PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS PARTNERSHIPS

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has now concluded the evaluation process for the *Product Development and Access Partnerships,* in accordance with the process set out in the Application Guidelines.

The call for proposals was very competitive, with 20 applications received for $75 million in available funding. We appreciate the time applicants took to prepare their applications.

All applications were screened for eligibility, in accordance with the criteria set out in the Application Guidelines.

Eligible applications were then reviewed by an expert Technical Assessment Committee (TAC) against the following evaluation criteria, as published in the Application Guidelines:

A. Organisational effectiveness and risk management (20%)
B. Maturity and breadth of lead organisation's portfolio (20%)
C. Global Access Strategy (20%)
D. Regional Product Access Activities (20%)
E. Regional Trial Activity (10%)
F. Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) (10%)

In accordance with the published Application Guidelines, an expert Evaluation Committee (EC) considered the TAC assessment and weighted scores, in addition to portfolio balance (including target diseases, product type, and geographical scope). Based on this, the EC made recommendations for a portfolio of proposals to proceed to the next phase of due diligence and agreement negotiations.

Highly rated proposals tended to:

- Make clear that the applicant had suitably qualified personnel included on the project; had excellent governance, administrative, financial, risk mitigation and HR systems in place; and that the organisation was effective and impactful.
- Demonstrate two more product candidates in the portfolio which had Phase I trials (or later), a five-year history of research and development, and relevant activity in Southeast Asia and/or the Pacific.
- Clearly demonstrate how their organisation was addressing product access barriers.
- Include multiple countries in Southeast Asia and/or the Pacific in both the clinical trial and access plans. Viewed particularly favourably were activities that clearly demonstrated value and impact in countries in Southeast Asia and/or the Pacific with a higher disease burden and/or barriers to access.
- Demonstrate past or current clinical trials in Southeast Asia and/or the Pacific.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion and how it relates to product design, target audience, trial design and product access; show how their proposal would benefit groups who experience barriers to access (including women and girls, and people with disabilities); and allocate sufficient resources for these activities.
- Demonstrate good value-for-money.

As stated in the Application Guidelines, individual feedback will not be available to unsuccessful applicants.