Call for Expression of Interest

Needs Led Training Initiative

Closing Date: 12 noon, 11th November 2022

ENTERPRISE IRELAND

Background

Enterprise Ireland is Ireland's Innovation Agency. Enterprise Ireland's mandate is to drive investments, company development, global market access, and innovation capabilities. This gives Enterprise Ireland deep insights into the needs of Irish industry and the research development and innovation (RD&I) spectrum in Ireland. A key focus of Enterprise Ireland is the creation of new, innovative and potentially disruptive start-up companies that can address unmet market needs.

Needs Led Training Initiative (NLTI)

With this strategic objective in mind, Enterprise Ireland is creating a Needs Led Training Initiative (NLTI) which aims to develop series of training programmes, hosted in Irish publicly funded Research Performing Organisations (RPOs). The training programmes will develop highly qualified individuals (Fellows) with the necessary skillset to observe and identify opportunities in a specific sector, validate the unmet need and enable them to take an opportunity from concept to launch.

Upon completion of the NLTI, project teams can access further funding and training through the Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund, which may then lead to the formation of a High Potential Start Up (HPSU) or become a HPSU directly after the programme.

This NLTI will provide an important component of human capital and infrastructure to help reach that target.

This new national initiative will build on existing national and international best practice NLTI programmes, as currently exemplified by the Bioinnovate Ireland programme hosted by the National University of Ireland at Galway (NUIG).

Applications will be sought from the publicly funded RPOs community to support 4 new programmes from areas of sectoral importance to Ireland through a National Call. Each new programme will focus on a specific sector, reflecting the national importance of the sector selected as well as industrial strength and research capability of the region in which the programme is based.

The call for EOIs represents the Enterprise Irelands interest in understanding which immersive areas, sectors, and collaborations the RPOs are considering. The EOI call does not represent any financial commitment for funding future programmes.

Expressions of Interest

Expression of Interest (EOIs) are now being sought from Irish publicly funded RPOs to understand the following elements of their future applications: the sector of application, the intended immersive environment, planned collaborators and the current capabilities of the RPO in the proposed domain area. This in turn should minimise duplication, identify gaps and thereby derisk and enhance the quality of future applications when the call is launched. If an RPO is proposing more than one domain/sector an EOI should be submitted per domain/sector.

If an eligible RPO does not submit an EOI, they will still be permitted to apply for any future call that might be funded. However, they will have forgone the opportunity to incorporate feedback from the EOI process.

Targeted Sectors

EOIs should target industry sectors of national importance including but not limited to the following: Industry 4.0, Fintech, Digital Health, Sustainable Food Systems & AgTech, Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Cybersecurity, etc. Applicants will need to provide an outline as to why they have selected a given industry sector and why their RPO or RPO consortium is well connected and best placed to set up and deliver an immersive, needs-led innovation training programme in that sector. *Each EOI shall focus on a single industry sector or enabling technology.*

Further details

Additional information on the Needs Led Training Initiative, a FAQ section and links to a recorded webinar are available at: Needs Led Training Initiative - Early Stage. Early Support. From Lab to Market. (globalambition.ie). It is strongly recommended that these materials are reviewed before submitting an EOI.

Key issues to be addressed in each EOI

(Maximum of 1000 words for each area)

1. What Sector/Domain is to be addressed by the proposed Needs Led Training Initiative programme?

- Description of the Sector/Domain
- Current & future importance of the Sector to the Irish Economy
- Examples of challenges/gap areas/opportunities in the chosen sector domain where fellows could develop potential solutions

2. Describe your RPO/HEI's existing capabilities applicable to the proposed domain

- Existing capabilities e.g. staff, research expertise, training and education programmes, relevant equipment in this sector/domain's technology area
- Track record of success in competitive/international funding in domain
- Supports for knowledge transfer, commercialisation, and spinout company creation, particularly in the proposed domain.
- Proposed collaborators (e.g. other HEIs, bodies) to augment any gaps in your current capabilities in this area or to enhance your capabilities

3. Describe the connectiveness of your RPO/HEI to relevant stakeholders in that industry domain/sector that could be leveraged by the proposed Needs Led Training Initiative programme to provide an immersive environment for Fellows

- Outline the proposed immersive environment that you envisage for the immersive elements of the training programme.
- Concrete examples of existing deep connectivity e.g. key companies (FDI & Indigenous), supply chains, representative bodies, investor community, mentors, advisors, research networks, state and statutory bodies (including regulatory if appropriate), international contacts, Accelerators, Innovation Hubs etc.
- How can this connectivity be enhanced and increased if your proposal is successful to provide a deep immersive environment for Fellows.
- Track record of collaborative research with companies (MNCs & SMEs) in the Sector
- Proposed collaborators (e.g. other HEIs, bodies) to augment any gaps in your current connectiveness to this sector or to enhance your connectiveness

Consent to Information Sharing

As part of the EOI process the domain/sector area of your proposal may be shared with other RPOs in order to create potential synergies and to improve the potential success of applications. Sharing will be limited to the proposed domain/sector only. Please Indicate in your response if you consent to such information being shared with other applicant RPOs.

Submit your completed Expression of Interest questions and answer form to us with the three questions answered, by sending it to the below email by 12 noon, 11th November 2022.

The Expression of Interest document along with the questions and answer form is available to download at:

Needs Led Training Initiative - Early Stage. Early Support. From Lab to Market. (globalambition.ie)

Contact email: *needsledinnovation@enterprise-ireland.com*