

DRIVING GROWTH ▲

## DISRUPT PROGRAMME

First Call for Proposals  
*DISRUPT/0123(C)*

17 January 2024

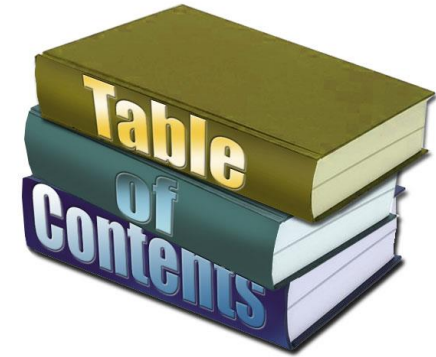
**Marinos Portokallides**  
**Scientific Officer 'A**  
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ΙΔΡΥΜΑ  
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ

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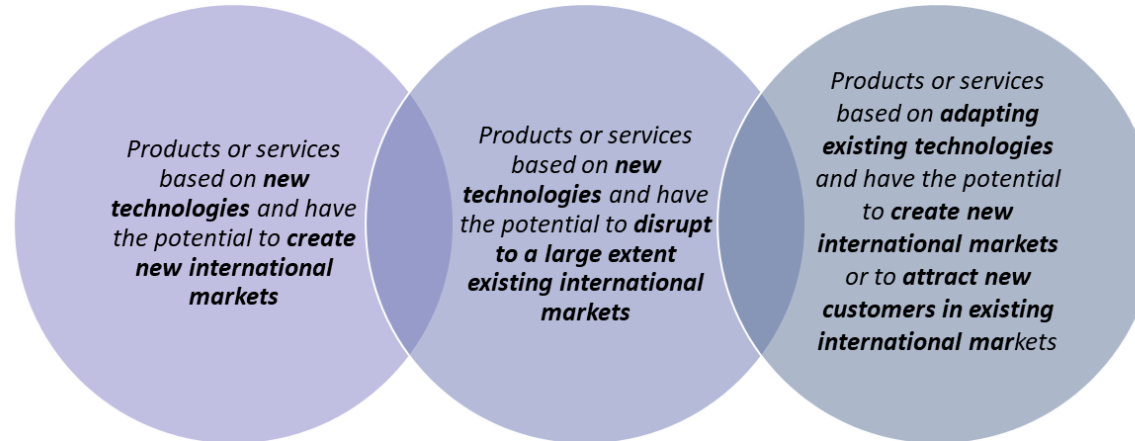


## ► Targets

### *DISRUPT Programme ...*

- ❑ *Connecting **enterprises** which develop **cutting-edge innovations**\* with the potential to create new or disrupt existing markets, with **Venture Capitals** who will support the further development and scale-up of these enterprises in international markets*
- ❑ *Enhancing the **competitiveness and resilience of the Cypriot economy***

### *\* Cutting-edge Innovations:*





## ► General Call Information

- Call Announcement: **20 January 2023**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Proposal Submission Deadline: **22 March 2024, 13:00 local time**
- Evaluation Timeline: **March – July 2024**
- Contracts Signing: **4<sup>th</sup> Trimester 2024**
- Budget: **€ 3.000.000 + Unused Budget from Previous Deadline**
- Maximum Funding per Project: **€ 1.500.000**
- Project Duration: **Up to 18 Months**
- Funding Intensity: **70% - Max Funding Percentage on Eligible Expenses**  
*(different % per activity type)*

**DEADLINE**





## ► Conditions for Participation (1)

- Host Organisation (HO): **Small, Medium, or Large Enterprise**
- The participation of Partner Organisations and Foreign Research Organisations is not allowed
- At the proposal submission stage, enterprises should have:
  - ✓ *A **Minimum Viable Product (MVP)**, for which beta testing has already been completed and is currently available in at least one market. (**For innovations in biomedicine area, at least the in-vitro testing stage has been completed**)*
  - ✓ *A **legally binding agreement with a VC Fund**, which foresees a **direct investment in equity of at least € 1 M** in the company, to support its scale-up towards the international markets*
- Each Enterprise can receive funding from the RIF for **only one Project** in the frame of the Programme during the 2022-2027 period



## ► Conditions for Participation (2)

- The investment fund(s) should be **regulated** in a competent authority in Cyprus or in another member state of the **European Economic Area**
- The investment should be made between the **Call announcement date and until the end of the Project** funded by the RIF (*Otherwise, the Host Organisation should return funding awarded back to the RIF*)
- To justify the investment, during the Project implementation period, the RIF will require **relevant proofs for the transactions** (e.g. documentation of issued share capital).



## ► Conditions for Participation (3)

- All beneficiaries that have not previously participated in the RESTART 2026-2020 Programmes, should make use of the **simplified cost Method «Standard Scales of Unit Costs»\*** for the calculation of personnel costs
- Funding of same activities** that have already been supported by the RIF in the frame of previous funded projects, is **not allowed**
- In the cases where the suggested project, requires to undergo a **bioethical assessment** by the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee, the relevant approval should be ensured **prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage of the Evaluation**
- Funded Projects should comply with the **«Do No Significant Harm» principle**, according to which they must not include or support activities that could cause significant harm to the environment
- The Host Organisation should **interact with the Central Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO)** for the preparation of a **customised Action Plan** for the Provision of Services by the KTO



