



SEHTA/SEEDA Voucher Scheme 2010

Summary

Ten £4,000 innovation vouchers will be available as part of a 'pilot' scheme to promote and enable SMEs to build on innovation and research capabilities through buying support in the form of access to the facilities and expertise of Universities based in the south east of England.

Description of the programme – How will it be delivered?

The scheme is available to small and medium sized businesses based in South East England (SEEDA area). Eligible companies will be operating in the Telecare* sector with little or no prior interaction with Universities, and will have the willingness and potential to collaborate on developing innovative products, processes or services. SEHTA will assist these companies in gaining access to regional Universities' expertise and facilities. The SMEs will be able to use this expertise to get help with projects that they themselves do not have the technology or expertise to complete.

At the end of the project, the SME will produce a short report. SEEDA and SEHTA reserves the right to use these projects as case studies, and the option of anonymity will be given. All vouchers awarded will be followed up 6 months after redemption to assess the success of the scheme.

Type of assistance

Assistance available from the public sector would be provided as redeemable vouchers up to £4,000. Each company supported in the scheme would be eligible for one voucher only.

The supply of service will be subject to the Universities' terms and conditions. SMEs receiving vouchers must agree to case studies being produced, in reference only, to their involvement in the scheme.

Terms and Conditions

The Applicant will own all Intellectual Property Rights in the results that relate specifically to the work done on University facilities and funded by the voucher scheme. The collaborating University will own all other Intellectual Property Rights from results and any other Intellectual Property Rights arising from the provision of the Services.

Payment and Evaluation

Payment will be made by SEHTA to the collaborating Universities on provision of evidence of the projects, in the form of the short final report from the SME. Evaluation of the scheme will be undertaken in two parts:

- 1 Questionnaire Completed by participants on completion of the project
- 2 Questionnaire Completed by participants 6 months after completion of the project to observe the outcomes from projects.

** We define Telecare as the use of information, communication and sensor technologies to deliver health and social support to people, to help them live as independently as possible in the lowest intensity care setting consistent with their needs and wishes.*

For further details please contact:

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Eligibility

Applicants for vouchers should have, through discussion with SEHTA or a regional University, identified a specific area of work that will be carried out by a regional University. The work should be aligned with Telecare.

Applicants will be eligible for vouchers if they can demonstrate that:

- 1) They are an SME; and
- 2) they are based within the SEEDA region; and
- 3) they have not had significant prior interaction with the knowledge base (universities, PSREs etc.). Examples of significant interaction include consultancy, sponsored research, CASE awards and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (and variants – e.g. short placements). In cases of doubt, the Manager should seek guidance from SEEDA.

Applicants will not be eligible for more than one voucher.

Vouchers awarded to SMEs through this project constitute State Aid which is subject to de-minimis rules. The Manager must be satisfied that the beneficiary satisfies the criteria for SME status which is as follows:

- Less than 250 employees,
- Has either an annual turnover not exceeding €40m or a balance sheet total not exceeding €27m,
- Is independent.

Detailed records of all aid granted must be kept by the Manager for 10 years from date of the payment.

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Application Form

Before you complete this form, please ensure you, as 'Recipient' (SME) and your 'Provider' (University), are eligible for a voucher under the terms of the project.

You need to have identified a 'Provider' as a partner. Examples of Providers and their facilities are given at the end of this document but this list is not exclusive; should you wish to nominate another institution as a Provider, or you cannot find a suitable Provider, please contact the SEHTA office.

Eligibility criteria are given below. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact the SEHTA office.

Eligible '**Recipients**' of a voucher must be:

- A Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (under EU definitions)
- located in the SEEDA region (Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, East/West Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Buckinghamshire)
- not in receivership or under liquidation at the time of receiving the award

Eligible '**Provider**' partners must be:

- Any university or Public Sector Research Establishment in the SEEDA region

Eligible **Projects** would include:

- those which begin a working relationship that previously did not exist
- those centred around technology/services related to telecare/telehealth
- access to equipment, analytical services, research projects, technical or clinical trials, product design/prototype manufacture, technical training
- consultancy services for transfer of technical knowledge or know-how

Note: *vouchers should not be used as a discount on previously agreed projects or for general business consultancy, marketing or other routine activities.*

Selection criteria used to determine successful applications are given at the end of this application form.

Timetable

Scheme launch	2 nd February 2010
Applications deadline	26 th February 2010
Offers made	8 th March 2010
Projects initiated	31 st March 2010
Projects completed	1 st September 2010 (<i>latest</i>)
Reports completed	30 th September 2010 (<i>latest</i>)

Payment made to Provider on satisfactory completion of report

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