

Guidelines for the Joint Research Funding Program between the Macau Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (2024)

In accordance with the "Work Plan on Joint Funding for Collaborative R&D Projects between the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province and the Macau Science and Technology Development Fund," and to actively participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the establishment of an international technology innovation center, the Macau Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (hereinafter referred to as "the Department") are jointly launching a collaborative research funding program.

1. Supervising Authorities

1. The authorities responsible for this joint research funding program are the Fund for Macau and the Department for Guangdong.
2. Applications from Macau will be managed in accordance with the "Joint Research Funding Program between the Macau Science and Technology Development Fund and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province" (hereinafter referred to as "the Funding Program") and this guideline, covering the processes of application, review, approval, implementation, management, and conclusion.
3. The Fund and the Department, along with relevant pilot-level municipal science bureaus, will distribute funds to the successful applicants in Macau and Guangdong, respectively. The funds allocated must only be used within the respective regions.

2. Pilot-Level City Collaboration

In a pilot initiative, the program encourages joint technological R&D and commercialization of results between innovation entities in Macau and select municipal-level cities in Guangdong Province. The pilot cities for this year include Foshan, Dongguan, and Jiangmen. Applicants from Macau should coordinate with mainland collaborators to identify the type of project for application. The maximum funding for each project under this municipal-level collaboration is MOP 1 million.

3. Key Support Areas and Excluded Project Types

In line with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the establishment of an international technology innovation center, this program addresses the socio-economic and technological development needs of both Macau and Guangdong. By leveraging complementary strengths in research, it aims to promote cooperation between industry, academia, and research institutions, achieving breakthroughs in strategic emerging technologies and enhancing the international competitiveness of both regions.

1. Key support areas include collaborative projects in electronic information, biomedicine (including Traditional Chinese Medicine), energy conservation, environmental protection, smart cities, and marine science. Priority will be given to projects jointly submitted with institutions related to the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Key support areas for each pilot city are as follows:

- Foshan: Traditional Chinese Medicine, environmental protection materials, electronic information materials, new energy materials, intelligent robotics.
 - Dongguan: Integrated circuits and chip design, Traditional Chinese Medicine research and clinical studies, artificial intelligence and machine vision, semiconductor and energy storage materials development.
 - Jiangmen: Biomedicine and health (Traditional Chinese Medicine technology, food), advanced materials (including new energy battery materials), smart city development, new generation information technology, precision instruments, integrated circuit and chip manufacturing.
2. The program will not support basic infrastructure projects, equipment procurement, policy and management research, or market promotion projects.

4. Collaboration Requirements

1. The program will not support applications from Macau research institutions collaborating with their branch offices in the mainland.
2. One of the leading applicants from each side must be a business enterprise. If the leading applicant from Macau is a commercial entity, it must provide matching funds. Requirements for Macau's matching funds will follow the rules of the Fund, while Guangdong's requirements will adhere to the Department's regulations.
3. The leading applicant from Macau must consult with the Guangdong collaborator on research content, planning, and responsibilities, signing a cooperation agreement, memorandum, or letter of intent that specifies the R&D tasks, division of labor, and intellectual property rights. This must comply with the laws and regulations of both Macau and the mainland, ensuring reasonable sharing of results and protecting the interests of both parties.

4. Each project team must include at least one member from both sides.
5. Collaborating partners must demonstrate strong technical capabilities or high levels of scientific research and have the willingness and ability to collaborate with Macau. Partners can contribute through technology, funding, personnel, information, advanced equipment, or proprietary resources.
6. During the cooperation period, the Macau and Guangdong teams must engage in at least one exchange visit to each other's institutions, and hold at least one annual project meeting involving key responsible personnel from both sides (in any format).
7. For projects involving cooperation between Guangdong enterprises and Macau universities, the Guangdong enterprise must provide at least one short-term internship (lasting at least three months) for a graduate student from the Macau team during the cooperation period.
8. Guangdong collaborators must also apply to the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province. For detailed application methods, please refer to the Department's regulations.

5. Expected Outcomes

Projects should achieve key technological breakthroughs and produce at least one market-ready scientific and technological outcome with independent intellectual property rights. Expected outcomes may include patents, technical standards, prototypes, models, or formulas. Quantifiable indicators for the outcomes must be set, and the project should generate economic and social benefits upon completion.

6. Requirements for Project Application

1. The project application serves as an important basis for the Fund and peer experts to understand, consult on, and review the project, selecting the best applications. Applicants must complete the application form according to its content, format, and word count requirements.
2. Basic content requirements for the application form include:
 - The project should achieve cooperation in the relevant field of research and technology development.
 - The significance of the project, its justification, goals, and specific content should be clearly articulated, with a reasonable and feasible collaboration plan and assessable technical indicators. The budget should be reasonable.
 - The R&D team structure should be clear, and each participating unit must have a well-defined role and substantial involvement in R&D.
 - The project name and the names of the applicants from both sides must be consistent in the applications submitted to both regions, and the research plan should reflect complementary strengths.