

Commission offers €100m “final push” funding to get ideas off the ground

The €100m "Fast Track to Innovation" scheme offers innovative businesses and organisations grants to give a final push with bringing their ideas to market. The prizes offer a reward for technological breakthroughs of high societal relevance.

The scheme opens for applications from January 2015 and is aimed at consortia of three to five organisations with promising ideas which need a further support before entering the market. These can be in any area of technology or application as long as the organisation is established in the EU or in a country associated to Horizon 2020.

The Commission also announced contests for five innovation prizes which will start in late 2014 and early 2015. The prizes, worth €6 million in 2015, cover three different thematic areas of research: health, the environment and ICT. The latter features prizes in two areas: "Collaborative Sharing of Spectrum" and "Optical Transmission".

The announcement also confirmed a figure of €7bn for Horizon 2020 calls during 2015. More than 17,000 proposals have been submitted to date under the scheme.

[Horizon 2020 website](#)