

The Horizon 2020 SME Instrument....

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The SME Instrument is specifically designed to provide support to innovative SMEs who have a stunningly good idea and want to take it to market. Collaborative partnership is not a requirement of this scheme.

The H2020 workprogramme for has 21 sections distributed across the 'Three Pillars' of H2020. There are SME instrument opportunities in 13 Of these sections



The opportunity is described in the SME (aka Innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises) [section of the H2020 Workprogramme](#). This is not a very straightforward document, as it includes a number of supporting activities in addition to the 'interesting bit' on pp 4 to 9.

The opportunities across the pillars include the following:

- High risk ICT innovation
- Nanotech, or other advanced tech for manufacturing and materials
- Space research and development
- [Further opportunities see Call Overview (link below)]

The scheme is based upon a linear innovation model and divides into three distinct phases:



Grants are available to successful proposers in the first two phases. Proposals for either phase can be made at any time. These proposals are collected into batches for evaluation. The batch dates will be found in the Call overview table.

The Call Overview provides a list of relevant themes together with links to further. The document may be found on <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/horizons-2020-sme-instrument - 2016-2017>

Notice that there are several cut off dates for proposals.

Support is provided for would be applicants initially by Enterprise Europe Network, and later by the SME National Contact point, who has created a [useful introductory note](#).

Further Reading

Europa SME Instrument home <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/sme-instrument>

SME Instrument FAQ: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/h2020-smeinst-2-2014/1597656-sme_instrument_faq_en.doc

SME Instrument topics from Participant Portal

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/ftags/sme_instrument.html#c,topics=ftags/s/SME/1/1&+callDeadline/desc

The UK SME National Contact Point is [Jane Watkins](#) 07500 051146 <https://www.h2020uk.org/smes-jane-watkins>