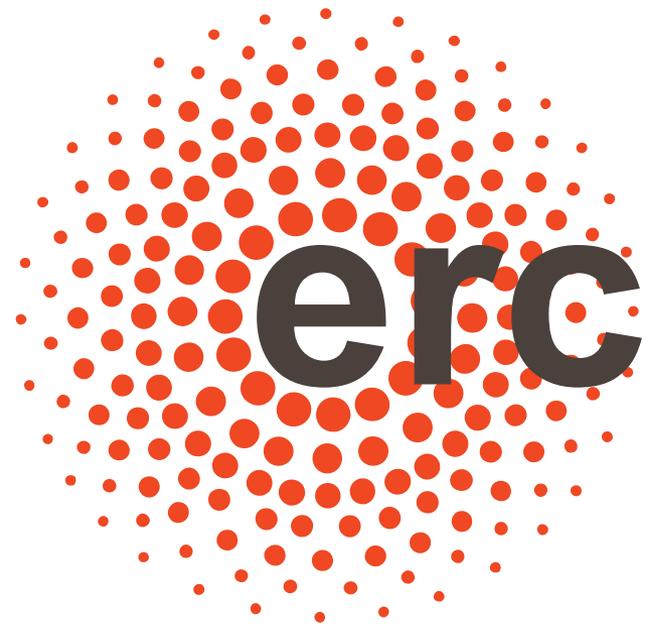


The European Research Council

ERC Proof of Concept Evaluation

Veronica Beneitez Pinero
Brussels, 15th February 2019



ERCEA PoC evaluation actors



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ERC Grantees: eligible to apply to the ERC PoC call.

External evaluators:

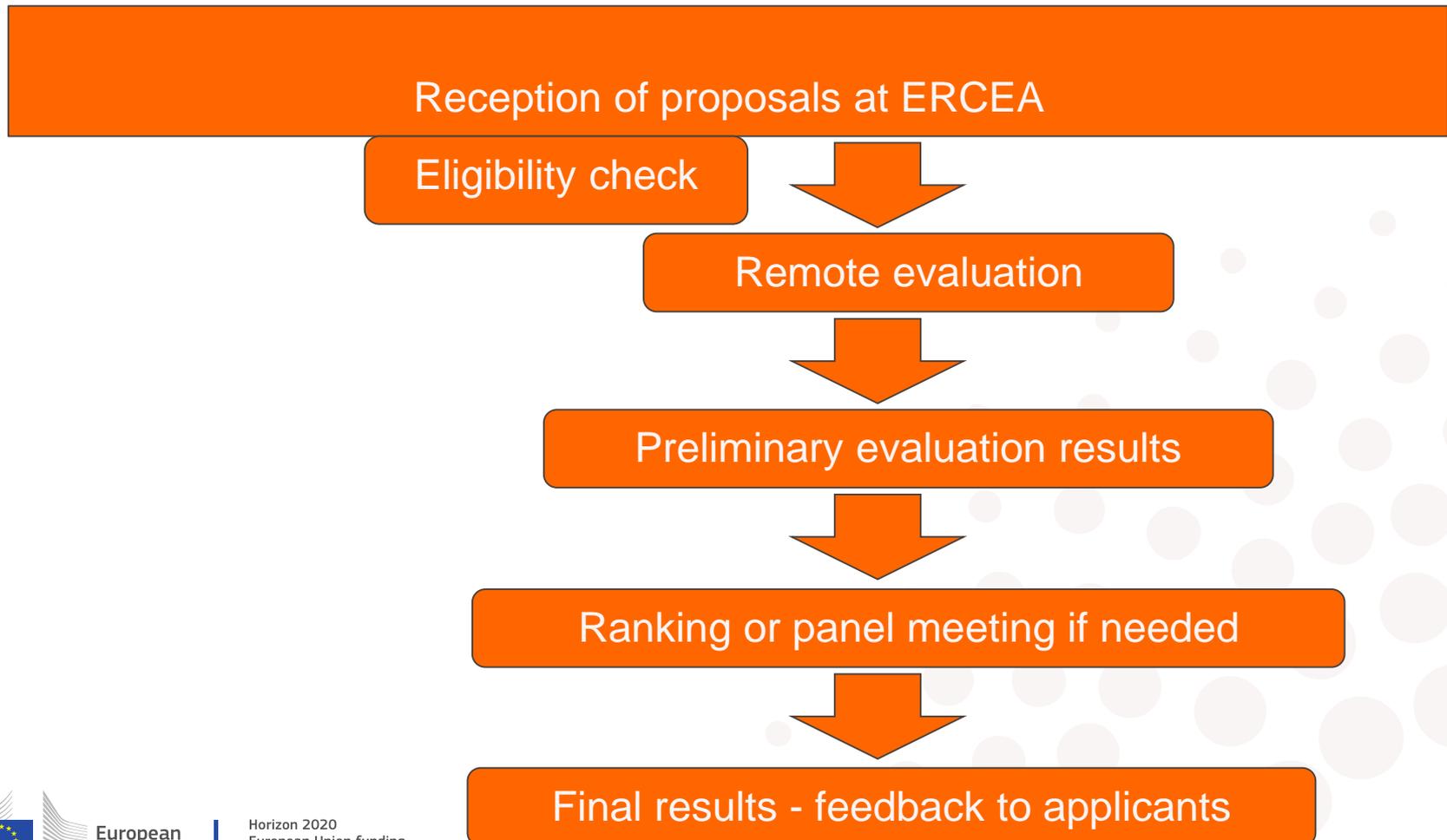
- Selected by the Scientific Council
- Technology transfer profile
- Public at the end of the call

