



Brussels, 17 July 2008

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) continues into the next Phase.

Numerous Expressions of Interest by Applicant Consortia make the first stage of the IMI Joint Undertaking's Call for proposals a success

From 30 April until 15 July 2008 Consortia of academia, patient groups, SMEs, regulatory organisations and non EFPIA industries have submitted their Expressions of Interest to the IMI Joint Undertaking (IMI JU) in answer to the first Call for proposals. A total of 18 topics were addressed in this first IMI JU Call for proposals: 6 in the pillar "Improving the Predictivity of Safety Evaluation", 7 in the pillar "Improving the Predictivity of Efficacy Evaluation" and 5 in the pillar "Closing the gap in Education and Training".

Close to 150 Expressions of Interest have been received, covering all topics opened in the Call.

Peer review committees will now evaluate the scientific excellence of the Expressions of Interest.

Following completion of the first stage peer review at the end of September 2008, the best proposals from Applicant Consortia will be invited to join EFPIA industry members to form a "Project Consortium" which will develop the full project proposal. These proposals shall be sent to the IMI JU for the second stage peer-evaluation towards the end of November 2008.

Full project proposals favourably reviewed at the second stage evaluation can be selected for funding.

Contract negotiations followed by a kick off of the research activities are foreseen for early 2009.