**EMERGING INNOVATOR PROGRAMME**

Overview and Application Form

The future wealth of New Zealand as a developed country, resides in the availability of people with advanced technological capability using their skills to drive innovation in New Zealand. Such people create the jobs of the future and economic growth upon which the community depends. The Emerging Innovator Fund provides targeted support to early stage career scientists who will become the future innovators of New Zealand.

The Emerging Innovator Fund provides $20,000 to enable scientists to build industry connections and demonstrate a proof-of-principle of a disruptive new invention. To be awarded the funding, a scientist must demonstrate a clever new idea and a willingness to work closely with industry and/or commercial mentors as they develop a prototype. The aim of the fund is to have more scientists working alongside businesses and “tinkering” with disruptive new ideas to solve industry challenges.

The funding is for early stage scientists who seek to engage with commercial partners. Scientists must be working within a publicly funded research organisation in New Zealand. The target outcomes of the fund are:

* New inventions and ideas with good commercial potential.
* Scientists with stronger commercialisation capability
* More scientists working closely with businesses

The Emerging Innovation funding is intended for very early stage development to seed new ideas and industry engagement that will ultimately increase the quality and quantity of new innovation opportunities from research organisations.

The Emerging Innovator Fund is intended to be a stepping-stone to other funding and support. It is anticipated that the fund will better position a scientist to secure funding such as:

* Business investment or contract research.
* PreSeed Accelerator Funding to support further commercialisation.
* Callaghan Innovation business grant to support business investment.
* Tech-Incubator funding to support a new start-up opportunity.
* Research funding from MBIE (e.g. Smart Ideas) to support ongoing research.

**Norman Barry Foundation**

The Norman Barry Foundation is a charitable trust registered under the Charities Act 2005. Norman Barry was an entrepreneur and a philanthropist who established the Quality Hotel Parnell. During his successful business career he mentored motel owners in Auckland who were new to the industry and helped various charitable organizations in the form of donations.  Norman left his shareholding in Quality Hotel Parnell Limited to the Foundation, and the distributions from this Company to the Foundation are used for charitable donations. In addition, Quality Hotel Parnell Limited is also a registered charity in its own right and this company also makes donations to the community.

Both KiwiNet and the Foundation share the common goal to inspire young people to pursue science careers and young scientists to seek out opportunities to apply their knowledge to benefit the community and the economy. By working together through the Emerging Innovation Fund, both parties seek to combine their resources and connections to further this goal.

The Foundation expects no financial returns or ownership stake in return for the funding. However, it does seek to create some positive publicity celebrating the recipient of each grant. As well as inspiring future scientists and innovators, the Foundation seeks the following outcomes from this initiative:

* Raise awareness of the story of Norman Barry, who spent his life building a successful hotel before leaving it to charity, so as to inspire others to similar acts of philanthropy to benefit the community.
* The opportunity for the trustees to meet the researchers to better understand the impact that their contributions are making.
* Each researcher agrees to give a short presentation at an event that is nominated by the Foundation. The purpose is to raise awareness of the innovative talent in research organisations and to encourage more businesses to connect with researchers.
* A report prepared by KiwiNet outlining the outcomes for the Foundation to consider, either once projects are completed, or after 1 year, whichever comes first.

**Eligibility Criteria**

* **Eligible applicants –** The fund is targeted at scientists within publicly funded research organisations such as Universities, Crown Research Institutes, Crown Entities and not for profit research facilities. Funding will not be paid to individuals. Scientists must be nominated by an organisation who will be the contracting party for this funding, normally a research or commercialisation office.
* **Eligible expenses** – Prototype development expenses such as equipment, materials, consumables, consultants and temporary staff/students recruited specifically for the project. Co-investment from sources such as business, PreSeed funding or the research organisations is encouraged to increase the scale of a project. However, the funding is intended to be an enabler, not just a small financial contribution to a large project that was already planned.
* **Non-eligible expenses** – The funding is not intended to be used to offset fixed staff costs and overheads that the organisation would have incurred anyway if the project did not proceed. Nor is the funding intended for IP protection, academic conference attendance or clinical trials. It is expected that such costs are already covered from other funding sources such as the research grants, PreSeed Accelerator Funding or the research organisation’s own funds. Any exceptions to these criteria would have to be justified prior to a funding decision being made.
* **Intellectual property** and IP ownership rights are not affected by this funding. KiwiNet takes no ownership of any technology developed using this funding. The fund is targeted primarily at employees of research organisations and therefore it is likely that the research organisation will own any new IP developed. In any case, it is the responsibility of the scientist and their nominated organisation to agree, prior to the project commencing, who will own rights to any new IP created.

