STDR
Singapore Therapeutics Development Review

Launch of STDR 2026 (Jul) Grant Call

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Agency for Science, Technology and Research SINGAPORE
EDDC Experimental Drug Development Centre
SMART Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology
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Information for STDR 2026 (Jul) Grant Call Applicants

1. **Administrative Info on STDR Pre-Pilot**

2. **Therapeutic Platforms:**
   Revised Eligibility Criteria for Platform Technologies

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3. **Administrative Info on STDR Pilot**

4. **How to strengthen your STDR Pilot submission**

Lead PIs must have at least 0.7 FTE and IP must be owned by HIs

1 PI Eligibility Requirements

The Lead Principal Investigator (PI) should:

a) Hold at least a **0.7 FTE** primary appointment in a **Singapore** publicly funded research / tertiary institution

b) Have the relevant scientific/technical background and necessary experience to direct the project being supported by the grant

Post-doctoral researchers should submit a letter from their supervisor declaring that:

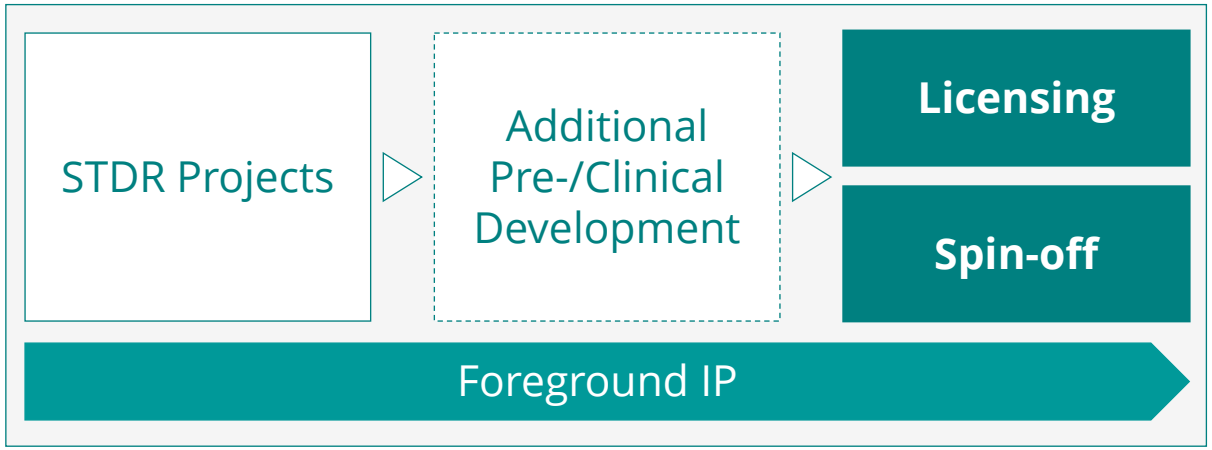
a) Their supervisor supports their application

b) Their contract covers the entire STDR grant period

c) The grant body funding the post-doc is agreeable to the STDR application (if relevant)

Exceptions to the eligibility criteria will be considered on a case-by-case basis. **Submit waiver to STDR CO at least 7 days before the grant deadline (i.e., by 20 Aug 2026)**.

2 IP Ownership by Host Institutions



To ensure that STDR projects can eventually enter into commercialisation agreements with industry partners, all foreground IP developed through STDR **must** be owned by Host Institutions (HIs) of Lead PI and/or Co-I(s).

If your proposed STDR project:

(1) requires the use of background IP **not owned** by your Host Institution(s); and/or

(2) has **committed foreground IP** to commercial partner(s)

Please consult your institution's IEO / TTO and obtain their **inputs and endorsement** for your application.

Submission for STDR Pre-Pilot will conclude on 27 Aug 2026, 5 pm

Pre-Pilot

Eligibility	**Stream 1** Target Validation	**Stream 2** Platform Development
	Asset-focused	
Stage	Target validation to show mechanism of action	Platform validation using known / novel target
Duration	Up to 12 months	
Funding	Up to S$325K (S$250K Direct Costs + 30% Indirect Costs)	

2 documents required

Ensure the **correct** Stream is selected

1 **Stream 1** Target Validation **Stream 2** Platform Development

Technical Write-Up

2

Budget

Must be endorsed by IEO & Research Director

Submit on iGrants by
27 Aug 2026 (Thu), 5 pm

STDR supports the development of Therapeutic Platforms

Previous Definition for Platform Technologies

Platforms are technologies that enable broad application of the underlying science and in so doing, create value by enabling multiple applications or products

