

Project Title	Scottish Health Innovations – Innovation Fund
Project Sponsor	Scottish Health Innovations Ltd

PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

Scottish Health Innovations Ltd (SHIL) was established in October 2002 to capture NHS intellectual property (IP), provide dedicated funds for IP exploitation and grant NHS staff access to expert advice and assistance on taking new innovations to market. SHIL seeks to:

- improve quality and value for money of patient care throughout the NHS
- increase the generation of income to the NHS in the short and long term
- stimulate economic wealth in Scotland through the creation of new jobs, enterprises and added value.

Successful IP exploitation can be costly and requires specific skills, knowledge and resources. SHIL provides this specialist support to promote and optimise the potential economic return from NHS Scotland innovations and technologies, whether sourced from research or arising from day to day work.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

ERDF funding was being used to develop new products arising from NHS IP to the point where they are of commercial interest to third party manufacturing, distribution and marketing companies.

The Product Development and Product Testing phases of the Project involve the design, prototype manufacture, technical performance assessment and clinical testing of products. The particular requirements are specific to the type of product. Typical examples of products include medical devices, therapeutic products, clinical diagnostic tests, software, and clinical and patient care programmes.

The project intended to engage companies in the selected areas with the necessary skills and expertise to work on such products or which see an opportunity to develop such skills. These companies may also be considered as commercial partners for the manufacture, distribution and marketing of products.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

The major phases of the Project can be summarised as follows:

- review of IP disclosures from NHS Health Boards
- evaluation/due diligence of IP selected by SHIL
- product development
- product testing
- commercialisation.

To manage these projects, SHIL has invested substantially in recruiting a team of high calibre experienced professionals who have worked extensively in both public and private sector businesses.

The Project also requires SHIL to engage consultants and experts at different stages of the Project. For example:

- patent agents are required to review to carry out patent searches and to file patents on the innovations
- legal advisors are required to draft licensing agreements between NHS Health Boards and SHIL and between SHIL and third parties involved in the development or commercialisation of a product
- expert opinion is sought from clinicians and scientific/technical experts to assess the utility of the innovation and in the testing products or prototypes
- design consultants are engaged in the development and specification of prototypes to be used for clinical or technical testing.

PROJECT FINANCE

Funding Partners	Scottish Enterprise, DTi (PSRE), Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Executive
Eligible Costs (£)	£1,681,135
ERDF Support (£)	£840,567
Priority Measure	Western Scotland Objective 2 Programme 2000-06 - Priority 1, Measure 1.1

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

At the time of writing, June 2007, this project was on-going.

Indicator	Target	Achievement	% Target Achieved
No of business/sectoral networks supported	4	19	475.00%
No of commercialisation projects in Higher Education, Further Education and research institution	18	85	472.22%
No of existing businesses receiving advice	9	50	555.56%
No of instances of advice to existing businesses	45	59	131.11%
No of instances of advice to new businesses	22	14	63.64%
Total no of existing businesses assisted	18	57	316.67%
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Increased investment in innovation by assisted SMEs (£ million)	2	2.14	107.00%
Increased investment in Research and Development by assisted businesses (£ million)	3	0.69	23.00%
No of new links between SMEs, HE, FE and Research institutions	40	61	152.50%
Total no of gross new jobs created	12	10.4	86.67%