

# British Patient Capital (BPC)

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**Request for Proposals**

# 1. Background

British Patient Capital ('BPC') forms part of the commercial arm of the British Business Bank and invests in venture and growth equity. This request for proposals sets out the criteria for those applicants interested in seeking commercial investment from BPC.

**BPC will consider managed proposals that predominately invest into innovative companies. Direct investment in underlying portfolio companies is however outside the scope of this Request for Proposals.**

BPC manages an investment fund designed to support UK companies with high growth potential to access the long-term financing they need to scale up. BPC builds on a successful heritage of investing £1bn into UK venture and growth equity over the past decade.

BPC invests in venture and growth equity, capturing value through financing the growth of innovative companies. We invest on a fully commercial basis to maximise returns and manage risk. We are growing BPC with a view to future private sale or listing, once it has built its portfolio and track record.

BPC is building on the previous activity of the VC Catalyst initiative. It is not intended that BPC will compete with the British Business Bank's other initiatives such as [Enterprise Capital Funds](#), which have incentives for private sector investors and act to encourage investment activity within the recognised equity gap. Those proposals have restrictions on the size of investment they can make and have sector and stage restrictions that will not apply to BPC investments.

Further background on BPC can be found on the website:  
[www.britishpatientcapital.co.uk](http://www.britishpatientcapital.co.uk)

## 2. Objectives

BPC's mission is to: ***"Enable long-term investment in innovative companies across the UK, led by ambitious entrepreneurs who want to build successful, world-class businesses."***

BPC has dual commercial and policy objectives:

- **To generate a commercial rate of return across its entire portfolio of investments.** BPC seeks to build a commercially attractive and balanced portfolio of venture and growth equity investments, in order to: efficiently deploy its capital, demonstrate attractiveness of the asset class, and facilitate BPC's pathway to private sale or listing.
- **To increase the amount of long-term investment available for innovative UK companies wanting to scale up.** BPC seeks to achieve this through making investments that helps mobilise private investment into UK venture and growth equity.

## 3. Selection Process

BPC welcomes proposals from any applicant that is able to meet the objectives and satisfy the selection criteria. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the process outlined below.

### 3.1 Expression of interest, proposal, and initial meeting

Applicants are expected to formally express their interest to BPC through emailing: [proposals@BPCinv.co.uk](mailto:proposals@BPCinv.co.uk)

Following this, applicants may be invited to meet with BPC in order to provide an outline of their investment proposal and capabilities through a pitch meeting. Following this meeting BPC will be able to provide some feedback, including whether the proposal is likely to meet the objectives and criteria set out in this document.

Proposals that are not likely to meet the objectives and criteria set out in this document will not move forward to the due diligence stage.

### 3.2 Due diligence

For proposals which progress following the initial meeting, BPC will review the proposal. In addition to a review of the materials prepared by the applicant and shared with investors as part of a data room / information memorandum / investor marketing materials, it is also likely that our team will visit the applicant at their offices, undertake background and reference checks on the applicant's team, verify the team's track record and review the legal documentation for the proposal, including the proposed terms. We will also wish to speak with other potential investors in the proposal. Applicants will generally be expected to warrant the information provided during the due diligence process.

### 3.3 Investment committee

Any recommendation made to BPC's investment committee will be based on its assessment of the proposal, data room / information memorandum / investor marketing materials, and due diligence undertaken. The investment committee has absolute discretion whether or not to approve making an investment in the proposal. The investment committee will only make an approval if they are confident that the proposal will meet the objectives and criteria set out in this document.

If the investment committee does approve making an investment in the proposal, BPC will issue a non-binding offer subject to pre-conditions set out by the investment committee, if appropriate to situation. Such pre-conditions may include confirmatory due diligence, satisfactory completion of fundraising by a longstop date, entry into definitive legal documentation, and any further conditions which BPC in its discretion deems necessary.

**Important Note:** Selection is competitive. BPC cannot invest in every proposal received. The application process is designed to enable BPC to select proposals that are considered to offer the best overall value-for-money in promoting the objectives and satisfying the criteria of BPC's investment programme. BPC reserves the right to reject, or decline to progress, any application which does not, or which in BPC's opinion based on the information provided is not likely to meet the objectives or satisfy the criteria for investment at any stage in the application process.

**Important note:** Existing proposals that qualify under British Business Investment Ltd's VC Catalyst programme will be processed under the BPC programme from the date of this document.

### 3.4 Further information

Should you have any questions about BPC or wish to set up an initial meeting, the investment team can be contacted at:

[proposals@BPCinv.co.uk](mailto:proposals@BPCinv.co.uk)

BPC Proposals, British Patient Capital,  
Steel City House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 2GQ

0114 206 2131

**Please note that requests for business advice, direct investment, or other support cannot be answered.** Businesses looking for such advice should contact their professional financial advisors in the first instance.

