

Funding Scheme for Enterprise Innovation and R&D Application Guidelines for Projects Type A (2023)

According to Article 9 of the *Funding Scheme for Enterprise Innovation and R&D* approved by the Chief Executive on December 1, 2022, the Administrative Committee of the Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as "FDCT") has formulated the Application Guidelines for Projects Type A of this Funding Scheme.

I. Objectives

In line with the Macao SAR Government's policies, FDCT is committed to enhance innovation and R&D in Macao enterprises, create a research-friendly environment, and inspire enterprises to increase their R&D investment through providing financial support, so as to promote the industry-university-research partnership, facilitate the transformation of scientific research achievements, cultivate emerging industries, and promote the moderately diversified development of related industries in Macao.

II. Support Areas

The research projects shall align with the Second Five-Year Plan of Macao economic and social development, the Macao SAR Government's Policy Address for 2023, related planning and programs of Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, etc., especially the projects that can promote scientific research and industrial development in the fields such as Chinese



medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.

III. Funding Amount and Project Duration

- 1. The amount applied for each project shall not exceed MOP 1,000,000;
- 2. Each project has a maximum funding duration of 3 years.

IV. Funding Type

No repayment required.

V. Application Period

February 27th to March 27th

VI. Applying Entities

Commercial enterprises that fulfill the following conditions are eligible to submit application:

- Enterprises registered in the Macao SAR for one year or more;
- 2. The enterprise is not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR;
- 50% or more shares of enterprises shall be held by Macao residents;
- 4. No less than three full-time employees;
- 5. In case of full-time employees less than three, the applying entity shall be recommended by a nation-level makerspace



established in Macao.

VII. Application Documents

- 1. Completed application form provided by FDCT (including application proposal);
- 2. Commercial Registration Certificate issued in the recent 3 months;
- 3. The identification document of corporate representative;
- 4. Certificates proving that the applying entity is not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR issued in the recent 3 months;
- 5. Letters of introduction or recommendation issued by reputable entities in the fields of science, technology and innovation;
- 6. Certificates proving that the applying entity has conducted joint research in collaboration with higher education institutions or scientific research institutions inside or outside Macao (if any).

VIII. Supporting Funds and Requirements for Expected Project Findings

- The supporting funds invested by the applying enterprise for R&D shall not be less than the funding amount of FDCT;
- 2. The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project;



3. The project proposed shall aim at reaching TRL 4 or above upon its conclusion.

IX. Project Budget

The applying entity shall specify the budget of the project in the application proposal. The budget consists of two parts: the amount applied from FDCT and the self-owned funds invested by the applying enterprise. The spending listed in the two parts shall meet the conditions of "Eligible Spending" prescribed in the following article.

X. Eligible and Ineligible Spending

Please refer to Article 3 of the *Financial Aid Grant Regulation* as approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 64/2021.

XI. Application Method

The applying entities shall log in the online application system to complete the proposal prior to the deadline of application: <u>https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces</u>

XII. Assessment Criteria

- 1. The assessment is performed by FDCT according to the *Financial Aid Grant Regulation* approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 64/2021.
- 2. The priority goes to the industry-university-research projects



conducted in partnership with higher education institutions or scientific research institutions inside or outside Macao.

- 3. Key considerations will be given to the followings:
 - 3.1 Assessment of technologies and research findings
 - 3.1.1 Economic or social benefits;
 - 3.1.2 Technical level;
 - 3.1.3 Real-life application.
 - 3.2 Competence of the applying entity
 - 3.2.1 R&D team and research basis;
 - 3.2.1 Industry-university-research partnership;
 - 3.2.3 Qualifications and quantity of team members;
 - 3.2.4 Research conditions.
 - 3.3 Project planning
 - 3.3.1 Assessment of work plan;
 - 3.3.2 Soundness of budget;
 - 3.3.3 Project feasibility.
- 4. FDCT may conduct site inspection to verify the research conditions of the applying entity, interview with the project team and partners (if any) as necessary.