

“Build a Biotech” Business Idea Competition 2023

March - April 2023

North-West Biotech Initiative

“Build a Biotech” is a conceptual start-up competition organised by the Northwest Biotech Initiative in collaboration with the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, Candestic and Remap Consulting. The main aim of the competition is to encourage entrepreneurship within the biotechnology sector. The participants will learn how to turn a good idea into a real business opportunity and get the chance to pitch to real investors, industry experts and win a **£600 cash prize** for the winners, **£300** for the runners up and **£100** for third place. We plan to deliver the competition in an online format.

This competition is open to **undergraduate students, postgraduate students, PDRAs and university staff** in biotechnology related fields who are interested in gaining a thorough understanding of entrepreneurship in biotechnology. The applicants will be selected on the basis of their application and demonstration of their business potential. The places are limited to 10 teams. Teams should be between 2-5 people and must contain at least one student (undergraduate masters or PhD). If you would like to participate but don't have a team, please email us at manchester@nwbiotech.co.uk and we will do our best to find you a team.

Team ideas must be related to the following topics:

- **Global health and well-being**
- **Climate change and sustainability**

Competition format:

“Build a Biotech” competition has six key dates:

- **13th March:** Application deadline
- **18th March:** Notification to the Finalists
- **23rd March:** Day 1 - Business workshop session 1: Introduction and innovation
- **24th March:** Day 2 - Business workshop session 2: Intellectual property and finance
- **25th March – 3th April:** Mentoring session (max 1 hour)
- **4th April:** Competition day – pitch in front of experts and awards ceremony

The competition will require the interested teams to complete an application form describing their idea/technology and how they plan to translate their idea into a start-up. Upon application deadline, all the applications will be evaluated by the organising committee and 10 teams will be selected as participants for the competition. They will also be notified of their assigned mentor. Next, the teams will attend a business workshop delivered by Kevin Parker focusing on the commercialisation of science. This workshop will have particular focus on setting-up a business, funding and intellectual property. Upon completion of the workshops, the teams will have two weeks to prepare a 10 min presentation for a pitch. Details and guidance on how to prepare the pitch will be given in the workshop sessions. Teams will be expected to defend their pitches and answer questions about the opportunity, from both technological and commercial perspectives. After the pitches, the panel of experts will evaluate the presentations and award prizes to the three best teams.

Application requirements:

- Undergraduate, Postgraduate student, PDRA and university staff at a UK university.
- Background in biotechnology or related subjects.
- Team of 2-5 students.
- Be available for competition key dates: 23rd March, 24th March and 4th of April.
- **The competition is purely conceptual, please be careful with entering a real start-up or one you plan to launch in the near future.**

Build a Biotech 3-Day Programme

Day 1 - Wednesday 23rd March – workshop 1

- 16:00 - 17:00: Introduction and Innovation - turning science into life-saving treatments or devices. What should be in your pitch? What makes a technology interesting to the 'real world'?
- 17:00 - 17:15: Break
- 17:15 - 18:15: Understanding markets - researching your innovation, getting evidence from stakeholders and thinking about your business model

Day 2 - Wednesday 24th March – workshop 2

- 16:00 - 17:00: Intellectual property - what is it and who owns it? How does it link with your business strategy?
- 17:00 - 17:15: Break
- 17:15 - 18:15: Finance - time and money. How long is it going to take us to do this? How much is it going to cost?

Pitch preparation period and mentoring session

- Time and date to be agreed between mentor and team (max 1 hour), 25th March - 3th April

Day 3 - Wednesday 4th April - pitching day

- 15:00 - 15:15: Introductions
- 15:15 - 16:45: Team presentations, block 1
- 16:45 - 17:00: Break
- 17:00 - 18:30: Team presentations 2, block 2
- 18:30 - 19:00: Break
- 19:00 - 19:15: Winner announcement and closing remarks

Event Promotions:

The “Build a Biotech” competition will be promoted on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn).

How to participate:

Complete the attached application form and send in **PDF format** to manchester@nwbiotech.co.uk

Application deadline: 13th March 2023