Horizon 2020's SME Instrument
Looking for Europe's next innovation leader

As part of the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission is selecting potentially disruptive businesses to invest in and support as part of the SME Instrument. SMEs with a strong growth potential and the ambition to become world-market leaders could receive up to €2.5 million* in funding, and world-class business support and mentoring.

Projects sought
Projects at the technology readiness level 6 or higher (technology demonstration) have the best chances to receive funding.

PHASES

PHASE 1
Concept & Feasibility Assessment
Idea to concept (6 months)

The SME will draft an initial business proposal.
The European Union will provide €50 000 in funding and business coaching.

PHASE 2
Demonstration, Market Replication, R&D Concept to Market-Maturity (1-2 years)

The SME will further develop its proposal through innovation activities, and draft a more developed business plan.
The EU may contribute between €0.5 million and €2.5 million* and provide business coaching.

PHASE 3
Commercialisation
Prepare for Market Launch

The SME will receive extensive support to help polish its concept into a marketable product, and have access to networking opportunities.
The EU will not provide funding in this phase.

Who should apply?
We are looking for high growth, highly innovative SMEs with global ambitions. You should be actively investing in innovation, and looking to grow. You should have been established for a while – further than the start-up stage.

*Up to €5 million for health projects.

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