



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24.5.2012
C(2012) 3314 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 24.5.2012

concerning the major project "Technology and Innovation Centre", forming part of the operational programme "Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland ERDF Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme" for structural assistance from the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the region of the Lowlands and Uplands in the United Kingdom

CCI 2011 UK 162 PR 001

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999¹, and in particular Article 41(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Decision C(2007)4504 of 27 September 2007, as last amended by Commission Decision C(2012)1094 of 21 February 2012, the Commission adopted an operational programme "Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland ERDF Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme" for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the region of the Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland in the United Kingdom.
- (2) On 7 March 2011 the managing authority submitted to the Commission a major project "Technology and Innovation Centre" in which it envisages a contribution from the ERDF under the priority axis 1 "*Research and Innovation*" of the operational programme. At the request of the Commission, the managing authority submitted additional information on 3 October 2011, 10 February 2012, 19 March 2012 and 2 April 2012. Details on the major project were transmitted following the form provided for in Annex XXI to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25.

Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund².

- (3) The managing authority has provided the Commission with all the necessary information on the major project in accordance with Article 40 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.
- (4) The Commission, having regard to the opinion of outside experts has appraised the major project in the light of the factors set out in Article 40 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and considers that it is consistent with the priorities of the operational programme, that it contributes to achieving the goals of those priorities and that it is consistent with other Union policies.
- (5) In accordance with Article 55(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the estimated current value of the net revenue to be generated by the major project has been taken into account when determining the amount to which the co-financing rate for the priority axis of the operational programme will apply.
- (6) The financial contribution from the ERDF to the major project should therefore be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to the major project "Technology and Innovation Centre", forming part of the operational programme "Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland ERDF Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme" for assistance from the ERDF under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the region of the Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland in the United Kingdom, is hereby approved.
2. The physical object of the major project is defined in Annex I.
3. The amount to which the co-financing rate for the priority axis 1 "*Research and Innovation*" of the operational programme applies for the major project is set at EUR 20 931 159.
4. The annual plan of financial contribution from the ERDF to the major project is set out in Annex II.

² OJ L 371, 27.12.2006, p. 1.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 24.5.2012

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

CERTIFIED COPY
For the Secretary - General

Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU
Director of the Registry

ANNEX I

Physical object of the major project

Infrastructure investment

1. Title of project

Technology and Innovation Centre

2. Body responsible for the implementation

2.1. Name: Research and Knowledge Exchange Services, University of Strathclyde

2.2. Address: Graham Hills Building, 50 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1QE, United Kingdom

3. Project description

3.1. General description of the physical object of the project

The Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC) is the University of Strathclyde's contribution to a large scale collaborative economic development project called the International Technology and Renewable Energy Zone (ITREZ), located in Glasgow City Centre.

The TIC is designed to bring together major university research and commercialisation activities with corporate and SME research and development to provide focus for translational infrastructure primarily in renewable energy and enabling technologies, particularly, low carbon technologies.

The direct beneficiary of TIC is the University of Strathclyde. Wider beneficiaries include project partners, other higher education institutions, businesses within the energy and enabling technologies sectors and ultimately the entire Scottish economy and wider society.

This project will contribute significantly to demonstration and adoption of new technologies that will lead to emissions reduction and/or improved carbon intensity by 2020. TIC's RTD and SME engagement will provide new low carbon products and services which can drive future sustainable economic growth and achieve the emissions reductions necessary to meet Scotland's climate change obligations.

3.2. Technical description of the infrastructure investment

The Technology and Innovation Centre will act as a hub for international collaborative RTD and economic activity with open public access to emphasize the societal impact of its research. The building will be Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) "excellent" – rated to underpin the

sustainability and low-carbon credential of the RTD and economic activity undertaken there.

The total floor area of the TIC building will amount to 22,000 square metres, which includes the following *indicative* allocations to generic activities:

- 6,700 square metres of office space;
- 7,200 square metres of specialist and shared laboratory accommodation;
- 650 square meters of generic laboratory space;
- 650 square meters of project laboratory space;
- 2,600 square meters of industry engagement space; and
- 4,200 square meters of ancillary, meeting and catering space.

The principle behind the space design is to allow for flexibility in the use of the building. The approach maximises the opportunity for academic staff and industry research staff to engage within the same workspace and reflects the main working style in TIC i.e. multidisciplinary collaborative RTD programmes and projects. This will allow research to be responsive to market requirements and provide a competitive edge for industrial partners, including SMEs.

Referring to the Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland ERDF Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme, the key output indicators are:

- five new SMEs supported per annum (i.e. different companies from those helped in preceding years). For clarification, it is expected that SMEs helped in one year will remain engaged with TIC on an on-going basis i.e. the cohort of engaged SMEs at, say, year 10 will be closer to 50 than 5;
- increase the turnover of supported SMEs by £854 700 (€1 million) per annum;
- two research networks and collaborations supported per annum;
- enable supported enterprises and research centres to develop two new products/services per annum;
- five renewable energy research projects supported per annum; and
- 1,436 gross new jobs created.

The University of Strathclyde will own and manage the TIC building and is already taking the lead role in managing and promoting TIC, its research, collaborative RTD and SME assistance programmes. In many cases the TIC programmes will be starting between now and estimated completion of the building in December 2013. The University has therefore already worked with its key partners to put in place the governance and management arrangements for the TIC building and its programmes.

ANNEX II

Annual plan of financial contribution from the ERDF to the major project

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ERDF	-	-	-	-	-	EUR 3 902 614	EUR 3 902 615