

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

According to Article IX 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 C 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 for Economic and Social Development of the Macao SAR, the Macao SAR Government's Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 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, advanced materials and biomedicine.

III. Application Requirements

For each project, a 5-year research plan and corresponding budget shall be provided in the proposal.

IV. Funding Amount and Project Duration

- 1. The amount applied for each project ranges from MOP 3,000,000 to MOP 5,000,000;
- 2. Each project has a funding duration of 3 years, without prejudice to the application for continuous funding prescribed in Article XIV of the *Funding Scheme for Enterprise Innovation and R&D*. The amount of continuous funding for the fourth and fifth years ranges from MOP 3,000,000 to MOP 5,000,000.

V. Funding Type

No repayment required.

VI. Application Period

August 22 to September 22

VII. Applying Entities

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

1. 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;
- 3. No less than five full-time employees;
- 4. The applying entity shall be certified by the *Technology Enterprises Certification Program*, or an "enterprise engaged in scientific and technological innovation activities" accredited by the "Scientific and Technological Innovation Commercial Enterprise Accreditation Committee" according to law as stipulated in Article 6 of Law No. 1/2021 – "Tax *Preference System for Enterprises Engaged in Scientific and Technological Innovation Activities*", or an enterprise previously funded by FDCT, without prejudice to the high-tech enterprise certification issued by other government departments.

VIII. Application Documents

- 1. Completed application form provided by FDCT (including application proposal);
- Commercial Registration Certificate issued within 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 within 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).

IX. 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;
- Upon project conclusion, the expected TRL of the project shall be TRL 6 or above after 3 years' research duration; and TRL 8 or above after 5 years' research duration.

X. 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.

XI. Eligible and Ineligible Spending

Please refer to Article 6 of the Funding Regulations of the Science



and Technology Development Fund as approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 93/2023.

XII. 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>

XIII. Assessment Criteria

- The assessment is performed by FDCT according to the Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 93/2023.
- 2. Key considerations will be given to the followings:
 - 2.1 Assessment of technologies and research findings
 - 2.1.1 Economic or social benefits;
 - 2.1.2 Technical level;
 - 2.1.3 Real-life application.
 - 2.2 Competence of the applying entity
 - 2.2.1 R&D team and research basis;
 - 2.2.2 Industry-university-research partnership;
 - 2.2.3 Qualifications and quantity of team members;
 - 2.2.4 Research conditions.
 - 2.3 Project planning
 - 2.3.1 Assessment of work plan;
 - 2.3.2 Soundness of budget;



2.3.3 Project feasibility.

- 3. The review of continuously-funded projects focuses on the actual R&D progress, budget implementation, and the necessity of continuous project development.
- 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.