## ► Standard Scales of Unit Costs

Staff Category	Hourly Rate (€) – <i>Under Revision</i>
Researcher at Professor level at a Higher and Tertiary Education Institution	45
Private sector executives	36
Researcher at Associate Professor level at a Higher and Tertiary Education Institution or PhD holder with at least seven (7) years since the date awarded	34
PhD Holder	25
Holder of Degree or Post Graduate Title with at least five (5) years since the date awarded	22
Holder of Degree or Post Graduate Title less than five (5) years since the date awarded	19
Technical staff	19

**Eligible Personnel Cost = Hourly Rate X Hrs Worked on the Project (Staff Effort)**





## ▶ Eligible Activities (1)

- ❑ Experimental Development (TRL 6-8): **Prototyping, demonstration, pilot** operation, **testing and validation** of new or improved innovative products / services or new functionalities, features, and uses for the MVP
- ❑ **Feasibility Study: Feasibility** Study for the realization of the innovative business idea (investigation of the commercial potential, validation/update of the business model)
- ❑ **Innovation:**
  - **Innovation advisory services, assistance and training** in the fields relating to the use of **standards and regulations** embedding them
  - **Innovation Support Services** for: (a) Testing and certification, (b) Access to research infrastructures, libraries and databases, (c) Market Research, and (d) Quality Labelling
- ❑ **Participation in Fairs/Exhibitions:** Participation of the company in trade fairs / exhibitions with **private stand** for the **promotion** of the product / service

## ▶ Eligible Activities (2)

- ❑ Other Production, Communication, Investment Attraction and Market Penetration Activities:
  - **Branding/Marketing/Investment** Readiness, Users' involvement, product/service and packaging **design, internationalisation, user manuals** preparation etc.
  - **Equipment**
  - Design and preparation of **Communication Material** (publications, audio-visual material, graphic design services)
  - **Support services and research for internationalisation/penetration in new markets**
  - **Meetings** with potential investors/customers

*The investment fund(s) may cover any activities deemed necessary by the investors for the scale-up and market deployment of the innovation, including the company's own contribution to the RIF funded project*





## ► Eligible Costs (1)

### 1. Experimental Development: *Funding Intensity = Up to 60%*

- Personnel Cost
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (*depreciation*)
- Costs for Travelling Abroad
- Costs for External Services (*up to 10% of Experimental Development Budget*)
- Consumables
- Other specific costs
- Overheads (*up to 20% of the direct costs for Experimental Development Activities*)





## ► Eligible Costs (2)

### 2. Feasibility Study: *Funding Intensity = 70%*

- Personnel Cost
- Overheads (*up to 20% of the Personnel Cost for Feasibility Study*)

### 3. Innovation: *Funding Intensity = 50%*

- External Services

### 4. Participation in Fairs: *Funding Intensity = 50%*

- Costs for **Renting and Setting-up stand**
- Registration Cost**
- Transportation of material / insurance costs**
- Travelling**



## ► Eligible Costs (3)

### 5. Other Activities (De-Minimis Aid): *Funding Intensity = 100%*

- Personnel Cost
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment – Incl. industrial production equipment (full cost)
- Costs for External Services
- Costs for Travelling Abroad
- Other specific costs

## ► Proposal Submission



- ❑ **Proposals are submitted** through the Research and Innovation Foundation's IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy>)
- ❑ The Project Proposal consists of the following parts:
  - **Part A** – General Information & Budget (*electronic form (fields) to be completed online through the IRIS Portal*)
  - **Part B** – Technical Annex (*document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format*) - **Maximum number of pages 25**
  - **Annex I** – Curricula Vitae (CVs of the Coordinator and the key personnel– *Mandatory Submission*) - *Recommended that, CVs are created according to the EUROPASS format and do not exceed 5 pages per person*
  - **Annex II** – Call Specific Information:
    - (a) **Signed legally binding agreement**, between the enterprises and the VC Fund,*
    - (b) **Proof to justify that the investment fund is regulated** in a competent authority in Cyprus or in another Member State of the European Economic Area, and*
    - (c) The company's **Business Plan** on the basis of which the investment was secured.*

## ► Evaluation

- Stage I: Remote Evaluation** by **two Independent Evaluators** which: **(a)** are specialists in the proposal topic, and/or **(b)** have good knowledge of the business environment in the proposal field, and/or **(c)** have relevant experience in product/service development
- Proposals securing an Evaluation Score of at least **12.00/15.00**, **qualify to Stage II** of the Evaluation
- Stage II:** Those Proposals that have qualified from Stage I, present their Proposals to an **Independent Evaluation Committee** consisted by experts with business background and relevant experience in product/service development
- Evaluation Criteria:** (1) **Excellence 30%**, (2) **Added Value and Benefit 35%**, (3) **Implementation 35%**
- Selection for Funding:** Proposals that have been deemed eligible for funding by the Committee (decision is final and cannot be appealed against)







## ► Useful Documents

- ❑ RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme Document  
<https://iris.research.org.cy/#!/index>
  
- ❑ Call Documents
  - [Call for Proposals \(EL\)](#)
  - [Call for Proposals \(EN\)](#)
  - [Part B – Technical Annex](#)
  - [Guide for Evaluators](#)
  - [FAQs](#)
  
- ❑ IRIS Guidelines (Registration, Proposal Preparation/Submission)  
<https://iris.research.org.cy/#!/documentlibrary>

## ► Contact / Support



For More Information:

RIF Website: [www.research.org.cy](http://www.research.org.cy)

IRIS Portal: <https://iris.research.org.cy/>



**Supporting RIF's Clients**

RIF Support Service:

[support@research.org.cy](mailto:support@research.org.cy) | Τηλ. 22-205000



*Thank You...*

*It's not about ideas. It's about making ideas happen!*

Scott Belsky, Behance Co-founder