



## Technology Research and Development Talent Funding Scheme (2026)

### Chapter I

### General Provisions

#### 1. Objectives

In line with the policy guidelines of the Macao SAR Government and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the current “Public Financial Support System of the Macao Special Administrative Region”, “Statutes of the Science and Technology Development Fund” and “Regulations on Grants of the Science and Technology Development Fund”, the Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao SAR (hereinafter referred to as the “FDCT”) launches the “Technology Research and Development Talent Funding Scheme” (hereinafter referred to as the “Scheme”), with a view to supporting local residents engaged in R&D work, attracting outstanding Macao professionals in the science and technology sector to return, and bringing in excellent scientific and technological talents to develop in Macao, so as to foster innovation in science and technology and promote the moderate diversification of Macao’s industries.

#### 2. Categories of Application and Maximum Funding Amounts

##### (1) *Enterprise R&D Talent Category*

Support is provided for Macao residents to engage in R&D projects within local science and technology enterprises. The maximum funding amount for this category is MOP720,000.

##### (2) *Postdoctoral Category*

Support is provided for Macao residents to conduct research projects within the research systems of higher education institutions. The maximum funding amount for this category is MOP720,000.

##### (3) *Talent Repatriation Category*

Support is provided for outstanding Macao residents working in the science and technology sector outside Macao to return and engage in R&D projects in Macao. The maximum funding amount for this category is MOP5,000,000.

##### (4) *Talent Introduction Category*

Support is provided for the introduction of high-end and outstanding talents to carry out R&D projects in Macao. The maximum funding amount for this category is MOP5,000,000.

#### 3. Eligible Applicants

- (1) Public higher education institutions in the Macao Special Administrative Region.
- (2) Private higher education institutions legally established in the Macao Special Administrative Region.
- (3) Business operators or commercial enterprises registered in the Macao Special Administrative Region.

#### 4. Type and Scope of Funding

- (1) Type of funding: grant allocated for the projects.
- (2) Scope of funding: projects that align with the objectives of the FDCT and the Scheme.



## 5. Application Period

Enterprise R&D Talent Category: March 2026 and September 2026 (tentative)\*.

Postdoctoral Category: March 2026 and September 2026 (tentative)\*.

Talent Repatriation Category: 23 January to 23 February 2026.

Talent Introduction Category: 23 January to 23 February 2026.

\* The application dates shall be determined in accordance with the annual work schedule and shall be subject to the announcement on the FDCT website.

## 6. Submission of Applications

- (1) Applications must be written in any of the official languages of the Macao Special Administrative Region or in English.
- (2) Applicants must submit a complete application dossier to the FDCT on or before the deadline.

## 7. Preliminary Analysis

- (1) The FDCT will conduct a preliminary analysis of the application dossier to verify whether the required documents are complete and whether the applicant meets the conditions for funding approval.
- (2) If any required documents are missing, the FDCT may request the applicant to provide the supplementary materials within 15 days.
- (3) Applications will not be accepted for assessment and will be rejected by the FDCT with written notification under any of the following circumstances:
  - i. The applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements.
  - ii. The relevant talent does not meet the application criteria.
  - iii. The mentor, coordinator, or project does not meet the application criteria and relevant requirements.
  - iv. The applicant is listed for compulsory recovery or overdue repayment by the FDCT.
  - v. The applicant is a debtor to the Treasury of the Macao SAR.
  - vi. The same project is submitted for multiple funding applications or has previously received funding from the FDCT.
  - vii. The applicant fails to provide documents and information regarding related party transactions in accordance with the first part of Paragraph (2), Article 2 of Chapter V, where applicable.
  - viii. The application dossier does not comply with relevant provisions.
  - ix. The applicant fails to make corrections or submit relevant documents after notification or submits them late.
  - x. Violation of existing laws and regulations or failure to ensure the safety and legal rights of participants.

## 8. Evaluation Method

- (1) Prior to accepting applications, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT shall invite five to seven advisors from the list of project advisors to form a Project Advisory Committee.
- (2) Application dossiers admitted to the evaluation procedure will be assessed by the Project Advisory Committee based on the relevant evaluation elements and criteria.
- (3) The FDCT may, as needed, conduct on-site inspections of the applicant's research conditions and arrange interviews with the relevant talents.



