

Networked Enterprise

If UK enterprises are to succeed in addressing the challenges of globalisation improved software and related-services aimed at supporting new collaborative enterprise, business and commercial paradigms and processes are essential.

Increased use of digital ecosystems and collaborative working will allow value-adding innovators to enable and participate in new forms of dynamic networked co-operative business processes and knowledge-sharing, including the ability to work with and within complex supply chains. Potential gains include achieving business goals none can achieve alone and the ability to respond with speed and agility to emerging business opportunities.

Creating the software and services needed to meet the challenges will necessitate the collaborative development of interoperable tools, techniques and technologies that support dynamic, distributed working combining dynamic P2P networks, other local and wide-area networking technologies, adaptive and self-organising distributed software applications and the next generation of business modelling languages. It will also require the development of trust and common policies and practices.

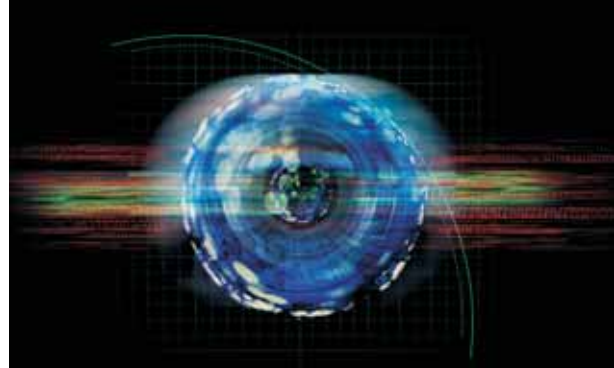
The response will require the combined efforts of a variety of players, including telecoms operators, enterprise application developers, integrators, end-users and the research base and possibly also new-entrants with novel business models. In recognition of the importance of these challenges and of the risks associated with building consortia to address them, the DTI has set aside an indicative £8m for Collaborative Research and Development.

The aims of activity in these areas will include:

- Improving competitiveness and dynamic cooperation between enterprises, improving access to global markets and enabling new forms of business processes, new types of virtual enterprises and supply chains.
- Providing the technologies for building interoperable infrastructures for such digital ecosystems and the knowledge-sharing environments increasing ICT adoption

Business Challenges

- Capturing and using unstructured data and information
- Sharing information between groups (within an organisation or between elements of a virtual organisation)
- The development of flexible supply-chains
- Supporting the emergence of new business ecosystems
- Capturing and transferring the tacit knowledge of key individuals



dti

SUCCEEDING
THROUGH INNOVATION

Networked Enterprise

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT





Technology Challenges

- Mobile and remote working tools
- Collaborative working tools and platforms
- Advanced knowledge technologies for effective teamwork
- Human-centred Working
- Interoperability of software and services
- Integration of grid, pervasive, mobile and location technologies
- The development of trust
- Security

In all cases the emphasis should be on higher-level services and applications rather than the development of middleware. Successful consortia will need to include one or more end-users and will need to conclude the project with a demonstrator. Developments in collaboration technologies will need to be undertaken in the context of standards and the need for widespread adoption. Therefore successful proposals will also need to address the issues of standards and dissemination

Funding Allocation and Project Details

The Technology Strategy Board advises on the selection of priority technology areas and the allocation of funding for the Technology Programme. The Technology Strategy Board is currently being established as an executive non-departmental public body and will in future be responsible for the development and delivery of the Government's programme of technology support, including the Technology Programme.

An indicative £8m of Technology Programme support has been allocated to Collaborative Research and Development projects that address one or more of the areas indicated above and involve science-to-business and business-to-business interactions.

Typical projects would have 2-3 year duration, require support around £500k-£2m, although no project will be rejected on the grounds of size alone, and generally aim to implement significant business change in a 5-7 year time frame rather than shorter-term payback. Larger projects will be considered but the case must be exceptional. In particular we would encourage projects that can demonstrate benefits to a number of business sectors, and ideally should include at least one partner with defined end-user needs.

Additional funding from EPSRC may be available for projects where there is a significant high quality academic component and in particular for those projects that demonstrate added value to its existing portfolio; by building on or being complementary to existing research programmes.

Projects can range from small, highly focused basic research aimed at establishing technical feasibility, though to applied research, and to experimental development projects. It is anticipated that most of the funding will be allocated to proposals in the applied R&D (attracting 50% public funding) or experimental development (25% public funding) categories. Projects involving industry oriented basic research (75% public funding) will also be considered but a robust case must be made to support the requested level of funding. Definitions of the above categories of research can be found in the Guidance for Applicants – see <http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/technologystrategy/index.html>

The Technology Strategy Board will require all projects to provide a non-commercially confidential summary, at the start and the conclusion of the project, for dissemination.

Contacts

If you have any queries about the technical scope of the competition or the application process, please contact the Technology Programme helpline on **01355 272155** or email **info@technologyprogramme.org.uk**

Key Dates

Competition opens: 24 April 2007

Competition event in London - 25 April 2007. For more information about this and other events use the web address below

Deadline for registering your intention to submit an application: 11 June 2007

Deadline for all Academic Finances through the Je-S systems: 14 June 2007

Deadline for all Outline application: 18 June 2007

Full stage opens: 16 July 2007

Deadline for receiving full stage applications: 11 September 2007

Decision and feedback to applicants: October 2007

To register and apply go to:
<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/technologystrategy/index.html>