ERCEA Staff: Call Coordination

PoC : Evaluation Flow



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Individual Evaluation Report

- Criterion 1 - Excellence in Innovation potential

Current score: - / 1.0 ; Threshold 1; Weight 100% ; Priority 1

Your score: *

Failed Passed

Does the proposed proof of concept activity greatly help move the output of research towards the initial steps of a process leading to a commercial or social innovation?
The proposal should include plans for an analysis of whether the project's expected outcomes are innovative or distinctive compared to existing solutions. *

PoC : Remote evaluation

Evaluation criteria VS Part B 1/4



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Evaluation Criteria 1 Excellence in Innovation potential

Does the proposed proof of concept activity greatly help move the output of research towards the initial steps of a process leading to a commercial or social innovation?

The proposal should include plans for an analysis of whether the project's expected outcomes are innovative or distinctive compared to existing solutions.

Section 1: The idea - Innovation potential (max. 2 pages)

a. Succinct description of the idea to be taken to proof of concept:

a.1 - The problem: *Description of the problem or the need that the idea is aiming to solve or alleviate*

a.2 - The solution: *Explanation of how the idea will solve or alleviate the problem or the need and the meaning that this will make. A clear value proposition should be included.*

b. Demonstration of Innovation Potential -
Detailed description of how the project outcomes will be innovative or distinctive. This should include a clear explanation of why the solution proposed is new compared to what already exists.

Explain: 1) how the idea solves users' problems or improves their situation; 2) why potential users or sponsors should pay for this solution and not for other existing ones.

PoC : Remote evaluation

Evaluation criteria VS Part B 2/4



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Evaluation criteria 2 - Impact

2. Impact

2.1 Is the project to be taken to proof of concept expected to generate any effect or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services and are these appropriately identified in the proposal?

2.2 Does the proposal provide a suitable outline of how the commercialisation or the generation of the above listed benefits will be achieved?

The proposal should include:

- plans to assess and validate the effectiveness of the project's outcomes;
- plans to clarify the IPR position and strategy or knowledge transfer strategy;
- plans for setting up contacts with industry partners, societal or cultural organisations, policymakers or any other potential 'end users' of the projects' results.

Section 2 - Expected Impact:

a. Identification and description of any effect or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy/services.

b. Outline of the value creation process (plans for the knowledge transfer, the commercialisation or any other process foreseen to generate the above listed benefit)

This should include proposed plans to:

- assess and validate the effectiveness of the project's outcomes (Testing, technical reports or any other form of validation to confirm that the solution is effective, efficient, sustainable, or just) (where applicable)
- clarify the IPR position and strategy or knowledge transfer strategy (where applicable)
- set up contacts with industrial partners, societal or cultural organisations, policy makers or any other potential users or sponsors of the projects' results (where applicable)

PoC : Remote evaluation

Evaluation criteria VS Part B 3/4



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Evaluation criteria 3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Quality of the proof of concept plan)

Section 3: The proof of concept plan (max 3 pages)

Table 1a: Action description.

Does the proposal provide a reasonable and acceptable plan of activities against clearly identified objectives and towards establishing the feasibility of the project?

