

# Next generation optical microscopy initiative

**Application deadline: 12 July 2012, 4pm**

## Summary

We invite researchers to apply for funding through this new joint initiative, led by the Medical Research Council (MRC), with co-funding from BBSRC and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

Pump-priming investment of **up to £18M** (£15M MRC, £2M BBSRC and £1M EPSRC) is available **to support 10 or more** strategic and innovative partnerships for **up to five years** during a period of rapid expansion, improvement and establishment of new microscopy technologies.

## Scope

We welcome applications from research organisation partnerships or single research organisations with a breadth of expertise.

The initiative is principally targeted at **cell biology research in biomedicine and underpinning biology**.

Successful partnerships will be expected to:

- Build on research excellence in the field of cell biology and associated disciplines that connects the best science in their institution(s), with a proven track record in cutting-edge optical microscopy. Applicants must provide a clear picture of their research strengths and innovative questions that can be tackled using the latest technologies.
- Provide appropriate technical and facility support to establish, develop and sustain specialist infrastructure. This can be directed to support both currently available cutting-edge platforms and the development of new generation technologies. We are keen to understand how these investments will help drive the development and refinement of existing next generation microscopes, probes and software and how they might catalyze future development of novel optics, sensors and detectors, including in-field devices.
- Provide a clear management and governance structure with a robust plan for providing local access to equipment and services. Applicants should consider how access to the facility will be prioritised and granted, for example, it is expected that priority will be given to projects that have already passed rigorous peer review and that are relevant to the strategy and mission of MRC, BBSRC or EPSRC. A plan for how the institute will support the facility in the longer term should be included in the proposal. It is expected that services will be self-sufficient towards the end of the award.
- Provide details of existing and proposed funding and support, including any leveraged support from co-funders. Other funding sources may include: the host institution, additional funding organisations (e.g. charities); commercial partnership investment with equipment suppliers etc. Applicants are expected to provide evidence of strong institutional support within their application, including funding and "in-kind" contributions (for example towards equipment and support costs).

Equipment requests must be consistent with the principles set out in RCUK's guidance (see external links).

Read the application guidance (see below) for information on how to detail equipment costs within your application.

## How to apply

Before preparing your proposal, applicants should read:

- [Call text \(external link\)](#)
- [Application guidance \(PDF, external link\)](#)

Proposals submitted against this call must be costed with full economic costing.

Submit your proposal through the Research Councils' [Joint electronic Submission \(Je-S\) system](#)

## Contact

Questions relating to the call objectives, and the application and award process should be discussed with **Rhoswyn Walker** (see below).

Additional BBSRC/EPSC guidance on specific issues relating to participation and expectations can be sought through **Ceri Lyn-Adams** and **Helen Hunt** (see below).

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### External contact

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### Contact

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