

# **Guidelines for the Joint Research Funding Program between the FDCT and the Ministry of Science and Technology (2024)**

In accordance with the "Agreement between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the FDCT on Joint Funding for Collaborative R&D Projects," the FDCT (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") have jointly launched a collaborative research funding program.

## **1. Supervising Authorities and Management**

1. The authorities responsible for this joint research funding program are the Fund for Macau and the Office for Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Affairs of the Ministry for Mainland China.
2. Applications from Macau will be managed according to the "Joint Research Funding Program between the FDCT and the Ministry of Science and Technology" (hereinafter referred to as "the Funding Program") and these guidelines, covering the processes of application, review, approval, implementation, management, and conclusion.
3. The Fund and the Ministry will allocate funds separately to successful applicants in Macau and Mainland China. The funds allocated must only be used within the respective regions.

## **2. Supported Fields and Non-Supported Project Types**

1. The supported fields include the information and communication technology sector (i.e., the project's primary discipline code is 413, 510, or 520) and the engineering and materials technology sector (i.e., the project's primary discipline code is 410, 416, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 490, 530, 535, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, or 620), with priority given to the following types of projects: (1) Projects that effectively utilize Mainland China's technological resources to resolve bottlenecks limiting Macau's social and economic development. (2) Projects closely tied to industrial and application needs, resulting in intellectual property or related technical standards. (3) Collaborative projects with novel perspectives, innovative content, interdisciplinary approaches, and potential for technology transfer.
2. Projects involving basic infrastructure, pure equipment procurement, policy and management research, or market promotion will not be supported.

## **3. Collaboration Requirements**

1. At least one of the collaborating entities from Macau and Mainland China must be an enterprise and must provide matching funds. The matching fund requirements for Macau entities are defined by the Fund's rules, while Mainland China's matching fund requirements are governed by the Ministry's regulations.
2. The lead applicant from Macau must negotiate with the Mainland partner on research content, the research plan, and the division of responsibilities. They must sign a cooperation agreement, memorandum of understanding, or letter of intent, which must include specific provisions on intellectual property rights.
3. The roles and responsibilities of the lead and participating entities must be clearly defined, ensuring substantive R&D collaboration. The project must effectively protect intellectual property rights, equitably share the results of collaborative research, and safeguard the interests of all parties involved.
4. Collaborating partners must have strong technical capabilities or high research standards and must be willing and able to cooperate with Macau. They may contribute to the collaboration through technology, funding, personnel, information resources, advanced equipment, proprietary resources, or other means.
5. Cooperation between Macau-based research institutions and their Mainland subsidiaries is not supported under this program.
6. Mainland China partners must also submit their application to the Ministry. For detailed application procedures, please refer to the Ministry's relevant regulations.

#### **4. Output Requirements**

The expected outcomes must include intellectual property, technical standards, prototypes, models, or formulas. The project must set clear quantitative goals for outputs, and after implementation, the project should yield certain economic and social benefits.

#### **5. Application Requirements**

1. The application is a key document used by the Fund and peer reviewers to understand the project, consult on it, and select the best proposals. Applicants must carefully fill out the application form, adhering to the required content, format, and word limits.
2. The basic content requirements for the application form are as follows:
  - (1) The project should achieve collaboration in relevant research areas and technology development.
  - (2) The significance of the collaboration should be substantial, with clear goals, specific content, a reasonable and feasible cooperation plan, measurable technical indicators, and a rational budget.

(3) The research team's structure should be well-organized, with clear divisions of labor between the lead and participating entities, ensuring substantive R&D cooperation.

(4) The project title, collaborating entities, project leaders, and project duration must be consistent across both Macau and Mainland China's application forms.