## 4. Selection Criteria

BPC will assess proposals against the following selection criteria.

### 4.1 Investment strategy

#### **Targeting venture and /or growth equity investments through primary, co-investment, or secondaries strategies.**

BPC's objectives are best met when BPC's investments are in managed proposals that predominately invest into innovative companies led by ambitious entrepreneurs who want to build world class businesses. BPC will generally not consider proposals that are specializing in management buyouts and / or primarily seeking to preserve capital.

BPC will consider proposals incorporating primary, co-investment, and / or secondaries investment strategies. Other things being equal, BPC will favour proposals with primary investment strategies. Secondaries proposals considered will typically target secondary acquisition of minority shares of innovative companies and will intend to create value through financing the growth of those companies. Direct investment in underlying portfolio companies is outside the scope of this Request for Proposals. BPC will not invest into State aided funds.

Proposals for investment for other situations will be considered on a case by case basis

### 4.2 UK SMEs <sup>1</sup>

#### **Investing predominantly in UK-based SMEs or likely to invest more in UK-based SMEs than the proposed BPC investment.**

BPC's funding has been earmarked for investment in UK-based SMEs. This does not preclude BPC from investing in proposals that have a wider geographical remit or include larger businesses in the portfolio, but BPC will be looking for a strong commitment from applicants that a multiple of the investment provided by BPC will be invested in UK-based SMEs. Other things being equal, BPC will favour proposals with greater UK content.

### 4.3 Management team and track record

#### **A strong and capable management team with the ability to work together cohesively, a verifiable track record, and relevant sector and stage experience.**

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their management team is suitably qualified and collectively possesses the knowledge, experience, and capability needed to successfully build, manage, and exit a portfolio of relevant investments where appropriate. Applicants will also need to demonstrate that the team will be able to work together effectively to deliver against the investment strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible SMEs for BPC comprise businesses with an annual global turnover of less than £100m.

#### 4.4 BPC's role in fundraising efforts

##### **Evidence that a BPC investment could unlock significant private sector investment.**

BPC is designed to be significant in an applicant's fundraising efforts. BPC aims to invest where its investment is expected to unlock additional private sector capital. This aim will normally be met by BPC investing in a proposal: (i) to anchor the fundraising; (ii) to enable the fundraising to close or; (iii) to enable the fundraising to achieve optimal size. Proposals for investment for other situations will be considered on a case by case basis.

#### 4.5 BPC share of proposal

##### **BPC will be a significant investor, but always less than 50%, and will prefer proposals with greater private sector match.**

BPC is designed to be significant in an applicant's fundraising efforts and it will consider committing to invest up to 49.9% of the total proposal value. BPC should not however, be liable for a majority of the investment in the proposal at any point and other things being equal we will prefer proposals with greater private sector investor match.

Proposals must demonstrate that the applicant has effective fundraising capability to raise adequate matching capital from private sector investors.

#### 4.6 Manager remuneration and costs

##### **Demonstrate that the level of management fees, costs, and/or incentives are commensurate with value delivered and that performance related compensation aligns the interests of the management team with investors.**

Proposals should demonstrate that management fees and charges are reasonable and linked to running costs. Carried interest and other similar performance related compensation should be designed to align the interests of the management team with investors.

BPC's overall assessment will balance expected returns with management fees, costs, and incentives to make an overall judgement on value for money. Whilst lower fees and costs will be preferred, BPC recognises that applications with the lowest level of fees or costs will not always represent the best value for money.

#### 4.7 Pari passu

##### **BPC investment terms to be pari passu with private sector investors.**

BPC will only invest on at least as favourable terms as private sector investors, including in respect of returns, fees, costs, and incentives.

BPC will give greater weight to proposals where terms are in line with best practice. BPC maintains its right to seek to negotiate any improvement in terms that it thinks reasonable.

#### **4.8 Minimum proposal size**

##### **Proposals targeting at least £50m**

Research suggests that a minimum size is needed in order to produce good returns and there is a consensus that a proposal of at least £50m is about the right minimum level. BPC will only consider investments into smaller proposals where the applicant is able to clearly demonstrate that the size of proposal is viable given their proposed investment strategy. There is no cap on the maximum size of proposal that BPC will invest in.

#### **4.9 BPC investment value**

##### **BPC investment of £5m to £100m into any proposal, though £10m to £50m will be preferred.**

BPC's investment into any proposal will generally be in the range of £5m to £100m, though £10m to £50m will be preferred. BPC may invest less than or more than this amount if there is a particularly strong case for doing so and it is commercially justifiable.