This should include:

- ✓ a sound project-management plan, including appropriate risk and contingency planning;
- ✓ demonstration that the activities will be conducted by persons well qualified for the purpose;
- ✓ demonstration that the budget requested is necessary for the implementation of the project and properly justified.

Project-management plan including risk and contingency measures

- a.1 - Describe the organisational structure and the decision-making process and explain why they are appropriate to the complexity and scale of the project
- a.2 - Describe what can go wrong and present a plan for the identification and acceptance or off-setting of possible risks
- a.3- Present a plan for unforeseen events, including back-up procedures, emergency response and ex-post recovery

b. Description of the team

- b.1 - Describe your team and their achievements and experience in relation to the approach you will be taking.
- b.2 - Describe the roles of the team within your project. What is the role of the PI? What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the team?

PoC : Remote evaluation

Evaluation criteria VS Part B 4/4



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Evaluation criteria 3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Quality of the proof of concept plan)

Section 3: The proof of concept plan (max 3 pages) Table 1a: Action description.

Does the proposal provide a reasonable and acceptable plan of activities against clearly identified objectives and towards establishing the feasibility of the project?

This should include:

- ✓ a sound project-management plan, including appropriate risk and contingency planning;
- ✓ demonstration that the activities will be conducted by persons well qualified for the purpose;
- ✓ demonstration that the budget requested is necessary for the implementation of the project and properly justified.

c. Plan of the activities

c.1 – Resources: Grants to be awarded under this action (Proof of Concept), shall exclusively take the form of a standard lump sum pre-fixed by a European Commission decision. The amount of the lump sum for each grant is fixed at 150 000 EUR

We/I confirm that:

- subcontracts will be best value for money and free of conflict of interest and
- all beneficiaries have followed their own accounting practices for the preparation of the budget and have included therein only costs that would be eligible for an actual costs grant, excluding costs that are ineligible under the H2020 rules.

c.2 – Description of the work: Present a detailed project plan including a narrative description of the resources planned for each activity (see Table 1.a). The description of work (Proof of Concept action) in table 1.a must demonstrate that the resources are appropriate for the implementation of the project and correspond to the fixed amount of 150 000 EUR.

PoC :Ranking methodology 1/3



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Proposals which fail a criterion will not be ranked.

If three experts fail one criterion, that criterion will be failed, the proposal will not be considered.

Proposal XY	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3
Expert 1	Fail	Pass	Pass
Expert 2	Fail	Pass	Pass
Expert 3	Fail	Pass	Pass
Expert 4	Pass	Pass	Pass
Expert 5	Pass	Pass	Pass

Proposals will be funded up to depletion of budget
6,6 M€ for each deadline =
~44 proposals

PoC : Ranking Methodology

2/3



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If there is not enough budget to fund all the proposals which pass all three evaluation criteria:

- those proposals which pass all three evaluation criteria will be sorted by:
 - the number of pass marks awarded to criterion 1 (Excellence - Innovation potential),
 - then by the number of pass marks awarded to criterion 2 (Impact),
 - then by the number of pass marks awarded to criterion 3 (Quality and efficiency of the implementation).

Proposals will be funded in order of the ranking resulting from this 3 - level sorting exercise until depletion of the available budget per evaluation round.

PoC : Example of ranking



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1	Position	Prop. num	Acronym	Excellence	Impact	Implemer	Threshold	Proposal c	Proposal k	Re
2	1	704340	DrugSense	5	5	5	ABOVE	12	150000	
3	2	713251	MAGTOOL	5	5	5	ABOVE	12	150000	
4	3	713474	THOR	5	5	5	ABOVE	12	148393	
5	4	713677	OLE-DIOX	5	5	5	ABOVE	12	149500	
6	5	713627	ELR1K	5	5	5	ABOVE	12	150000	
7	6	713659	GRAPHEAI	5	5	4	ABOVE	12	150000	
8	7	713742	FabricMet	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	149545	
9	8	713524	CONQUES	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	150000	
10	9	712708	CONMIC	5	5	4	ABOVE	12	149213	
11	10	713608	MICROCLE	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	150000	
12	11	713689	HD-Biopri	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	149850	
13	12	713664	CryoProte	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	149926	
14	13	713728	HEAL-BY-M	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	149750	
15	14	713368	B-Brighter	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	149582	
16	15	713758	PFKFBLOC	5	5	4	ABOVE	18	150000	
17	16	713547	Microbes4	5	5	3	ABOVE	18	149375	
18	17	713483	SynBioGA	5	5	3	ABOVE	15	150000	
19	18	713612	MUSCLEGL	5	5	3	ABOVE	18	150000	
20	19	713734	miRCaP	5	5	3	ABOVE	18	150000	
21	20	713651	PROCEEDS	5	4	5	ABOVE	18	150000	

