



Catalyst
for Growth

Regional Growth Fund (RGF)

- Government Fund of £3.2 billion
- Supporting projects and programmes that are matched to private sector investment to create economic growth and sustainable employment
- University of Chester led '*Catalyst for Growth*' programme is funded through RGF Round 4

Catalyst for Growth

- £8m competitive grants scheme
- Open to chemical sector or related industries in the NW
- Eligible companies can apply for grants of **up to £500,000** subject to state aid compliance
- Grant phase will run from October '13 until 31st March '15



Key Objectives

- New jobs created as a result of the investment
- Safeguarding jobs that would otherwise be lost within 1 yr.
- Private sector match-funding (we expect to fund up to 20% of total project costs on average, although different rates apply depending on activity, company size, and location)
- Regional economic growth

Delivery Partners

- University of Chester is the accountable body with overall financial and legal responsibility for the Programme
- C-Tech Innovation is providing technical support to applicants
- NwUEU is managing the application and claims process, and the monitoring and compliance of the programme

What can be Funded?

- Capital expenditure including new premises, expansion or adaptation, purchase of plant and machinery, new technologies, systems and software infrastructure
- Research and Development investment, e.g. equipment, consultancy etc. in developing new applications, prototypes
- Associated training

Essential Criteria

Projects where the minimum intervention necessary will facilitate:

- Marked increase in size/scope of the activity and employment
- Private sector investment in the activity
- Clear increase in the speed at which activity can take place; or
- Activity in the NW area that would not otherwise take place

Who is Eligible?

SMEs and larger businesses in the chemicals sector or related industries that:

- are based in *or near* the North West of England
- have a business plan or an idea for a project that will create or safeguard jobs
- have funds of their own to invest in the project (this can include private investment, bank loans)

Collaborative projects can also be funded

Successful Applications 1/2

- Strong evidence of management competence and risk mitigation
- Comply with State Aid regulations
- Create or safeguard quality sustainable jobs
- Be deliverable within agreed timescales
- Demonstrate that the project would not go ahead without the grant

Successful Applications 2/2

- Demonstrate financial stability and adequate funding for the project
- Provide a strong argument for requiring RGF support
- Offer good value for money (grant per job) and sufficient leverage (average 4:1)
- Be committed to continued monitoring for at least three years after the payment of their last funding instalment

Application Process

- Meeting with C-Tech Innovation
- Expression of Interest **or** Full Application (forms available from cfg.enquiries@chester.ac.uk)
- Initial Appraisal of Applications
- Investment Panel
- Decision Announced
- Offer Letter issued for review and signature

Further Information

- www.catalystforgrowth.co.uk
- Download guidance and application form from the website
- Download the full application form electronically for review
- Panel dates and deadlines for submission



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Q&A

