



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

## **Funding Scheme for Key R&D Projects**

### **I. Objectives**

To respond to the policy of the Macao SAR Government, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Public Financial Support Scheme of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Statutes of the Science and Technology Development Fund* and the *Regulation on Financial Support of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as "FDCT") has launched the *Funding Scheme for Key R&D Projects* (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme"). The Scheme aims to integrate Macao's science and technology resources, focus on the technology direction of appropriate economic diversification of Macao, and organize interdisciplinary and industry-academia-research strengths to collaborate on research and integrated innovation. In particular, it focuses on the transformation and cultivation of proven scientific research results, accelerates the transformation of the results, promotes the development of high-tech industries, and enhances the contribution of scientific and technological innovations to the social and economic development of Macao.

### **II. Funding Recipients, Application Eligibility and Relevant Conditions**

#### **1. Funding recipients:**

- (1) Public higher education institutions or public medical institutions in the Macao SAR;
- (2) Private higher education institutions established by law in the Macao SAR;
- (3) Private non-profit-making entities established by law in the Macao SAR;
- (4) Key enterprises accredited under the *Technology Enterprise Certification Programme* of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED);
- (5) "Enterprises engaged in technological innovation business" recognized by the "Commission for the Review of Enterprises Engaged in Technological Innovation Business" as stipulated in Article 6 of the *Policy of Tax Incentives for Enterprises Engaged in Technological Innovation Business* (Law No. 1/2021).

#### **2. Application eligibility:**

- (1) Entities with legal personality referred to in the preceding paragraph are eligible to apply for funding;
- (2) If an entity referred to in the preceding paragraph does not have a legal personality, the application shall be made through the entity with legal personality to which it belongs.



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

3. Each research project must have a project leader who is responsible for leading and coordinating the project (hereinafter referred to as "project leader"), and the project leader shall meet the following conditions:
  - (1) A doctoral degree or a master's degree with at least 12 years of R&D experience in enterprises or an associate professor or above is required.
  - (2) The project leader shall be a full-time employee of the applicant and work full-time for the applicant for at least nine months per year.
4. Each research project may have no more than three subjects, and each subject must have a responsible person (hereinafter referred to as "subject leader"), and the subject leader shall meet the following conditions:
  - (1) A doctoral degree or a master's degree with at least six years of R&D experience in enterprises, or an assistant professor or above is required.
  - (2) Not less than 50% of the subject leaders are full-time employees of the applicant.
5. For each project, the participation of entities other than the applicant in the project in the form of cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "participating entities") may be accepted, but the number of participating entities accepted for each project shall not exceed 6.
6. Experts involved in the preparation of the relevant application guidelines shall not be the project (subject) leaders or members.

**III. Application Period**

July 16 to August 16, 2024

**IV. Type and Scope of Funding**

1. The Scheme is a non-reimbursable financial assistance.
2. Scope of funding:
  - (1) Projects in line with the purpose of the FDCT and the objectives of the Scheme.
  - (2) Scientific research and industrial development projects that are in line with the policies such as the *Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2021-2025)*, the *Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028)*, the *Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2024*, and the relevant plans and programs of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Such projects, in particular, include projects that can promote traditional Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components,



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

Internet of Things, big data, AI, new energy, space science,  
advanced materials and biomedicine.

**V. Collaborative Research and Supporting Inputs**

1. Industry-academia-research collaborative research is encouraged.
2. Enterprises are encouraged to take the lead or participate in the project and provide supporting funding inputs according to the relevant requirements of the application guidelines.

**VI. Application Guidelines**

The Administrative Committee of the FDCT organizes experts to compile application guidelines on the technical areas, research objectives, research directions, assessment indicators, funding period and supporting funds required for each year of the Scheme.

**VII. Project Composition**

1. Applicants shall organize the application in the form of projects according to the directions listed in the application guidelines, and the project shall be divided into subjects. Unless otherwise specified, each project shall have no more than three subjects.
2. Each project shall be included in the application as a whole and cover all the research details and assessment indicators in the application guidelines.