## 9. Grant Approval

- (1) For project applications with a funding amount not exceeding MOP1,000,000, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT shall make a decision after considering the analysis of the application dossier and the evaluation opinions.
- (2) For project applications with a funding amount exceeding MOP1,000,000, the Supervisory Entity of the FDCT shall make a decision after considering the analysis of the application dossier and the evaluation opinions.
- (3) The grant recipient shall, within the specified time limit, sign the Grant Agreement attached to the approval letter, declaring that they acknowledge and will comply with the grant decision specified in the approval document.
- (4) The grant shall be disbursed in instalments as stipulated in the Grant Agreement.
- (5) The FDCT shall allocate the funding to the grant recipient.

## 10. Mechanism for the Return of Proceeds from Achievement Transformation

- (1) If the direct or derivative outcomes generated under this funding scheme are commercialized or applied, and measurable economic proceeds are obtained, the grant recipient is required to return a certain proportion of the proceeds to the institution designated by the FDCT in accordance with the requirements of the Grant Agreement.
- (2) Enterprises incubated through the outcomes funded by the Scheme, upon meeting the conditions for rights conversion specified in the Grant Agreement, may have the FDCT funding converted into equity in the enterprise for the institution designated by the FDCT (e.g., shares, stock options, cash, or other interests). The enterprise is required to enter into a relevant agreement with the designated institution.
- (3) The provisions of this article do not apply to the Enterprise R&D Talent Category and the Postdoctoral Category.



## Chapter II

### Enterprise R&D Talent Category and Postdoctoral Category

#### 1. Eligibility Criteria

- (1) For the Enterprise R&D Talent Category, applications must be submitted by the employing enterprise, which must be:
  - i. An enterprise certified under the “Technology Enterprise Certification Scheme” of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau.
  - ii. An enterprise recognised by the “Evaluation Committee for Enterprises Engaged in Scientific and Technological Innovation Activities” pursuant to Article 6 of Law No. 1/2021 (Tax Incentive Regime for Enterprises Engaged in Scientific and Technological Innovation Activities) (hereinafter referred to as “tax-recognised enterprise”).
- (2) For the Postdoctoral Category, applications must be submitted by the higher education institutions employing the postdoctoral researcher, as referred to in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article 3, Chapter I.
- (3) If the entities referred to in the preceding two paragraphs do not possess legal personality, applications must be submitted through their affiliated entities with legal personality.

#### 2. Application Conditions and Relevant Requirements

- (1) For the Enterprise R&D Talent Category, the relevant talent must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Hold a Macao Resident Identity Card.
  - ii. Have obtained a doctoral or master's degree in a science and technology field from a higher education institution recognised by the Macao or local government within the past five years.
  - iii. As of the first day of the application date for this category, the talent must have been employed by the technology enterprise for no more than one year, or the enterprise must provide relevant documentation proving that the talent will be employed within one year after the grant is awarded.
  - iv. Must not be a shareholder of the technology enterprise.
- (2) For the Postdoctoral Category, the relevant talent must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Hold a Macao Resident Identity Card.
  - ii. Have obtained a doctoral degree from a higher education institution recognised by the Macao or local government within the past five years;
  - iii. Possess experience in academic research or achievement in research results commercialisation in the science and technology field.
  - iv. As of the first day of the application date for this category, the talent must have been employed by the higher education institution for no more than one year, or the institution must provide relevant documentation proving that the talent will be employed within one year after the grant is awarded.
- (3) The R&D project to be carried out or participated in by the relevant talent must meet the following requirements:
  - i. The project must be developed in alignment with policies including the “Macao Special Administrative Region Development Plan on Appropriate Economic Diversification (2024-2028)”, the “2026 Financial Year Policy Address”, and the relevant plans and schemes of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, especially those promoting scientific research and industrial



development in areas such as Traditional Chinese Medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.

ii. Each project must be assigned a mentor or coordinator responsible for overseeing the R&D activities of the relevant talent. The mentor or coordinator must meet the following conditions:

- (i) For applications submitted by enterprises, a coordinator must be appointed. The coordinator must be an employee of the enterprise responsible for coordinating the work of the relevant talent.
- (ii) For applications submitted by higher education institutions, a mentor must be appointed. The mentor must be a staff member of the institution with a professional title of not less than Associate Professor, and directly guide the work of the relevant talent.

iii. Only one relevant talent per project may apply for the allowance.

