

NEEDLEMAKERS' AWARD FOR ADVANCED NEEDLE TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Note: This policy document is intended as a guide for the Award Panel and Award Applicants. It is not an exhaustive document, rather it conveys the spirit and principles of the Award, together with some helpful guidance on the mechanics of the application and award cycle.

1. Award objective of The Worshipful Company of Needlemakers ("the Company")

- 1.1 Through the Needlemakers' Award for Advanced Needle Technology, the Company intends to support an early-stage project developing medical or bio-science products, technologies or services demonstrably involving the innovative and/or advanced use of needles or needle replacements for the benefit of patients and wider society.
- 1.2 By partnering with the Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs ("the Entrepreneurs"), the Company can use the established Entrepreneurs' Award in Social Innovation ("EASI") framework and facilities. Both Companies can benefit from shared resources, knowledge and networks, for the purpose of supporting and escalating early-stage innovation.
- 1.3 A package of expertise and resources will be made available by the Company, in conjunction with the Entrepreneurs, to help the Award winner to develop their operational capacity, make connections, and scale the impact of their work.

2. Priorities and criteria for support

- 2.1 The intention of the Company is that it will support one award annually.
- 2.2 Priority will be given to applications that most closely satisfy the objective within the award cycle in which they are made and have the potential for widespread use.
- 2.3 Priority will further be given to proposals for which the Award represents substantial support in getting the product or service to market.
- 2.4 Projects must have progressed beyond fundamental research and have clear potential to involve a commercial impact in due course.
- 2.5 Applications may be made by individuals or teams within academic or clinical innovation hubs or from within early-stage or developing commercial organisations or social enterprises. Charities, non-profits, and public bodies are also eligible to apply.
- 2.6 Although applications from any geographical area within the UK are eligible for consideration, applicants should bear in mind that the winner will be expected to attend mentoring meetings, workshops and livery events online and in person, including in London.
- 2.7 All applications from previous award winners or from previously unsuccessful applicants will be considered by the Panel on their own merits.

- 2.8 The Company, in partnership with the Entrepreneurs, will provide the successful applicant organisation with a package of support comprising a programme of workshops and mentoring from medical and business experts together with access to valuable networks, along with a one-off award of £10,000 payable by the Company to the applicant organisation which must be used to support the project against agreed targets (for example, to cover the costs of external advice and applications).
- 2.9 The winner will nominate a lead person to become a Freeman of the Company, subject to interview and references.
- 2.10 The Company may work in partnership with other organisations to fund and administer the award and subsequent support.

3. Award application process

- 3.1 All applications for the Award should be completed in conjunction with this policy, and the advertised award cycle.
- 3.2 The application process is in two stages. In the first instance, applicants should send an email to Award.Applications@needlemakers.org.uk setting out (1) the name of the organisation and principals making the application, together with evidence of good standing (for example, a letter from a parent organisation or company details if available), (2) CV of the lead applicant(s) not exceeding 2 pages of A4, and (3) a description of the innovative project in plain English with a maximum word count of 300 words addressing why the project meets the award objective and criteria set out in paragraph 2 above.
- 3.3 In the second stage, a shortlist of applicants will be invited to submit to Award.Applications@needlemakers.org.uk the completed online application form.
- The application form consists of the following three sections. Each section should be completed with a maximum word count of 500 words:
- Please describe your project and the health or social problem being addressed, including how it aligns with the award objective set out in paragraph 1.1 above. Please include the project's TRL stage of development and evidence generated to date.
 - Please describe how your project will benefit individuals and the potential for wider societal use.
 - Please state how the award will help you bridge a gap and get you closer to your goal.
- 3.4 From the shortlist of applicants, selected finalists will be invited to present their project via video call to the judging panel.
- 3.4 Applying for and/or winning EASI will not preclude applications from applying for and/or winning the Needlemakers Award, and vice versa.

4. Assessment process

- 4.1 The process will be conducted in accordance with the assessment timeline as published by the Company.

- 4.2 The Award winner will be selected by a Panel of experts with a clinical, academic or commercial background nominated by the Company.
- 4.3 Applications will be assessed against the application criteria as set out above and having regard to the strength and feasibility of the project.
- 4.4 The Company will not be obliged to provide an explanation to the applicant should the application be unsuccessful.

5. Monitoring and publication

- 5.1 The Award will be monitored by the Company. Reasonable conditions may be applied by the Company to the Award and progress may be assessed and payments made by instalment against agreed targets. The Company reserves the right to withdraw the Award in part or in whole if targets are missed.
- 5.2 Award winners should inform the Company of any relevant changes to their circumstances that could impact delivery.
- 5.3 Reasonable monitoring visits by representatives of the Company may be made during the period of the Award.
- 5.4 The Company should be accredited in any relevant published articles, papers or other outputs which may result from the Award. A minimum reporting standard is "*X is the 20** winner of the Worshipful Company of Needle makers Award for Advanced Needle Technology*" but it may be appropriate to include the Company's logo or other relevant details (by prior agreement with the Company).
- 5.5 The Company should be offered copies of any relevant publicity, articles, papers or other outputs which may result from the Award.