



BlueBio Co-fund Call – Frequently Asked Questions

- Q Do you need to have acknowledgement that the National Process Form has been received in order to submit the rest of the proposal via the BlueBio online submission tool?
- A No. The proposal is submitted by the Consortium Lead/Co-ordinator via the BlueBio submission platform <https://www.submission-bluebio.eu/call1>. The National Process Form is submitted by email to funding@marine.ie. Only one form per project that involves Irish partners needs to be submitted.
- Q Can you participate in more than one project?
- A Yes you can be a partner in more than one project, but you can only co-ordinate one project.
- Q Will there be another call this time next year/the year after?
- A Yes, it is planned; probably not this time next year, more likely it will take longer to draft the next call. Usually there is 18-24 month gap between calls.
- Q What constitutes an “in-kind” contribution from industry partners?
- A Typically, the industry “in-kind” contribution would be staff costs (i.e. a percentage of a researcher’s time). For audit purposes, this would entail checking timesheets and staff costs claimed against a sample of payslips. Industry can also contribute raw materials or consumables to the project, as part of their contribution. Access to specialist equipment may also be included as an “in kind” contribution, or related maintenance costs for said equipment. However, there should be a method of showing these costs e.g. invoices for annual service cost for equipment. Industry partners will be reimbursed up to 75% of their verifiable and eligible expenditure.
- Q Are Northern Ireland-based organisations eligible as Irish partners?
- A No, eligible Irish partners must be based and have their registered address in the Republic of Ireland.



Q Can the Marine Institute be funded?

A Yes, researchers from the Marine Institute can apply provided that they meet the application eligibility criteria. Marine Institute applicants are subject to exactly the same rules and international peer-review evaluation processes as any other applicants. There is a strict separation of roles within the Marine Institute between the Research Funders and Research Performers.

Q If successful, what are the reporting requirements?

A Irish partners will be required to sign a Grant Agreement and submit annual financial and technical reports to the Marine Institute. The Grant Agreement and report Templates can be made available on request. It is the responsibility of each Irish partner to submit their reports directly to the Marine Institute. The due dates may vary from the BlueBio reporting requirements, which will be submitted via the project co-ordinator and normally are required to be submitted at the mid-term point and the end of the project. These will be outlined in the Consortium Agreement, which the project co-ordinator will distribute for all partners to sign.

Q The pre-proposal stage is quite extensive. Will Stage 2 require much additional information?

A Stage 2 will require additional information building from that included in Stage 1, in particular relating to a more extensive programme detailing the work packages.

Q How will the ownership of intellectual property be covered?

A Each successful project will have to put in place a Consortium Agreement, which will be organised by the Project Co-ordinator and will usually follow the EU Horizon 2020 template. This will cover intellectual property, and other management issues in relation to the project.

Q Is equipment an eligible cost?

A Yes, equipment is an eligible cost but depreciation will be applied as set out in the Ireland National Rules document. For example for a two year project, where equipment purchased has a three year lifespan, then only two thirds of the cost will be reimbursed.



- Q What is the likely payment schedule?
- A The first payment of 20% is made following the signature of the Grant Agreement, with subsequent annual payments of 20-30% provided that financial and scientific reporting requirements are met. These requirements will be fully detailed in the Grant Agreement. Irish partners will have to submit their financial and scientific reports annually to the Marine Institute in addition to any reporting requirements detailed in the Consortium Agreement.
- Q What is the minimum number of partners required in a consortium?
- A In order for a consortium to be eligible, it must consist of a minimum of **three** independent partners, who are requesting funding and are from three different countries participating in the BlueBio Call 2018.
- Q What happens if one partner in the consortium does not pass the national eligibility checks?
- A The non-eligibility of a partner in a consortium may result in the rejection of the entire proposal.
- Q What is the expected duration?
- A Up to 36 months max.
- Q What is the budget per proposal?
- A Max €2 million.
- Q Why is the start date between January and May 2020?
- A This timescale is to allow for national negotiations and processes to take place. There should not be a delay in Ireland, but other countries such as Spain and Italy have a national process after the evaluation process has been concluded.



Q Can you allow for pay increases?

A Yes, you can factor future pay increases into your budget.

Q Are extensions to the end date allowed?

A There will be little scope to extend the projects awarded, and they are expected to complete on time. If you can start the project in February 2020, there may be some leeway at the end of the project, but all projects must be complete in May 2023.

Q How do you include “in-kind” contributions?

A You should show these contributions under the text for the justification of costs, and in the budget, if possible. As the European Commission are providing co-funding, it is important to show the HEI/PRB contribution to costs, for example the percentage of academic staff time or value of access to existing equipment.

Q Are overheads calculated on “in-kind” costs?

A No, overhead costs are calculated only on the direct costs that will be charged under the project.

Q Does every partner submit a budget?

A Yes, each partner prepares a budget for submission to the Consortium Co-ordinator, which the co-ordinator incorporates into the application.

Q Is the limit for an Irish Co-ordinator €300,000?

A Yes, if the Consortium Co-ordinator is an Irish HEI/PRB then they can apply for grant-aid up to €300,000.

Q When does the €250,000 limit apply?

A Where a HEI/PRB is not the Co-ordinator but is partnering with Industry, then the HEI/PRB can apply for up to €250,000 in grant-aid.



- Q A HEI/PRB can apply for €250,000 and Industry Partner can apply for €200,000 in this case?
- A Yes, this is correct.
- Q How much is the funding available?
- A Total budget for Ireland is €1.5 million for this call, with €1m funding from the Marine Institute and €0.5 million from Science Foundation Ireland.
- Q If successful, can you employ a Research Assistant rather than a Post-Doctoral Researcher?
- A Yes, a Research Assistant can be appointed.
- Q Can I include a PhD student for 4 years?
- A The award will only cover 3 years funding. Therefore, if the proposal is successful, the HEI concerned must provide a letter stating how the fourth year of the PhD will be funded.
- Q Can you employ a researcher to cover the applicant's role?
- A Any staff appointed and charged to the grant must be working on the project. Please refer to Appendix 1 Staff Costs of the Ireland National Rules for further information.
- Q Will a Consortium Agreement need to be signed?
- A Yes, the Consortium Co-ordinator will issue a draft Consortium Agreement for signature, which must be signed within three months of the project start date. The EU Horizon 2020 Consortium Agreement template or similar will be used.



Q There seems to be some overlap between the JPI Oceans micro-plastics call and this call?

A There are some commonalities, especially with respect to sourcing bio-based alternatives to plastics i.e. research into microplastics and bio-economy overlap. Both are high priorities on the EU agenda presently.

Q Are there any key messages with respect to scope and focus?

A The scope for research under the four priority areas is wide-ranging. It is highly important to collaborate with organisations that can add value and that progress in raising the TRL is clearly demonstrated (e.g. developing or testing new products, processes or techniques).

Q When is the closing date for pre-proposals?

A Closing date is **Monday, March 18th, 2019 15:00 CET (14:00 Irish time)**. Note: this is a day later than the original closing date. Considering that this is a Bank Holiday in Ireland, we would strongly encourage that Irish researchers would aim to submit on the previous Friday, March 15th.

Q What assistance is available?

A The Marine Institute Research Funding Office can provide draft budgets, clarifications on rules and help with any other queries. Please send requests by email to funding@marine.ie. You can also get in touch with the two national contacts listed below.

Further Assistance

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