**Process**

* **Grant allocation decision making** – Final decision making on allocations will be entirely controlled by the KiwiNet Investment Committee. The Foundation does not influence decision making on specific projects.
* **Time period** – Projects must be completed within 6 months from the date that they are approved.
* **Promotion** – It is not anticipated that the fund will be advertised widely. This is to avoid oversubscription. KiwiNet will use its networks to invite all universities and CRIs to nominate candidates.
* **Application process**
  + Nominators must submit a 1-2 page overview of the project using this template. All nominations must be supported by a research office or tech transfer office at a public research organisation.
  + KiwiNet will notify the relevant research organisation when an application is received.
  + KiwiNet management will work with a subset of committee members to prepare a short list of applications based on the evaluation criteria.
  + Short listed researchers must present the project at a KiwiNet Investment Committee meeting which will make the final funding decision. Ideally, the industry partner will present alongside the researcher, either in person or over the phone.
  + Researchers will be notified if they are successful within 24 hours and should receive written confirmation within 1 week.
  + KiwiNet will contract directly with the public research organisation.
  + Research organisations invoice at the end of the project with a summary of expenses.
  + Invoices must be accompanied by a short outcomes report (1 page or more).
  + After project completion, the applicant is to do a short presentation to the KiwiNet Investment Committee describing the main project outcomes. This presentation can be done in person or via teleconference. This will enable the committee to track the impact of the fund overall and get feedback from the participants on how it could be improved.
* **Publicity** – KiwiNet reserves the right to undertake publicity with successful applicants.

**Evaluation criteria**

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Eligibility & Additionality

* **Based in a NZ PRO** - confirmation that the scientist is currently working within a NZ Public Research Organisation (PRO) and will remain so for the duration of the project.
* **Early career researcher** - evidence that the scientist is at an early stage of their research career.
* **Enthusiasm for commercialisation** – evidence that the scientist is enthusiastic to see their science being applied and willingness to work with industry and commercial mentors.
* **Unlocking potential** - indication that the funding, if awarded, would represent a potential step-change for the scientist's career.

Viability & Plan

* **Market driven hypothesis** – evidence that the project is seeking to meaningfully address a market problem which is worth solving
* **Commercial relationships** – indication that commercial input will be available to shape and support the project, with potential for the scientist to grow longer-term commercial relationships and understanding of business needs.
* **Value for money** - indication that the funding will produce a working prototype or completed proof of concept within 6 months AND using 'eligible expenses'
* **Plan for success** – evidence that the funding would better position the technology for further investment or funding from other sources.

Impact & Outcomes

* **Capability development** - indication that the project would increase the commercialisation capability of the scientist and research organisation.
* **Benefit to New Zealand –** evidence that supporting this project will drive innovation and innovative capability in New Zealand that will create the jobs of the future and economic growth.

**Emerging Innovator Nomination template for FLUXX**

**FLUXX must be used to enter a nomination.**

**Check the current year’s Investment Committee Meeting Calendar for submission deadline dates.**

* *Completed applications will be made available only to KiwiNet Management, the Norman   
   Barry Foundation Trustees and the KiwiNet Investment Committee.*
* ***DO NOT PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Details** | |
| **Researcher** |  |
| **Idea title** |  |
| **Date form submitted** |  |
| **Research organisation** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Emerging innovator (Researcher) overview (One paragraph)** |
| *\* Scientist’s background*  *\* What makes this scientist an emerging innovator*  *\* How this scientist is motivated to achieve commercial outcomes for their research.* |
| **Nominators Rational (one paragraph)**  *\*Describe why the nominee sees commercialisation  potential in the candidate?*  *\*How does this fit in the organisations culture?* |
| **Invention overview *(One paragraph)*** |
| *\* Describe the invention, or idea?*  *\*****Market pain****- What is the problem it could solve.*  *\*****Market need****- Why is this a problem worth solving?* |
| **Project plan *(One paragraph)*** |
| *\* Describe the difference between the current status and the impact the $20,000 grant would make. For example: demonstrating a technology concept, understanding market needs and/or connecting with business.*  *\* The Emerging Innovator Fund is intended as a stepping-stone to other further funding and support. Describe how $20,000 will better position this technology for further investment or funding from other sources.*  *\* The fund is intended for scientists to develop inventions while understanding the market needs. Describe the commercial mentoring and/or business connections that will support the scientist to deliver the objectives.*  *\*Include a high level budget :this allows early allowance of attending capability upskilling events, and technical costs.* |