**Sponsor a Challenge Form and Guidance**

1. Please complete the form below providing text in each of the titled sections.
2. Upon completion, please email your Challenge proposal to [crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk](mailto:crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk) by **2 March 2020.**

Submitted forms will be reviewed internally by the Office to ensure the proposal falls within NC3Rs remit. Those in remit will then be presented to the [CRACK IT Advisory Panel](https://nc3rs.org.uk/crackit/challenges#crack-it-advisory-panel) (CAP). The CAP will [review](https://nc3rs.org.uk/crackit/challenges#sponsor-a-challenge) each Challenge proposal and recommend to the NC3Rs which proposal(s) to run in competition. In making a final decision, the NC3Rs will take into consideration available budget, portfolio balance and 3Rs impact. The NC3Rs will work closely with the Sponsors to develop the full Challenge brief prior to Challenge Launch.

It is recommended that prospective Sponsors look at previous Challenge Briefs prior to submitting a proposal. An example brief can be found [here](https://nc3rs.org.uk/crackit/sites/default/files/CRACK%20IT%20Challenge%2023%20Retinal%203D_2.pdf).

More information on the roles of Sponsors can be found [here](https://nc3rs.org.uk/crackit/sites/default/files/documents/CRACK_IT_Challenges/Sponsors%20responsibilities%202019%20Challenges.pdf).

There are two types of CRACK IT Challenges:

1. Two Phase Challenges require a significant amount of funding and may include research, development and validation of new technologies, prototypes and methods. Phase 1 awards are for six months duration with funding of up to £100k to provide proof-of-concept of the approach. The Phase 2 award is a research contract of up to three years duration and up to £1million to solve the Challenge as a whole.
2. Single Phase Challenges primarily focus on the validation of new technologies, prototypes and methods that are closer to market and so require less research and lower development costs compared to Two Phase Challenges. The Single Phase award is a contract of up to one year with funding up to £100k.

Please indicate which type of Challenge you are proposing:

Two Phase

Single Phase

**1. Sponsor information**

*Please provide your name, position, organisation, email, telephone number and indicate whether you would be willing to invite other co-Sponsors to this Challenge.*

**2. Proposed title**

*Please provide a title. Keep this brief and be creative to try to catch the attention of any potential partners.*

**3. Scientific Background**

*Please expand the title into a problem statement. Use this to describe the research area, current approaches (animal models and any alternatives that exist e.g. in silico and in vitro) and why these are not adequate for your needs. For example, current approaches may be unreliable, not predictive of humans, too slow, too expensive, use too many animals. (Max 500 words)*

**4. 3Rs**

***4.1 Current Animal Studies***

*Please describe your current animal studies in this area including species, numbers used per study including group sizes, study duration, severity and approximate number of studies carried out per annum by your organisation and if possible, the wider community. (Max 250 words).*

***4.2 Impact on 3Rs if Challenge is solved***

*Please explain the potential impact on the 3Rs if your Challenge is solved. This should include, where appropriate, an estimation of the potential reduction in and/or replacement of, animal use in your laboratory/establishment/discipline and/or objective indicators of how animal welfare could be improved. (Max 250 words)*

***4.3 Wider Impacts***

*Is there potential for what’s developed through the Challenge to be used in other research areas to deliver 3Rs benefits? (Max 150 words)*

**5. Regulatory Requirements**

*Are the current animal studies performed as a regulatory requirement?*

*Please provide reference to the appropriate guidance documents.*

*Is there potential for the technology developed to influence changes in these regulations? (Max 250 words)*

**6. Overall aim**

*Provide a high level summary which describes the main aims of the Challenge. (Max 150 words)*

**7. Key deliverables**

*Clear deliverables are essential for a successful Challenge. Please list the key success criteria that will need to be achieved. These may include, but are not limited to:*

* + *Technical specifications*
  + *Performance relative to current state of the art*
  + *Characterisation and/or validation required to demonstrate that the approach is fit-for-purpose*
  + *Required throughput*
  + *Minimum endpoints / readouts / performance requirements*
  + *Compatibility/ integration to standard laboratory / computing infrastructure*

*If you are submitting a Two Phase Challenge, please provide realistic deliverables for both Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 deliverables should outline what is required to demonstrate proof-of-concept of the approach. Phase 2 and Single Phase deliverables should outline what is required to solve the Challenge as a whole.*

**7.1 Phase 1 / Single Phase**

**7.2 Phase 2**

**8. Sponsor in-kind contributions**

*Please outline the kinds of techniques/equipment/assays/data/compounds/expertise etc., that you will make available to them to help the research. For example, there may be an opportunity for some of the work to be undertaken by the staff of the supporting organisation or you may host potential collaborators in your laboratories. (Max 250 words)*

**9. Budget**

*Please provide an estimate of the budget that would be required to deliver the overall Challenge. Phase 1 / Single Phase funding can be up to £100k. Phase 2 can be up to £1 million*.

*Please give an approximate breakdown of the major cost allocations, e.g. equipment, labour, cells etc*

*Is your organisation interested in exploring co-funding*

*YES / NO*

*If yes, estimated value:*

**10. References**

*Suggested reading related to the Challenge. Please include a few key references.*

**11. Logo**

*Where possible, please provide an organisation logo.*

**12. Additional Information**

*Please include any other information that may be useful.*

Please email your Challenge proposal to [crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk](mailto:crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk) by **2 March 2020.**