

Starworks Child Prosthetics, proof of concept competition

September 2017

COMPETITION SUMMARY

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Child Prosthetics Research Collaboration has been established to increase research and innovation in order to accelerate the translation of new discoveries and developments in child prosthetics into the clinic.

Led by the NIHR Devices for Dignity Med Tech Co-operative, it brings together leading national research centres with key experts from the NHS, industry, academia and patients in the field of Child Prosthetics.

Following broad consultation and identification of areas of high priority a new national competition is being launched to support technology development addressing the key challenges identified.

This call is looking for new technologies that allow the child to achieve their full potential. We have a specific interest in new technologies to optimise the socket and residual limb interface, upper and lower limb customisation and adaptation and other aspects such as how digital innovations may improve the clinical pathway .

The competition will open on Monday 18th September and close at 12 noon on Friday 27th October 2017.

It is open to organisations from academia, industry and the NHS (a minimum of two organisations from the different sectors should be involved) and it is expected that each project will have a close interface with children and families.

Entries will be selected by an open competition process primarily on their potential to address the unmet needs identified within the child prosthetics arena and on the improved outcomes delivered to children and families. To highlight these areas of need we are holding a number of sandpit events across the country during September and October. It is not essential that you attend these events, however it will help you fully understand the areas of priority identified within the needs assessment. To register for these events please go to www.starworks.eventbrite.com

It is expected that successful applicants will be informed during December 2017 with projects beginning Feb 2018 for a period of 6-9 months.

BACKGROUND

Starworks are a young people's prosthetics research collaboration and are bringing children and their families together with key opinion leaders from the NHS, Industry, Clinical Academia and leading National Research Centres with capabilities in child prosthetics.

The collaboration will increase research across the system in order to accelerate the translation of new inventions and developments in child prosthetics into everyday use. This initiative will be centred on the needs of children, patients and families and the NHS. It will ensure there is the ideal balance of 'clinical pull' and 'technical push' to create an energetic environment in which to innovate and to partner with industry.

As part of this collaboration we are funding a number of proof of concept projects which will look to solve issues identified as part of the needs assessment undertaken earlier in the year with children and families, industry, clinical staff and academia.

THE CHALLENGE

What happens during childhood affects health and wellbeing in later life. It is important to ensure that all children including those with health problems and long term conditions have the best start in life and are well equipped to deal with life's challenges. For children who require either an upper limb or lower limb prosthetic, having the correct prosthetic that enables them to play, socialise, go to school and enjoy life is absolutely essential.

This call is looking for new technologies that allow the child to achieve their full potential. We have a specific interest in new technologies to **optimise the socket and residual limb interface** and **upper and lower limb customisation and adaptation**. Another important area for improvement is the service journey and we are interested in how new **technology including digital innovations may improve the clinical pathway**.

COMPETITION FUNDING

It is expected that applicants will apply for up to £50,000 per project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is managed by the NIHR D4D HTC. Information on how to enter this competition can be found at www.devicesfordignity.org.uk/starworks_cp/ all entries must be submitted in accordance with the directions in the application form. The competition closes at 12 noon on Friday 27th October 2017.

KEY DATES

Competition launch	22nd September 2017
Deadline for applications	12 noon - 27th October 2017
Interview Panel if required	November 2017
Successful applications announced	December 2017
Projects begin	February 2017 (for a period of 6-9 months)