

**Briefing Document re: Call for Applications 2016**

**Background**

The healthcare market is commonly accepted as one of the biggest in the World. With healthcare inflation rates outstripping overall inflation, and rapidly greying populations in most developed economies, these costs are rapidly becoming unsustainable.

Healthcare systems around the world will undergo significant transformation in the coming decade, supported by new and innovative healthcare practices, technologies, products and services.

Ireland has a unique opportunity to deliver a step change in innovation capacity and enhance operational excellence in healthcare given the strengths of our enterprise base in lifesciences and ICT and the opportunities for convergence across these sectors. Enhanced collaboration between enterprise and the healthcare system can deliver economic growth, improve patient outcomes and lower healthcare service costs.

The Health Innovation Hub was included as a Disruptive Reform in APJ 2013 and 2014 as a joint initiative of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health. A demonstrator or pilot Health Innovation Hub was established in Cork in 2012 and has supported some 20 projects including innovations such as an online tool for GPs to monitor the physical activity of patients via a smartphone or wearable devices, remote patient monitoring and scheduling services to improve patient flow.

An independent evaluation of the pilot was carried out in Q2 2014 and concluded that the Health Innovation Hub has the potential to be a vital component of national innovation infrastructure and its value has been recognised by the relevant stakeholders in the healthcare sector. On the basis of this positive evaluation Government agreed in July 2014 to establish the Hub at a national level with direct financial support from Enterprise Ireland and in-kind support from the HSE including seconded staff.

Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) was officially launched on Spetmber 26th, 2016. HIHI, is hosted by University College Cork in partnership with Cork Institute of Technology, the National University of Ireland Galway & Trinity College Dublin and supported by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation through Enterprise Ireland, and the Department of Health through the HSE.

The aim of Health Innovation Hub Ireland is to drive collaboration between the health system and enterprises leading to the development and commercialisation of new healthcare technologies, products, and services, emerging from within the health system and/or enterprise. It will establish Ireland as a leading location for start-ups and expanding healthcare companies to interface easily with hospitals and primary care centres.

**Call for Projects 2016**

Call for projects and selection criteria:

Health innovation Hub ireland is now seeking applications under two Calls

(1) Innovation *Into* Healthcare Call 2016

Health Innovation Hub Ireland is seeking project proposals from companies or entities whose innovative products or services are, *at a minimum*, at pre-commercial, demonstration or late development phase and have the potential to significantly impact healthcare.

Applications may be submitted to either the Focussed Call – for innovations that address an HSE identifed priority area (see Application Form) or to the Open Call- for innovations that address ANY healthcare need.

(2) Innovation *Out of* Healthcare Call 2016

Health Innovation Hub Ireland is seeking concepts or ideas that address a healthcare need from individuals or teams involved in healthcare delivery.

Applications may be submitted to either the Focussed Call – for innovations that address an HSE identifed priority area (see Application Form) or to the Open Call- for innovations that address ANY healthcare need.

**Assessment Criteria:**

As a guideline, all projects will be assessed against a number of broad criteria including:

* Potential cost saving associated with the proposed innovation
* Fit with the reform agenda of the healthcare system
* Potential impact on the healthcare system
* Potential relevance/impact of the proposed project on company growth in Ireland (for Innovation INTO Healthcare Projects)
* Commercialisation readiness
* Market potential
* Export potential of the proposed innovation

**What the Hub will offer to participating companies (Innovation *INTO* Healthcare)**

* Facilitated access to the health system for execution of the pilot project
* Access, within data protection guidelines etc., to all (Health Innovation Hub) approved outputs/data for sales/marketing purposes
* Companies may use Hub project as a "reference site"
* Support of project management team from the HIH to manage the execution of the project
* Access to research expertise from all partner insitutions

**What the Hub will offer to those within the helathcare system with ideas /concepts (Innovation *Out of* Healthcare)**

* A comprehensive innovation/concept evaluation inlcuding:
  + Competitive landscape analysis
  + Overview of regulatory requirements
  + IP review
  + Final recommendation on commercial feasibility.
  + Guidance on commercialisation process
  + Where recommended for commercialisation- HIHI will identify approriate research personnel to support the commercialisation, if appropriate.

**What companies will provide to support the projects:**

* Dedicated contact personnel and where relevant, the availability of personnel at the project pilot site.
* Dedicated resources where relevant, to deliver project objectives
* Proactive engagement with the Health Innovation Hub and healthcare personnel, to deliver the project objectives
* Close interaction and engagement with potential partner companies

**Notes for applicants:**

* The HIH has no procurement role. As such, regardless of the outcome of Hub projects, the HSE is under no obligation to purchase the product/service.
* The Hub does not provide financial support for projects.
* Companies/ innovators will be expected to initiate projects within 6 weeks of project approval.
* Companies/innovators submitting projects for consideration must be able to commit necessary resources and funding to execute the project within a 12 -18 month period (12 months preferred).

Notes on HSE informed thematic areas:

The following websites may provide further detail:

**Smart Ageing Report:**

<http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/News/Taoiseach's_Press_Releases/Report_on_Smart_Ageing.pdf>

**HSE Integrated Care program for Older Persons:**

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/clinical/integratedcare/programmes/olderpersons/>

**and**

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/clinical/natclinprog/olderpeopleprogramme/>