### 3. Number of Grants

- (1) The combined maximum number of grants for the Enterprise R&D Talent Category and Postdoctoral Category is 65, with a maximum of 15 grants allocated to the Postdoctoral Category.
- (2) The number of funded talents in each enterprise shall not exceed one-third of the total number of staff with degrees in science and technology fields, and must not exceed the following maximum per enterprise:
  - i. For key enterprises, up to 5 individuals.
  - ii. For growing enterprises, up to 3 individuals.
  - iii. For potential enterprises, up to 2 individuals.
  - iv. For tax-recognised enterprises, up to 3 individuals.

### 4. Eligible Expenditures

Eligible expenditures are limited to personnel allowances for qualified talents.

### 5. Application Dossier

The application dossier shall include the following documents:

- (1) Identification details of the applicant and the relevant supporting documents.
- (2) If the applicant is a business operator or commercial enterprise, a commercial registration certificate issued by the competent authority within the past three months and, where applicable, a copy of the most recent Supplementary Income Tax return (Form M1) for the past year must also be submitted.
- (3) A certificate issued by the competent authority within the past three months stating that the applicant has no outstanding tax liabilities or, where applicable, social security contributions in the Macao SAR.
- (4) Information on other projects subsidised with public funds under the same applicant, and any other pending applications submitted for funding purposes.
- (5) Identity documents, academic qualification certificates, curriculum vitae, and supporting documents of achievements of the relevant talent.
- (6) Identification information and curriculum vitae of the mentor or coordinator, along with details of their allocated time for the implementation of the respective project.
- (7) In accordance with the requirements under Paragraph (2), Article 3 of this Chapter, if the applicant is an enterprise, each application must be accompanied by a list of



no fewer than two employees of the enterprise holding academic degrees in science and technology (excluding the subsidised talent), together with their academic qualification certificates. In the case of multiple applications, the employee lists must not contain duplicate names across different applications.

- (8) A copy of the formal employment contract or draft employment contract of the relevant talent, specifying the job title and monthly salary.
- (9) The project proposal, including details such as the amount of funding requested, personnel involved, project planning and schedule.

## 6. Evaluation Criteria

- (1) The qualifications of the applicant and the relevant talent.
- (2) The qualifications of the mentor or coordinator.
- (3) The impact of the proposed project on the economic and social development of Macao.

## 7. Funding Amount and Calculation Method

- (1) The maximum funding amount per application is as stipulated in Article 2, Chapter I. The amount granted by the FDCT shall not exceed the requested amount.
- (2) For the Postdoctoral Category, the maximum monthly allowance per individual is MOP30,000, for a funding period not exceeding 24 months.
- (3) For the Enterprise R&D Talent Category, the monthly subsidy per individual shall not exceed 70% of their monthly salary, and must comply with the following standards:
  - i. For individuals holding a doctoral degree: a maximum of MOP30,000 per month, for up to 24 months.
  - ii. For individuals holding a master's degree: a maximum of MOP20,000 per month, for up to 24 months.

## 8. Duration of Funding

Not exceeding 24 months.

## 9. Termination of Funding

If the funded talent resigns before the end of the project, the funding shall be terminated as of the date of resignation. The grant recipient shall submit a final report in accordance with Paragraph (6), Article 1, Chapter IV, and return the grant amount as stipulated in Paragraphs (1) to (4), Article 2, Chapter IV.

## 10. Deliverables Requirements

- (1) If the funding recipient is a higher education institution, the expected research deliverables may include academic or applied outcomes, such as theses, publications, research (consultation) reports, patents, software, hardware (prototypes or mock-ups), technical standards, formulations, new materials, or new processes.
- (2) If the funding recipient is an enterprise, the expected research deliverables must be applied outcomes, which may include patents, software, hardware (prototypes or mock-ups), technical standards, formulations, new materials, or new processes.



