

BIOMANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY AND PARTNERSHIP (BioTAP) FUNDING INITIATIVE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OVERVIEW OF BIOTAP

1. What is BioTAP?	The Biomanufacturing Technology and Partnership (BioTAP) Funding Initiative is a new RIE2030 initiative implemented by A*STAR to strengthen Singapore's biomanufacturing competitiveness. It provides a coordinated platform to support industry-relevant research, translation and capability development across conventional and emerging therapeutic modalities.
2. What does BioTAP seek to achieve?	BioTAP seeks to strengthen the competitiveness of existing biopharmaceutical manufacturing operations, accelerate the development and manufacturing readiness of emerging modalities, and advance novel biomanufacturing technologies towards adoption and deployment in the industry.
3. Who is the Implementing Agency for BioTAP?	A*STAR is the Implementing Agency (IA) for BioTAP and is responsible for its governance, performance and accountability.
4. What types of research activities will BioTAP support?	BioTAP supports innovation in biomanufacturing technologies. Activities may include process optimisation, digitalisation, sustainability, process development, scale-up, GMP-readiness, enabling technologies and platform technologies.
5. How long can BioTAP-funded activities run?	Research activities funded under BioTAP are expected to run for approximately one to three years, with a maximum of five years. The applicable duration for each opportunity will be stated in the relevant call documentation.
6. Is there a fixed funding quantum for each project?	Call-specific funding limits will be stated in the relevant grant call or solicitation materials. The appropriate quantum will depend on the scope, complexity, intended outcomes and available funding.

GRANT CALL #1: ACCELERATE TRANSLATION & GMP READINESS

Scope

1. What is the focus of the first open grant call?	Accelerate Translation & GMP Readiness addresses gaps between early-stage research and GMP manufacturing, clinical development and industry adoption. It supports pre-GMP process development and piloting, and CMC know-how and analytical capability development.
2. Must my proposal fit exactly within the illustrative activities listed?	No. The listed activities are illustrative rather than exhaustive. Related translational or manufacturing capability gaps aligned with the call objectives may also be considered.
3. Does the call fund GMP manufacturing itself?	The call emphasises pre-GMP development, manufacturing-relevant demonstration, CMC capabilities and evidence that supports subsequent GMP implementation. Applicants should explain the proposed readiness advancement rather than assume that GMP execution is required.

Project Types and Funding

1. What is the difference between Seed and Core Projects?	Seed Projects support early-stage, higher-risk research to establish proof-of-concept or feasibility, with clear go/no-go milestones. Core Projects support more mature R&D advancing promising assets, technologies or platforms towards validation, manufacturing readiness and industry adoption.
2. What are the funding limits and project durations for the first call?	Seed: up to S\$500,000 over 12–18 months. Core: up to S\$5M over a period of no more than three years. These caps include applicable overheads.
3. Will successful Seed Projects receive priority or automatically be considered for Core funding?	No. Seed Project awardees will not receive priority or automatic consideration for Core Project funding. Seed Projects demonstrating significant or meaningful outcomes may be considered for follow-on funding, subject to the applicable funding opportunity, eligibility requirements, competitive evaluation and approvals. Follow-on funding is not guaranteed.
4. Can a Seed Project form part of a larger, long-term research vision?	Yes. A Seed Project may test a critical concept or feasibility question within a broader research vision, but must have its own defined scope, milestones, decision points and deliverables.
5. Is immediate industry deployment required for Seed Projects?	No. Seed Projects may focus on decision-enabling proof-of-concept or feasibility evidence. Applicants should nonetheless explain the longer-term strategic relevance and potential translational pathway.

