

Accelerating Aquaculture Innovation (AAI)

Improving innovation and
export opportunities for SMEs

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About the AAI programme

- Borne from SAIC's engagement with industry, which identified:
 - An appetite amongst aquaculture SMEs to innovate
 - A gap in provision of innovation support services for SMEs
- One-year pilot programme launched earlier in 2017
 - Financed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
 - Co-delivered by SAIC
- Offers **£1m match-funding** to help commercialise new innovations



Who's eligible

- Any small to medium-sized enterprise (SME)
 - Located within the HIE region
 - With an innovative concept for aquaculture supply chain
- Concepts should:
 - Create real economic or social value
 - Benefit the industry and Scotland
 - Be innovative or lead to innovative solutions
 - Ideally, have export potential
- Innovation could be a process, product, service or technology



The support on offer

- Match-funding of up to 50%, which can be used to support:
 - In-house innovation
 - Partnerships between companies delivering innovation
 - Innovation with academics, in partnership with SAIC
- Projects from £25k to £1m in total project size will be considered
- Potential benefit to the region includes:
 - £8m boost to industry turnover
 - Up to 50 new jobs



How to apply

- Download an Expression of Interest (EOI) form
 - Available at **scottishaquaculture.com**
 - EOIs can be submitted at any time
- Return to **AAI@scottishaquaculture.com**
- Where applications meet the criteria, you will be invited to complete a full application form
- Where applications don't meet criteria, you will be sign-posted to more suitable forms of support



Thank you for your time.