**VIII. Expenditure Eligible for Funding**

1. The expenditure eligible for funding includes the following expenses incurred for the implementation of the project:
  - (1) Personnel expenses;
  - (2) Expenses on acquiring the necessary new machinery and equipment by any means;
  - (3) Expenses on consumable materials, reagents, and equipment maintenance;
  - (4) Direct costs of patent application;
  - (5) Other derivative expenses.
2. Other derivative expenses referred to in (5) of the preceding paragraph do not include:
  - (1) Expense on the establishment of the recipient entity;
  - (2) Expense on personnel not falling under (1) of the preceding paragraph;
  - (3) Electricity, water, telephone charge and other expenses of a similar nature;
  - (4) Entertainment;
  - (5) Audit fee;



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

- (6) Expense on the acquisition of vehicles, except for experimental purposes;
- (7) Expense on construction, acquisition and repayment of real estate by installments;
- (8) Repayment by installments does not fall under "(2) Expenses on acquiring the necessary new machinery and equipment by any means" above;
- (9) Other expenditures ineligible for funding as stipulated in the *General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the approval decision and the consent of funding.

**IX. Application Documents**

The application documents shall include the following materials:

1. The applicant's identification information and relevant supporting documents;
2. A document issued by the competent authority in the last three months certifying that the applicant does not owe any tax or social security contributions to the Macao SAR;
3. Information on other projects financed by public funds and other pending applications submitted by the same applicant for the purpose of applying for the funding;
4. Identification information and curriculum vitae of the project leader and members, as well as information on the time allocated to the implementation of the project;
5. An application proposal containing a detailed description of the project, which shall set out in detail the estimated amount of the project;
6. A statement of responsibility for the project;
7. A cooperation agreement or memorandum of understanding signed with the cooperating party (if any).

**X. Submission of Application**

1. Applicants shall prepare applications in any of the official languages of the Macao SAR or in English.
2. Applicants who have applied for an electronic signature shall submit the application documents via the online application system of the FDCT on or before the deadline.
3. Applicants who have not applied for electronic signature shall, in addition to submitting the application documents via the online application system of the FDCT on or before the deadline, deliver the signed and stamped application documents to the FDCT.

**XI. Preliminary Analysis**



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

1. The FDCT will conduct a preliminary analysis of the application documents to verify whether the application has the required documents under the Scheme and whether the applicant meets the conditions for funding approval.
2. If the documents required for the application are not sufficient, the FDCT will request the applicant to supplement materials within 15 days, if necessary.
3. Applications under any of the following circumstances will not be accepted for review and will be rejected by the FDCT, and the relevant applicant will be notified by letter:
  - (1) The applicant does not meet the requirements of Article 2 of the Scheme;
  - (2) The applicant is on the list of mandatory levies and overdue returns of the FDCT;
  - (3) The applicant is a debtor to the treasury of the Macao SAR;
  - (4) The project leader and the subject leader do not meet the requirements of Article 2 of the Scheme;
  - (5) The number of active research projects undertaken by the project leader exceeds the maximum number of active research projects that the project leader can undertake under the FDCT;
  - (6) The project leaders cannot submit a new application for funding;
  - (7) Multiple applications for the same project are submitted at the same time or the same project has been funded by the FDCT before;
  - (8) The supporting inputs (if any) do not meet the requirements of Article 5 of the Scheme;
  - (9) The number of participating entities in each project is more than 6;
  - (10) The application documents do not meet the requirements of Article 9 of the Scheme;
  - (11) The applicant fails to supplement or promptly submit relevant application materials after notification;
  - (12) The applicant violates existing laws and regulations or fails to protect the safety and legal rights and interests of participants.

**XII. Review Method and Criteria**

1. Before accepting applications, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT shall invite five to seven members from the list of project advisors to establish a project advisory committee.
2. Application documents that proceed to the review process will be submitted to the project advisory committee for review based on the review elements and criteria in the following paragraph.
3. Review elements and criteria:



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

- (1) Review of technology and results, including technology level, application prospects, and actual application scenarios;
- (2) Qualifications of the applicant, including research foundation of the team, quality and number of members, research conditions, and collaborative research;
- (3) Project plan, including work plan review, budgeting rationalization, and project feasibility.
4. The Administrative Committee of the FDCT may invite external experts to review specific or more complex funding applications.
5. The FDCT may conduct on-site inspections of the applicant's research conditions and interviews with the project team and partners (if any), if necessary.

**XIII. Funding Approval**

1. For a project application not exceeding MOP1 million, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT will make a decision on the application after considering the analysis of the application documents and the review opinions.
2. For a project application exceeding MOP1 million, the FDCT will supervise the entity and make a decision on the application after considering the analysis of the application documents and the review opinions.
3. The recipients shall sign the *Consent of Funding* attached to the approval letter within the time limit to declare that they are aware of and will comply with the approval decision as set out in the approval notice.
4. The funds will be disbursed by installments in the manner as described in the *Consent of Funding*.