## Chapter III

### Talent Repatriation Category and Talent Introduction Category

#### 1. Eligibility Criteria

- (1) If the application is submitted by higher education institutions referred to in Paragraphs (1) and (2), Article 3, Chapter I, the relevant talent must be employed by the respective institution.
- (2) If the application is submitted by an enterprise referred to in Paragraph (3), Article 3, Chapter I, such enterprise must have been established for no more than one year as of the application start date for this category, and the relevant talent must be a founding and current shareholder of the enterprise.
- (3) If the entities referred to in the preceding two subparagraphs do not possess legal personality, the application must be submitted through their affiliated entity with legal personality.

#### 2. Application Conditions and Relevant Requirements

- (1) For the Talent Repatriation Category, the relevant talent must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Hold a Macao Resident Identity Card.
  - ii. Prior to returning to Macao, have held an executive position in a listed company for no less than five years, or have held a position of Associate Professor or above at a higher education institution.
  - iii. Serve as the project leader and conduct an R&D project in Macao related to science, technology and engineering.
  - iv. If the applicant is a higher education institution, the relevant talent must have been employed for no more than one year as of the application start date for this category, or the institution must provide supporting documents indicating that the talent will be employed within one year after the grant is awarded.
- (2) For the Talent Introduction Category, the relevant talent must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Fulfil the eligibility criteria set out in the “High-end Talent Scheme”, “Outstanding Talent Scheme for the Big Health Industry”, or the “Outstanding Talent Scheme for the High and New Technology Industry”, and the application for talent introduction must have been preliminarily approved by the competent authorities of the Macao SAR Government and included in the “Recommended Talent Introduction List”.
  - ii. Serve as the project leader and conduct an R&D project in Macao related to science, technology and engineering.
  - iii. If the applicant is a higher education institution, the relevant talent must have been employed for no more than one year as of the application start date for this category, or the institution must provide supporting documents indicating that the talent will be employed within one year after the grant is awarded.
- (3) For the Talent Introduction Category, if the application for the introduction of the relevant talent is ultimately not approved by the competent authorities of the Macao SAR Government, the funding from the FDCT shall not be granted.

#### 3. Eligible Expenditures

- (1) Eligible expenditures include the following project-related costs:



- i. Personnel expenses.
- ii. Expenses for acquiring necessary new machinery and equipment by any means.
- iii. Expenses for consumable materials, reagents and maintenance of equipment;
- iv. Direct costs for patent application.
- v. Other related expenditures.

(2) The "other related expenditures" referred to in subparagraph (5) above shall not include the following:

- i. Expenses for the establishment of the beneficiary entity.
- ii. Electricity, water, telephone and other similar utility expenses.
- iii. Hospitality expenses.
- iv. Audit fees.
- v. Expenses for acquiring vehicles, except for experimental use.
- vi. Expenses for the construction, acquisition or instalment payment of real estate;
- vii. Other non-eligible expenses as stipulated in the "General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao SAR", the grant decision, and the Grant Agreement.

#### 4. Matching Contribution

- (1) Applicants who are business operators or commercial enterprises must provide matching funds equivalent to or greater than the approved grant amount from the FDCT.
- (2) The matching contribution must comply with the provisions outlined in the preceding article.

#### 5. Application Dossier

The application dossier shall include the following documents:

- (1) Identification details of the applicant and the relevant supporting documents.
- (2) If the applicant is a business operator or commercial enterprise, a commercial registration certificate issued by the competent authority within the past three months and, where applicable, a copy of the most recent Supplementary Income Tax return (Form M1) for the past year.
- (3) A certificate issued by the competent authority within the past three months confirming that the applicant has no outstanding tax liabilities or, where applicable, social security contributions in the Macao SAR.
- (4) Information on other projects subsidised with public funds under the same applicant and any other pending applications submitted for funding purposes.
- (5) A project proposal with detailed project description, including a breakdown of the project budget.
- (6) Identity documents, academic qualification certificates, curriculum vitae, and supporting documents of achievements of the relevant talent.
- (7) Identification information and curriculum vitae of R&D team members, along with a description of the time allocated by each member for the implementation of the project.
- (8) Cooperation agreements, memoranda of understanding, or letters of intent signed with potential collaborators, if applicable.
- (9) Other supporting documents demonstrating compliance with the eligibility criteria of this category.



