



SPARK Awards

Genesis Faraday SPARK Awards

The Genesis Faraday Partnership¹ is pleased to announce the first call for 2009 Genesis Faraday SPARK Awards as a means to encourage **new** collaborations between the research community and industry. Projects must be in the area of *Genetics and Genomics as applied to Domestic Animal Breeding and Health*, or in the broader area of Animal Bioscience². In a change to previous calls, SMEs that are not members of Genesis Faraday can now also apply for some projects. This call is now open, with **Seven SPARK awards available**. The deadline for applications is **Midnight Wednesday 2nd September 2009**.

What is a SPARK Award?

SPARK awards originated in Faraday Partnerships, and comprise small sums of money for **new collaborations between research partners and Small/Medium-sized Enterprises³ (SMEs)**.

The collaborations supported by a SPARK award can comprise almost any defined piece of work by the research partner for the industrial partner, such as student projects, data analysis, technical consultancy, feasibility studies or literature reviews.

These Awards are intended to help resource small confidence building measures between a SME and a research based partner that is likely to lead to a longer-term relationship. Highly innovative applications from partners who have not worked together before are especially welcome.

Value of SPARK Awards

The grants, which are of a fixed value of £5,000 (plus any applicable VAT), are awarded to the research partner to tackle a problem relevant to the SME. The scheme is designed to provide quick approval with minimal bureaucracy, in keeping with the value of the grant. There is total flexibility in the way in which the funding may be committed, except that all work **must** be completed within six months of the agreed start date of the project. A start date will be agreed between Genesis Faraday and the applicants if their application is successful. All expenditure must be clearly accounted for in a short final report produced by the research base partner.

Number of SPARK Awards and sources of funding

Funding has been secured to allow a total of 12 SPARK awards in 2009. We aim to award **seven** SPARK awards in the first call of 2009. In addition, we expect to make a second call for projects in October 2009, when at least five awards will

be available. Any awards unallocated from the first call will also be carried over to the second call.

Of the 12 awards available in 2009, eight grants will be provided using funding from the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Research and Analysis Directorate (RERAD) and four grants will be made using Scottish Government SEEKIT funding, as part of the Animal Bioscience KT Network project. The management and administration of these awards is made possible by the core support that the Genesis Faraday Partnership receives from the Scottish Government, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and European Regional Development Funds.

What projects are eligible?

SPARK awards from both RERAD & SEEKIT are available in the first call of 2009, and the remit and eligibility for each funding source are detailed below. The seven projects available in the first call of 2009 will be allocated to be funded by either RERAD or SEEKIT, depending on the applications received.

Funding Source	RERAD, 8 projects available in total in 2009	SEEKIT, 4 projects available in total in 2009
Remit for projects	Genesis Faraday remit, namely <i>Genetics and genomics of domestic animals (including aquaculture species) and the pathogens of these species, as applied to animal breeding and animal health</i>	Projects can be in <i>any area of animal bioscience² that is related to domestic animal species</i> . Please feel free to contact Genesis Faraday to check the eligibility of potential projects. Genesis Faraday reserves the right to decide whether a project falls within the remit of animal bioscience.
Who is eligible to apply for funding	RERAD funded SPARK awards are only available to researchers employed by a University or Research Institute, in conjunction with a SME. Both partners are expected to be members ⁴ of the Genesis Faraday Partnership. Please note, in a change to previous SPARK calls, funds are <u>not</u> limited to UK members of Genesis Faraday, and existing members in EU and Associated States can also apply to be partners in RERAD funded SPARK projects, provided that one partner in the project is a UK based Genesis Faraday member.	The SEEKIT funded SPARK awards are only available to researchers employed by a Scottish University or Research Institute, in conjunction with a Scottish SME. It is not essential for partners to be Genesis Faraday members, but this is encouraged.

