

CRACK IT CHALLENGES 2018: INVITATION TO TENDER

Summary

Applicants are invited to tender for the 2018 CRACK IT Challenges. The aim of the competition is to develop technologies with potential [3Rs](#)¹ benefits into new products and methodologies for the biosciences research community. The Challenges are detailed in the Challenge briefs.

This Invitation to Tender should be read in conjunction with other [documents](#) associated with this competition. The [Guide for Participants](#) provides further details on the competition and includes the rules applying to Sponsors and applicants.

2018 CRACK IT Challenges Competition

The 2018 CRACK IT Challenges competition consists of two “Two Phase Challenges” and one “Single Phase Challenge”. All Challenges have been developed jointly by the NC3Rs and Sponsors. The 2018 CRACK IT Challenges competition is funded by the NC3Rs, co-funding is provided by EPSRC and in-kind contributions are provided by the Sponsors. There are four Sponsors: Galvani Bioelectronics, GSK, MRC Harwell Institute and Sanofi Pasteur EU.

The Challenges are detailed in the Challenge briefs which include a description of the problem to be solved, the 3Rs benefits, the names of the Sponsors and the nature of their proposed in-kind contributions, the notional financial cost of the project (the sum to be awarded by the NC3Rs), the potential timescale of the work, proposals for the organisation of the project and conditions of access by the Sponsors to the results of the research. The 2018 Challenges are listed below:

- [Challenge 29: “ImmuLiver”](#): An immunologically-competent liver model to assess attenuation of yellow fever vaccines. (Two Phase Challenge Sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur EU).
- [Challenge 30: “RaTS”](#): Raman Transmission Spectroscopy for objective monitoring of Rheumatoid Arthritis progression in rodent models. (Two Phase Challenge Sponsored by Galvani Bioelectronics and GSK and co-funded by EPSRC).
- [Challenge 31: “Moshers”](#): Mouse Smart Hoppers. (Single Phase Challenge Sponsored by MRC Harwell Institute).

¹The 3Rs: the replacement, refinement and reduction of the use of animals in research and testing.

Application process

The CRACK IT Two Phase Challenges competition is run using the [SBRI](#) process which is supported by Innovate UK and it is open to all organisations in the public and private sectors. Developments are 100% funded and focused on specific identified needs, increasing the chance of exploitation. Suppliers for each project (the contractors and its sub-contractors) will be selected by an open competition process and retain the intellectual property generated from the project, with certain rights of use retained by the contracting body (the NC3Rs) and the Sponsors. This is an excellent opportunity to establish an early customer for a new technology and to fund its development.

Further information on the application process can be found on the '[Two Phase Challenge Application process](#)' and '[Single Phase Challenge Application process](#)' webpages.

Eligibility

The SBRI process is particularly suited to small and medium-sized business, as the contracts are of relatively small value and operate on short timescales. Academic organisations are equally eligible to apply under the scheme where the proposals are focused on delivery of solutions and a route to market, rather than on fundamental research.

Key dates

Activity	Date
Competition opens	10 September 2018
Deadline for applications	
▪ Two Phase Challenges	7 November 2018
▪ Single Phase Challenges	14 November 2018
Applicants notified of outcome of the Review Panel	Mid-December 2018

Documents associated with this competition

- CRACK IT Challenges Guide for Participants
- Challenge Briefs
- Phase 1 Contractor Agreement
- Single Phase Contractor Agreement
- End Phase 1, Proof-of-concept report template

Contact details

Questions and comments are welcome. Questions on the CRACK IT Challenges and scope of this competition should be addressed to the NC3Rs (crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk).

Further information

For further information on the NC3Rs or CRACK IT please see www.nc3rs.org.uk and www.crackit.org.uk respectively.