



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

## **Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Platforms**

### **I. Objectives**

To respond to the policy of the Macao SAR Government, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Public Financial Support Scheme of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Statutes of the Science and Technology Development Fund* and the *Regulation on Financial Support of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as “FDCT”) has launched the *Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Platforms* (hereinafter referred to as “the Scheme”). The Scheme aims to provide funding support for national scientific research platforms set up in Macao, and promote the pooling of research talent, the development of cutting-edge research, the expansion of industry-academia-research cooperation and the transformation of results. In addition, it is designed to support tertiary institutions or enterprises in Macao to set up research platforms in areas of expertise, further attract and retain talent, and pool resources to make breakthroughs in research and development in key areas or achieve the transformation of results. The Scheme will facilitate the implementation of the *Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028)*, and further boost technology innovation as well as social and economic development of Macao.

### **II. Application Type and Quota**

Four types by the position of scientific research platforms (hereinafter referred to as “platforms”):

1. National platforms: National laboratories, national key laboratories, national engineering research centers, national technology innovation centers, and national field scientific observation and research stations established in Macao under the *Program for the Optimization and Integration of National Science and Technology Innovation Bases*<sup>1</sup>. The maximum amount of funds granted to a national field scientific observation and research station shall not exceed MOP20 million, while the maximum amount of funds granted to other platforms shall not exceed MOP45 million;
2. R&D platforms: Platforms focusing on application research. The maximum amount of funds shall *not* exceed MOP20 million;
3. Transformation *platforms*: Platforms focusing on the transformation of research achievements. The maximum amount of funds shall not exceed MOP20 million;

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance and the National Development and Reform Commission on Issuing the *Program for the Optimization and Integration of National Science and Technology Innovation Bases* (G.K.F.J. [2017] No. 250)



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4. Collaborative platforms: Platforms focusing on key technology research and development in collaboration with overseas institutions. The maximum amount of funds shall not exceed MOP15 million;

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

1. Public tertiary institutions in the Macao SAR or private tertiary institutions established by law in the Macao SAR that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for funding a national platform:
  - 1.1. Supporting unit of the platform;
  - 1.2. The platform is promoted through the FDCT or the Mainland and Macao Science and Technology Cooperation Committee, and is established under the approval by the relevant ministries and commissions of the People's Republic of China.
2. Public tertiary institutions in the Macao SAR or private tertiary institutions established by law in the Macao SAR that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for funding a R&D platform:
  - 2.1. Supporting unit of the platform;
  - 2.2. The platform is a laboratory that has already been funded under the “Funding Scheme for Laboratories and R&D Centers” of the FDCT and the relevant project will be closed within the year of the release of the Scheme;
  - 2.3. The platform has no less than 10 full-time R&D personnel.
3. Public tertiary institutions in the Macao SAR or private tertiary institutions established by law in the Macao SAR that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for funding a transformation platform:
  - 3.1. Supporting unit of the platform;
  - 3.2. The platform shall meet any of the following requirements:
    - 3.2.1. The platform is a laboratory that has already been funded under the “Funding Scheme for Laboratories and R&D Centers” of the FDCT and the relevant project will be closed within the year of the release of the Scheme;
    - 3.2.2. The platform is an institution responsible for coordinating the transformation of achievements in tertiary institutions and has successfully organized the transformation of no less than five achievements by the date of application acceptance under the Scheme.
  - 3.3. The platform has no less than 10 full-time R&D and transformation personnel.
4. Public tertiary institutions in the Macao SAR or private tertiary institutions established by law in the Macao SAR that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for funding a collaborative platform:



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- 4.1. Supporting unit of the platform;
- 4.2. The institution takes the lead in collaborating with overseas or local tertiary institutions, research institutes or enterprises to build the platform;
- 4.3. The institution has conducted substantive collaborative research with partners by the date of application acceptance under the Scheme;
- 4.4. The requirements set out in the guidelines jointly released by the FDCT and the cooperative institution are met.
5. If a private tertiary institution established by law in the Macao SAR does not have a legal personality, the application shall be made through its school running entity with legal personality.

**IV. Application Period**

16 October 2024 to 15 November 2024

**V. Type and Scope of Funding**

1. The Scheme is a non-reimbursable financial assistance.
2. Scope of funding: Platform projects in line with the purpose of the FDCT and the objectives of the Scheme.
3. Priority will be given to:
  - 3.1. 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, biomedicine, marine science and technology, etc.;
  - 3.2. 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).

