Market Improvement Fund

STRATEGIC PANEL & Committees

Market Improvement Fund

Selection Committee Brief

V3.0 | 19/08/2024

Document summary

This document provides information on the roles and responsibilities of Market Improvement Fund (MIF) Selection Committee members.

What is the Market Improvement Fund?

The MIF was established through the implementation of change proposal CPM018: 'Treatment of Market Performance Standard (MPS) charges and Operational Performance Standard (OPS) charges'. This fund enables MOSL, acting on behalf of the Strategic Panel, to facilitate using a proportion of performance charges collected from trading parties for not meeting required standards, to fund activities that benefit the market and its customers. Before CPM018, these charges have been redistributed to trading parties on an annual basis.

The fund is designed to fund projects that align with the following high-level principles:

- Any project or activity should enhance market functioning **and** benefit non-household customers
- Any project or activity would **not** be considered **business as usual** or a project or activity that would ordinarily be undertaken by the Market Operator or other parties
- Any project or activity would be expected to deliver benefit to the market in general and not confer any competitive advantage to a trading party or groups of trading parties.

What do we look for from the Selection Committee?

The role of the Selection Committee is to consider entries to the fund against assessment criteria and decide upon the winning bids, subject to ratification by the Strategic Panel.

The Committee evaluates applications and determines scores against the following categories:

- Benefits – description, and appropriate supporting evidence, for the anticipated benefits/outcomes of the innovation if adopted by the industry
- Financial – appropriate business case with clear articulation of benefits vs cost, and evidence of value for money in how the project will be delivered
- Delivery confidence – assessment of managerial commitment and ability to deliver a successful project, including sources of funding required outside the MIF, and mitigation of identified risks.

The Selection Committee has the discretion to make recommendations which do not align fully to the ranking of applications under the scoring system if such decisions can be clearly justified as being in the interests of the market and/or customers, and in accordance with CPM018. All recommendations are subject to final approval by the Strategic Panel.

The Selection Committee will provide the Strategic Panel with a list of recommended bids (including allocated funding), related scores and the rationale where any award has been recommended for a project which had a lower score than any other project(s) which were not recommended.

As well as making recommendations for successful applications, the Selection Committee, with appropriate support from MOSL, will also agree the following for each bid:

- Timing of payment – e.g. one payment or series of staged awards (e.g. linked to delivery milestones)
- Conditions required to be met prior to any staged payment being made – including performance conditions or evidence of delivery
- Any specific activity excluded from funding
- Specific arrangements regarding any intellectual property ownership
- Additional progress reporting requirements over and above those proposed within the application.

The Selection Committee is made up of five diverse members – two independent members, one customer representative, one wholesaler representative and one retailer representative.

Judges commit up to four days over the period of one year and are expected to remain in their positions for two funding rounds. This consists of one day to review entries and up to one day together as a committee judging the entries, for each funding round.

We understand that judges have other commitments, therefore MOSL provide support with detailed guidance and comprehensive summaries of entries, including a detailed scoring matrix to support decision making.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary role. We plan for the judging to take place via Microsoft Teams. Should this change then expenses will be paid to support judges who choose to attend in person at the MOSL offices in Southampton.

What we look for

We look for a diverse Selection Committee with a passion to support market improvement and who are willing to devote time to the process.

All candidates should possess the following attributes:

- The ability to analyse entries in an objective way
- A passion to support innovation
- An understanding of how to deliver business excellence
- A desire to make a positive impact in the non-household water market
- Good communication skills to enable great committee discussion.

A trading party representative should also have:

- Good water industry experience, potentially gained through operational, technical or engineering roles
- An understanding of how change is managed through wholesaler and/or retailer organisations
- A focus on great customer outcomes and the challenges to achieving this in the current market.

For all applicants, prior experience in judging is helpful but not essential.

How to apply

If/when Selection Committee roles are available, they will be advertised on the MOSL website.

Nominations for trading party members are available on the Vacancies page of the MOSL website.

Nominations for independent roles are submitted by emailing MIF@mosl.co.uk stating the reasons for your application and what you would bring to the committee, drawing our attention to the relevant attributes above. Applications should include any additional relevant information, e.g. current job role and background.

Please note that if you are currently employed by a wholesaler or retailer, you will need their consent to join the committee, if successful.