PoC : Ranking Methodology

3/3



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If there is a group of equally ranked fundable proposals that crosses the budget cut off line, the panel will proceed as follows:

- ✓ All the experts involved in the evaluation of at least one proposal in this group will be sent the reviews of all the proposals in the group.
- ✓ The experts will then examine all the proposals in the group and the existing reviews, and decide on their own personal ranking.
- ✓ The ERCEA will compile a sub-ranking within the group taking into account the Cols, and will then come up with an overall final ranking list.

Status of the evaluation criteria

<p>1. Excellence (Innovation potential)</p> <p>Does the proposed proof of concept activity greatly help move the output of research towards the initial steps of a process leading to a commercial or societal innovation?</p>	<p>PASS</p>
<p>2. Impact</p> <p>2.1 Is the project to be taken to proof of concept expected to generate economic and/or societal benefits which are appropriately identified in the proposal?</p> <p>2.2 Does the proposal indicate a suitable process that is designed to result in a concrete application, including outlining a process of commercialisation or a process of generating social</p>	<p>PASS</p>
<p>3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Quality of the proof of concept plan)</p> <p>Does the proposal provide a reasonable and acceptable plan of activities against clearly identified objectives and towards establishing the feasibility of the project?</p>	<p>PASS</p>
<p>Has the proposal been awarded a pass mark by a majority of peer reviewers on each of the three evaluation criteria?</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>The reviewers recommend that the proposal should be retained for funding with a grant not exceeding 150,000.00 €</p>	

Reviewer 5

1. Excellence (Innovation potential)

The prototype that is proposed to be constructed and validated as part of this proposal can be expected to help underpin the commercial viability of the technology platform that was developed by the applicant.

2. Impact

The applicant states a reasoned case for the economic and societal potential of his technology platform. The competitive analysis section, however, appears to confuse the cost (to the manufacturer) of employing a particular technology platform vs the cost (to the user) of using existing technological solutions. For example: the cost of running an ELISA is compared to the cost of an aptamer sensor. It is very unlikely that commercial offerings of the latter technology will be set at a price point that is anywhere near the advertised cost of the main component. This creates an artificially-enlarged cost advantage over the incumbent technology.

The IPR and industry contacts sections of the proposal are satisfactory.

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Quality of the proof of concept plan)

The proposal contains a clear section describing the various aspects of the plan of activities, including risk analysis and -mitigation and a helpful chart. The team is not only comprised of people with a suitable technological background but helpfully also includes people with significant industry experience. The budget is acceptable and sufficiently justified.

PoC : Tentative Evaluation Calendar



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DEADLINE 1	DEADLINE 2	DEADLINE 3
Deadline for submission of proposals: 22/01/2019	Deadline for submission of proposals: 25/04/2019	Deadline for submission of proposals: 19/09/2019
Launch of the evaluation in SEP: 28/01/2019	Launch of the evaluation in SEP: 02/05/2019	Launch of the evaluation in SEP: 25/09/2019
Deadline Remote evaluation: 06/03/2019	Deadline Remote evaluation: 13/06/2019	Deadline Remote evaluation: 7/11/2019
Ranking 16/03/2019	Ranking 20/06/2019	Ranking 8/11/2019
Expected feedback to applicants: April 2019	Expected feedback to applicants: July 2019	Expected feedback to applicants: December 2019

POC 2018 Results

Call budget + additional funds



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	Evaluated DL1	Evaluated DL2	Evaluated DL3	Funded	Success rate	
					M	F
Physical Sciences and Engineering	62	68	90	83	38%	40%
Life Sciences	42	48	61	61	41%	38%
Social Sciences and Humanities	10	12	21	12	27%	29%
Synergy	0	2	1	3	100%	-
Total	114	130	173	159		
Success rate	44%	38%	34%	38%	38%	37%

