

**Briefing Document re: Call for Applications 2018**

**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. The patient is becoming the consumer while value for money and state of the art patient care is becoming a priority for healthcare deliverers.

Healthcare systems around the world are undergoing significant transformation, 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, medtech and ICT coupled with a strong network of clinical entitities. Enhanced collaboration between enterprise and the healthcare system can deliver economic growth, improve patient outcomes and lower healthcare service costs.

Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) was officially launched on September 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 Business Enterprise and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive (HSE). Through this academic partnership, HIHI is linked with three hospital groups in Ireland - The South South West Hospital Group, The Dublin Midlands Hospital Group and The Saolta Healthcare Group - providing access to 23 hospitals, 3 clinical research facilities and the network of community based healthcare entities and pharmacies linked to these Hospital Groups. Furthermore, HIHI aims (over the next few years) to enlarge its academic and clinical partnerships.

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. HIHI aims to establish Ireland as a leading location for start-ups and expanding healthcare companies to interface easily with hospitals and primary care centres and to support the development of new products and technologies from companies and from individuals working within healthcare.

**Call for Projects 2018**

Innovation *Into* Healthcare Call 2018

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 in Ireland and internationally.

Applications may be submitted to either

1. Focussed Call – for innovations that address the specific HSE identified priority theme or
2. Open Call - for innovations that address **ANY** healthcare need.

The theme of the 2018 **Focussed Call** is **Enabling Positive Ageing**.

The HSE National Service Plan 2018 states that ‘*According to the 2016 Census, there are just over 4.7m people living in Ireland, an increase of approximately 4% (nearly 170,000 people) since 2011. Our population is growing older, with the number of people aged 65 years and over increasing from 11% in 2011 to 13% in 2016. And this trend will continue; forecasts tell us that the number of people aged over 65 will increase by a further 18% to 753,000 in the next five years. The increase in the older person's population is welcome; it is an acknowledgement of improved health, supported by health services which are continually developing and other societal changes. Increased longevity offers opportunities and also requires a response to ensure that health and social care services are delivered at adequate levels, in an integrated way, to meet the needs of older people’.*

Areas for consideration under the Focussed theme include but are not limited to:

* Dementia Care
* Integrated Care
* Limiting acute hospital admissions
* Promoting healthy living for longer
* Minimising polypharmacy
* Promoting increased independence at home
* Providing care closer to home.

Applicants are advised to consider the reference documents included below\* when completing their application:

**Assessment Criteria:**

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

* Potential impact of the proposed innovation in addressing a validated healthcare need
* Alignment of the innovation with the agenda of the Irish healthcare system
* Potential impact of the proposed innovation on the healthcare system
* Potential relevance/impact of the proposed project on company growth in Ireland.
* Commercialisation readiness
* Market potential
* Export potential of the proposed innovation

In addition to the above, assessement criteria for applications to the Focussed Call-‘Enabling Positive Ageing’ will include:

* Demonstrable improvements to quality of life
* Demonstrable improvements to quality of care
* Demonstrable reduction to cost of care

**What the Hub will offer to participating companies:**

* Facilitated access to the health system for execution of the pilot project.
* Access, within data protection guidelines etc., to all (Health Innovation Hub Ireland) approved outputs/data for sales/marketing purposes.
* Companies may use the HIHI project as a "reference site".
* Support of HIHI project management team to manage the execution of the project.
* Access to research expertise from all partner institutions.
* Advice on the availability of various funding streams.
* Linking entrepreneurs (when appropriate), to eHealth Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Local Enterprise Offices.
* Potential funding for certain identified projects if approved for financial support under Enterprise Ireland SBIR support.

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

* Dedicated contact personnel and when relevant, the availability of personnel at the project pilot site.
* Dedicated resources to deliver project objectives - equiment, hardware, software etc.
* Proactive engagement with Health Innovation Hub Ireland and healthcare personnel, to deliver the project objectives
* Acknowledgement of HIHI support in public presentations, publications and social media presentations.

**Notes for applicants:**

* HIHI does not have a procurement role. As such, regardless of the outcome of HIHI projects, the HSE is under no obligation to purchase the product/service.
* Health Innovation Hub Ireland does not provide financial support for projects.
* HIHI does not conduct clinical trials - these are referred to our associated Clinical Research Faclities where appropriate.
* Projects must be implemented and run at no cost to the Healthcare location.
* If a project is accepted by HIHI, a Project Approval Letter containing HIHI terms and conditions must be completed before the start of the project.
* A Final Project Report will be available to applicants on completion of the project.

Please complete the HIHI 2018 Innovation INTO Healthcare Application Form available on [www.hihi.ie](http://www.hihi.ie)

Closing Date: Applications should be submitted to applications2018@hih.ie by 5pm Friday, August 31st 2018

For enquiries please contact HIHI at any of the following numbers:

Dr Tanya Mulcahy t.mulcahy@ucc.ie 021 420 5556

Ms Gillian O’Mahony g.omahony@ucc.ie 021 420 5560

Ms Jane O’Flynn jane.oflynn@cit.ie 021 432 6758

Ms Eimear Galvin galvinei@tcd.ie 083 852 0016

Ms Aisling Dolan aisling.dolan@nuigalway.ie

**\*Reference Documents:**

HSE National Service Plan 2018

* <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/serviceplans/national-service-plan-2018.pdf>

HSE Integrated Care Programme

* <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/icp/older-persons>

Department of Health Positive Ageing Strategy

* <https://health.gov.ie/healthy-ireland/national-positive-ageing-strategy/>

National Dementia Strategy

* <https://health.gov.ie/healthy-ireland/national-positive-ageing-strategy/the-irish-national-dementia-strategy/>

Department of Health Statement of strategy 2016-2019

* <http://health.gov.ie/about-us/statement-of-strategy-2016-2019/>

Smart Ageing Report

* <https://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/News/Taoiseach%27s_Press_Releases/Report_on_Smart_Ageing.pdf>