

**Joint Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Projects
by the Science and Technology Development Fund and the
Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s
Republic of China
Guideline for FDCT-MOST Projects 2023**

According to the *Agreement between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China and the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund on the co-financing of research and development projects carried out through cooperation between the Mainland and Macao*, the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China (MOST) launched the Joint Funding Scheme for Scientific Research Projects (hereinafter referred to as “FDCT-MOST Projects”).

I. Competent Authorities

1. The competent authorities of this Joint Funding Scheme are FDCT in Macao and the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office of MOST in the Mainland.
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 *Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund as approved by the Chief Executive’s Dispatch No. 93/2023*.

II. Key Support Areas

To give full play to the advantages and characteristics of the scientific research capabilities of the Mainland in response to the social and economic development needs in Macao. The key support areas include electronic and information, biomedicine, energy conservation and environmental protection, new materials, aeronautics and astronautics, marine science and other similar projects concerning people's livelihood and development as well as cutting-edge science and technology in the both Macao and the Mainland. Priority will be given to the projects under the following categories:

- Projects that make effective use of scientific and technological resources in the Mainland to tackle bottleneck and technical problems posing restrictions to Macao's social and economic development;
- Projects that closely integrate with industry and application needs to create intellectual property rights or relevant technical standards;
- Cooperative projects featuring new research vision, innovative content, interdisciplinary and possibility for transfer and transformation.

III. Funding Amount

1. The funding amount for such projects shall not exceed MOP 2,500,000 (two million five hundred thousand patacas). Each project has a maximum funding duration of three 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.
2. FDCT and MOST will issue funds to successful applicants of Macao and the Mainland respectively. Project funds can only be used locally.

IV. Application Period

6 November in 2023 to 20 December in 2023

V. Eligibility

Entities that meet the requirements prescribed in paragraphs (1) to (4) of Article 5 of the *Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund as approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 93/2023* are eligible.

VI. Application Requirements

1. Applicants from Macao and the Mainland must have at least one enterprise in either of the two places to participate in the projects and provide self-owned funds. If the participant is a Macao enterprise, the supporting funds invested by the enterprise shall not be less than 10% of the FDCT funding amount; if the Macao enterprise is an independent lead applicant, the amount invested by the enterprise shall not be less than the FDCT funding amount ($\geq 1:1$).
2. 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.
3. The lead applicant in Macao shall consult with the Mainland co-applicant on the research contents, research plans, division of research tasks, etc., sign a

cooperation agreement or memorandum, fill out the project proposal, and submit the application to FDCT by the application deadline.

4. The lead application unit and other participating units shall have clearly defined roles and duties and carry out substantive R & D cooperation. The project shall effectively protect the intellectual property rights and reasonably share cooperative R & D achievements to safeguard the interests of all parties.
5. 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.
6. The expected achievements shall include patents, technical standards, prototypes, mock-ups, formulas and other findings, with specific quantitative indicators stipulated. Certain economic and social benefits shall be produced after the implementation of the project.
7. Mainland partners shall make declaration to MOST simultaneously. Please refer to the relevant provisions of MOST for the declaration methods in details.

VII. Formality Review

FDCT and the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office of MOST 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-MOST Projects” when such projects are included in both FDCT and MOST lists.

VIII. Assessment Methods

1. FDCT and the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office of MOST 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. Such projects will be prioritized.
3. FDCT will perform assessments according to the following criteria:
 - The value of the project (60%), including: the practicability, application prospect of the findings and technical standards.
 - 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 the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office of MOST 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.

IX. Requirements for Filling out the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal is an important source for FDCT and the experts who will conduct the assessments 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.

X. Method of Filling out the Proposal

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