SINGAPORE – CHINA JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

11TH SINGAPORE – CHINA JRP CALL FOR PROPOSALS

(For Singapore Applicants)
1. SUMMARY OF INITIATIVE

1.1 The Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), People's Republic of China jointly announce the 11th call for proposals under the Singapore – China Joint Research Programme implemented in August 1998.

1.2 This international joint research programme aims to stimulate information exchange leading to cooperative research to advance science and technology in both countries.

1.3 For 2014, joint proposals in the area of “Smart Cities Technologies” are invited to be submitted.

1.4 Singapore applicants are required to apply electronically via the Integrated Grants Management System (https://igrants.a-star.edu.sg/) by 30th April 2014 17:00 (Singapore Standard Time).

1.5 All proposals would reviewed by a scientific panel appointed by the MOST. The panel consists of a group of scientific experts and will review and recommend complete proposals for award.

1.6 Enquiries concerning this Call should be addressed to the following SERC officer:

Ms. Lim Jia Yee, Programme Officer
Email: LIM_Jia_Yee@a-star.edu.sg

2. INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Under the initiative of 2014, SERC will fund projects that address critical technologies in the areas of “Smart Cities Technologies” ( Preferably in the following sub-areas):

- Urban Analytics, Mobility Networks, Smart Grid, Complex Systems, Sensors and sensor network, and Integrated City Planning

3. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 The objective of this initiative is for projects to leverage strongly on partnerships and collaborations with scientists and research groups/institutions in China.

3.2 It is SERC’s intent that the proposed project leverage as much as possible on existing infrastructure and programmes that SERC has previously supported and pre-positioned to launch such an initiative. No major investments in tools and equipment are envisaged. Allocation for manpower, service and share time charges for use of equipment should be factored in proposal
3.3 ELIGIBILITY

3.3.1 This Call for Proposals is open to Singapore public sector research organizations, including A*STAR RIs.

3.3.2 For every proposal submitted, there should be 2 Co-Principal Investigators (one Singapore-based, and one China-based). The China-based PI must concurrently submit the joint proposal to China’s MOST.

3.3.3 Applicants from private sector are **NOT** eligible to receive funding from this grant, **BUT**, may take part as a collaborator of projects, and **Co-fund the project either in cash or in-kind contribution**; the assignment of commercialisation rights and distribution of any intellectual property (IP) (made according to the contributions by the respective parties) will be established in a Research Collaboration Agreement (RCA) prior to the commencement of the project.

3.3.4 The research project will be funded approximately up to S$300,000 (for the Singapore component) up to 3 years, including general overheads (indirect cost). For non-A*STAR research institutes eligible for indirect cost funding, the maximum funding quantum is S$250,000.

3.3.5 Under this programme, A*STAR of Singapore and their counterpart in China will fund the approved project undertaken by the respective sides through their respective budgets. That is, Singapore will fund the Singapore component of the project, while China will fund the Chinese component.

3.3.6 Projects should provide leverage in one or more of the following ways:
   (i) Provide access to unique/specialized characteristics of overseas partner country, e.g., specific scientific knowledge or technique, availability of key manpower, common interest in seeking a breakthrough in science, training in research manpower, research capability in a specific field, etc.
   (ii) Tap on specialized capabilities of overseas partner agencies, and through this, create strategic linkages to tap on specialized capabilities in the future.
   (iii) Provide opportunities to learn/share/benchmark research with your international collaborator.

3.4 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

3.4.1 Proposals must attempt to fully disclose the research ideas and approaches. It is important that proposals are well crafted and provide substantive description of the research plan for a fair review of the scientific/technical plans and approaches. Proprietary or confidential information must be clearly indicated in the proposal. Proposals must not be duplicative or substantially
similar to any previous project or proposal submission. No individual should be represented in more than two proposals.

3.4.2 The proposal should contain the following:

i. The overall detailed joint project description
ii. Details on the involvement and contribution of the Singaporean investigators
iii. Details on the interaction among investigators of both countries
iv. Details for the funding required for the Singaporean effort

3.5 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

3.5.1 Only FULL proposals will be accepted for review, evaluation and assessment for awards.

3.5.2 All proposals must also be submitted through the Principal Investigator’s respective Director's Office, Office of Research or equivalent. If the Principal Investigator is the Director of the Institution, undertaking by the Director's Reporting officer is required. SERC will not accept proposals from individuals without the appropriate endorsement from his/her employing organizations. This is to ensure that organizational support is clearly associated with the proposed research plan.

3.6 DEADLINES

3.6.1 Singapore applicants are required to apply electronically via the Integrated Grants Management System (https://igrants.a-star.edu.sg/) by 30th April 2014 17:00 (Singapore Standard Time).

3.6.2 China-based applicants are required to submit their application forms to MOST, which can be found on the following websites: http://www.most.gov.cn and http://www.cistc.gov.cn

3.6.3 It is expected that grant recipients will be notified by end August 2014.

4. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF GRANT PROPOSALS

4.1 This grant call seeks to identify proposals that are innovative, demonstrative of a high level of scientific pursuit, clearly identify recipients of research outcomes and applications, challenge paradigms and set international benchmarks.

4.2 Other factors will include the level of synergy of the proposed research to the collective set of activities, the abilities of the researchers, their past performance in prior awards, comments of the referees (if required),
effectiveness of project management, and appropriateness of the requested budget.

4.3 A formal contract involving the relevant Singapore-based public institutions and Chinese institutions shall be drawn for each project. Each project shall inter alia:
- Contribute substantially to scientific progress in the respective field and must be original and innovative;
- Apply state-of-the-art methods and advanced technologies;
- Be tackled in an inter-disciplinary approach involving scientists with different backgrounds in basic research and/or applied/closed research;
- Involve a mix of experienced and young scientists.

5. PROPOSAL SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

5.1 All proposals would reviewed by an scientific panel appointed by the MOST. The panel consists of a group of scientific experts and will review and recommend complete proposals for award.

5.2 SERC may require proposals to be combined as it deems fit to enhance collaboration, facilitate integration and optimise resources.

5.3 SERC may seek referee reports, written submissions or presentations from some PIs to justify, elaborate or clarify aspects of the research approach described in the proposal during the review process.

5.4 Notification of in-principle awards will be sent to the respective employing organizations and copied to the Principal Investigator.

5.5 INFORMATION OWNERSHIP

5.5.1 The following should be satisfied prior commencement of the project:
   i. Cooperating parties should enter into a formal contract agreement, which should specify the roles and tasks to be undertaken by each party to the cooperation; and
   ii. Share and ownership of intellectual property rights brought to and resulting from the cooperation, as well as the commercialization rights should be agreed amongst the cooperating parties, and will be subjected to contract assigned by both parties in the joint collaboration before commencement date of the project as far as possible.

5.5.2 The formal award letter will not be issued until the above agreed terms are incorporated into a formal contract agreement between the collaborating parties from Singapore and China and forwarded to A*STAR not later than six (6) months after the in principle approval of the project, failing which the offer would have been deemed to have lapsed.
6. PROGRAMME REVIEW AND MONITORING

6.1 Programmes will be reviewed annually, and research teams are expected to submit annual summary reports. Presentation and public seminars may also form part of the project progress review.

7. INDICATIVE ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of project proposals on iGrants</td>
<td>30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April 2014, 5 pm</td>
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<td>Announcement of in principle approval of selected project proposals</td>
<td>By end August 2014</td>
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