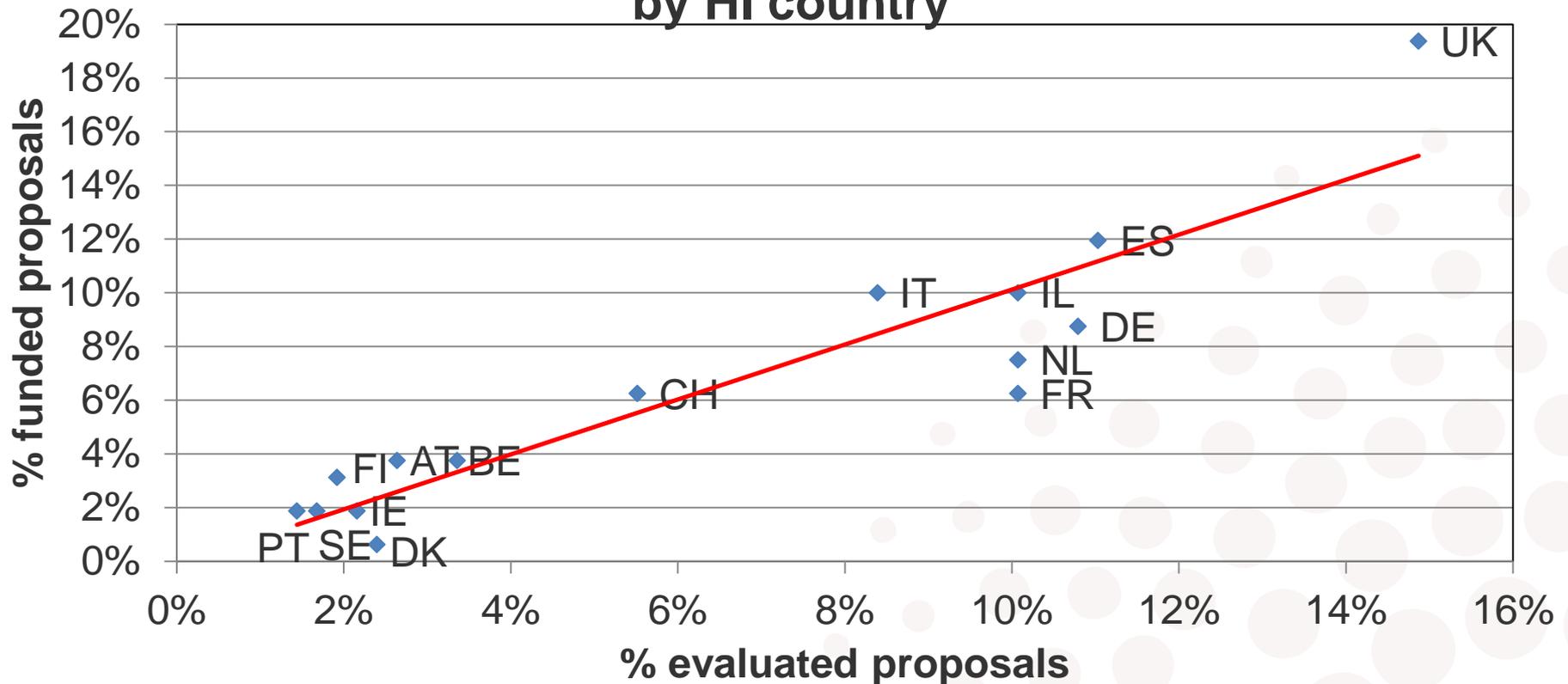
POC 2018 Results

Funded proposals HI country



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POC 2018 evaluated vs funded proposals by HI country



Look at ERC PoC funded projects



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Functionality on the ERC website allows you to see the existing ERC funded PoC grants:

<http://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/erc-funded-projects>

ERC Funded Projects

Prizes and Awards

ERC Stories

Statistics

Filter by funding scheme:

- Starting Grant (2331)
- Consolidator Grants (313)
- Advanced Grant (1708)
- Proof of Concept (178)
- Synergy Grants (24)

Filter by subpanel:

Filter by country:

1 Go 18 >

Results per page: 10 20 50

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Project acronym:	2D-USD
Project:	Ultrasonic Spray Deposition: Enabling new 2D based technologies
Host Institution (HI):	The Provost, Fellows, Foundation Scholars & The Other Members Of Board Of The College Of The Holy & Undivided Trinity Of Queen Elizabeth Near Dublin, Ireland
Call details:	Proof of Concept (PoC), ERC-2013-PoC Details
Project acronym:	2DIR SPECTROMETER
Project:	A step-change in sensitivity for two dimensional laser infrared spectroscopy.
Host Institution (HI):	Imperial College Of Science, Technology And Medicine, United Kingdom
Call details:	Proof of Concept (PoC), ERC-2013-PoC Details
Project acronym:	3DV



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Thank You