**XIV. Funding Amount and Calculation Method**

1. The maximum amount of funds granted to a single project is set out in the relevant application guidelines and does not exceed MOP20 million.
2. The funding amount approved by the FDCT shall not be higher than the funding amount applied for.

**XV. Funding Term**

The funding term of the Scheme shall not exceed four years, as specified in the relevant application guidelines.

**XVI. Result Requirements**

It is expected that the research results are not limited to academic results or application results, but may include theses, publications, research (consulting) reports, patents, talent cultivation, software, hardware (prototypes, samples), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new processes, etc., and the requirements are set out in the relevant guidelines.

**XVII. Report and Report on Agreed-upon Procedures**



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

1. The recipients shall submit annual and final reports on the progress of the funded project to facilitate interim and final assessment by the FDCT.
2. The report referred to in the preceding paragraph shall consist of two parts, namely, the activities carried out and their effectiveness, and the financial performance.
3. Regarding the activities carried out and their effectiveness, the recipients shall describe in detail the work implemented during the relevant period and the results achieved in accordance with the approved planning and timetable.
4. Regarding the financial performance, the recipients shall set out in detail the use of the funding, particularly all income and expenditures, and completely retain the original vouchers of income and expenditure involved in the funding for at least five years.
5. The recipients shall submit an annual report by the deadline specified in the approval letter.
6. The recipients shall submit a final report and a *Report on the Implementation of the Agreed-upon Procedures* (if required) within 90 days from the day of expiry of the funding term.
7. When the cumulative amount of funding granted to a recipient in the current year of the Scheme equals or exceeds MOP1 million, the recipient must engage a certified public accountant, an accounting firm, a certified public accountant that can provide accounting and tax services, and an accounting firm that can provide accounting and tax services to implement the agreed-upon procedures for the funded project, and prepare a *Report on the Implementation of the Agreed-upon Procedures*.
8. If the report cannot be submitted on time due to force majeure or for reasons confirmed by the Administrative Committee of the FDCT as not attributable to the recipient, the recipient shall notify the FDCT within seven business days from the date of the occurrence of the matter in question.
9. In the case referred to in the preceding paragraph, with the approval of the Administrative Committee, the reporting period shall be suspended from the date of the occurrence of the matter in question and shall continue from the day after the disappearance of such matter.

**XVIII. Obligations of the Recipient**

The recipient shall fulfill the following obligations:

1. Truthfully provide information and make declarations;
2. Apply for any changes to the approved funding to the FDCT in advance, unless as otherwise specified in the approval decision or the consent letter;





**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

3. Ensure that the funding is used for the purposes specified in the approval decision;
4. Plan and execute the funded expenditure prudently and reasonably;
5. Submit reports on time;
6. Refund any unspent funds on time;
7. Properly maintain an account for the expenditure incurred in implementing the funded project and keep specific entries for recording such expenditure;
8. Accept and cooperate with the supervision of the use of funding by the FDCT, including reviewing the relevant income, expenditure and financial position;
9. Refund funds according to Article 21;
10. Comply with the laws and regulations for intellectual property protection;
11. Warrant that the details of the application and the procedures for the implementation of the project do not violate any laws or infringe any rights of others;
12. Comply with the terms and conditions set out in the *Consent of Funding* signed with the FDCT;
13. Agree that the FDCT will own the rights to record in writing, photograph, film and record in other manners throughout the project, as well as the right to use all related outputs in perpetuity without compensation;
14. Agree that the FDCT will publish basic information, project summaries and publicly available results of the project on FDCT's website and in documents available to the public;
15. State that "The project is supported by the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) of the Macao Special Administrative Region" or "Supported by: Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) of the Macao Special Administrative Region" in any promotional activities, press releases and publicity materials related to the project, and file with the FDCT;
16. Expenditure funded by the FDCT shall not be eligible for funding by any other public funding programs.

**XIX. Consequences of Breach of Obligations**

If the recipient breaches the above obligations, except in the event of force majeure or that the Administrative Committee of the FDCT considers that the responsibility is not attributable to the recipient, the Administrative Committee may make the following decisions, either individually or jointly, in accordance with the nature and severity of the breach by the recipient:

1. No funding will be approved;





**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

2. Funds that have been approved but not yet disbursed will be suspended or appropriately limited in the calculation of the actually disbursed amount;
3. The approved funding will be canceled in whole or in part, and the recipient will be required to refund the relevant funding;
4. The recipient or the project leader will be included in the list of breach of obligations and subject to a restriction on the submission of applications for funding, but the maximum period of restriction will not exceed two years.