#### **4.10 No subordinated or subsidised public sector support**

##### **Proposals must not receive any form of subordinated or subsidised public sector support.**

BPC is not intended to compete with other forms of public sector support for investment into SMEs. BPC will not invest in any proposal that receives subordinated or subsidised Government, public sector, or European Structural Fund investment. A similar prohibition applies to investing in tax advantaged funds such as VCT or EIS funds.

#### **4.11 Location and regulation**

##### **Proposals must be consistent with British Business Bank's tax policy and must meet regulatory requirements.**

Typically, structures located in the UK or EEA and managed by a UK or EEA based manager will be eligible. Other overseas structures may also be acceptable.

The proposal must be consistent with the requirements of British Business Bank plc's group-wide tax policy, a copy of which can be found on the British Business Bank website at: <https://british-business-bank.co.uk/transparency/>

Applicants must have all appropriate permissions, registrations, and authorisations to raise and operate the relevant investment vehicle.

#### **4.12 Monitoring and governance**

##### **The applicant must have appropriate monitoring, reporting, and governance processes in place.**

BPC will need to ensure its investment will, and will continue to be, properly monitored and managed.

In addition to providing details on formal reporting, successful applicants will be expected to set out how they will additionally engage with BPC to provide information and assurance on the management and performance of the portfolio. In any event BPC will expect regular relationship meetings with key persons and senior team members involved in managing its investment for the proposal.

In recognition of its significant investment BPC will generally expect to be represented on the Advisory Committee (or equivalent investor forum).

Successful applicants will need to evidence appropriate ethical standards in relation to the proposed investment activity, operations, and general business activities so as not to cause embarrassment to BPC in view of its status as a Government owned entity.

Additional or alternative proposals from applicants would be welcomed provided they are compatible with maintaining BPC's limited liability as an investor.

## 5. Terms and Conditions

The terms of this Request for Proposals and any investments due to be made under it may be withdrawn at any point.

BPC reserves the right at any time not to make an investment and / or cancel or withdraw from the process at any stage. Any costs or expenses incurred by an applicant will not be reimbursed and BPC will not be liable in any way to an applicant for costs, expenses or losses incurred as a result of this process.

BPC reserves the right to reject any and all applications at any stage, with or without cause.

BPC reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and to request additional information regarding any application, including the right to request face to face meetings. Refusal to provide such information upon request may cause the application to be rejected. Where no reply to a request for information or for clarification is received within ten business days, BPC may consider that the application has been withdrawn.

No representation, express or implied, is made by BPC as to the completeness or accuracy of any facts or opinions contained in this Request for Proposals and recipients should seek their own independent legal, financial, tax, accounting, or regulatory advice before making any application under this Request for Proposals.

Please note that BPC is acting as an investor for the purposes of this Request for Proposals and therefore this Request for Proposals does not require approval under financial promotion legislation or corresponding rules.

Applicants should be aware that BPC is not authorised to carry out regulated activity. BPC will thus be unable to consider responses where receipt or processing would require any form of regulatory authorisation or permission.

Any offer to invest in a proposal made by BPC as a result of this process will be subject to the prompt and satisfactory agreement of legal terms. Applicants will also be expected to provide a timetable for meeting any other obligations, such as the raising of private sector investment, and successful completion of an application will be conditional on meeting that timetable.

Respondents should note that information received by BPC or any other member of the British Business Bank plc group as part of this process, including personal

information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act and GDPR (Data Laws) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. In view of this, should respondents consider that any information should be treated as confidential and/or commercially sensitive, it would be helpful if respondents could set out why they consider this to be the case in each instance. Automatic confidentiality disclaimers generated by IT systems will not, in themselves, be regarded as binding.

If BPC or any member of the British Business Bank plc group receives a request for disclosure of information, full account will be taken of any explanation, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality will be maintained in all circumstances. Decisions on disclosure remain the responsibility of BPC or the relevant member of the British Business Bank plc group and ultimately the Information Commissioner and courts. Personal data will be processed in accordance with the Data Laws: in the majority of circumstances this will mean that personal data will not be disclosed.

By submitting a proposal, applicants accept the terms and conditions set out in this Section 5. Except for this Section 5, which is intended to be legally binding, this Request for Proposals is not a legally binding document and should be treated as indicative only.

## **Legal Notices**

British Patient Capital Limited forms part of the commercial arm of the British Business Bank. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of British Business Bank plc, registered in England and Wales, registration number 11271076, registered office at Steel City House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 2GQ. It is not authorised or regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) or the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

British Business Bank plc and its subsidiary entities are not banking institutions and do not operate as such.

A complete legal structure chart for British Business Bank plc and its subsidiaries can be found on the British Business Bank plc website.

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to:

British Patient Capital Limited  
2-6 Salisbury Square  
London EC4Y 8JX