## 6. Evaluation Criteria

- (1) Applicant qualifications.
- (2) Project planning proposal.
- (3) Technical merit and expected outcomes.

## 7. Funding Amount and Calculation Method

The maximum funding amount per application is as stipulated in Article 2, Chapter I. The amount granted by the FDCT shall not exceed the requested amount.

## 8. Duration of Funding

The duration of funding under this category shall not exceed three years.

## 9. Termination of Funding

If the relevant talent resigns, no longer holds shares in the funded enterprise, or the eligibility for talent introduction is not renewed by the competent authorities of the Macao SAR Government, the funding shall be terminated as of the date such fact occurs. The grant recipient shall submit a final report in accordance with Paragraph (6), Article 1, Chapter IV, and return the grant amount as stipulated in Paragraphs (1) to (4), Article 2, Chapter IV.

## 10. Deliverables Requirements

- (1) If the funding recipient is a higher education institution, the expected research deliverables may include academic or applied outcomes, such as theses, publications, research (consultation) reports, patents, software, hardware (prototypes or mock-ups), technical standards, formulations, new materials, or new processes.
- (2) If the funding recipient is an enterprise:
  - i. The expected research deliverables must be applied outcomes, which may include patents, software, hardware (prototypes or mock-ups), technical standards, formulations, new materials, or new processes.
  - ii. At the time of project completion, the enterprise must have no fewer than three full-time employees.



## Chapter IV

### Implementation and Supervision of Funded Projects

#### 1. Reports and Agreed-Upon Procedures Report

- (1) The grant recipient shall submit annual progress reports and a final report on the funded work, to enable the FDCT to conduct mid-term and final evaluations.
- (2) The reports referred to in the preceding paragraph shall comprise two parts: one on the activities carried out and their outcomes, and the other on financial implementation.
- (3) Regarding the part on activities and outcomes, the grant recipient shall, in accordance with the approved plan and schedule, provide a detailed description of the work carried out during the reporting period and the results achieved.
- (4) Regarding financial implementation, the grant recipient shall provide a detailed breakdown of the use of grant funds, especially the total income and expenses, and retain all original financial documents related to the grant for at least five years.
- (5) The grant recipient shall submit the annual report within the deadline specified in the approval letter.
- (6) The grant recipient shall submit the final report and, where applicable, the “Agreed-Upon Procedures Report” within ninety days after the end of the funding period.
- (7) If the total funding granted to the recipient under the Scheme in the same calendar year equals or exceeds MOP1,000,000, the grant recipient must engage a certified public accountant, an accounting firm, or an accounting professional/company authorised to provide accounting and tax services to carry out agreed-upon procedures for the funded project and prepare an “Agreed-Upon Procedures Report”. In the event of force majeure or reasons deemed not attributable to the grant recipient by the FDCT Administrative Committee that prevent timely submission of reports, the grant recipient must notify the FDCT within seven working days from the occurrence of such events.
- (8) In the circumstances referred to in the preceding paragraph, and upon approval by the Administrative Committee, the reporting deadline shall be suspended from the date of occurrence of the event and resumed on the day after the event ceases to exist.

#### 2. Refund, Reimbursement and Compulsory Recovery of Grant Funds

- (1) If the FDCT Administrative Committee confirms that the amount of eligible expenditure is lower than the amount of funding disbursed, the grant recipient shall return the full difference within the period specified in the FDCT’s notification.
- (2) If the approved project is not implemented within the period stated in the grant decision or agreement, the grant recipient shall explain the reasons for non-implementation within the period specified by the FDCT and return the disbursed grant funds.
- (3) Upon submission of a justified request by the recipient, the FDCT Administrative Committee may, as an exception, approve that the recipient is not required to return the portion of funds used for reasonable expenses incurred prior to the termination of the project.
- (4) If the grant is fully or partially cancelled, or if the funding is terminated, the grant



recipient must return the disbursed funds within the time limit specified in the FDCT's notification.

