



澳門特別行政區  
Região Administrativa Especial de Macau  
科學技術發展基金  
Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia

# **Funding Scheme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation – Joint Funding Category**

## **Application Guidelines for the Joint Research Funding Projects of the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund and the São Paulo Research Foundation (2026)**

Pursuant to the *Cooperation Agreement on Science and Technology between the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund and the São Paulo Research Foundation*, the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as "FDCT") and the São Paulo Research Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "FAPESP") jointly launch a funding scheme to support scientific research and technological development projects proposed by researchers from Macao and the State of São Paulo, Brazil.

### **I. Competent Authorities and Management**

1. The competent authorities of this Joint Research Funding are FDCT for Macao and FAPESP for Brazil.
2. The application, acceptance, evaluation, approval, implementation, management, and project conclusion on the Macao side shall be governed by the current *Funding Scheme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation* (hereinafter referred to as the "Funding Scheme") and these Guidelines.
3. FDCT and FAPESP shall each provide funding to the grantees of their respective regions. The funds allocated shall be used exclusively in the respective regions.
4. Approved projects must sign a *Funding Agreement* with FDCT and comply with the relevant FAPESP regulations.

### **II. Supported Areas and Non-Eligible Project Types**

1. Priority research areas include biotechnology, biodiversity, sustainable food production and food security, energy transition, digital transition, AI (artificial intelligence), quantum technology, ocean technology, space technology, human and animal health, and public safety.
2. The following are not supported:
  - Infrastructure construction or projects solely involving equipment procurement.
  - Projects focused on marketing or promotion.



### III. Funding Amount and Duration

1. The maximum funding amount for each project is MOP 1.5 million.
2. The funding duration for each project shall not exceed three years and will be disbursed in phases.

### IV. Application Period

From 15<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026.

### V. Requirements for Collaboration Between Both Parties

1. The Macao lead applicant must reach an agreement with the partner in the State of São Paulo, Brazil on aspects such as the research content, research plan, and division of responsibilities, and sign a cooperation agreement, memorandum of understanding or letter of intent, which must be submitted with the application. The agreement, memorandum or letter of intent concerning intellectual property arrangements may be submitted at the time of signing the *Funding Agreement*.
2. The lead and participating entities shall have a clear division of responsibilities and conduct substantive R&D collaboration. Projects must effectively protect intellectual property rights, ensure the reasonable sharing of outcomes, and safeguard the interests of all parties.
3. The partner shall demonstrate strong technical capabilities or a high standard of scientific research, as well as the willingness and ability to cooperate with Macao. Participation may include contributions in the form of technology, funding, human resources, data and information, advanced equipment, or proprietary resources.
4. The partner in the State of São Paulo must simultaneously submit an application to FAPESP, in accordance with FAPESP's relevant guidelines.
5. During the collaboration period, the following minimum requirements must be met:
  - 5.1. The Macao project leader must visit the partner institution for research and exchange for no fewer than 7 days per year on average.
  - 5.2. The partner project leader must visit the collaborating institution in Macao for no fewer than 7 days per year on average.
  - 5.3. At least two project meetings per year must be held, involving key personnel from both parties (in any format).



## VI. Expected Project Outputs

### 1. **Projects without Enterprise Participation:**

Expected outputs may include, but are not limited to, academic or applied results such as publications, monographs, research (consultation) reports, patents, talent cultivation, software, hardware (prototypes, mock-ups), technical standards, formulations, new materials, or new processes.

### 2. **Projects with Enterprise Participation:**

2.1. Expected outputs must include software, hardware (prototypes, mock-ups), technical standards, formulations, new materials, or new processes, with a description of the potential economic or social benefits upon project completion.

2.2. By the time of project completion, the technological maturity level must reach Level 4 or above.

## VII. Requirements for the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal serves as an important reference for FDCT and evaluation experts to understand, consult, and assess the project for selection. Applicants must complete the proposal carefully in accordance with the prescribed content, format, and word limits.
2. Each project leader may submit only one application, which will not be counted toward the total number of ongoing projects that a project leader may be responsible for under FDCT regulations.
3. The basic content requirements for the proposal are as follows:
  - 3.1. The project should facilitate research collaboration and the co-development of relevant technologies.
  - 3.2. The collaboration must be meaningful, justified, clearly targeted, and detailed in scope; the collaboration plan must be feasible, technical indicators measurable, and the budget reasonable.
  - 3.3. The R&D team must be well-structured and capable of delivering the project; the lead and participating entities must have a clear division of responsibilities and engage in substantive collaboration.
  - 3.4. The project title, collaborating institutions, project leaders, and project duration must be consistent in both parties' applications.

## VIII. Intellectual Property

Prior to project commencement, both parties must at least reach an agreement on the following aspects:



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1. Duration of data retention, data protection methods, and access permissions during the project;
2. The physical or digital storage location of the project database;
3. Authorship guidelines for the dissemination of results;
4. Intellectual property rights must comply with the laws and regulations of the respective jurisdictions.

## **IX. Matching Contribution Requirements**

1. Applicants that are not commercial enterprises must ensure that their Macao-based commercial enterprise partners provide a matching contribution of no less than 10% of the FDCT funding amount.
2. Applicants that are commercial enterprises must provide a matching contribution funded by their own resources, in an amount no less than the approved FDCT funding.

## **X. Other Notes**

Any matters not specified in these Guidelines shall be governed by the *Public Financial Support Regime of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Charter of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the *Regulations on Funding Granted by the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the *Funding Scheme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation*, the *Guidelines on the Verification of Funded Activities or Projects* issued by the Public Assets Supervision and Planning Office, FDCT's *General Guidelines on Project Management*, *Guidelines for Agreed-Upon Procedures for Scientific Research Projects*, other applicable rules or guidelines of FDCT, and the *Funding Agreement* signed after the grant has been approved.