

The 2021 CRACK IT Challenges Competition is now open – Invitation to Tender

UK- and EU-based applicants are invited to tender for the 2021 CRACK IT Challenges. The aim of the competition is to develop technologies with potential **3Rs*** benefits into new products and methodologies for the biosciences research community. The Challenges are detailed in the Challenge briefs.

The 2021 CRACK IT Challenges competition consists of two Challenges: one **Two Phase Challenge** and one **Three Phase Challenge**. All Challenges have been developed jointly by the NC3Rs and Sponsors. The 2021 CRACK IT Challenges competition is funded by the NC3Rs with co-funding from DEFRA and the Environment Agency, and further resources from Challenge Partners DEFRA, the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, eTransafe IMI and Simomics Ltd. In-kind contributions are provided by the Sponsors. There are 9 Sponsors: AstraZeneca, Bayer AG, Eli Lilly and Company, Genentech Inc, Gilead Sciences Inc, GSK, Merck Healthcare KGaA, Roche, and Unilever.

The two 2021 Challenges are:

- **Challenge 40 – Virtual second species: Towards a Virtual Second Species in Toxicology for Drug Development** (Three Phase Challenge)
- **Challenge 41 – SAFE: Innovative Safety Assessment of Fish adverse Effects** (Two Phase Challenge)

The Two Phase Challenge (SAFE) offers up to £0.7 million funding and a research contract for up to three years. The Three Phase Challenge (Virtual Second Species) offers up to £1.6 million funding and a research contract for up to 3 years, with the potential to secure further funding of £1 million for an additional two years. The specific budget and duration of each Challenge can be found in the Challenge briefs.

More details on the Challenges, the competition and how to apply can be found on the **NC3Rs Innovation platform**.

This Invitation to Tender should be read in conjunction with other documents associated with this competition. **The Guide for Participants** provides further details on the competition and includes the rules applying to Sponsors and applicants.

Open date: 13 September 2021

Close date: 12.00pm (noon) GMT 28 October 2021 for Phase 1 applications.

* The 3Rs: the replacement, refinement and reduction of the use of animals in research and testing.