

Application Guidelines

Name of Programme	India-Singapore Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Programme – Request for Proposal (RFP) 2024 Between the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, and the Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG), Government of Singapore
Important Dates	Announcement and Closing Date of Request for Proposal (RFP) Launch Date : 1st November 2024 Last Date : 28th February 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For EnterpriseSG, before 8:00 pm Singapore Time• For TDB-DST, before 5:30 pm Indian Standard Time Announcement of Results: August 2025 Project start: from September / October 2025
Who Can Apply?	Eligible Indian Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Indian Project Coordinator (IPC) must be a commercial (for profit) company under the Indian Companies Act 1956/2013, which operates in and is headquartered in India.• At least 51% stake of the IPC Company must be owned by Indian citizens.• The IPC should have the required expertise and team capacity to manage the proposed project.• Sole proprietors and partnership firms are not eligible for support under this programme.• Companies headquartered and owned outside India and their subsidiaries in India, or vice versa, are not eligible to receive funding from DST under this programme.

- IPC should lead the project from Indian side and when suitable bring in other Industry Partners or Academic/R&D Institutions as Consortium Partner.

Eligible Singapore Applicant

- The Singapore Project Coordinator (SPC) must be a commercial company. The SPC is responsible for the application submission in Singapore and towards EnterpriseSG.
- Be a business entity that is registered and physically present in Singapore;
- $\geq 30\%$ local equity held directly or indirectly by Singaporean(s) / Singapore PR(s), determined by the ultimate individual ownership;
- Be financially able to see a project through to completion; and
- Not placed under the blacklist of EnterpriseSG.

Note: The project content and budget should be balanced between the Singapore and the Indian participants.

[Refer to Annexure 1: Eligibility Criteria and Annexure 2: Project Requirements for details]

Eligible Technology Areas	<p>The collaborative projects should be innovative and focused on creating possibilities for future new technologies, services or processes that will eventually lead to commercialisation. DST and EnterpriseSG invite proposals in collaborative industrial research and development projects in all thematic areas.</p> <p>This RFP2024 is open to the applied R&D projects in all thematic areas, including.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and Medical Technology; 2. Semiconductor; 3. Advanced manufacturing and engineering; 4. Green economy, energy, water, climate and natural resources; 5. Data science, emerging technologies; 6. Other areas of interest (if any).
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Project Funding Support

DST and EnterpriseSG will implement a joint, merit-based project evaluation and selection process using their respective assessment processes.

Funds will be provided in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures established by each funding organisation, and/or each country. A minimum of 3, and maximum of 5 joint projects may be funded.

Funding for R&D Participants in India

- DST will support up to a maximum limit of INR 1.5 crore per project of the total Indian Project Cost, as a Grant in Aid, for a maximum project period of 24 months.
- Indian industry may receive up to 50% of their part of the eligible costs on a “Reimbursement Basis”, for costs already incurred on a proportionate basis under Equipment, Manpower, Consumables, Travel & Others.

ELIGIBLE COST

- Eligible cost includes manpower cost, consumables and material purchased, equipment cost, travel cost and others. The cost breakup will form part of Executive presentation as submitted in Project Proposal & Executive Summary and no modification of the same will be accepted at a later stage unless the proposed change is approved by the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC).
- TDB shall reimburse the actual eligible cost incurred between the project start and end dates, based on the audited project accounts approved by an independent Chartered Accountant.
- Any revenue generation activities cannot be included as part of project cost. Only research & development related activities related to this project can be included as part of the project cost. Such costs must meet the eligibility criteria in the categories listed below for the purpose of grant:
- Manpower cost of all technical professionals working directly on the project may be claimed. For this purpose, total man days worked by all personnel working directly on the project must be listed with a brief description of their roles and their contribution in this project

- The costs of materials to be consumed directly on the project are eligible costs, provided they are not already included in any other cost-head and are purchased from third parties.

