

SILVER PCP

Supporting Independent Living for the Elderly
through Robotics

Innovation Procurement Stakeholder Workshops Brussels

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What is SILVER?

The SILVER project aims to develop new robotics based technologies to assist elderly people in their everyday lives. It uses a Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) process to encourage companies to bring to the market innovative solutions that will enable municipalities to care for 10% more elderly care recipients with the same number of care staff.

- Funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7)
- Consortium led by Innovate UK, bringing together 6 local authorities in 5 countries and other regional and knowledge partners
- Purchasing budget: 2,150,000 EUR



What is SILVER?

Successful EU Commission funded PCP project:

Building robotics solutions for Seniors

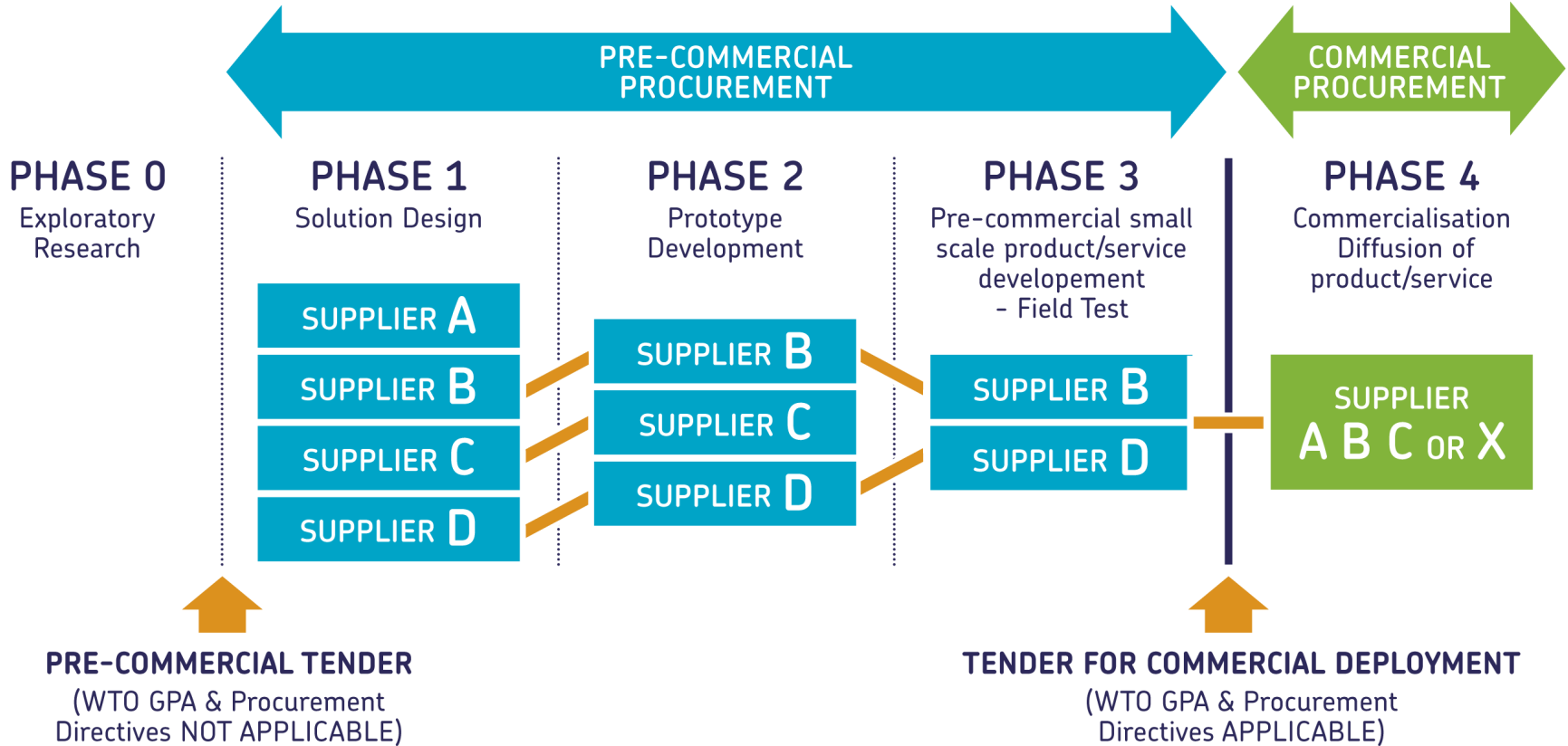
Developing PCP tools for others



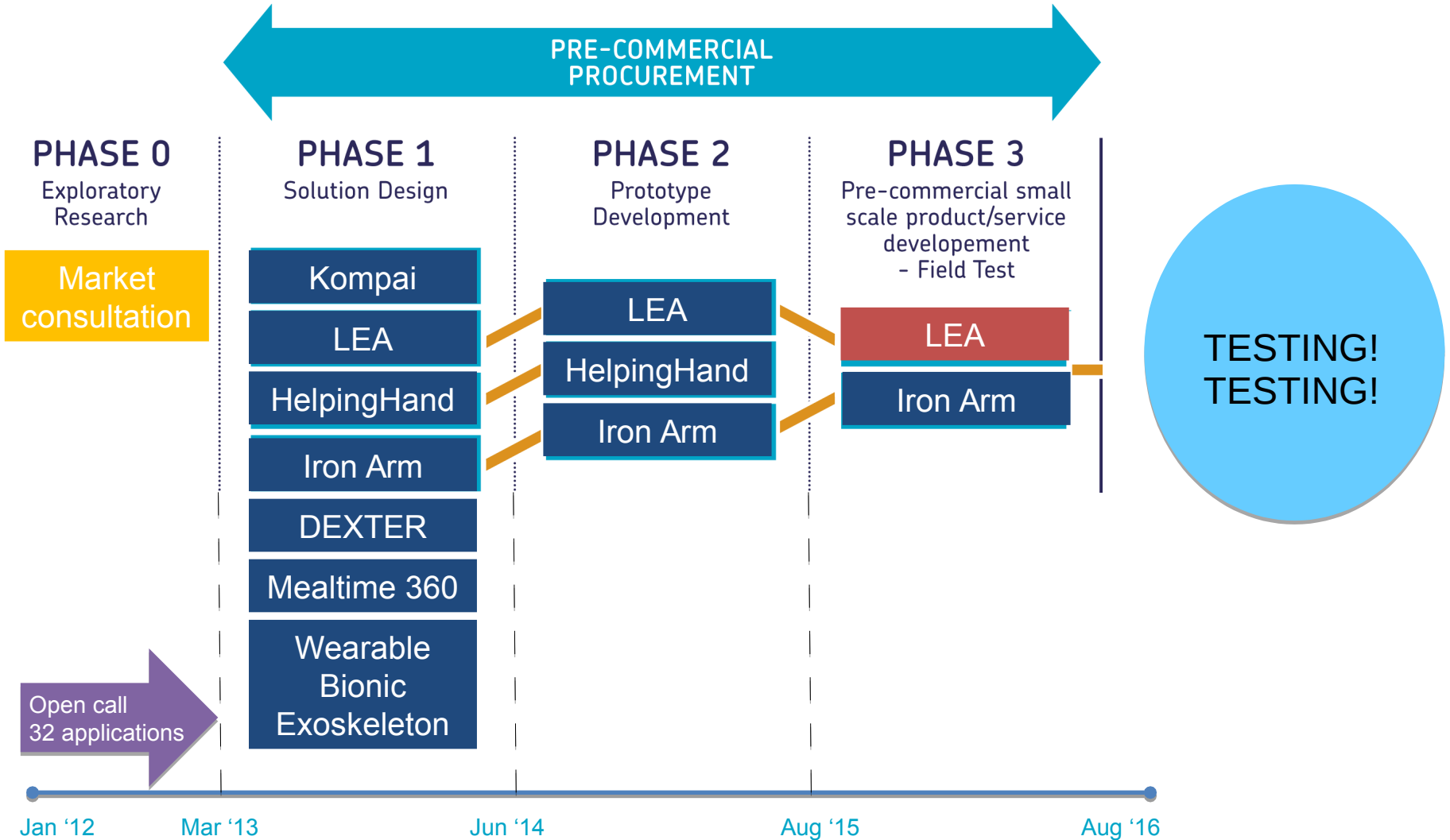


PCP process





Source: European Commission





What have we learnt so far?



Steep learning curve...

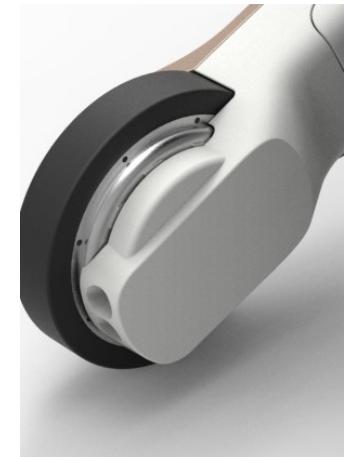
- It takes time to set up a transnational PCP
- Little understood process beyond frontrunner countries
- Products developed need to fit the needs of all procuring authorities
- PCP often requires inter-departmental cooperation
- Relationship with contractors needs to be nurtured

...but worth it!

- Exploration of local needs and requirements
- Understand the market and establish close relationship with businesses
- Protect against lock-in and reduce costs in the long term

Example: LEA

