

# FUSION – The National R&I Programme

## Phase 1

**Commercialisation  
Voucher  
Programme:**  
The Feasibility  
Assessment



**FUSION**  
The R+I  
Programme

## Phase 2

**Technology  
Development  
Programme:**  
The Development of  
the Product

**Over 300 projects awarded since 2014**

# What is R & I?

Video can be found on the below external link:

<https://mcst.gov.mt/ri-programmes/fusion/>

# Commercialisation Voucher Programme

- Incentives researchers (public and/or private entities) taking their research to market.
- Eight smart priority areas as per Malta's National R&I Strategy 2020 - seen as containing the greatest potential to boost Malta's competitiveness:
- Evaluation Criteria: Excellence, Impact and Implementation
- Eligible Public entities (100% reimbursable) or private entities (75% reimbursable) under *de minimis* regulation.
- Two calls per year (January and June)

# CVP Stages

- Successful candidates are eligible for feasibility assessment of proposal by MCST approved Service Providers;
  - **Stage 1: Intellectual Property Check** - €4K / 4 weeks:  
Patent, Trademark, Copyright etc.
  - **Stage 2: Market Research & Product Development Costing** - €7K / 10 weeks:  
The market potential of the proposed idea / estimation of cost involved to develop the product.
  - **Stage 3: Economic Impact & Risk Profile** - €6K / 10 weeks:  
Whether the technology will have a positive impact on the Maltese economy and the risk involved in an investor had to make a decision to invest.

# Technology Development Programme

- Builds on the success of the CVP.
- Is a **Pre-finance grant of €195,000** under *de minimis* aid regime.
- Applicant must form a consortium between **at least one Maltese Public and Private entity.**
- Eligible costs include: Personnel, equipment, subcontracting, etc.
- **10% for overhead indirect costs**
- Applicants must deliver:
  - 1 patent application
  - 1 research paper
  - 2 articles per year in local magazines
  - Regular reporting and meeting with the council
- Evaluation Criteria:
  - Consortium and Resources
  - Effectiveness of proposal implementation
  - Exploitation and Dissemination
  - Commercialisation

# Case Study: Accurate Cancer Screening Test (ACT)

- The idea was to develop a Diagnostic Kit to detect breast cancer at its very early stages.
- Following the refinement of the idea at the CVP stage and the constructive feedback of our service providers in 2016 Profs Godfrey Grech was eligible to apply to TDP.
- Led by the University of Malta and Applied Biotech Ltd, the project was awarded a total of €190K to conduct further research .
- Through the project they were awarded a European wide Patent
- Following an Event held in coordination with MCST, they achieved a significant investment in a spin-off company.

# SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

- Submissions should be sent by not later than midnight on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in a signed and scanned PDF version to the following; [voucher.mcst@gov.mt](mailto:voucher.mcst@gov.mt)
- All project application submission shall be treated in strict confidence.



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