**VI. Supporting Input**

For platforms led by tertiary institutions and co-established by business owners or enterprises, such business owners or enterprises shall provide supporting



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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.

## **VII. Application Guidelines**

The Administrative Committee of the FDCT compiles guidelines on the details of the collaborative platforms, including cooperation targets, cooperation areas, application requirements, cooperation requirements, and output requirements.

## **VIII. Expenditure Eligible for Funding**

1. Expenditure eligible for funding includes:
  - 1.1 Basic research costs;
    - 1.1.1 Local staff allowance;
    - 1.1.2 Non-local staff allowance;
    - 1.1.3 Material costs, testing/assay/analysis costs;
    - 1.1.4 Material processing costs;
    - 1.1.5 Publication/literature/dissemination/intellectual property fees;
    - 1.1.6 Research traveling expenses, meeting fees.
  - 1.2 Expenses on research instruments and equipment:
    - 1.2.1 Purchase costs of instruments and equipment;
    - 1.2.2 Update, modification and repair fees of instruments and equipment.
  - 1.3 Expenses on open sharing:
    - 1.3.1 Funding for open topics;
    - 1.3.2 Expenses on holding academic committee meetings;
    - 1.3.3 Expenses on holding academic meetings.
  - 1.4 Other derivative expenses.
2. Other derivative expenses referred to in 1.4 of the preceding paragraph do not include:
  - 2.1. Expense on the establishment of an entity;
  - 2.2. Expense on the acquisition of vehicles, except for experimental purposes;
  - 2.3. Expense on decoration, reconstruction, construction, acquisition and repayment of real estate by installments;
  - 2.4. Electricity, water, telephone charge and other expenses of a similar nature;
  - 2.5. Improvement of papers, organization of seminars, hospitality, entertainment and other expenses of a similar nature;



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- 2.6. Audit fee, contribution fee of the supporting unit, management fee, and salaries of fixed/permanent staff of the supporting unit;
- 2.7. Other expenditures ineligible for funding as stipulated in the approval decision and the consent of funding.

**IX. Application Documents**

1. The application documents shall include the following materials:
  - 1.1. The applicant's identification information and relevant supporting documents;
  - 1.2. 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;
  - 1.3. Identity information and resumes of the person(s) responsible for leading and managing the operations of the platform (hereinafter referred to as "platform leader") and the members of the platform;
  - 1.4. 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;
  - 1.5. An application proposal containing a detailed description of the platform. The application proposal shall list in detail the budget amount, and indicate the objectives of the platform and the benefits to be brought about;
  - 1.6. A statement of responsibility for the platform;
  - 1.7. A cooperation agreement or memorandum of understanding signed with the cooperating party (if any), and supporting materials for the cooperation foundation;
  - 1.8. For a cooperative institution established in Macao by a national scientific research institution or laboratory, approval from the relevant local authorities is required (if any);
  - 1.9. For an achievement transformation institution coordinated by a tertiary institution, supporting materials for the successful transformation of achievements are required.
2. If the platform is receiving operational funding from the FDCT at the date of publication of the application, materials in 1.1 to 1.3 of the preceding paragraph may be exempted.

**X. Submission of Application**

1. Applicants shall prepare applications in any of the official languages of the Macao SAR or in English.
2. Applicants shall submit the application documents mentioned above to the



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FDCT on or before the deadline.

**XI. 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:
  - 3.1. The applicant does not meet the requirements of Article 3 of the Scheme;
  - 3.2. The applicant is on the list of mandatory levies and overdue returns of the FDCT;
  - 3.3. The applicant is a debtor to the treasury of the Macao SAR;
  - 3.4. The platform leader cannot submit a new application for funding;
  - 3.5. The supporting inputs (if any) do not meet the requirements of Article 6 of the Scheme;
  - 3.6. The application documents do not meet the requirements of Article 9 of the Scheme;
  - 3.7. The applicant fails to supplement or promptly submit relevant application materials after notification;
  - 3.8. The applicant violates existing laws and regulations or fails to protect the safety and legal rights and interests of participants;
  - 3.9. For collaborative platforms, the non-local partners fail to pass the formal review by the relevant authorities.

