

# Technology Strategy Board

## Driving Innovation

### Press release

5 January 2012

#### **Joint UK-Norwegian support for development of industrial biotechnology sector**

The British and Norwegian governments are to work together to support nine new research and development projects that will create innovative processes to generate high-value chemicals through industrial biotechnology and bio-refining.

The Technology Strategy Board has offered grant funding totalling £1.82 million to the nine UK-led projects and four of these will also be supported by Innovation Norway, which is providing additional funding of £400,000 to the Norwegian businesses that are taking part.

David Bott, Director of Innovation Programmes at the Technology Strategy Board, said:

“Industrial biotechnology can help the chemical industry move away from a dependency on oil to a future based on renewable and biological substances. Through these projects we are helping innovative British businesses to develop early-stage biotechnology projects into pilots and to turn pilots into commercially viable processes.

"The enthusiasm shown by UK organisations to work internationally and, in this case, partner with Norwegian companies, demonstrates that international collaboration can bring exciting project opportunities for UK business."

The four full-scale collaborative R&D projects will be led by Chirotech Technology Ltd (2 projects), Ingenza Ltd and Unilever. The five feasibility projects will be led by Aquapharm Biodiscovery Ltd, Biocatalysts Ltd, Centre for Process Innovation Ltd, C-Tech Innovation Ltd and GlycoMar Ltd.

The projects will look at how industrial biotechnology and/or biorefining can be competitively applied to the production of high value chemicals and will see collaboration between industrial biotechnology developers, higher education institutions and the chemicals sector.

Innovation Norway's involvement follows the signing in 2011 of an agreement between the UK and Norway that encourages UK-Norwegian projects incorporating industrial biotechnology and/or bio-refining.

This new funding brings the total investment by the Technology Strategy Board since September 2009 in R&D using industrial biotechnology to make new or existing chemicals to £7 million, in 42 projects. These

projects may use demonstration facilities in the UK, such as the newly-opened High Value Manufacturing Catapult centre.

We believe that industrial biotechnology can contribute significantly to the shift from a chemical industry based on oil to one based on renewable and biological substances. Industrial biotechnology can help to reduce carbon emissions – the World Wildlife Fund estimated in 2009 that this could amount to a reduction of 2.5 billion tonnes by 2030.

## Ends

### Notes to Editors:

1. The **Technology Strategy Board** is a business-led government body which works to create economic growth by ensuring that the UK is a global leader in innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit: [Technology Strategy Board website](#).
2. The vision of the Technology Strategy Board is for the UK to be a global leader in innovation and a magnet for innovative businesses, where technology is applied rapidly, effectively and sustainably to create wealth and enhance quality of life. Our approach to accelerating the pace of innovation in the UK is captured in our strategy document, *Concept to Commercialisation*, published in May 2011. This builds on our first strategy, developed in 2008, and sets out new directions, taking into account the challenges and exciting opportunities that lie ahead. To see the new strategy please visit: [Concept to Commercialisation](#).
3. The Technology Strategy Board's [\\_connect](#) platform provides an effective and powerful way to collaborate online, network and share knowledge with other innovators. It provides a place to work together securely and share information & knowledge. Users can utilise the online tools to work collaboratively, discuss ideas and find events. The networks offer up-to-the minute news on funding, events, articles and publications, plus information about all 15 Knowledge Transfer Networks. Through the networks, users can find potential business partners, entrepreneurs, collaborators, other innovators, researchers and academics.
4. In February 2011 the Technology Strategy Board signed a memorandum of understanding with Innovation Norway, the main Norwegian Government agency for industry development. The document describes the intention of both organisations to encourage UK-Norwegian projects that incorporate industrial biotechnology and bio refining. Innovation Norway intends to co-sponsor Norwegian SME's engaged in projects funded by this. UK-Norwegian partnerships are therefore particularly encouraged. Please see <https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/norway-and-uk> for further information and networking events.
5. Innovation Norway (<http://www.innovasjon Norge.no>) is a government owned and financed organisation offering advisory services and financial support in order to nurture business innovation and entrepreneurship, foster regional development, international cooperation and market access. Innovation Norway acts as an advisor to the Government on industry policy in close cooperation with the Norwegian

Research Council. It is a main priority for Innovation Norway to help Norwegian companies become leaders in the utility of renewable resources, e.g. efficient value creation from wood or marine derived biomass, areas where Norway by tradition is strong.

6. A list of the projects to be funded can be viewed at / downloaded from: [PHVC project list](#)
7. For background information about the *Producing High-Value Chemicals Through Industrial Biotechnology* funding competition please visit: [PHVChem competition](#)
8. Media enquiries **only** should be addressed to the Technology Strategy Board's media relations consultant or manager:  
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9. Companies and other organisations seeking information about Technology Strategy Board funding competitions should visit the Competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website – [Competitions page](#) , email <mailto:competitions@innovateuk.org> or phone the Competitions Helpline at 0300 321 4357.
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