The Allocation Process

In a process scrutinised by the Genesis Faraday Research and Development Committee⁵ (RDC), a group comprising the Genesis Faraday Director, Technology Translators and the Chairman of the RDC, as well as a

representative from Scottish Enterprise, will decide the allocation of the SPARK Awards. Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the Genesis Faraday remit
- Research Partner's track record
- Potential for the creation of new long term relationships between the partners
- Benefit to the research and SME partnership
- Quality of the work proposed
- Value for money
- Value of the clearly defined project deliverable(s) to the SME.
- The contribution of the SME partner to the project, which can be in kind

Within the remits described above, priority will be given to proposals that:

- Help get 'something' to market (technology transfer)
- Work towards 'solving' a technical problem for an SME
- Are new partnerships that have not jointly received funding from any source
- Will result in applications for funding of new collaborative research or technology transfer projects. Examples might include the preparation of an application for a BBSRC Industrial Partnership Award, a LINK project, or a Knowledge Transfer partnership (KTP).
- Help an SME improve the technology aspects of its Business Plan
- Contribute to the uptake of a molecular genetic test by breeders or in animal health diagnostics
- Adapt an existing technology for a new application
- Help improve an SME's capabilities to innovate

Application Procedure

Application forms can be requested from and should be submitted to info@genesis-faraday.org

Applications may be submitted by either party. The award is only payable to the research partner.

The completed Genesis Faraday SPARK Award Application Form should be e-mailed to info@genesis-faraday.org. In the event of repeated copies of any application being received, the latest copy will be regarded as the valid copy. Only Application Forms received by **Midnight Wednesday 2nd September 2009** will be considered.

Applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application on or before Friday 2nd October 2009. If your application is successful, you will be offered a grant of £5,000 (plus applicable VAT) to carry out the work proposed in your application.

Administration of projects

The project **must** be completed within 6 months from the agreed start date of the project. There will be no negotiation on this deadline and extensions will not be

granted. If a project is not completed in this time the funding award will be withdrawn.

The grant is payable in arrears and will be paid on receipt of a report of the work undertaken, written by the knowledge base partner and signed by the representative of the SME. A version of the report will be published on the Genesis Faraday website www.genesis-faraday.org, in full or in part, subject to exclusion of commercial confidential information. A short public summary of about 250 words must also be provided.

Further information

Please contact info@genesis-faraday.org for an application form. If you have questions or would like to discuss potential projects, please contact the Genesis Faraday office on 0131 527 4358 or one of our Technology Translators:

Dr David Telford tel: 0131 527 4329 david.telford@genesis-faraday.org
Carol Telford tel: 0131 527 4358 carol.telford@genesis-faraday.org
Dr Huw Jones tel: 0131 527 4236 huw.jones@genesis-faraday.org
Dr Tom Skinner tel: 0131 527 4365 tom.skinner@genesis-faraday.org

¹ Please note; Genesis Faraday will become part of a Knowledge Transfer Network in 2009. However, despite a change in structure and name, the new organisation will implement the SPARK call as described in this document.

² Animal Bioscience can include: Animal breeding (Farm animals, Aquaculture, Domestic pets and horses, Honey bees and game species); Animal health (Therapeutics, Vaccines, Bioactives, Biomarkers); Diagnostics (Pathogen detection, Selectable DNA markers, Traceability and authenticity, Measurement technology); Biotechnologies (Reproductive technologies, In vitro cell technologies, Research models)

³ Definition of SME:

- Fewer than 250 employees
- Either an annual turnover not exceeding 40 million euro or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 27 million euro.
- Less than 25% owned by a larger organisation (unless these are financial investors, such as banks or venture capitalists)
- Not a research centre, research institute, contract research organisation or consultant
- Registered and operating in the UK

⁴ Membership of the Genesis Faraday Partnership is open to companies, research organisations and intermediate organisations having a legitimate research or business interest directly related to animal breeding or animal health or the sale of animal products derived from UK agriculture. For further details and an application form, visit <http://www.genesis-faraday.org> or email info@genesis-faraday.org

⁵ Or any equivalent Committee created as part of the new Knowledge Transfer Network