

Innovative SMEs in Ireland can benefit from new EU Funding Scheme

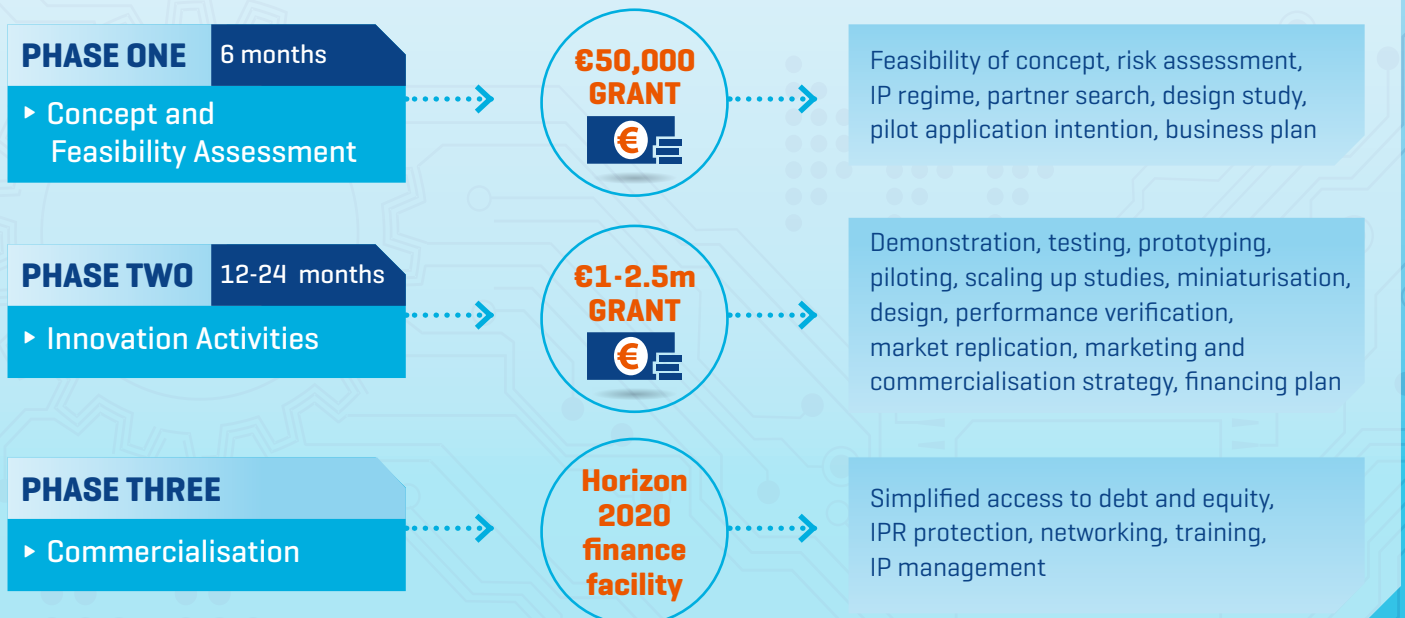
Introducing the new dedicated **SME Instrument** under Horizon 2020, the EU's new programme for research and innovation.



Designed to stimulate breakthrough innovations, the purpose of the **SME Instrument** is to accelerate introduction to market:

- ▶ targeting innovative SMEs with ambition to develop, grow and internationalise
- ▶ providing funding for early stage, high-risk research and innovation
- ▶ supporting innovation in all sectors, including non-technological, social and service

The **SME Instrument** offers three phases designed to pave the way for bringing innovation to market, international development and growth.



*there is no obligation to cover all phases sequentially

Horizon 2020 is the EU's new programme for research and innovation. It will run from 2014 to 2020 with a proposed budget of €80 billion. The SME Instrument will have an estimated budget of €5 billion.

Horizon 2020 will combine all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

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Who should apply:

The SME Instrument is the ideal funding scheme for companies with an innovative concept that has the potential to compete at European level, specifically:

- ▶ An SME with the aim to commercialise knowledge developed through R&D in order to meet a societal demand or to fill an identified and already researched market niche
- ▶ A dynamic SME that has identified a new market opportunity and has developed a concept to exploit it through an innovative product or service.



How to apply:

A step-by-step online guide can be found on [www.http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal)

Applications for **Phase One** will involve a 10 page proposal covering: purpose of the business innovation project, SME & team description, solution applications, work plan, process readiness, intellectual property rights, market, execution and budget



Timeframe:

- ▶ Call for submissions to commence on **1st March 2014**
- ▶ Submissions will be evaluated at predefined periods during 2014
- ▶ Final deadline for 2014 submissions is **17th December 2014**



This information is brought to you by **Dublin Business Innovation Centre (Dublin BIC)**

Tel: +353 1 6713111 Email: info@dublinbic.ie www.dublinbic.ie [@BICDublin](#)

Dublin BIC is a public private business support organisation that has supported the creation of **over 500 start-ups over 25 years.**

- ▶ develops **investor ready** companies and provides access to **funding**
- ▶ advises companies on business planning and development
- ▶ provides best in market incubation space at the Guinness Enterprise Centre (GEC)
- ▶ facilitates communities and connected networks of entrepreneurs, investors and advisors

Dublin BIC is a member of the **European BIC Network (EBN).**