdf>

Funding can cover any type of preliminary study for the development of an innovation relative to these ambitions: project formalisation works, preliminary studies in all or part of the project’s aspects (commercial engineering and marketing, technical, legal and intellectual property, financial, managerial and organisational) and the detailed planning of development stages or the set-up of R&D.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST SELECTION STAGE AND DATES

For the first stage, known as the “early funding stage”, the call for proposals begins on 2nd December 2013.

There will be intermediate closings on 30th January and 31st March 2014, to avoid delaying projects that will be ready. In any event, the call for proposals ends when the goal of 100 selected projects has been reached.

□ The expected projects are in the early stages of development. The formalism of projects’ presentation is as light as possible. Applications are 5 pages-long typically (10 pages maximum). Project initiators explain to what extent their project fosters innovations likely to make them stand out favourably internationally on the one hand and is anchored in a realistic approach, on the other hand;

□ The selection process is a quick one (6 weeks maximum between the date of replies to the call for proposals and the decision-taking date). Answering Ambition needs is a preponderant criterion. The selection process relies in particular on an audition of initiators of projects having satisfied the project admissibility criteria;

□ The selected projects (companies) receive a financial subsidy, which can reach 200k€ per project;

□ The registration of funds occurs maximum 4 weeks after the decision;

□ The first part of the grant (70%) is paid immediately after Bpifrance has received the contract signed by the company.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE EARLY FUNDING STAGE

The project must comply with the following eligibility criteria:

a. a complete application file must be submitted within the deadline, in the requested format (early funding stage application);

b. it must comply with one of the 7 ambitions identified by the Commission;

c. Project initiators eligible for the action are:

□ Either French companies, possibly under organisation,

□ Either foreign companies wanting to set up in France.

□ Or consortiums including at least one of the afore mentioned companies

4. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE EARLY FUNDING STAGE

Application examinations take place within the framework of a transparent procedure, respecting equal treatment of applicants, under the coordination of the General Agency for Investment.

The main criteria for the selection of beneficiaries are the following:

- Degree of response to the Ambition;
- Degree of disruption in terms of innovation (whether technological or not);
- Technical and/or scientific feasibility;
- Potential economic consequences of the project;
- Ability of the initiator to see his project through.

5. DECISION AND FOLLOW-UP BODIES

In order to select the best projects respecting the ambition of the investment for the future programme, the selection process relies on the following bodies:

- A steering committee composed of the members of the Commission directed by Anne Lauvergeon and representatives of the different ministries involved in the selected themes.
- A focused technical committee (CTR in French), composed of two representatives of the Commission and a representative of the DGCIS (General Directorate for Competitiveness, Industry and Services), of the DGRI (General Directorate for Research and Innovation), of the CGI (Office of the Commissioner-General for Investment) and Bpifrance.
- The Office of the Commissioner-General for Investment and Bpifrance.