

Innovative Starters Award

Regulations - Call of May 2019

ELIGIBLE UNDERTAKINGS

Those eligible to apply for an aid from the Region with a view to implementing its Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP):

- any small company in the sense of the definition given by the order of 27 July 2017
- aiming to promote research, development, and innovation through the granting of aids allocated for economic purposes for the benefit of enterprises and research organisations equated with companies
- which is conform to the definition of innovative start-up presented in article 4, 8° and 9° of the order of 27 July 2017 and in article 22 of the GBER:
 - "Start-up": any small non-listed company, registered for a maximum of five years, which has not yet distributed benefits, has not been formed through a merger, is not the subsidiary of a large company and has not taken over the activity of another company;
 - "Innovative start-up": any start-up able to show, by means of an evaluation by an external expert, that in a foreseeable future, it will develop products, services or processes that are new or substantially improved in relation to the status of the technique in the sector considered, and which present a risk of technological or industrial failure, the research and development costs of which represent at least 10% of the total of its operating costs over at least one of the three years preceding the granting of the aid or, in the case of a start-up without a financial history, during the current financial year, with the figure having to be certified by an external auditor.
- which has at least one place of business in the Brussels-Capital Region
- which has fulfilled its obligations under previous aid granted by the Region.
- which has not obtained the RISE award in the past.

These six conditions must be met simultaneously.

In order to apply the condition of age (5 years maximum on the date of the granting of the aid) presented in article 22 of the GBER, the aid being granted at the latest on 31 December 2018, the company must have been created after 1/1/2015.

OBJECTIVE

The "Innovative Starters Award" initiative aims to favour the development of high innovation potential companies.

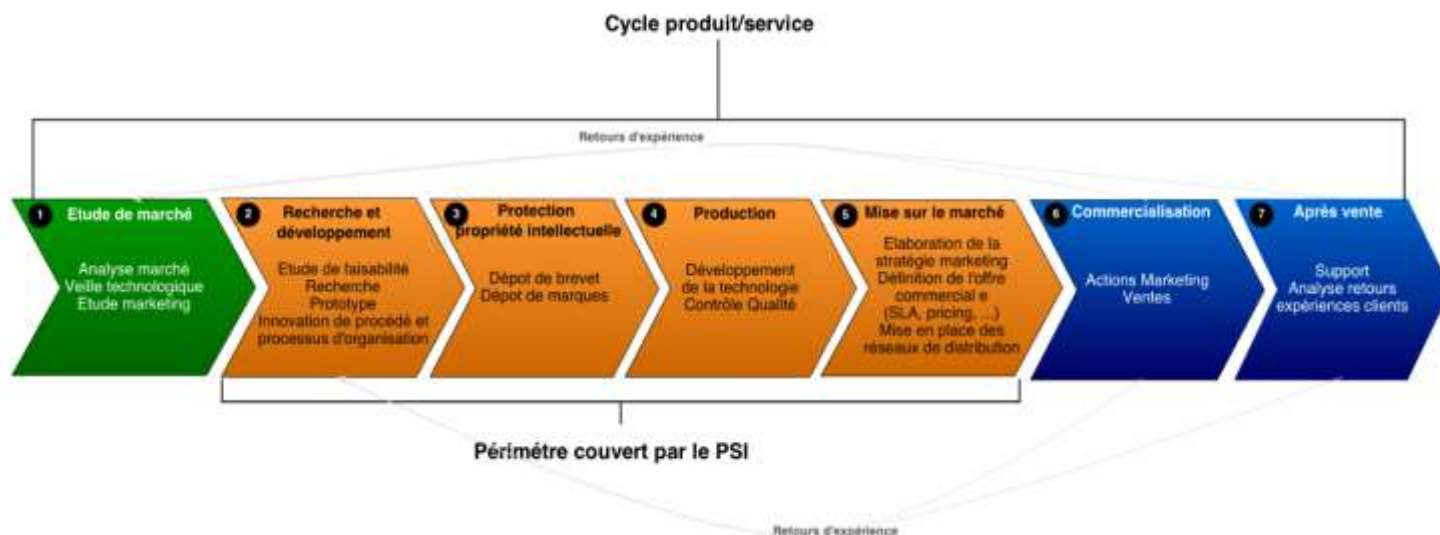
The company named as the innovative start-up of the year, will benefit from an aid of a maximum of €500,000 for a maximum period of 3 years, in order to finance all or part of its Strategic Innovation Plan.