(5) If the grant recipient fails to return or refund the grant within the designated period and fails to present a valid justification, the Financial Services Bureau shall proceed with compulsory recovery under the tax enforcement procedures, based on the certificate issued by the FDCT Administrative Committee as an enforceable title.

### 3. Supervision

- (1) The FDCT has the authority to supervise compliance with the Scheme, the grant decision, or the Grant Agreement, in particular to ensure that the funding granted is used for the purposes stipulated in the grant decision.
- (2) To exercise its supervisory authority, the FDCT has the right to:
  - i. Request necessary information and assistance from the grant recipient for project follow-up, on-site inspections, and random document checks.
  - ii. Engage a qualified third-party organisation to conduct audits of the funded activities or projects.

### 4. Appeal

Applicants may lodge an appeal against the relevant decision in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

### 5. Personal Data Processing

- (1) For the purpose of implementing the provisions of the Scheme, the FDCT and other relevant public departments or entities may, where necessary, process and verify personal data contained in the application dossier using any means, including data interconnection, in accordance with Law No. 8/2005 (Personal Data Protection Act).
- (2) The personal data contained in the application documents shall be used solely by the FDCT for processing and evaluating the funding application. For the purpose of application assessment, the applicant shall consent to the FDCT transferring the data contained in the application dossier to other entities and providing it to the Project Advisory Committee for evaluation.

### 6. Other Notes

- (1) Participation in the Scheme shall be deemed as confirmation that the applicant has read, understood and agreed to comply with all provisions of the Scheme without objection.
- (2) All submitted application materials shall be used exclusively for the purpose of the Scheme. Applicants shall ensure the accuracy of the submitted documents and materials, which will not be returned once submitted.
- (3) Any false declaration made by the applicant shall result in disqualification from the application and may also incur other legal consequences.
- (4) If the content of the application involves unlawful infringement of the rights of others, the applicant shall bear full responsibility. The FDCT reserves the right to pursue legal liability.
- (5) Grant recipients must comply with the laws of the Macao SAR, Mainland China or other countries and regions. In the event that any activity or decision leads to a violation of such laws and incurs civil, criminal or administrative liability, the



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科 學 技 術 發 展 基 金  
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grant recipient shall bear such responsibility independently.



## Chapter V

### Responsibilities, Obligations and Consequences of Breach of Obligations

#### 1. Obligations of Grant Recipients

Grant recipients shall fulfil the following obligations:

- (1) Provide accurate information and make truthful declarations.
- (2) In the event of any change to the approved grant, submit a prior application to the FDCT, unless otherwise stipulated in the grant decision or Grant Agreement.
- (3) Ensure that the grant funds are used for the purposes specified in the grant decision.
- (4) Plan and implement the use of the grant funds prudently and reasonably.
- (5) Submit reports on time.
- (6) Return unused grant funds not applied to the designated purposes in a timely manner.
- (7) Properly record the expenditures made during the implementation of the funded project and maintain separate accounts to track such expenses.
- (8) Accept and cooperate with the FDCT's supervision of the use of grant funds, including verification of related income and expenditure and financial status.
- (9) Return grant funds in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, Chapter IV;
- (10) Comply with the applicable legal framework on intellectual property rights protection.
- (11) Ensure that the project content and its implementation process do not contravene legal provisions or infringe the rights of others.
- (12) Comply with the terms set forth in the Grant Agreement signed with the FDCT;
- (13) Agree that the FDCT shall have the right to record the entire project process in written, photographic, or other formats.
- (14) Agree that the FDCT may publish basic project information, project summaries and publicly shareable outcomes on its website or other public documents.
- (15) Acknowledge the support of the "Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao Special Administrative Region" or "Supported by: Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao Special Administrative Region" in all project-related promotional activities, press releases and promotional materials, and report such to the FDCT.
- (16) Ensure that any expenditure funded by the FDCT is not subsidised under any other public funding programme.
- (17) In the case of the Talent Repatriation Category or Talent Introduction Category, also comply with the regulations on related party transactions.

