



Call for Proposals: Innovations to Prepare for Future Epidemics and Pandemics

Application template for Focus Area 1 (Innovative vaccine platforms that can transform outbreak response)

Important guidelines: Instructions are presented in italics. Before submission, please delete this and all other guideline text (in italics) throughout this document. Keep the font size no smaller than 9 pkt. Please keep the headings in bold under each section.

Maximum page length: 5 pages for Exploratory Awards, 10 pages for Platform Development Awards. Under Research Strategy, please only complete the sections that are applicable to the proposed studies. This cover page is not included in the page count.

This call for proposals is open from October 24, 2023 to April 14, 2026 (Seed) or June 8, 2026 (Exploratory only). A proposal may be submitted at any time. Proposals for Exploratory Awards will be reviewed on a monthly basis. Please refer to the Call for Proposals text for **Focus Area 1** for more details.

Contact information	
Lead organisation:	Web page:
Type of lead organisation (academic, biotech, etc.):	
Country of the lead organisation:	
Name of the main contact:	Email:
Is this a resubmission to this call for proposal?	☐ Yes ☐ No
If resubmission of the proposal, please describe in brief what changes has been made to the development approach.	

1. Project summary (please keep this section under 1 page)

Project title

Award Type	☐ Focus Area 1, < 18 months, Under \$1M: Innovative Vaccine Platforms Exploratory Award ☐ Focus Area 1, < 36 month, \$1M – \$5M: Innovative Vaccine Platforms Technology Development Award
Vaccine Technology	Briefly describe the vaccine platform technology
Target Pathogen	Please indicate the virus targeted by the proposed vaccine candidate. (Eligible pathogens described in Table 1)
Impact of Technology	Briefly describe how the proposed vaccine technology platform transforms outbreak response to Disease X.
Development Plan	Briefly indicate the proposed activities to advance the development of the vaccine platform technology.
Proposed Budget	Indicate the total budget amount
Potential Project start and Duration	Indicate the project tentative start date and duration

2. Impact & Innovation

Please describe the proposed vaccine platform/candidate and briefly address each of the following points:

1. The current status of project and presentation of key data generated to date for the platform and vaccine candidate. Proof of concept data to support this claim must be included in the application. **Please note that any application that lacks data figures/tables will be considered incomplete and ineligible for review.**
2. How the proposed vaccine platform could address outbreak requirements for:
 - a. Speed (Development of a vaccine within 100 days of an outbreak)
 - b. Safety/efficacy, (Acceptable safety/reactogenicity profile, reduction of viral transmission, protection against potential variants and related viruses, rapid-onset of protection, and long duration of protection)
 - c. Accessibility (Single-dose, thermostable, rapidly scalable manufacturing and low cost of goods and anticipated cost of the vaccine).
3. For Platform Development Awards (Optional for Exploratory Awards): Target product characteristics, including the intended use case, route of administration, dosing regimen, and target population
4. The advantages of the proposed vaccine platform or as compared to alternatives in the competitive landscape, including those that have advanced to licensure and those known to be under development.
5. To what extent does this proposal present a new paradigm or solve a critical technical challenge facing the field?
6. To what extent does the described technology align with or advance equitable access?

3. Research Strategy

3.1 Preclinical Development

This section should be completed by all applicants

Please address each of the following points:

1. (If proposing preclinical studies) The questions to be addressed and proposed studies to fill data gaps, including:
 - a. A clear definition for preclinical proof of concept (POC)
 - b. Strategy and scientific rationale for demonstrating preclinical POC
 - c. Rationale for estimated dose
 - d. Access to required samples, viruses, and reagents
2. Describe to what extent the proposed studies demonstrate the feasibility of the technology and address key data gaps? Please give a rationale for the selection of animal models.
3. Describe the platform development plan, including efficacy and safety studies, CMC development, and regulatory pathway (For Exploratory Awards please indicate your tentative platform development plan)
4. Which are the potential technical hurdles you may identify and are there alternative methods or approaches to be addressed as a mitigation?

3.2 Clinical Development (if applicable)

This section should be completed only by applicants who are seeking support for clinical development activities.

Please provide a high-level overview of:

1. Clinical development plans
 - a. Include a clear definition for Phase I POC
 - b. Strategy and scientific rationale for demonstrating Phase I POC
 - c. Access to required samples, viruses and reagents
 - d. Rationale and plans for vaccine dose and dose regimen.
2. Regulatory plans. If previous engagement with regulatory authorities, please provide a summary of regulator opinions on the technology and identification of risks.
3. Include a description of rights to intellectual property or licenses for all key technologies that comprise the formulated vaccine candidate, or a clear pathway to freedom to operate

3.3 Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Control (CMC) Development

Exploratory Award applicants can limit to a rough outline for their CMC development.

Please provide an overview of the status of process development and optimisation activities, including analytical methods and formulation.

1. Please summarize proposed studies for CMC development, including:
 - a. Plans to generate material of suitable quality for proposed preclinical and/or clinical studies
 - b. Plans that support the ideal storage requirements for the product, if applicable
2. Please describe plans or intentions to commit to technology transfer of the vaccine platform/candidate to developing country vaccine manufacturer(s) to enable equitable access.

4. Personnel & Environment

Please describe your organisation and/or your consortium

1. Principal investigators experience and merits.
2. Facilities, equipment and access to needed infrastructure.
3. If applicable, description of the consortium, roles, and experience in collaboration. Briefly outline the communication plan among participants, as well as plans for data sharing and storage.

