Procurement to identify, incubate and implement practical plastics mitigation solutions for South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa

Objectives and Parameters for the Open SMEP Procurement (C_004)

Brochure updated 07 September 2021
Purpose of this document

This document provides an overview of the SMEP plastics procurement which aims to identify, incubate and implement practical plastics mitigation solutions which have application across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The SMEP programme is investing in initiatives with the potential to reduce the negative impacts of plastics on the environment and aims to identify fundable, innovative concepts with the potential to make a meaningful reduction in plastic pollution. The programme will provide funding of up to £5 million* over a 36-month period to advance innovative concepts to reduce plastics pollution. Between six and eight research projects will be funded*

The SMEP procurement process for the call is subject to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) critical approvals.

For more information on the SMEP programme, refer to the SMEP website. (www.SMEPProgramme.org)

*Note that the timing and allocations of this budget is such that 65%–70% of the project budget will likely become available only 16 months into the project (April 2023).
# The SMEP C_004 Procurement Call

This procurement has **two stages:**

## Stage 1: An Open Call for Concepts

- **Terms of reference** for the CfC provide guidance on criteria for concepts and links to the online application form.
- Applicants complete a Registration of Interest and submit Intention to Submit a concept ahead of completing an online concept submission via the online SMEP portal.
- Applicants are required to respond to questions thus providing information on how the concept meets programme criteria/objectives, a high-level funding requirement, and the potential impacts in terms of sustainability criteria (economic, environmental and societal).

## Stage 2: A Restricted Request for Proposals

- Concepts deemed to have a high degree of relevance and potential impact are shortlisted from Stage 1 and selected applicants invited to draw up a detailed project plan (refer to page 9, which provides insight on the selection criteria for the Request for Proposal (RfP) phase)
- Proposals will expand on how the project resonates with the SMEP intervention on plastics pollution, potential upstream and downstream societal and environmental impacts and benefits and life cycle considerations.
- Submissions are via an online portal, and promising bids may be requested to participate in a challenge session or interview with SMEP decision-makers for final interrogation.

Direct engagement with the SMEP programme is welcomed: procurement@smepprogramme.org
## Plastic Pollution Intervention: Type of solutions sought

### The Call for Concepts seeks intervention in the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Substitution:</th>
<th>Accelerated Biodegradation:</th>
<th>Improved Manufacturing and Re-manufacturing solutions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Replacing, where shown to be beneficial, established plastics with alternative materials (including recycled plastics feedstocks, which ease the waste burden).</td>
<td>• This category refers to: <strong>End-of-life solutions</strong>, which when successfully applied, control the nature and the rate of degradation of plastics in a waste management environment (for example through discrete microbiological activity).</td>
<td>• Development of novel interceptor devices which prevent the loss of plastics raw materials from production operations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Integration of well-designed biodegradable solutions* / materials into the manufacturing of plastics articles</td>
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<td>• Repurposing of plastics articles at the end of their first service life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improving the recyclability of single-use items through both innovative design and new materials solutions.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Industrial symbiosis approaches which target manufacturing waste and improve resource efficiency.</td>
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</table>

### Solutions

Solutions may be based upon a combination of these and should show what financial support is needed to gain traction and progress rapidly through technology readiness levels or to overcome regulatory barriers. Solutions should be supported by suitable business models or necessary design or concept changes to reduce the likelihood of problematical single-use items persisting in the environment.

The scope of solutions, as they relate to the plastics value chain, are described overleaf. These include **emergent or newly established raw materials technologies, innovative product design solutions** (which reconfigure or substitute articles prone to littering/dispersal), **inventions that prevent the leakage of raw materials** from production and distribution operations across the focus countries.

