



Macao Special Administrative Region
Science and Technology Development Fund

Macao Science and Technology Development Fund and Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province

Guidelines for Application of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Laboratories (2024)

In order to implement the requirements of the *Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area* and other documents, fully utilize the technological and industrial strengths of Guangdong and Macao, and promote the construction of the international technology innovation center of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (GDSTC) have jointly launched the funding of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Laboratories (hereinafter referred to as "Joint Labs") in accordance with the *Work Plan of Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province and Macao Science and Technology Development Fund for Joint Funding of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Laboratories*.

The Guidelines is prepared by the FDCT upon negotiation with the GDSTC based on Article 7 of the *Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Platforms* of the FDCT.

I. Competent Department

1. The competent department of the joint funding is the FDCT in Macao and the GDSTC in Guangdong.
2. The application and acceptance, review and approval, implementation and management as well as the closing of projects of applicants in Macao will be managed under the current *Regulation on Financial Support of the Science and Technology Development Fund*.
3. Joint labs that have been approved for project support shall sign a *Consent of Funding* with the FDCT and follow the regulations of the relevant documents of the GDSTC.

II. Areas of Cooperation Entitled to Priority Support

Priority will be given to funding joint labs in the field of integrated circuits this year.

III. Funding Amount

The construction period of the joint lab is three years. The funding amount provided by the GDSTC and the FDCT is RMB10 million and MOP13 million per lab, respectively.

IV. Application Date

October 16 – November 15, 2024.



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V. Application Requirements

The leader of the joint lab shall be an entity of the Macao (hereinafter referred to as the "leading entity in Macao"), and the entity shall comply with the requirements of Article 3 (4) and (5) of the *Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Platforms* of the FDCT.

VI. Cooperation Targets

1. The co-construction unit in Guangdong shall be an enterprise, research institute or tertiary institution registered in Guangdong Province, with independent legal personality, certain R&D capability and foundation, and standardized operation and management.
2. The co-construction unit in Hong Kong shall be a research institute, tertiary institution or technology enterprise registered in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, with certain R&D capability and foundation.

VII. Supporting Input

For labs co-established by business owners or enterprises, such business owners or enterprises shall provide supporting inputs of not less than 50% of the amount funded by the FDCT, and the specific ratio shall be agreed in the consent of funding.

VIII. Application Criteria

1. The joint labs shall carry out applied research and key core technology research in the relevant fields, promote the transformation of achievements, introduce and train talent teams, and conduct extensive cooperation and exchanges.
2. The leading entity in Macao shall undertake to realize the long-term operation of the joint lab and provide support in terms of human resources, finance and material resources, of which the financial support shall not be lower than the funding amount of the FDCT. Each entity shall have relatively independent and centralized experimental sites, experimental instruments and equipment and other conditions for research and experimentation to support the construction of the joint lab.
3. The director of the joint lab shall be a full-time employee of the leading entity in Macao and have a certain degree of academic influence in the field of the joint lab. The leading entity in Macao shall grant the director the right to independently make decisions on the organization of research, the use of funds, the selection of staff and the transformation of achievements. The joint lab may adopt the co-director system and appoint co-directors in Guangdong or Hong Kong if necessary.
4. The project team of the joint lab shall consist of no less than 30 researchers, including no less than 15 key researchers (including no less than 10 full-time staff) from the leading entity in Macao and no less than 15 key researchers from the co-construction units.
5. Project team members can only participate in the application for one joint lab, and project



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team members of approved joint lab shall not participate in the application for a new joint lab.

IX. Cooperation Requirements

1. In the past three years (2021-2023), the leading entity in Macao shall have substantive cooperation in research with the entity in Guangdong, and a relatively sound cooperation mechanism has been established. There should be platforms and institutions for in-depth cooperation in research, technological personnel, technological exchanges and joint research results, and the capacity for industry-academia-research cooperation and innovation should be relatively strong, with a good foundation and prospect for mutual visits of personnel, postgraduate training, innovation and entrepreneurship, etc.
2. Platforms established in cooperation with enterprises in Macao or Hengqin, especially enterprises accredited under the *Technology Enterprise Certification Programme* of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED).
3. The leading entity shall sign a cooperation and co-construction agreement with the joint application entity based on the construction of the joint lab, specifying the mode of cooperation, division of tasks, allocation of funds and attribution of results.

X. Result Requirements

During the three-year construction period, Macao and Guangdong sides of the joint lab shall jointly undertake no less than 10 research projects. The Macao side shall transfer no less than one research result to the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Guangdong and Macao sides shall jointly publish no less than 60 papers, apply for no less than five intellectual property rights, organize no less than 50 visits by researchers from both sides, hold no less than 10 large-scale academic exchanges, and jointly train no less than 20 postgraduate students.

XI. Application Method

1. By the application deadline, the leading entity in Macao shall submit the application to the FDCT. The application materials, including the application proposal in paper form and the relevant basic materials and supporting materials for cooperation, shall be bound, signed by the legal representative and stamped with the seal of the entity.
2. Each leading entity is limited to applying for no more than one joint lab in each field.
3. This Scheme shall be submitted to the GDSTC at the same time, and the specific requirements will be implemented in accordance with the relevant documents of the GDSTC.

XII. Formal Review

The FDCT and the GDSTC will carry out a formal review after the application deadline, and jointly verify the list of projects that have passed their respective formal reviews. Projects that are listed by both the FDCT and the GDSTC will be accepted as "Valid Projects of Guangdong-



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Hong Kong-Macao Joint Laboratories".

XIII. Review Method

1.The FDCT will review application according to the following criteria:

- Feasibility and basis of the joint plan;
- Budget and use reasonableness of the budget;
- Team building and management;
- Research level;
- Expected results;
- Qualification of the applicant;
- Cooperation foundation with partners.

2.After review, the FDCT and the GDSTC will identify the joint labs to be supported from the applications that have passed the review of both sides.

3.The supervisory entity of the FDCT will make a decision on the applications.

XIV. Others

For matters not covered by the Guideline, 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 *Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Platforms*, the *Guidelines for the Inspection of Subsidized Activities or Projects of the Public Assets Supervision and Planning Office (GPSAP) of the Macao SAR*, the *Guidelines for the Agreed-upon Procedures on Scientific and Technological Research Projects*, and the *Consent of Funding* signed after approval shall prevail.