Please indicate in the table below the roles of the organisations in the consortium by ticking relevant boxes and partners in the project as well as brief previous experience. Indicate any plans for partnership with, or existing agreements with developing country vaccine manufacturer(s).
(Please add or delete rows as necessary)

Organisation	Role in current project							Relevant experience
	Country	Research & Discovery	Pre-clinical	Clinical	Regulatory	Manufacture	Other	
<i>Applicant organisation name</i>								
<i>Cooperating partner 1</i>								
<i>Cooperating partner 2</i>								
<i>Cooperating partner 3</i>								
<i>Cooperating partner 4</i>								

5. Work Package Statement, Timeline and Key Milestones

Timeline – decision/key milestones

Please describe the high-level timelines for the proposed studies (for section 3, above) in the form of a simple Gantt chart. **Please completed the template below by filling in colour the relevant squares to represent the timelines of each work package (WP).** Please add further rows for additional WPs as required.

NB: Gantt charts created using other project management software will be accepted.

	Project Timeline (Month)															
	Year 1								Year 2							
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
WP1																
WP2																
WP3																
WP...																

For each WP, please indicate the decisions/key milestones and expected timings for when these criteria/milestones will be achieved. Please list the following information in the format indicated below:

- A detailed narrative description of each WP
- Start and end dates for each WP
- A breakdown of activities that would occur within each WP
- A narrative description of the Deliverables for each WP with the deliverable date

Preferred format:

WP1: [insert WP descriptive title]: [dd mmm yyyy – dd mmm yyyy]

[insert detailed narrative description and activities of the WP]

WP1 Deliverables: *[insert deliverables expected in WP1] (expected time e.g., Month 1)*

WP1: Milestones: *[insert milestones expected in WP1] (expected time e.g., Month 3)*

WP2: *[insert WP descriptive title]: [dd mmm yyyy – dd mmm yyyy]*

[insert detailed narrative description and activities of the WP]

WP2 Deliverables: XXXXX (duration)

WP2: Milestones XXXX (duration)

[Add in more work packages as needed]

5/10 page limit up to here

6. Budget & Grant

6.1 Total budget estimate (in US dollars)

Please provide a budget estimate for the innovation proposal. Table 1 is for aggregate budgets per project stage, and table two is for the same costs but broken into the different cost categories. Total 1 should equal Total 2 for each 6-month period column.

1. <i>Stage/area</i> (modify names as needed)	<i>Details</i>	<i>Year 1 Period 1 (\$)</i>	<i>Y1 P2</i>	<i>Y2 P1</i>	<i>Y2 P2</i>	<i>Budget narrative</i>
WP1						
WP2						
WP3						
Total 1* (=Total 2)						

2. <i>Budget allocation</i> (per cost category)	<i>Y1 P1 (\$)</i>	<i>Y1 P2</i>	<i>Y2 P1</i>	<i>Y2 P2</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Personnel					
Travel					
Consultants					
Equipment >\$5000					
Other Direct costs					
Sub-awards					
Total 2* (= Total 1)					

6.2 Financial information

1. Please provide a copy of the financial annual statements for the past two years including audit reports.
2. Please provide an overview of current company funding and the funding projection and - mix for the next 12 months?
3. Does the organization have experience with international grants management?
 - ☐ Yes (Please provide overview of grants received the past two years)
 - ☐ No

7. Other information

Any other information of relevance for the application

Please describe any other information of relevance for this application such as:

- Critical areas where you are likely to require assistance in completing the project; indicate specific roles that CEPI could play to facilitate you getting this type of assistance, for example in R&D (e.g., access to animal model facilities; access to CEPI's central laboratory network, access to immunogen designs, access to CEPI Adjuvant Library, matchmaking), etc. Please contact CEPI for further information if needed.
- Other information that may be relevant for CEPI's consideration

Coherence with CEPI policies

Please confirm you are willing to work with CEPI to bring your project into compliance with **CEPI policies** if you are successful in securing CEPI-funding (tick one box below for selected policies)

Equitable access:

[Equitable Access Policy](#)

[Advancing Equitable Access](#)

([Equitable Access Dashboard \(PDF\)](#))

☐ YES

☐ NO

Animal use: ([Animals-in-Research-Policy pdf](#))

☐ YES

☐ NO

Clinical trials conduct: ([Clinical-Trials-Policy.pdf](#))

☐ YES

☐ NO

Third Party Code: ([Third Party Code of Conduct](#))

☐ YES

☐ NO

If you answered NO to any of the above, please indicate your reasons

Dissemination plan of study results and data sharing

Describe the plan for public disclosure of results, plans for clinical trial registration, results reporting and research participant/patient data sharing.

8. Scientific References

Please provide key references

9. CV/Biosketches

Please provide CV/biosketch) for applicants, partners, and key experts. (max. 2 pages per CV/Biosketch)

10. Business Integrity*

**Note that organisations which are government bodies or academic institutions AND located in the UK, Europe or the US are not required to completed this*

CEPI evaluates the policies and controls of our third parties to assess the ability to comply with the business ethics principles in CEPI's Third Party Code.

Note that you may be asked to provide these policies as part of CEPI's assessment.

Policies

Does your organisation have a written policy in any of the following areas?

- ☐ Code of Conduct
- ☐ Anti-corruption
- ☐ Gifts and hospitality
- ☐ Business ethics program, including human rights.
- ☐ Harassment
- ☐ Conflict of interest
- ☐ Whistleblowing
- ☐ International sanctions
- ☐ Policy on the treatment of animals for research purposes
- ☐ Delegation of authority matrix
- ☐ Procurement

	☐ Information security ☐ Data protection (privacy)
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