**TAKING LOW CARBON VENTURES FURTHER**

**The RIC Venture Support Programme 2012 is now open to applicants**

**Are you planning to set up your own business in the low-carbon field? Are you an entrepreneur who wants to venture into the low-carbon market with your product or service? Please read on to see how the RIC Venture Support Programme 2012 may help you take your venture further.**

**Background**

The Climate Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC) was established by 5 leading European Universities and 6 Regional Innovation Implementation Centres (RICs) to generate the transformational change needed to help Europe and the world respond to Climate Change. The KIC, which is supported by the European Institute for Innovation and Technology, aims to create a community of climate innovators who will help Europe towards low-carbon prosperity. It does so through a number of initiatives in the areas of Innovation, Education and Entrepreneurship.

The RIC Venture Programme is a pilot scheme set up by the 6 KIC regions[[1]](#footnote-1). These regions are developing a range of initiatives to support the transition to a low-carbon economy. These include Climate-KIC activities such as the Pioneer Cities project which explores the radical innovations needed in urban areas as well as the Pioneer into Practice programme which aims to develop a new generation of specialists, entrepreneurs and policy-makers who understand low carbon transitions. The RIC Venture Programme links closely to these wider activities. If successful, this programme is expected to continue in an expanded version in future years.

**Objective**

The RIC Venture Programme aims to aid the development of a number of new business projects in the RIC regions, by providing a support service package for start-up projects in the low-carbon sector.

**The offer**

Successful proposals will have access to a service package provided by the RIC partners such as Wrocławskie Centrum Badań EIT+ in Poland. The support package has been developed to be standard in all regions, but will be tailored to the specific business needs of the successful proposals and may involve engaging with local experts in your specific area of focus.

**2013 and beyond**

This is a pilot programme. As such, we are testing the approach and will evaluate findings. It is possible that further support is available to successful applicants, as this programme is rolled out. We will also continue to monitor outputs and outcomes into 2013 to develop further stages of the programme.

**The offer is structured as follows:**

18th June: Call for proposals: 18th June 2012

6th July: Deadline for proposals

13th July: Selection of first set of successful applications into STAGE 1

July – September: STAGE 1. Support to successful Applicants

**STAGE 1: Business Ideas**

* Access to a personal coach to write a basic business plan
* Networking support
* Guidance on services for start-ups follow-up business support in the region and beyond
* Opportunity to enter the European Venture Competition

**Incubation Programme**

September – October: STAGE 2. Support to a selection of the Stage 1 Applicants

**STAGE 2: Value Business Projects**

* Access to a personal coach to take advantage of regional opportunities
* Specialised support including market research support
* Access to incubator support including space and masterclass
* Entry into the European Venture Competition

October – December: STAGE 3. Support to 2 of the Stage 2 Applicants

**STAGE 3: Acceleration**

* Business Support Grant or Voucher of up to €20,000
* Access to personal coach to maximise regional and (inter)national opportunities
* Specialised networking support at EU level
* Access to incubator support including space and RIC wide masterclass
* Access to RIC wide master class
* Support with access to finance

**How do I apply?**

Download the Application form [here](http://www.climate-kic.org/entrepreneurs/networks/ric-venture-support-programme/). We advise you to contact your local RIC contact Aleksandra Grajkowska aleksandra.grajkowska@eitplus.pl before the deadline to talk through your plans and seek advise on the completion of the form. This is a competitive process so you will want to present your proposal as strongly as you can. Your proposal for Stage 1 will be assessed by a local Investment Panel. Proposals that are successful for Stage 1 will be assessed to by an international Investment Panel before moving to Stages 2 and 3.

**Read more**: <http://www.climate-kic.org/entrepreneurs/networks/ric-venture-support-programme>

1. West Midlands UK, Valencia Spain, Emilia Romagna Italy, Hessen Germany, Lower Silesia Poland and Central Hungary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)