

**Grant schemes available under Operational Programme
'Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy' (as of 6th May 2009)**

Name of the Grant Scheme	Beneficiary	Maximum & minimum value of the Grant	Maximum percent of finance by the program	Eligible activities to be financed	Term for application
<i>Support for start-up innovative companies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Companies registered under the Trade law or the Law for Cooperations with headquarters in Bulgaria; ▪ Registered under the relative order no earlier than 3 years of the date of submission of the project proposal. 	Maximum amount: BGN 391 166	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 90% of the total eligible expenses under the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of programs and methodologies for researches, measuring and tests, related with the development of a definite innovative product or process; ▪ Conduction of researches, measuring and tests related with the development of a definite innovative product or process; ▪ Development of a test specimen, functional test of innovative products and/or processes; ▪ Development of manufacturing technologies for creation or realization of of innovative products and processes; ▪ Creation of industrial design; ▪ Protection of the industrial property on national and international level and the necessary expert support for this. 	The scheme will be opened in the 2 nd trimester of 2009
<i>Support for establishment of technological parks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific organizations; ▪ Municipalities; ▪ NGOs; ▪ Enterprises. 	Maximum amount: BGN 391 166	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 70% of the total eligible expenses under the project; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation activities for establishment of technological parks will be financed (development of pre-project researches, technical documentation, engineering plans etc.). 	The scheme will be opened in the 2 nd trimester of 2009

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<i>Development of start-up innovative companies through support of the adoption of innovative products, processes and services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies registered under the Trade law or the Law for Cooperations with headquarters in Bulgaria; Registered under the relative order no earlier than 3 years of the date of submission of the project proposal. 	Maximum amount: BGN 1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micro and small companies: 70%; Medium-sized companies: 60%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The eligible project activities include:</i> -Realization of an investment (compulsory element) -Receiving consultancy services (non-compulsory element) <i>The companies can receive funds for investments under the project for:</i> -Purchase of new equipment, necessary for adoption in the production of innovative product, process or service, developed by the applicant or given for development to a scientific organization; -Purchase of pair assemblies, aggregates and details which are used in the creation of the whole assembly line for the production of the innovative product or process; -Purchase of specialized software; -Improvement of buildings and production premises through construction works when this is directly related with the investments under the project; <i>The companies can receive funds for consultancy services under the project for:</i> -Development of business and marketing plans and strategies related with the market realization; -Software development; -Production technologies optimization; -Consultancy and legal services; -Engineering and technical consultancy services. 	The scheme will be opened in the 2 nd trimester of 2009

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<i>Technology modernization in the companies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies registered under the Trade law or the Law for Cooperations with headquarters in Bulgaria. 	Maximum amount: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SME – BGN 2,5 million; Large companies – BGN 5 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micro and small companies: 70%; Medium-sized companies: 60%; Large companies: 50%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Eligible investments under the project:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase and bringing into usage of equipment which is long term tangible assets; Purchase of non-tangible assets; Improvement of the functional characteristics of the existing buildings and production premises through construction works leading to increase of their value, when this is directly related with and necessary for the bringing into usage of the investments under pt.1 and pt.2. <i>Eligible service activities under the project:</i> Consultancy services related with the introduction of the new technologies, processes, products/services in the company including development of business and marketing strategies, related with the new technologies, processes, products/services. 	The scheme will be opened in the 3 rd trimester of 2009
<i>Establishment of regional business incubators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations' networks, giving consultancy, informational and other services for the business; Local and regional authorities; NGOs; Consultancy organizations; Existing business incubators. 	Maximum amount: BGN 1,5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of the total eligible expenses under the project; 	Establishment and management of regional business incubators, as well as the necessary investments for their functioning.	The scheme will be opened in the 4 th trimester of 2009

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<i>Stimulating business cooperating and clusters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly emerging or already existing clusters. 	Maximum amount: BGN 2 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of the total eligible expenses under the project; 	<p><i>Because of the complex nature of the clusters, this measure will support activities different by type and characteristics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General cluster activities will be financed (management of the cluster and general investment needs); Support for the individual members of the cluster (including consultations, investments and trainings). 	The scheme will be opened in the 4 th trimester of 2009
<i>Improvement of the conditions for access to funding for micro, small and medium enterprises</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations (community and trade organizations or NGOs) operating as guarantee funds; Organizations (community and trade organizations or NGOs) operating as micro crediting funds Banks who offer micro credits; Venture capital funds investing in SMEs; Organizations managing business angels networks; 	BGN 391 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The co-financing percentage will be determined after the establishment of the holding fund, according to the framework and financial agreements and the preparation of the evaluation criteria, the selection and the accreditation of financial intermediaries (eligible beneficiaries under this priority axis) by the holding fund 	Creation of specialized financial instruments such as guarantee funds, venture capital funds, micro crediting funds, which support the access of SMEs to capitals for development in conditions that are accessible and favourable.	After the date of signing of the financial agreement between the Ministry of Economy and energy and the European Investment fund