Eligibility and Industry Participation

1. Who is eligible to apply?	<p>Eligibility requirements will be specified for each call and may vary depending on the thematic area and funding mechanism. Applicants should refer to the relevant call information sheet and application materials.</p> <p>Unless otherwise stated in the call, the Lead PI should hold at least a 0.7 FTE primary appointment in an eligible Singapore publicly funded research organisation, institute of higher learning or public healthcare institution, conduct or lead research in Singapore, and have suitable expertise and institutional support.</p>
2. Are industry partners a requirement?	<p>Industry participation is highly encouraged where it strengthens the relevance, validation, translation or adoption pathway of the proposed work. There is no requirement for an industry partner for application. However, proposals are expected to deliver on the stated IRS and/or industry partnership performance expectations.</p>
3. Can a research scientist or postdoctoral researcher apply as Lead PI?	<p>Potentially, yes. Non-faculty researchers may be considered if they meet the stated eligibility requirements and their Host Institution confirms suitable support and appointment coverage for the grant period.</p>
4. Can industry partners, overseas organisations or other external collaborators participate?	<p>Yes, as collaborators contributing expertise, technology, data, facilities, manpower or other support. Grant funding is generally awarded to eligible Singapore public-sector research performers; external collaborators do not receive grant funding unless the call expressly provides otherwise.</p>
5. Can applicants request an eligibility waiver?	<p>Requests may be considered case by case. Applicants should approach the BioTAP Coordinating Office through their institutional research office at least seven days before the submission deadline.</p>

Preparing and Submitting a Proposal to BioTAP's Grant Call #1

1. Is a project manager mandatory?	No. A Project Manager is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged, depending on project scale and complexity.
2. What if ethics approvals are needed?	Complete the ethics declaration for relevant human, animal, material, containment or multicentre activities and provide supporting documentation where applicable. Project approval and fund disbursement are subject to required ethics approvals.
3. How is confidential or proprietary information handled?	Applicants should clearly mark proprietary or confidential material. The application states that information may be used by A*STAR and its appointed reviewers and administrators for assessment, COI and overlap checks, grant administration, reporting and related purposes.
4. How will proposals be evaluated?	Proposals will undergo technical evaluation with input from external technical advisors and, where applicable, domain-specific committees. As part of the approval process, proposals recommended for support will be reviewed and endorsed by the Biomanufacturing Oversight Committee (BOC) before formal approval.
5. What will reviewers look for?	Key considerations include strategic relevance to BioTAP priorities, scientific and technical merit, translational potential and pathway to adoption, strength of the team and partnerships, and the quality of the implementation plan, milestones, risk management and budget.

KPIs, Outcomes and Post-award Management

1. What reporting and review requirements should awardees expect?	<p>Both Seed and Core Projects undergo a mid-term review involving presentation to the BOC and a final review comprising a written report and presentation. Core Projects must also submit annual written progress reports. Seed Projects are exempt from annual written progress reports.</p> <p>Reviews will consider progress against milestones, deliverables and KPIs, budget utilisation, material risks and any need for course correction.</p>
2. What outcomes does BioTAP aim to deliver?	<p>The overarching objective of BioTAP is to strengthen Singapore's long-term competitiveness in biomanufacturing. BioTAP aims to increase industry R&D spend and industry partnerships, enable technologies to be deployed or licensed, and catalyse follow-on collaborations beyond the directly funded activities.</p>
3. Are IRS and industry partnerships compulsory project KPIs?	<p>Yes. Projects are expected to commit to industry R&D spending (IRS, with an indicative gearing ratio of 0.4) and/or industry partnerships. Applicants should propose justified targets suited to the project and may include additional relevant KPIs.</p>
4. Can applicants propose additional or alternative tracking indicators?	<p>Yes. The proposed TIs on technology deployment/licensing and additional one-to-one projects catalysed as optional tracking indicators. Teams may propose other suitable indicators aligned with their intended outcomes.</p>
5. What happens if a project misses a milestone or changes direction?	<p>Progress reviews consider approved milestones, deliverables, KPIs, budget use, risks and corrective actions. Material changes and funding decisions remain subject to the applicable grant conditions and approval processes.</p>
6. Will outcomes be tracked after the project ends?	<p>Yes, the BioTAP CO may seek updates on relevant tracking indicators for up to three years following project completion.</p>