STRATEGIC INNOVATION PLAN (SIP)

The Strategic Innovation Plan is defined as an all-in programme (RDI, finance, business development, internal organisation) presenting in detail the vision and strategy of innovative start-ups. The SIP may concern several products and services.

Its implementation must have a favourable impact on the economy, employment and the environment of the Brussels-Capital Region.

Below is the illustration of the scope that may be covered by the Strategic Innovation Plan financed by Innoviris (phases 2 to 5) and how it is part of the company's overall strategy.



AMOUNT OF FUNDING

The "Innovative Starters Award" initiative allocates a grant to the company/companies named as innovative start-up of the year.

This grant of a maximum of €500,000 may cover costs of all sorts concerning the implementation of the SIP. In particular, this may be:

- staff costs
- operating costs
- investment costs
- subcontracting costs

SUBMISSION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

The applications are drawn up using the form available on the Innoviris website (www.innoviris.brussels). Applications submitted via a method other than this form will not be taken into consideration.

Applications must be submitted to Innoviris, the Brussels Institute for Research and Innovation, Chaussée de Charleroi 110, 1060 Brussels, by 2 pm on 15 July 2019 at the latest. Applications submitted after this date will not be taken into account.

The application must contain all the information and documents stipulated in the form and any other useful document supporting the application.

Projects that do not meet the conditions laid out above will be removed according to a

report drawn up by Innoviris and submitted to the Secretary of State in charge of Scientific Research.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE OF APPLICATIONS

After analysis of eligibility, Innoviris will carry out a pre-selection on the basis of the criteria provided for by the order [of 27 July 2017](#).

After this preselection, only the best ranked candidates will be presented to a unique and multidisciplinary jury comprising scientific and economic experts in charge of actual evaluation.

The selection and organisation of this jury is carried out by Innoviris, which also chairs it.

The jury's evaluation is carried out on the basis of the analysis of the documents submitted as part of the application and an interview with the candidate.

The applications are evaluated by the jury according to the following criteria:

- The innovative character of the SIP.
- The technological challenges that have to be faced
- The competence of the team and its ability to implement the SIP
- The suitability and realism of the work programme and budget
- The coherence of the overall strategy, the relevance of the business model
- The quality and relevance of the financial plan
- The prospects for valorisation and the potential impact of this valorisation on the economy, employment and the environment of the Brussels-Capital Region
- The company's financial health
- The strategic nature of the Strategic Innovation Plan
- The quality of the application and of the candidate's oral defence

After the evaluation, Innoviris sends an argued report suggesting to the Secretary of State in charge of Scientific Research the awarding of the grant to the companies best ranked as innovative start-ups of the year.

In the event that none of the applications meet the evaluation criteria in a satisfactory manner, no grant will be awarded.

TIMETABLE

- Submission of applications to Innoviris by 2 pm on 15 July 2019.
- Evaluation by the unique and multidisciplinary jury (September 2019).
- Award decision by the Government (November - December 2019).
- Official prize ceremony (December 2019).
- The implementation of the SIP may start between 1 January and 31 March 2020.

MONITORING PROTOCOL

The beneficiary or beneficiaries provide Innoviris, at **time intervals defined in the agreement**, with the following documents:

- Activity reports (state of progress of the implementation of the PSI, the results of the plan in

RDI, finance, business development)

- Accounting reports (debts, supporting documents, and payments).
- Report on the industrial use and valorisation of the results of the subsidised PSI, three years after its completion.

With a view to ensuring the monitoring of the implementation of the PSI, these documents may be submitted for evaluation by a jury constituted by Innoviris.

BENEFICIARY'S OBLIGATIONS

The Beneficiary cannot combine the aid to innovative start-ups and minimum aids that meet the conditions of the EU Regulation 1407/2013, or any other funding, if these minimum aids or this other funding concern the same admissible costs.

The beneficiary informs Innoviris of any aid applied for or received during the three years of the awarding of the aid for innovative start-ups.

FORMS AND INFORMATION

The application forms can be downloaded on the website www.innoviris.brussels

The Brussels Institute for Research and Innovation,
Chaussée de Charleroi 110
1060 Brussels
Tel.: 02/600 50 71 - fax: 02/600 50 47 - E-mail: dlittre@innoviris.brussels

This document must be signed by the authorised person of the applicant company and include the phrase "read and approved" and enclosed with the form and the appendices submitted for the application.

Name of the applicant company:

Date and authorised signature: