

Project Specification

Tender details – the opportunity

Company name	Mykor Ltd
Company address	Studio 23A, 272 High St, Chatham, ME4 4BP
Description of company activity/SIC code	16290, 72190
Objective of the proposed innovation project- this MUST involve activity that results in the development of or introduction to the market of a new product or service (max 300 words)	<p>The UK construction industry contributes to 25 million tonnes of waste ending up in landfills every year. Worldwide, the construction industry contributes to 50% of climate change, 40% of drinking water pollution, 23% of air pollution and 50% of landfill waste. Our customers (construction companies, developers, installers, architects) need to comply with environmental regulations but the sustainable products currently on the market are not as performative as their oil-based counterparts.</p> <p>Our proposed innovation is carbon-negative natural insulation made from locally sourced forestry and construction waste. Our fabrication technique involves the use of mycology to mix mycelium and cellulosic waste. Mycelium is the "root" of mushrooms and functions as a natural adhesive. The strains used will bind the waste material and grow in the span of four weeks, involve minimum use of water, and cure at low temperatures.</p> <p>We work at the intersection of materials science, biotechnology, and design to provide highly performative and sustainable products with application in the built environment.</p>

<p>Company's current situation – existing project team and innovation project development stage (max 400 words)</p>	<p>We have a team of three. We currently possess product design, manufacturing and commercial capabilities with an external advisor experienced in chemical engineering.</p> <p>We have created a minimum viable product that now requires further testing and scientific validation, we have tested this idea with the market through interviews and surveys with our desired segments and have received two letters of intent from future customers while pivoting into a solution for modular construction due to the results of this market research.</p>
<p>Business need – what expertise and support is required from a Knowledge Base to reach the objective(s) above? (max 400 words)</p>	<p>The expertise and support we need are mainly linked to materials science and polymer engineering, we wish to test our bio composite for insulating, weathering, fire-retardancy, and soundproofing properties amongst others to provide proof of concept for our desired application in construction.</p> <p>After the testing is completed, we will also need support to improve our prototype's physical properties that do not potentially comply with building regulations, we suspect a biotechnology engineer/mycologist could support us to organically improve key properties.</p> <p>Eventually, someone with construction experience could help us build our final prototype for modular construction so that we can validate our idea and proceed with a patent application.</p>
<p>Please list six key words that describe your potential project, i.e. ICT, engineering, biotech etc.</p>	<p>Chemical/Polymer Engineering, Materials Science, Industrial Biotechnology, Construction, Mycology, Manufacturing</p>
<p>Required timescales (if any) for Project Start and duration, and if applicable anticipated product launch date</p>	<p>1st September – 9-12 months</p>
<p>Optional - company budget available to match fund KEEP+ grant (if known) please see 'Further details' for maximum funding amounts</p>	

Company Contact for further information	Valentina Dipietro, hello@mykor.co.uk
Required tender response date (min 20 working days from posting of advert)	28 July 2021
<p>Responses are sought from organisations classified as Knowledge Bases, defined under the ERDF Definition of the Knowledge Base: Higher Education, Further Education and Research Entities which are: UK Public Sector Research Establishments, Research and Development Organisations, Research and Technology Organisations.</p> <p>The Company is seeking a Knowledge Base partner to work with them to develop a project which, dependent on a successful Grant Application, will be supported by the KEEP+ ERDF project using one of the two types of intervention described below. Please also see KEEP+ website – www.keepplus.co.uk</p> <p>In Stage 2, if the grant application to KEEP+ is successful, the Company requires the expertise of the Knowledge Base partner, to work with them to deliver the solution i.e. the project intervention supported by the KEEP+ grant.</p>	
Criteria for Decision making	<p>Assessment criteria are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise fit 50% • Timing fit 25% • Suitability of proposed methodology 25%
Date for Contract Decision	Minimum of 20 working days from date of advertisement
Tender response templates	Please approach the company for the exact format of your response.

Further details for potential respondents

You are responding to a tender for an activity which is eligible for part funding by the European Regional Development Fund, specifically under the KEEP+ Programme.

The KEEP+ Programme aims to support SMEs to develop new products and services by fostering long term collaborative relationships between Knowledge Bases – Universities and research institutions – and SMEs who need expertise and support for innovation.

Please see KEEP+ website for further information www.keepplus.co.uk or contact the KEEP+ project team 0845 196 4207 julie.benabdeljelil@anglia.ac.uk or 0845 196 4985 kayleigh.parkes@anglia.ac.uk

KEEP+ provides maximum allowable grants for its specific types of intervention. Those intervention types and maximum grant levels are as follows;

- KEEP Knowledge Exchange Embed Partnership (typically 12 months' duration) - this intervention involves a graduate working on a mid- to long-term activity with the support of a specific academic staff member, the graduate is based within the beneficiary company - grant allowance 50% of eligible costs and £10,000 capital.
- KEEP Research and Innovation Collaboration (no fixed duration) this intervention involves an academic colleague working on a short- to long-term activity, they are based at the Knowledge Base but with regular face-to-face interaction with the beneficiary company - grant allowance 50% of eligible costs plus a strict maximum of £10,000 capital.

The following is a guide to the types of cost that you should expect to occur should your application be successful;

- KEEP Knowledge Exchange Embed Partnership (typically 12 months' duration) – project development, associate wage, academic wage, administrative support, training and travel (on the part of the knowledge base employees), minor equipment (please note there is a potential separate grant for major capital purchases), recruitment
- KEEP Research and Innovation Collaboration (no fixed duration) – project development, academic wage, administrative support, consumables (please note there is a potential separate grant for major capital purchases)