- LEA (Lean Elderly Assistant) is designed to assist the elderly in daily living tasks in a home environment
- Offers functional transfer of goods, for example picking up objects, transferring them and placing them
- Cognitive software capabilities can support memory
- Has won the Herman Wijffels Innovation Award and has been shortlisted for a Livewire award.
- Really exciting company and full of enthusiasm and knowledge.



Example: Kompai - MARIO

- Kompai was a robotic solution that was awarded a contract in Phase 1 - allowed for further refinement of idea and partnership development
- SME now collaborates with Stockport Council and has received further funding from Horizon 2020 for Project Mario aimed at supporting people with dementia





The procurer experience in SILVER



Why did we get involved in the SILVER PCP?

- Market failure - to build and strengthen market
- Gain experience of using PCP process
- Work with Innovate UK
- Work in collaboration

What have we learnt from the PCP process?

- Know your market thoroughly ie what is needed
- Get expertise - Innovate UK (SBRI) and Netherlands
- Get ethics right early
- Communicate with the contractors continually
- Plan properly for testing

What have we learnt from SILVER?

- PCP process is useful and we will reuse
- Effective methods of communicating with potential contractors
- Developed lots of tools to share on website: Help yourself!
- Cross border collaboration works - This would have failed in one country
- Great support from European Commission and experts
- We have some great SMEs in Europe around Robotics



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