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NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS:

- Input VAT, Excise duty, GST
- Bad debts, profits, entertainment cost
- Hire purchase interest and any associated service charges
- Production, quality control/ assurance, distribution, supply chain or selling costs or activities
- Entertainment and hospitality costs
- Profit earned by a subsidiary or by an associate undertaking work sub-contracted out under this project.
- Sick days, waiting time and non-productive time
- Bonuses, award, profit related pay, company car expenses and any discretionary benefits to staff.
- Project audit fees
- Insurance Cost

Funding for R&D Participants in Singapore

- Eligible companies can receive up to 50% support by default from the EDG (CIP), for qualifying cost items on a reimbursement basis.
- The grant funds qualifying project costs namely third-party consultancy fees, software and equipment, and internal manpower cost.

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Types of Projects to be Supported	<p>The following types of projects will be considered for programme funding: R&D projects focusing on the co-development of new technologies, services or processes.</p> <p>The participants shall agree in advance on the Intellectual Property Rights and the commercialisation strategy of possible future products or processes in a Project Agreement</p> <p>Note: The participants shall agree in advance on the Intellectual Property Rights and the commercialisation strategy of possible future products or processes in a Project Agreement.</p> <p>[Refer to Annexure 3: Application Submission Process and Annexure 4: General Guidelines on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Commercialisation plan for more details]</p>
Selection Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Projects must be innovative and market-driven, leading to the proposed development of a new/improved technology, process or service, leading to future possible commercialisation. 2. Proposals must demonstrate the joint India-Singapore project teams' capacity to manage the proposed project in their respective countries, and jointly with the counterpart project team.
Duration	A 2-year project period. Projects may start immediately after the agreement signing with TDB.
Project Evaluation Stages and Process	<p>Projects will be evaluated according to the standard evaluation processes of EnterpriseSG in Singapore and TDB-DST in India, respectively. The final selection of the proposals will be through a joint process mutually agreed by DST and EnterpriseSG.</p> <p>[Refer Annexure 5: Project Evaluation & Pre-Commencement Process for more details]</p>
Finding a Partner	Both Parties will organise outreach activities together and independent to facilitate matchmaking.

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Annexure 1: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

Annexure 2: PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

A team of Indian and Singapore companies proposing an R&D project that meets the requirements in this area is eligible to apply to this RFP and does so in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures of their jurisdiction or country

The project content and budget should be balanced between the Singapore and the Indian participants. Cost estimates must be congruous with the planned activities presented in the proposal.

Any team proposing an R&D project that addresses the requirements detailed below is eligible to apply to this RFP:

1. Proposals must demonstrate the joint India-Singapore project team's capacity to manage the project in their respective countries and the modes for coordination between the two sides. The participants shall have an organisation appropriate to ensuring effective implementation of the project.
2. Projects must be innovative and market-driven, leading to the proposed development of new/improved technologies, processes or services, with a strong potential to commercialise.
3. The project must have a civilian purpose.
4. The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the technological cooperation between the participants from the countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, etc.).
5. The participants are required to have signed a consortium agreement.
6. The IPC is responsible for the Indian application submission, leading the Indian part of the project and communicating with the SPC. Project Investigator (PI) will be an individual duly authorised by the IPC to this project on behalf of the IPC in India. The SPC is responsible for the Singapore application submission, leading the Singapore side of the project and communicating with the IPC.
7. For the Indian side, a minimum of 50% of the total project costs must be incurred by the business partners.
8. The projects should be in the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) between 5-8. For new processes or technologies, the project should lead to the creation of low-cost alternatives of an existing technology.
9. On the Indian side, should there be any change in the PI of the IPC, liability on account of the project will continue to rest with the IPC. The IPC shall ensure that the project is staffed with personnel of relevant qualification, experience and capability, as required, till project completion, so that the project execution is not impeded.
10. Although it is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged for projects to engage an enduser/first customer, on either side of the consortium.

Annexure 3: APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

Annexure 4: GENERAL GUIDELINES ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

Annexure 5: PROJECT EVALUATION AND PRE-COMMENCEMENT PROCESS

India

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