



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

## **Funding Scheme for Innovation and Research of Enterprises**

### **I. Objectives**

To align with the policy address of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as the “FDCT”) is to launch the *Funding Scheme for Innovation and Research of Enterprises* (hereinafter referred to as the “Scheme”) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the current *Public Financial Aid System of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Statutes of the Fund for the Development of Science and Technology*, and the *Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund*. The Scheme aims to support enterprises of Macao to implement innovative research and development, foster a research and development atmosphere among enterprises, promote investment in research and development by enterprises, boost closer industry-academia-research cooperation, accelerate the transformation of research results, cultivate emerging industries, and drive appropriate economic diversification.

### **II. Types of Projects and Maximum Amount of Funding**

Projects are divided into three types by application amount:

1. Type A: The application amount is less than MOP1 million.
2. Type B: The application amount is more than MOP1 million and less than MOP3 million.
3. Type C: The application amount is more than MOP3 million and less than MOP5 million.

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

1. Funding recipients: Commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises.
2. Application eligibility:  
Commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises that fulfill the following conditions are eligible to submit application:
  - (1) Commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises registered in the Macao SAR for one year or more.
  - (2) Commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises do not owe any tax or social security contributions to the Macao SAR.
3. For Type A projects, the applicant shall also meet the following conditions:
  - (1) Enterprises having no less than three full-time employees.
  - (2) In case of full-time employees less than three, the applying entity shall be recommended by a nation-level makerspace established in Macao.
4. For Types B or C projects, the applicant shall also meet the following conditions:
  - (1) Commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises having no less than five full-time employees.



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

- (2) 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) or enterprises accredited under the *Technology Enterprise Certification Programme* of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED).
5. Each research project must have a project leader who is responsible for leading and coordinating the project (hereinafter referred to as "project leader").

**IV. Application Period**

Types A and B projects: September 9 to October 9, 2024

**V. Type and Scope of Funding**

1. The funding type of the Scheme is non-reimbursable.
2. Scope of funding: Projects in line with the purpose of the FDCT and the objectives of the Scheme.
3. Priority shall be given to:
  - 1) Among Types B and C projects, priority will be given to scientific research 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 R&D or achievement transformation platforms that can promote traditional Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, AI, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.
  - 2) Enterprises accredited under the *Technology Enterprise Certification Programme* of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED).

**VI. Supporting Input**

1. Applicants shall invest supporting R&D funds, which shall not be less than the amount funded by the FDCT. The supporting input shall conform to the provisions of Article 7 of the Scheme.

**VII. 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.



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

- (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) Expenses by personnel not covered by item (1) of the preceding paragraph.
  - (3) Electricity, water, telephone charge and other expenses of a similar nature.
  - (4) Entertainment.
  - (5) Audit fee.
  - (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 of expenses on new machinery and equipment not covered by item (2) of the preceding paragraph.
  - (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.

**VIII. Application Documents**

The application documents shall include the following materials:

1. The applicant's identification information and relevant supporting documents.
2. Certificate for Commercial Registration issued by competent authorities in the past three months.
3. Copy of the Supplemental Income Tax Return (M1) in the last year.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.



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

7. An application proposal containing a detailed description of the project, which shall set out in detail the estimated amount of the project.
8. A statement of responsibility for the project.
9. A cooperation agreement or memorandum of understanding signed with a partner (if any).

**IX. 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.

**X. Preliminary Analysis**

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 or the project leader does not meet the provisions of Article 3 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 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.
  - (5) The project leaders cannot submit a new application for funding.
  - (6) Multiple applications for the same project are submitted at the same time or the same project has been funded by the FDCT before.
  - (7) The supporting input (if any) does not conform to the provisions of Article 6 of the Scheme.



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

- (8) The application documents do not meet the provisions of Article 8 of the Scheme.
- (9) The applicant fails to supplement or promptly submit relevant application materials after notification.
- (10) The applicant violates existing laws and regulations or fails to protect the safety and legal rights and interests of participants.

**XI. Assessment Method and Criteria**

- 1. Before accepting an application, the Administrative Committee of FDCT shall invite five to seven advisors from the list of project advisors to form the Project Advisory Committee.
- 2. The application documents that may enter the review process will be submitted to the Project Advisory Committee formed by FDCT for review according to the review elements and criteria in the following paragraph.
- 3. Review elements and criteria:
  - (1) Qualifications of the applicant, including scientific research foundation of the team, industry-academia-research cooperation, quality and number of members, and research conditions.
  - (2) Project planning, including the evaluation of work plan, the reasonableness of budget arrangements, and the project feasibility.
  - (3) Evaluation of technology and results, including economic or social benefits, technical level, and actual application scenarios.
- 4. The Administrative Committee of the FDCT may invite external experts to review specific or more complex funding applications.
- 5. 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.

**XII. 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*.

**XIII. Funding Amount and Calculation**



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

1. For the maximum amount of funds granted to a single project of each type, please refer to the provisions of Article 2 of the Scheme.
2. The funding amount granted by FDCT shall not be higher than the amount of funding applied.

**XIV. Funding Duration**

The funding duration of the Scheme shall not exceed three years.

**XV. Result Requirements**

1. The expected results shall include outputs such as software, hardware (prototypes, samples), technical standards, formulations, new materials, and new processes, and the economic or social benefits that will be brought about by the implementation of the project shall also be stated.
2. At the time of project closure, the technology maturity of Type A projects shall be at Level 4 or above, and the technology maturity of Type B projects shall be at Level 5 or above, and the technology maturity of Type C projects shall be at Level 6 or above .

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

1. The recipients shall submit annual and final reports on the progress of the funded project to facilitate interim and final assessments 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*.



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

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.

**XVII. 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.
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 subsidies 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 subsidies according to the provisions of Article 20 of the Scheme.
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"



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

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.
17. Refund any unspent subsidies on time.

**XVIII. 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.
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.

**XIX. 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 under Article 17 of the Scheme 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 under Article 17 of the Scheme, 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 under Article 17 of the Scheme.
  - (2) The recipient breaches the obligations under paragraph 4 under Article 17 of the Scheme, 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 under Article 17 of the Scheme, and recognized by the FDCT to have caused serious consequences.



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

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.

**XX. 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 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.

**XXI. 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 the provisions of Article 18 of the Scheme, assume administrative, civil and criminal liabilities (if any) in accordance with the law.

**XXII. 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:



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

- (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.

**XXIII. Complaint**

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

**XXIV. 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).
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.

**XXV. 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 above content.



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