

THE DOUGLAS BOMFORD TRUST

AgriFood Charities Partnership (AFCP)

Annual Forum 2011

“Working together for a stronger industry”

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***The right projects and how to
achieve them***

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What are “Projects”

- | **For The Douglas Bomford Trust**
 - à *Activities involving a total expenditure of more than £1,500*
 - à *Have been centred on support for PhD studies*
 - n *Also EngD's & MSc by research*
 - n *Support from the EPSRC DTA*
 - à *Not all projects are based in academia*
 - à *Recent proposals have considered other projects in conjunction with academic institutions*

Types of projects

I Two main types of project:

à *Those that address a well defined (business critical) need*

- ❖ Sharp focus on deliverable outputs - normally in a commercial environment or background
- ❖ Can involve research partners and academia in a consortia
- ❖ IP and timescales are often critical – use existing approaches where possible
- ❖ Not appropriate for Charity involvement?

Types of projects

I Two main types of project:

à *Those that contribute to an area of study*

- ❖ With well defined goals that contribute new knowledge
- ❖ Potential for a strong training (people) component
- ❖ Addresses real problems in a well structured manner
- ❖ Very well suited to funding from Charitable sources

What might be the “Right” project

- | **A project that will make a (bigger) difference**
 - à *Through the development of people (or an individual) and/or a capability*
 - à *That operates in a relevant technical area*
 - n **Relevance to industry needs**
 - n **Relevance to Trust Strategy**
 - à *With a realistic chance of success*
 - à *With shared ownership and funding such that the charity gets maximum benefit for the costs involved*
 - à *With feedback/monitoring to the funding bodies including the charity regarding progress and outcomes*

How do we achieve the “Right” Project?

- 1) **Initiate and generate the “Right” proposals**
 - ➡ *Involves engagement with all relevant parties*
 - ➡ Academic and industry (via companies or Levy bodies)
 - ➡ Publicity and a web site
 - ➡ *Documented framework for what is expected and how proposals will be evaluated*
 - ➡ Using a two-stage process
 - ➡ *Concepts*
 - ➡ *Detailed proposals*
 - ➡ *Manage realistic expectation of outcomes*
 - ➡ Some competition is helpful

How do we achieve the “Right” Project?

2) Project evaluation

- ➡ *Directly involving Trustees (in a full Board meeting or a delegated sub-group)*
- ➡ *Recognising potential conflicts of interest*
- ➡ *To a defined timetable for submissions, evaluation and feedback*
- ➡ *Using some form of structured matrix (implicitly or explicitly)*
- ➡ *To include financial constraints*
- ➡ *Using external expertise and inputs where relevant*
- ➡ *With agreed feedback to those submitting proposals for funding support*

How do we achieve the “Right” Project?

I Project initiation

➡ *An agreement between all parties involved covering issues such as:*

- ➡ Expected progress and monitoring
 - ❖ Appointment of a monitor (or equivalent) on behalf of Board of Trustees
- ➡ Any recruitment/training issues
- ➡ Financial arrangements
- ➡ IP ownership, rights and protection
- ➡ A “Last resort” fallback clause

How do we achieve the “Right” Project?

I Project monitoring

- ➡ *To report progress and feedback to Board of Trustees*

- ➡ 6 monthly reviews – ideally as part of established monitoring activities

- ❖ Use existing project management approaches where ever possible

- ➡ Satisfactory progress linked to payments by a “Gateway” system

- ➡ All projects reviewed annually by The Board

How do we achieve the “Right” Project?

- | **Recognise achievements and disseminate findings**
 - ➡ *Publish articles in appropriate journals*
 - ➡ Papers in peer reviewed journals
 - ➡ In Landwards and similar journals
 - ➡ *Review original objectives and consider implications for future strategy*
 - ➡ *Promote success*



Conclusions

- | **The “Right” projects requires:**
 - à *Good applications – from working with all parties*
 - à *Good selection procedures to pick the most likely winner*
 - à *Good project monitoring and feedback*
 - à *Leading to a good conclusion*
 - à *And so make a bigger difference*

**Thank you for your
attention**