*Important Note: Biodegradability is a material function, and systems based on biodegradable materials need to be fit for purpose, conform to the appropriate technical standards (e.g., ASTM Standards) consistent with the end-of-life fate intended for the proposed solution and carefully considered before deployment. For example, due consideration should be given to the effect that biodegradable polymer items may have on established plastic-recycling infrastructure or the impact upon littering behaviour.*
Scope of the C_004 Plastics Procurement

CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION
1. Material development and material substitution
2. Accelerated biodegradation
3. Improved manufacturing and re-manufacturing

RAW MATERIALS PRODUCTION
Traditional Polymers
New Polymers inc. Biopolymers
Alternative Materials
Recycled Materials

Conversion
Article Manufacture

Design or Concept Change

EOL MANAGEMENT IN

Material Recycling

Bio-Mass Treatment
To Products (IS)
To Bio-Energy Compost

Chemical Recycling
To Products (IS)
To Fuels

EOL MANAGEMENT OUT

MSW Management

EfW Disposal

POLLUTION Remediation

CONSUMPTION
Use
Reuse
Secondary Use

Distribution

Refurbishment Repurposing

PRODUCTS

New Models

By Products(IS)

LEAKAGE CONTROL

SCOPE OF SMEP

Scope of the C_004 Plastics Procurement

LEAKAGE CONTROL

RAW MATERIALS PRODUCTION
Traditional Polymers

Traditional Polymers, where these are
Applied Mindfully
New Polymers inc. Biopolymers
Alternative Materials
Recycled Materials

CONVERSION
Article Manufacture

Design or Concept Change

PRODUCTS

New Models

By Products(IS)

CONSUMPTION
Use
Reuse
Secondary Use

Distribution

Refurbishment Repurposing

IS = Industrial Symbiosis (Waste to Resource)
EOL = End-of-Life phase
MSW = Municipal Solid Waste Operations
EfW = Energy from Waste
Geographical Scope: Territories

Although plastic pollution is a global phenomenon, SMEP is expressly look for interventions that have application in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Solutions that originate in any country will be considered (these should be aligned with FCDO directives) however solutions must have application in the broader target region.

SMEP target countries of preference are listed below, noting that where an intervention can be justified by regional considerations and/or opportunities for scaling these will be considered. Providers may elect to work in more than one country in a sub-region.

Sub-Saharan Africa:
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zambia

South Asia:
- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Pakistan
## Timeframe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call phase</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 1: Call for Concepts</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Call for Concepts (C_004) <em>open</em></td>
<td>Open 7 weeks: 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; May – 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Evaluate concepts</td>
<td>5 weeks: 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July - 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 2: Request for proposals</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Request for Proposals (restricted call)</td>
<td>Launched 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; August 2021 Closes 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October 2021</td>
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Please follow web-page for further updates

*dates are as they stand, but are subject to change as required*
Anticipated implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 1</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>End March 2022</th>
<th>± 10 projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Applicants to focus on interrogating assumptions / unknowns</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>End March 2023</th>
<th>± 5 projects</th>
<th>± 5 projects:</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(with promising outcomes) advanced to FY3 - Conservative spend</td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
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<td>Paused</td>
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<td>Targeted</td>
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<td>feasibility work continued</td>
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<tr>
<th>FY 3</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>End March 2024</th>
<th>± 10 projects</th>
<th>Pending decision above</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>advance or continue with ambitious spend</td>
<td>above</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 4</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>End Oct 2024</th>
<th>± 5 projects</th>
<th>Pending decision above</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>continue with ambitious spend</td>
<td>above</td>
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# Plastic Pollution Intervention

## Additional information relevant to the procurement call and contracting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Contracting Party</th>
<th>Procurement Documents</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The PMA has been appointed by FCDO to implement the SMEP programme.</td>
<td>The PMA will make a public announcement when the procurement documentation is finalised. These will be available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As the consortium lead for the PMA, Pegasys is the party that enters into contract with appointed service providers:</td>
<td>The procurement documents will be available on the <a href="https://www.smepprogramme.org">SMEP programme website</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Pegasys Limited**  
Company Number: 10333897 (Registered in England)  
Physical Address: Tower Bridge House, St Katharine’s Way, London E1W 1DD | **Communication and additional Information** |
| **Type of contracts to be issued** | Queries and requests for additional information can be obtained from the PMA at procurement@smepprogramme.org. |
| • Research services | More information on the SMEP Programme can be found at [www.smepprogramme.org](http://www.smepprogramme.org). |
Next Steps

Concept submissions are now closed

Shortlisted concepts have been advanced to a second stage and are invited to submit funding proposals to the PMA for consideration (via a restricted call). Shortlisted candidates will be required to participate in a pitching and Q&A session with an independent panel of experts, including those from the SMEP Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP).

For more information, see https://www.smepprogramme.org/s/procurement/plastics-c-004