

BactiVac Catalyst Project Applications

Top Tips for a Top Application

Here are some tips to help your application be well received by reviewers:

- Help the reviewers to help you by making your application as clear as possible.
- Include a clear statement of how the proposed work addresses the aims of BactiVac (how will this advance bacterial vaccine development).
- Please state clearly the gap in knowledge/capability that the project aims to address. If there are other vaccines in that space (in the pipeline or in the market) identify them and describe why your proposed work remains necessary.
- Please make clear references to supporting data for your concept/candidate (e.g. prior publications that demonstrate efficacy) or include supporting data in the proposal.
- Bacterial strain ID – what are the strains being used and how and why was the decision to use this strain made?
- Valency – to what extent is the proposal affected by issues of multivalency (the ability or inability of a vaccine to protect against infection due to different bacterial strains/serotypes/species) and how is this accounted for in your project.
- Describe who owns the strain being proposed as the source of the vaccine candidate.
- Describe who owns the background and the foreground IP that is in the proposal and how foreground IP will be shared between applicants.
- If the proposal includes an experiment (e.g. an immunisation/challenge/protection experiment) please include a *clear* experimental plan that describes:
 - The different groups (including positive and negative controls)
 - The number of units (e.g. animals) in each group (and justification for this number)
 - The extent to which the challenge model has already been defined and its appropriateness for the purpose proposed
 - The timeline of the experiment including immunisation/vaccination date, challenge date, challenge dose, challenge strain, challenge route, all sampling dates, end date (a figure may be helpful here).
 - A clear description of what the metrics of protection are (what is being measured) and why these are the most appropriate. For example, antibody titre (of what type and against what), bacterial cell count (from which organ), lesions, clinical signs, survival etc.
 - As the funding is from the UK, all animal experiments must meet the ethical requirements of UK legislation – noting the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) – see Section 9.0 in our [Catalyst Funding Guidance](#)

- If the proposal is evaluating samples from a survey – please state how many samples will be evaluated and their provenance and relevance to the research question.
- Use consistent terminology throughout your application.
- Be clear what each applicant is bringing to the project.
- Be mindful that projects requesting more than £50k will be subject to deeper scrutiny and only those of the highest standard will be approved. If you don't really need more than £50k to answer your question, you have more chance of receiving funding.
- If funding for extra equipment is requested, this must be robustly justified.
- **And finally** - ask a trusted colleague to proof-read your proposal before submission 😊