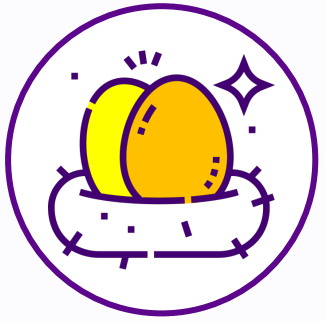
▼

Revised Definition for Therapeutic Platforms

A therapeutic platform is a **reusable** discovery, design, engineering, or development system that enables the **generation of multiple distinct therapeutic product candidates** from a **proprietary underlying technology**, modality, workflow, or biological principle

Enable pipeline of therapeutic assets

The platform should have a **credible path** to producing a **pipeline of therapeutic assets** across different targets, indications, mechanisms, patient populations, or therapeutic constructs



Out-of-scope projects

Technologies whose primary output is a research tool, assay, model, dataset, diagnostic, delivery method, or manufacturing process will **not** be considered therapeutic platforms **unless they are directly integrated with a repeatable process for generating therapeutic candidates**

Platform projects that do not develop therapeutics are out-of-scope

STDR projects **must** lead to the development of **first / best-in-class** therapeutic asset(s)

Examples of in-scope projects*

Modality	Mechanism	Therapeutic developed
Biologics & Antibody Engines	Target-Binding Scaffolds	Non-antibody scaffold customizable for different pathological targets
	Antibody-Drug Conjugate Linked-Payload	Fixed linker/toxin combination pairable with different antibodies
Cell, Gene, & Nucleic Acid Engines	Modular mRNA Construct	Core LNP with optimized mRNA backbone for different payloads
	Engineered Viral Vector	Library of AAV capsids able to cross BBB with different genetic payloads
	Off-the-shelf Cell Platform	Master iPSC line differentiated into different cell types (T, NK cells)
Small Molecule & Targeted Protein Degradation	Protein Degradation	Optimized E3 ligase binder with linker to pathological proteins
	AI-Driven Drug Discovery	Discovery of novel, small molecule inhibitors for "undruggable" targets

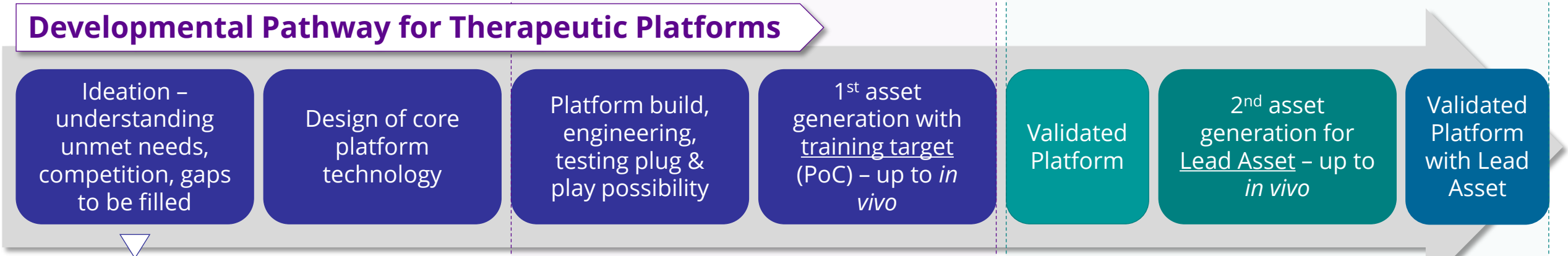
Examples of out-of-scope projects* – No asset

- Disease/therapeutic response modelling platforms: disease models, organoids, animal models
- Hit screening assays
- Biomarker platforms, diagnostic platforms
- Omics datasets and other target-discovery resources
- Imaging platforms
- General AI prediction tools (e.g., modelling therapeutic response)
- Delivery systems alone
- Formulation technologies alone
- Manufacturing platforms
- A single target discovery programme

*Examples are non-exhaustive.

Eligible Therapeutic Platforms must generate (POC or Lead) therapeutic asset

Developmental Pathway for Therapeutic Platforms



In addition to technical aspects of platform, applicants should identify the **optimal indication** and **biological use-case** the platform would be best positioned to address, relative to current solutions.

Eligible for STDR Pre-Pilot (Stream 2)

- Pre-Pilot (Stream 2) can support therapeutic platform projects to generate their first proof-of-concept (PoC) asset using a clinically validated therapeutic target ("training target") with the goal of demonstrating the utility of the platform.
- **The application should describe a plan for the generation of the first lead asset and subsequent assets which must be first / best-in-class.**

Eligible for STDR Pilot

- Pilot can support validated therapeutic platform projects to develop their **Lead Asset**.
- Applicants can **directly apply** for Pilot if they meet this criteria.

