



# SPARK Awards

## **Biosciences Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) SPARK Awards**

The Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN (formerly known as Genesis Faraday<sup>1</sup>) is pleased to announce the second call for 2009 Biosciences KTN SPARK Awards as a means to encourage **new** collaborations between the research community and industry. Projects must be in the area of *Genetics and Genomics as applied to Domestic Animal Breeding and Health*, or in the broader area of Animal Bioscience<sup>2</sup>. This call is now open, with **up to six SPARK awards available**. The deadline for applications is **Midnight Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009**.

### **What is a SPARK Award?**

SPARK awards originated in Faraday Partnerships, and comprise small sums of money for **new collaborations between research partners and Small/Medium-sized Enterprises<sup>3</sup> (SMEs)**.

The collaborations supported by a SPARK award can comprise almost any defined piece of work by the research partner for the industrial partner, such as student projects, data analysis, technical consultancy, feasibility studies or literature reviews. Experience has shown these to result in improved interaction, and new research and technology transfer projects.

These Awards are intended to help resource small confidence building measures between a SME and a research based partner that is likely to lead to a longer-term relationship. Highly innovative applications from partners who have not worked together before are especially welcome.

### **Value of SPARK Awards**

The grants, which are of a fixed value of £5,000 (plus any applicable VAT), are awarded to the research partner to tackle a problem relevant to the SME. The scheme is designed to provide quick approval with minimal bureaucracy, in keeping with the value of the grant. There is total flexibility in the way in which the funding may be committed, except that all work **must** be completed within six months of the agreed start date of the project. A start date will be agreed between the Biosciences KTN and the applicants if their application is successful. All expenditure must be clearly accounted for in a short final report produced by the research base partner.

### Number of SPARK Awards and sources of funding

Funding has been secured to allow a total of 14 SPARK awards in 2009. We aim to award up to **six** SPARK awards in the second call of 2009.

Of the 14 awards available in 2009, eight grants will be provided using funding from the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Research and Analysis Directorate (RERAD) and six grants will be made using Scottish Government SEEKIT funding, as part of the Animal Bioscience KT project. The management and administration of these awards is made possible by the core support that the Biosciences KTN receives from the Scottish Government, the Technology Strategy Board, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and European Regional Development Funds.

### What projects are eligible?

SPARK awards from both RERAD & SEEKIT are available in the second call of 2009, and the remit and eligibility for each funding source are detailed below.

<b>Funding Source</b>	RERAD, up to 4 projects available in this second call of 2009	SEEKIT, up to 2 projects available in this second call of 2009
<b>Remit for projects</b>	<i>Genetics and genomics of domestic animals (including aquaculture species) and the pathogens of these species, as applied to animal breeding and animal health</i>	Projects can be in <i>any area of animal bioscience<sup>2</sup> that is related to domestic animal species.</i> Please feel free to contact the Biosciences KTN team to check the eligibility of potential projects. Biosciences KTN reserves the right to decide whether a project falls within the remit of animal bioscience.
<b>Who is eligible to apply for funding</b>	RERAD funded SPARK awards are only available to researchers employed by a University or Research Institute, in conjunction with a SME. Both partners are expected to be members <sup>4</sup> of the Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN. Please note, in a change to previous SPARK calls, funds are <u>not</u> limited to UK members of the Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN, and existing members in EU and Associated States can also apply to be partners in RERAD funded SPARK projects, provided that one partner in the project is a UK based member of the Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN.	The SEEKIT funded SPARK awards are only available to researchers employed by a Scottish University or Research Institute, in conjunction with a Scottish SME.  It is not essential for partners to be a member of the Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN, but this is encouraged.

