

Joint Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Projects by the Science and Technology Development Fund and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province Guideline for FDCT-GDST Projects 2021

According to the *Exchanges and Co-operations Arrangement of Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between GDST and FDCT*, and the *Action Plan for GDST and FDCT on Jointly Funding Cooperative R&D Projects between the two regions*, the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (GDST) launched Joint Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Projects (hereinafter referred to as “FDCT-GDST Projects”) to actively engage in the planning of the Greater Bay Area and the construction of international innovation and technology hub.

I. Competent Authorities

1. The competent authorities of this Joint Funding Scheme are FDCT in Macao and GDST in Guangdong.
2. The project application and acceptance, assessment and approval, implementation and management as well as project conclusion of Macao applicants will be governed in accordance with the *Financial Aid Grant Regulation* as approved by the Chief Executive’s Dispatch No. 64/2021.

II. Collaboration with Prefecture-level Cities

FDCT encourages Macao entities to conduct joint technology R&D and promote industrialization of research findings with innovative entities in prefecture-level cities of Guangdong Province on a pilot basis. The pilot prefecture-level cities in the first batch are Foshan, Dongguan and Jiangmen. Local applicants shall determine the type of project application with the

Mainland applicants.

III. Key Support Areas

By focusing on the planning of the Greater Bay Area, the construction of international innovation and technology hub, as well as the development needs of society, economy and technological innovation in Guangdong and Macao, this Scheme aims to achieve the complementary strengths of research capability, facilitate the Industry-University-Research collaboration between the two places, strive for technical breakthroughs in strategic emerging industries so as to increase the international competitiveness of Guangdong and Macao.

This Scheme mainly supports the industry-university-research collaborative projects jointly proposed by Guangdong-Macao research candidates, involving the following fields: electronic and information, biomedicine (Chinese medicine), energy conservation and environmental protection, smart city, and marine science. Both parties will determine the priority projects each year according to their scientific and technological development needs.

Key support areas of pilot prefecture-level cities are as follows:

(1) Foshan: research on environment-friendly materials and traditional Chinese medicine standards

(2) Dongguan: research on traditional Chinese medicinal materials, R&D of medical auxiliary technology, R&D of engineering technology, key technology of neutron scattering, research on the third-generation semiconductor

(3) Jiangmen: local featured planting techniques (tangerine peel, aloes seedlings, etc.), research on sea rice, wastewater biological treatment technology research, R&D of electrochromic materials

IV. Funding Amount

1. For FDCT-GDST Projects, the funding amount for each project shall not exceed MOP 1,300,000 (one million three hundred thousand patacas); for

collaborative projects of prefecture-level cities, the funding amount for each project shall not exceed MOP 1,000,000 (one million patacas).

2. Each project has a maximum funding duration of two years, with funding amount allocated in installments. The funded entities in Macao are required to implement the approved projects in accordance with the Funding Agreement signed with FDCT.
3. FDCT, GDST and related S&T bureaus of pilot prefecture-level cities will issue funds to successful applicants of Macao and Guangdong respectively. Project funds can only be used locally.

V. Application Period

22nd October 2021 to 19th November 2021

VI. Eligibility

Entities that meet the requirements prescribed in paragraphs (1) to (4) of Article 2 of the *Financial Aid Grant Regulation* approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 64/2021 are eligible.

VII. Application Requirements

1. One of the lead applicants must be an enterprise. If it is a Macao enterprise, the corresponding investment must be self-funded, which shall not be less than the funding approved by FDCT ($\cong 1:1$). If the applicant is a higher educational institution or a scientific research institute in Macao, there is no self-funding requirement.
2. The co-applicant shall possess a relatively strong technological strength or a relatively high scientific research level, also have the initiative and sufficient ability to cooperate with Macao applicant. The co-applicant can collaborate by means of technology, capital, personnel or data and information, advanced equipment and exclusive resources.

3. There is restriction on the number of approved research projects that the project leader can undertake, which will be implemented according to the current management measures.
4. The lead applicant in Macao shall consult with the Guangdong co-applicant on the research contents, research plans, division of research tasks, etc., and sign a cooperation agreement or memorandum; specify their respective responsibilities and tasks, as well as sharing of intellectual property rights generated; comply with the regulations of both the Mainland and Macao; justly share their R&D findings and uphold the interests of both parties. The entity without signing a cooperation agreement shall not be considered as the cooperation unit.
5. The proposed projects shall have key technologies and proprietary intellectual property rights, obtain at least one scientific research achievement with market potential in the commercialization of achievements and industrial development. The expected achievements shall include patents, technical standards, prototypes, mock-ups, formulas and other findings, with specific quantitative indicators stipulated. A certain economic and social benefits shall be produced after the implementation of the project.
6. The lead applicant in Macao shall fill out the project proposal, and submit the application to FDCT by the application deadline. Guangdong applicant must concurrently declare to GDST. Detailed declaration methods, please refer to the relevant provisions of GDST.
7. The project team shall include at least one member of each party.
8. During collaboration, the cooperation teams of both parties shall conduct at least one exchange visit to the other party. Moreover, the working meeting (no specific type) shall be convened at least once a year, with the participation of key project staff of each party.

9. In the case that a Guangdong enterprise conducts research in collaboration with a Macao higher educational institution, the Guangdong enterprise shall provide at least one position for short-term graduate internship (3 months or above, no specific position) during their collaboration.

VIII. Formality Review

FDCT and GDST will respectively conduct a formality review after application deadline and then jointly check the list of projects from their respective reviews. The projects will be considered as “FDCT-GDST Projects” when such projects are included in both FDCT and GDST lists.

IX. Assessment Methods

1. FDCT and GDST conduct their respective assessments on the projects accepted.
2. The assessment procedure of FDCT for such projects is the same as that of the current research projects (including preliminary analysis, peer review, Project Advisory Committee review, Administrative Committee review, Trustee Committee review). Such projects will be prioritized.
3. FDCT will perform assessments according to the following criteria:
 - The value of the project (60%), including: advanced technology, actual application, social and economic benefits.
 - Qualifications of the applying entity (20%), including: background of research teams, competence of team members, team size, supporting conditions.
 - Project feasibility and work plan, foundation for cooperation (20%), including: work plan evaluation, soundness of budget, project feasibility, foundation for cooperation.
4. After the assessments, FDCT and GDST will select the jointly funded projects from the projects approved by both parties. Both parties will simultaneously announce the list of jointly funded projects to the public.

X. Requirements for Filling out the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal is an important source for FDCT and the peer experts to understand the conditions of the project, to conduct consultation and appraisal of the project, and to select the best projects. The applicant must carefully fill out the project proposal according to requirements for the content, format and word limit.
2. The basic requirements for filling out the project proposal are as follows:
 - (1) The proposed project shall carry important meaning, ample reason, a clear goal, specific content, a feasible cooperation plan and assessable technical indicators.
 - (2) The name of the project and the names of the applicants on both sides must be consistent. The contents of the research plan shall reflect the complementary advantages of both sides.
 - (3) The joint funding provided does not support the construction of infrastructure or general equipment procurement. Neither does it support soft science research projects on policies and management, nor projects on market promotion.

XI. Method of Filling out the Proposal

Please log in the online application system to complete the proposal.

<https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>

For more details about account registration and funding system, please refer to the instructions of general research funding.