IPO seeks Innovative projects for £750,000 Fast Forward competition

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The annual Fast Forward competition run by the Intellectual Property Office has today launched a competition seeking universities and public sector establishments to collaborate in submitting innovative projects which benefit and help grow the UK economy.

Previous Fast Forward competitions have provided over £1.25 million pounds to 23 projects from social enterprises to creative industries.

The IPO's Chief Executive, Sean Dennehey said:

"UK universities lead the world as seats of learning, but they are also hubs of innovation, creating and harnessing intellectual property to fuel market competitiveness and economic growth.

"Fast Forward recognises and rewards projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to university-industry collaborations, providing funding that can help create new companies and services which benefit the UK economy and society."

One of the highest profile winners to date is the Bloodhound@University project based at the University of the West of England, which is involved in the Bloodhound Super Sonic Car (SSC) world land speed record project. Bloodhound@University secured £80,000 in funding from last year's competition to support an open and collaborative approach to intellectual property (IP) arising from its SSC.

Dr John Lanham, Director of Bloodhound@University at the University of the West of England said:

"The IPO's Fast Forward funding has enabled the project to foster an open and collaborative approach to IP sharing. The BloodhoundSSC project will share data from the designing, building, testing and running of the car to provide unprecedented access to teachers, lecturers and students. The project is also working with small and medium enterprises in the technology sector to adopt and adapt some of these practices and policies to improve their competitiveness in the marketplace."

This project is one example of the way Fast Forward can encourage universities and industry to benefit from each other's strengths and capitalise on their IP.

The closing date for the competition is Friday 14 December 2012.

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