#### 2. Regulations on Related Party Transactions

In accordance with the "Guidelines on Supervision of Related Party Transactions in Public Financial Support Procedures"<sup>1</sup> issued by the Public Assets Supervision and Administration Bureau of the Macao SAR, within the scope of eligible funded expenses, the applicant/grant recipient must ensure that any transactions with related natural persons or entities (as defined in the Annex), including the purchase of goods or services, are fair and reasonable, and that transaction prices do not deviate from reasonable market prices. The FDCT will evaluate the reasonableness of such prices

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dsgap.gov.mo/sites/default/files/2024-10/001\\_DSGAP\\_AF\\_2024.pdf](https://www.dsgap.gov.mo/sites/default/files/2024-10/001_DSGAP_AF_2024.pdf)



based on case-specific circumstances, justification provided by the applicant/grant recipient, or market analysis, where applicable. In conducting related party transactions, grant recipients shall also comply with the following provisions:

- (1) If, within a complete grant application case, the total amount of transactions with the same related party equals or exceeds MOP100,000<sup>1</sup>, the grant recipient must declare the details of such related party transaction to the FDCT, including: name of the related party, contact information, nature of the relationship with the applicant or grant recipient, content of the transaction (including the anticipated or actual transaction date, subject and amount), and justification (e.g., prices offered are more favorable than market rates; due to technical or professional capabilities, the projects undertaken and the goods or services provided by the related party are superior to those offered by similar entities; or the related party has exclusive rights to the goods or services provided).
- (2) If the related party transaction described in Paragraph 1 of this article already exists at the time of application and is confirmed or expected to continue, such declaration must be made at the time of application. If it arises after the grant is awarded, the declaration must be made when preparing the report referred to in Article 4, Paragraph 1 of Chapter 4. If, at the time of application, the declared related party transaction information changes, the grant recipient should provide the updated information and supporting documents in the report.
- (3) When making the declaration referred to in Paragraph 1 of this article, the applicant/grant recipient must attach documentation evidencing that quotations were obtained from two unrelated suppliers, unless the FDCT determines that it is not feasible to obtain market quotes for certain specific expenses.

### 3. Consequences of Breach of Obligations

Except in cases of force majeure or where the FDCT Administrative Committee confirms that the breach is not attributable to the grant recipient, if the grant recipient violates any of the obligations stipulated in Article 1 of this Chapter, the FDCT Administrative Committee may, depending on the nature and severity of the breach, impose one or more of the following penalties:

- (1) Refusal to grant funding.
- (2) Suspension of disbursement or imposition of restrictions on the calculation of disbursed amounts for funding that has been approved but not yet released.
- (3) Full or partial cancellation of the approved grant and demand for the return of the corresponding funds.
- (4) Inclusion of the grant recipient or relevant talent on the list of entities in breach of obligations, with the imposition of a restriction period during which they are prohibited from submitting funding applications, for a maximum period not

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<sup>1</sup> The calculation of the amount of related-party transactions includes:

- A. A single related-party transaction with an estimated or actual amount equal to or exceeding MOP100,000;
- B. Where the applicant or beneficiary is expected or has actually conducted more than one transaction with the same related party, and the total estimated or actual amount of such transactions is equal to or exceeds MOP100,000.



exceeding two years.

#### **4. Applicable Circumstances for Imposition of Penalties**

- (1) The consequence referred to in subparagraph (1) of the preceding article shall apply in particular where the grant recipient is, at the time of application, in breach of subparagraph (6) or (9) of Article 1 of this Chapter, or in breach of subparagraph (17) of Article 1 under circumstances deemed serious by the FDCT.
- (2) The consequence referred to in subparagraph (2) of the preceding article shall apply in particular where the grant recipient violates subparagraphs (2), (4), (5), (7), (8), (12), or (17) of Article 1 of this Chapter, under circumstances deemed as minor negligence by the FDCT.
- (3) The consequences referred to in subparagraphs (3) and (4) of the preceding article shall apply in particular in the following cases:
  - i. The grant recipient violates subparagraphs (1), (3), (9), (10), (11), or (16) of Article 1 of this Chapter.
  - ii. The grant recipient violates subparagraph (4) of Article 1 and causes significant risk or damage to participants or the public interest, particularly in terms of public safety or social order.
  - iii. The grant recipient violates subparagraphs (2), (4), (5), (7), (8), (12), or (17) of Article 1 under circumstances deemed serious by the FDCT.
- (4) If the final project report is assessed as non-compliant in accordance with the “General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao SAR”, the FDCT reserves the right to impose the consequence specified in subparagraph (4) of the preceding article on the project leader.
- (5) The FDCT Administrative Committee shall state the grounds when making any decision to impose the above-mentioned penalties. In the event of a partial cancellation of an approved grant, the amount to be refunded shall be specified.