**XII. Review Method and Criteria**

1. Before accepting applications, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT shall invite five to seven members from the list of project advisors to establish a project advisory committee.
2. Application documents that proceed to the review process will be submitted to the project advisory committee for review based on the review elements and criteria in the following paragraph.
3. Review elements and criteria:
  - 3.1. Feasibility and basis of the platform development plan;



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- 3.2. Budget and use reasonableness of the budget;
  - 3.3. Team building and management;
  - 3.4. Research level;
  - 3.5. Expected results;
  - 3.6. Qualification of the applicant;
  - 3.7. For applications from applicants for platforms that are being funded by the FDCT and are close to project closure, expert assessment opinions shall be considered;
  - 3.8. For collaborative platforms, the cooperation foundation with partners shall be considered.
4. The Administrative Committee of the FDCT may invite external experts to review specific or more complex funding applications.
  5. The FDCT may conduct on-site inspections of the applicant's research conditions and interviews with the project team and partners (if any), if necessary.
  6. For collaborative platforms, the FDCT will select with the partner the platforms to be co-funded from the applications that have passed the assessment of both parties.

### **XIII. 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*.

### **XIV. Funding Amount and Calculation Method**

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





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**XV. Funding Term**

The funding term of the Scheme will not exceed three years.

**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 assessment 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*.
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. Project Closure Assessment**

Upon expiry of the funding term, the platform will be assessed by experts organized by the relevant national departments or the FDCT. If the platform fails to pass the assessment, it will be required to make remediation and be





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assessed again within one year; if the platform fails to pass the assessment again, it will no longer be funded by the FDCT for two years.

### **XVIII. 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 Article 21;
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" 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.



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**XIX. 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 platform 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.

**XX. 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 of Article 18 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 of Article 18, 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 of Article 18;
  - (2) The recipient breaches the obligations under paragraph 4 of Article 18, 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 of Article 18, and recognized by the FDCT to have caused serious consequences.
4. 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.

**XXI. Refund, Repayment and Compulsory Levy of Funding**



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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.

## **XXII. 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 Article 19, assume administrative, civil and criminal liabilities (if any) in accordance with the law.

## **XXIII. 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:
  - (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.

## **XXIV. Complaint**



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

**XXV. 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.

**XXVI. 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 *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.

**Appendix: Relevant Standards for Funding for Scientific Research Platforms**



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<b>Funding type</b>	<b>Funding sub-type</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Maximum amount (MOP)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Local staff allowance	Undergraduate	Per person per month	7,500.00	---
	Master	Per person per month	10,000.00	---
	Doctor	Per person per month	12,500.00	---
	Post-doctoral researcher	Per person per month	25,000.00	---
	Research assistant	Per person per month	20,000.00	---
	Full-time researcher	Per person per month	30,000.00	PhD
	Visiting scholar	Per person per month	30,000.00	Contract term of no less than three months
Allowance for local full-time staff specializing in industry-academia-research cooperation and transformation of achievements	Post-doctoral researcher	Per person per month	37,500.00	---
	Research assistant	Per person per month	30,000.00	---
	Full-time researcher	Per person per month	45,000.00	PhD
	Visiting scholar	Per person per month	45,000.00	Contract term of no less than six months
Non-local staff allowance	Funding cap for the entire type	Per year	500,000.00	---
	External specialist consultant	Per person per year	60,000.00	---
	Short-term visiting scholar	Per person per year	60,000.00	



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<b>Funding type</b>	<b>Funding sub-type</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Maximum amount (MOP)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Conference and research traveling	Domestic traveling	Per person per time	8,000.00	Including traveling, meal, accommodation and conference related expenses. No more than MOP300.00 of meal allowance per person per day
	Domestic traveling (academician)	Per person per time	15,000.00	
	International traveling	Per person per time	20,000.00	
	International traveling (academician)	Per person per time	30,000.00	
Holding academic committee meetings and academic meetings	Funding cap for the entire type	Per year	500,000.00	---
	Associate professor/professor lecturer	Per person per time	3,000.00	---
	Academician lecturer	Per person per time	6,000.00	---
	Lecture by Nobel prize winner	Per person per time	10,000.00	---
Open topic	Open topic	Per topic	200,000.00	No more than MOP1.5 million