### The Allocation Process

A group comprising the Biosciences KTN Director, Biosciences KTN Animal Sector Group staff, and the Chairman of the Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN, as well as a representative from Scottish Enterprise, will

decide allocation of the SPARK Awards. Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the applicable remits specified on page 2 of this call document
- Research Partner's track record
- Potential for the creation of new long term relationships between the partners
- Benefit to the research and SME partnership
- Quality of the work proposed
- New partnerships that have not jointly received funding from any source
- Value for money
- Value of the clearly defined project deliverable(s) to the SME.
- The contribution of the SME partner to the project, which can be in kind

Within the remits described above, priority will be given to proposals that:

- Help get 'something' to market (technology transfer)
- Work towards 'solving' a technical problem for an SME
- Will result in applications for funding of new collaborative research or technology transfer projects. Examples might include the preparation of an application for a BBSRC Industrial Partnership Award, a LINK project, or a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP).
- Help an SME improve the technology aspects of its Business Plan
- Contribute to the uptake of a molecular genetic test by breeders or in animal health diagnostics
- Adapt an existing technology for a new application
- Help improve an SME's capabilities to innovate

### **Application Procedure**

Application forms can be requested from and should be submitted to [info@genesis-faraday.org](mailto:info@genesis-faraday.org).

Applications may be submitted by either party. The award is only payable to the research partner.

The completed Biosciences KTN SPARK Award Application Form should be e-mailed to [info@genesis-faraday.org](mailto:info@genesis-faraday.org). In the event of repeated copies of any application being received, the latest copy will be regarded as the valid copy. Only Application Forms received by **Midnight Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009** will be considered.

Applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application on or before Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. If your application is successful, subject to verification of status, you will be offered a grant of £5,000 (plus applicable VAT) to carry out the work proposed in your application.

### **Administration of projects**

As a change to the rules of previous SPARK calls, the project **must** be completed within 6 months from the agreed start date of the project. There will be no negotiation on this deadline and extensions will not be granted. If a project is not completed in this time the funding award will be withdrawn.

The grant is payable in arrears and will be paid on receipt of a report of the work undertaken, written by the knowledge base partner and signed by the representative of the SME. A version of the report will be published on the Biosciences KTN website, in full or in part, subject to exclusion of commercial confidential information. A short public summary of about 250 words must also be provided.

### Further information

Please contact [info@genesis-faraday.org](mailto:info@genesis-faraday.org) for an application form. If you have questions or would like to discuss potential projects, please contact the, Biosciences KTN office on 0131 527 4358 or one of our Knowledge Transfer Managers:

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<sup>1</sup> Please note; the Biosciences KTN started to operate on the 1st of September 2009, and was formed from the amalgamation of the Genesis Faraday Partnership with two other Knowledge Transfer organisations, formally known as the Bioscience for Business KTN and the Food Processing KTN. Within the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN), the Animal Sector Group undertake much of the work previously undertaken by Genesis Faraday, and the Biosciences Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) SPARK Awards funding scheme replaces the previously operated Genesis Faraday SPARK Awards funding scheme.

<sup>2</sup> Animal Bioscience can include: Animal breeding (Farm animals, Aquaculture, Domestic pets and horses, Honey bees and game species); Animal health (Therapeutics, Vaccines, Bioactives, Biomarkers); Diagnostics (Pathogen detection, Selectable DNA markers, Traceability and authenticity, Measurement technology); Biotechnologies (Reproductive technologies, In vitro cell technologies, Research models).

<sup>3</sup> Definition of SME:

- Fewer than 250 employees
- Either an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million Euro or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million Euro.
- Less than 25% owned by a larger organisation (unless these are financial investors, such as banks or venture capitalists)
- Not a research centre, research institute, contract research organisation or consultant

<sup>4</sup> Membership of the Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN is open to companies, research organisations and intermediate organisations having a legitimate research or business interest directly related to animal breeding or animal health or the sale of animal products derived from UK agriculture. For further details and an application form, visit <http://www.genesis-faraday.org> or email [info@genesis-faraday.org](mailto:info@genesis-faraday.org) Organisations that were paid-up members of Genesis Faraday on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 automatically became part of the new Animal Sector Group of the Biosciences KTN on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.