#### **5. Administrative, Civil and Criminal Liability**

Any party who makes false declarations, provides false information, or uses unlawful means to obtain funding during the grant-related procedures shall be held legally liable under administrative, civil and criminal law, without prejudice to the consequences set out in Article 3 of this Chapter.



## Chapter VI Right of Interpretation

1. The Chinese version of the terms and conditions of the Scheme shall prevail.
2. Matters not covered by the terms and conditions of the Scheme shall be governed by applicable documents, including the "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", as well as the "Guidelines for the Inspection of Subsidized Activities or Projects" and the "Guidelines on Supervision of Related Party Transactions in Public Financial Support Procedures" issued by the Public Assets Supervision and Administration Bureau of the Macao SAR, the "General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao SAR" and the "Agreed Procedures Guidelines for Research Projects" issued by the FDCT, other funding rules or guidelines of the FDCT, and the Grant Agreement signed after approval.
3. The FDCT has the final right of interpretation and decision-making authority regarding the terms and conditions of the Scheme.



## Annex – Definition of Related Parties

1. Where the applicant/grant recipient is a “higher education institution or other non-profit organisation”, the related parties include:
1.1 The President, Chancellor, Chairperson, President of the Board of Directors, President of the Supervisory Board, Secretary-General, or equivalent position holder of the applicant or grant recipient institution.
1.2 Vice President, Vice Chancellor, Vice Chairperson, Vice President of the Board of Directors, Vice President of the Supervisory Board, Vice Secretary-General, or equivalent position holder of the applicant or grant recipient institution, except those who did not participate in the procurement procedures of the relevant transaction.
1.3 If the persons referred to in points 1.1 and 1.2 hold any of the aforementioned positions in another higher education institution or non-profit organisation, or are sole proprietors of another business, or controlling shareholders or members of the administrative management body of another company, such other institution, business or company shall be considered a related party of the applicant or grant recipient institution. However, persons referred to in point 1.2 shall be excluded if they did not participate in the procurement procedures of the relevant transaction.
1.4 If the spouse, children, parents, siblings, parents-in-law, siblings-in-law, or persons in a de facto marital relationship with the persons mentioned in points 1.1 and 1.2 hold any of the positions mentioned in points 1.1 and 1.2 in another higher education institution or non-profit organisation, or are sole proprietors of another business, or controlling shareholders or members of the administrative management body of another company, such other institution, business or company shall be considered a related party of the applicant or grant recipient institution. However, persons referred to in point 1.2 shall be excluded if they did not participate in the procurement procedures of the relevant transaction.
2. Where the applicant/grant recipient is a “business operator or commercial enterprise”, the related parties include:
2.1 Controlling shareholders (including natural and legal persons, in particular the parent company) and members of the administrative management body of the applicant or grant recipient company, as well as their spouses, children, parents, siblings, parents-in-law, siblings-in-law, and persons in a de facto marital relationship with them.
2.2 Any company in which the applicant or grant recipient company is a controlling shareholder, in particular subsidiaries, shall also be considered related parties.
2.3 Sole proprietorships held by the persons mentioned in point 2.1.
2.4 Any company in which the persons mentioned in point 2.1 are controlling shareholders or members of the administrative management body shall also be considered related parties.
* The term “controlling shareholder” refers to a natural or legal person who individually holds a majority share of the company’s capital, or who collectively holds a majority share together with other companies that are also controlling shareholders or other shareholders linked by quasi-corporate agreements, or who holds more than half of the voting rights, or who has the authority to appoint the majority of members of the administrative management body.



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# The term “company” refers to a company established in or outside the Macao Special Administrative Region, or other forms of commercial enterprises established outside the Macao Special Administrative Region.