**The Innova Programme**

**State Aid registration under General Block Exemption (GBER)**

This document sets out information relating to the Innova programme and how State Aid granted to the project complies with Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2017 of 17 June 2014, the General Block Exemption Regulation.

**1. Member States:**

United Kingdom & Ireland

State Aid Reference No:

**United Kingdom: SA.55473**

**Ireland:** **SA.55474**

**2. Granting Authority:**

InterTradeIreland

**3. Legal basis:**

The North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) Northern Ireland Order 1999 – Section 2.3 Part 7 of Annex II of the Act empowers InterTradeIreland to invest, grant aid or lend for the purposes of its function, the British/Irish Agreement Act 1999 (Section 2.3 Part 7 of Annex II of the act empowers InterTradeIreland to invest, grant aid or lend for the purposes of its function) and European Communities Act 1972.

**4. EC Legal Basis:**

The aid provided to this Project will be within the limits and conditions set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014, the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)[[1]](#footnote-1)

**5. Project Name:**

The Innova Programme

Total Project Cost: £11,000,000/c€12,500,000

**6. Grant Recipient:**

SMEs

**7. Project Aim:**

The Innova programme is an all-island programme which seeks to encourage businesses to engage in collaborative Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) activities on a cross-border basis to enhance their growth and competitiveness.

Objectives:

* Increase technology diffusion across the island, by increasing access to complementary technical expertise and technologies;
* Foster commercial links and to create a more sophisticated critical mass of the resources needed for such activities;
* Encourage a culture of collaboration and ‘open’ innovation;
* Encourage cross-border knowledge transfers with the aim of enhancing the competencies of, and human capital in, participating businesses;
* Encourage mutual learnings (North and South) and sharing of best practice;
* Support the development of the all-island Innovation Ecosystem;
* Contribute to the diversification of the industrial structure of the economies on both sides of the border; and
* Contribute to the economic development of the island economy.

Project Description:

* Recruit a specialist networking and co-ordination management function by July 2019;
* Deliver 12 regional promotion workshops by December 2021 (equivalent to 4 per annum);
* Provide support towards a minimum of 18 INNOVA projects by December 2022;
* Undertake a mid-term review at the mid-point of each INNOVA project (i.e. a minimum of 18 mid-term reviews)
* Provide project re-direction mentoring to all projects identified as requiring this support during review

**9. Compliance with GBER:**

All aid provided to Innova programme participants will be within the limits and conditions set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014, of 17 June 2014 (as amended by Regulation 2017/1084 on 14 June 2017) declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation).

The State aid to this programme will be within the Common provisions set out in Chapter 1 and scope and conditions of Article 25 in the GBER – Aid for research and development projects.

**10. Duration of aid:**

2019 - 2024

**11. Form of aid:**

Grant

**12. Name and Address of Granting Authority**

InterTradeIreland, The Old Gasworks Business Park, Kilmorey Street, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2DE

If you require more information about the Innova programme please contact: Orla McGlennon

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1. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20170710&from=EN [↑](#footnote-ref-1)