**XX. Application Scope of Consequences**

1. The consequences referred to in paragraph 1 of the preceding article apply, in particular, to recipients in breach of paragraphs 6 and 9 of Article 18 at the time of application for funding.
2. The consequences referred to in paragraph 2 of the preceding article apply, in particular, to recipients in breach of paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12 of Article 18, and recognized by the FDCT to have minor faults.
3. The consequences referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding article apply, in particular, in the following cases:
  - (1) The recipient breaches the obligations under paragraphs 1, 3, 9, 10, 11 and 16 of Article 18;
  - (2) The recipient breaches the obligations under paragraph 4 of Article 18, leading to serious risks or damages to the participants or the public interest, especially public safety or social order;
  - (3) The recipient breaches the provisions of paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 12 of Article 18, and recognized by the FDCT to have caused serious consequences.
4. If the project summary report is assessed as non-compliant in accordance with the *General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the FDCT reserves the right to impose the consequences referred to in paragraph 4 above on the relevant project leader.
5. The Administrative Committee of the FDCT will give reasons for its decision on imposing the above consequences and, if the approved funding has been canceled in part, set the refund amount.

**XXI. Refund, Repayment and Compulsory Levy of Funding**

1. If the amount of expenditure to be financed, as confirmed by the Administrative Committee of the FDCT, is less than the amount of funding already disbursed, the recipient shall refund all the difference within the specified period as notified by the FDCT.
2. If the approved funding is not used within the period specified in the approval decision or the consent letter, the recipient shall explain the



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

reasons for such failure and refund the funding received within the period specified by the FDCT.

3. Upon application by a recipient with reasonable grounds, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT may exceptionally approve that the recipient is not required to refund the funding that has been used to cover expenditure reasonably incurred prior to the termination of the use of funding.
4. If the approved funding is canceled in whole or in part or the funding is terminated, the recipient shall refund the amount of funding received within the notified period.
5. If the recipient fails to refund or repay the funding within the specified period and fails to provide reasonable explanation, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) will, in accordance with the tax enforcement procedures, leverage the relevant certificate issued by the Administrative Committee to enforce compulsory levy.

**XXII. Administrative, Civil and Criminal Liabilities**

Any person who makes false statements, provides false information or uses any illegal means to obtain the funding in the procedures related to the funding shall, without prejudice to the consequences referred to in Article 19, assume administrative, civil and criminal liabilities (if any) in accordance with the law.

**XXIII. Supervision**

1. The FDCT shall have the authority to supervise the compliance with the Scheme, the approval decision or the consent letter, especially whether the recipient uses the funding approved for the purposes specified in the approval decision.
2. To perform the supervision function, the FDCT shall be entitled to:
  - (1) Require the recipient to provide necessary information and assistance for project follow-up, site survey and random document inspection;
  - (2) Engage a professionally qualified third party to audit the accounts of the funded activities or projects.

**XXIV. Complaint**

The applicant may appeal the relevant decision in accordance with the *Administrative Procedure Code*.

**XXV. Personal Data Processing**

1. In order to implement the Scheme, the FDCT and other relevant public authorities or entities may, when necessary, adopt any means, including data interconnection, to process and verify the personal data involved in the files, in accordance with the *Personal Data Protection Act* (Law No. 8/2005).



**Macao Special Administrative Region  
Science and Technology Development Fund**

2. The personal data provided in the application documents will be used only for the processing and approving the funding application by the FDCT. To review and approve the funding application, the applicant shall consent to the transfer of information contained in the application documents by the FDCT to other entities and to the printing of the information to the project advisory committee for review.

**XXVI. Others**

1. All application materials shall be used for the Scheme only. The applicants shall ensure the accuracy of the documents and materials submitted, which will not be returned once submitted.
2. For matters not covered by the Scheme, the applicable *Public Financial Support Scheme of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Statutes of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the *Regulation on Financial Support of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the *Guidelines for the Inspection of Subsidized Activities or Projects* of the Public Assets Supervision and Planning Office (GPSAP) of the Macao SAR, the *General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the *Guidelines for the Agreed-upon Procedures on Scientific and Technological Research Projects*, and the *Consent of Funding* signed after approval shall prevail.
3. This Scheme is available at the office or the website (<https://www.fdct.gov.mo/>) of the FDCT.
4. The applicant shall assume all responsibility if the content of the application involves illegal infringement of the rights of others. The FDCT also reserves the right to proceed with legal actions against such applicant.
5. The applicant's false statement will lead to disqualification and other legal consequences.
6. The FDCT has the right to revise and interpret the Scheme.