Submission for STDR Pilot will conclude on 27 Aug 2026, 5 pm

Pilot

Eligibility

Single asset or **asset-focused platform technologies**

Stage

Target validation* to pre-clinical stage

*May include target validation of known targets for secondary indication(s)

Duration

Phase 1
Up to 12 months

Phase 2
Up to 12 months

Up to 24 months, review at end of Phase 1

Funding

Up to S$1M

(S$769.2K Direct Costs + 30% Indirect Costs)

Phase 1 – Up to S$400K

Phase 2 – Up to S$600K

3 documents required

1. **Technical Write-Up**
2. **Budget**

Must be endorsed by IEO & Research Director

3. **Pitch Deck**

Ensure data is **consistent**

No more than 10 slides (excluding cover slides, acknowledgements and annex). Annex should not have more than 10 slides.

Submit on iGrants by
27 Aug 2026 (Thu), 5 pm

Strengthen your Pilot application by avoiding these common pitfalls

	Insufficient **preliminary data**	• Lack target validation data • Only virtual hits compounds identified with no further verification
	Lack detailed **mechanism of action (MOA)**	• Lack data on how molecule was implicated in disease, its mode of action, synergistic effect or causative link with other molecules
	Lack **relevant expertise**	• Unable to answer questions relating to the project during Q&A
	Lack explanation on **differentiation** compared to current SOC or other therapies under development	• Did not highlight key differentiation factors of approach vs competitors • Lack of head-to-head comparison with available competitor drugs / standard-of-care / clinical trials • Did not present a convincing plan to overcome failed clinical trials / other issues faced by their direct competitors
	Lack consideration on how to address potential **safety issues**	• Lack safety profile data of proposed therapeutic approach / molecule • Did not address how the team plans to mitigate the potential toxicity issues (associated with the target / molecule / delivery method)
	Lack a good **Target Product Profile (TPP)**	• No clear criteria for success
	Lack a **strong development plan** and **commercialisation strategy**	• Formulation and delivery issues were not addressed • Did not outline a clear market entry path / commercialisation pathway (e.g., licensing / spin-off / partnering with biotech / pharma)

Encouraged to apply for **Pre-Pilot** instead

STDR has additional resources to help you strengthen your application

EDDC Insights

EDDC Experimental Drug Development Centre

The Art of Pitching

Dr Alice Chen
Partner
Head of Accelerator Life Science Partners

Pitch Deck Guiding Questions (Please keep to 10 slides lim

Note: You may expand some sections beyond 1 slide, or combine 2 sections in the same slide.

Product Vision

- **For Single Assets: Target Product Profile (TPP):**
  - What is the **desired profile** of the final asset, and how is it an improvement over the current standard of care?
  - How does the current hit/lead's performance compare to the TPP (where applicable)?
  - Please describe the TPP in terms of the following:
    - **Efficacy**: What is the specific minimum efficacy needed to show differentiation against the current standard of care and competitors?
    - **Safety**: Are there any potential adverse effects, particularly in comparison to the current standard of care?
    - **Administration**: What would be the dosing frequency and mode of administration?
- **For Platforms:**
  - What is the breath and scope of potential applications?
  - How would you prioritize applications for translation?
  - Why would your platform be an improvement over the current practice in these prioritized applications?

Successful applicants can expect the STDR Letter of Award by 2027 Q1

Pre-Pilot (Stream 1 & 2)

By 27 Aug '26

Submission of Application on iGrants

▶ **Pre-Pilot Grant Call**

Sep – Oct '26

Review by **Independent Reviewers** (EDDC and TTC Representatives)

EDDC | TARGET TRANSLATION CONSORTIUM

Early Nov '26

Review by **TTC Representatives**

TARGET TRANSLATION CONSORTIUM

A*STAR | NUS | DukeNUS | NTU Singapore | NUHS | SingHealth | NHG Health

Dec '26

Endorsement of Funding Recommendation

Letter of Award

STDR Singapore Therapeutics Development Review — 2027 Q1

Mentorship

Drug Development Specialist (DDS)

EDDC

Training Bootcamp

EDDC

Pilot

By 27 Aug '26

Submission of Application on iGrants

▶ **Pilot Grant Call**

Sep – Oct '26

Review by **STDR Reviewers** (Venture Capital, Biotech, ex-Pharma)

Early Nov '26

Shortlisted projects to present to **STDR Expert Review Panel (ERP)**

Dec '26

Endorsement of Funding Recommendation

Letter of Award

STDR Singapore Therapeutics Development Review — 2027 Q1

Mentorship

STDR Singapore Therapeutics Development Review

Training Bootcamp

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Please note that timelines are indicative. All reviewers are bound by confidentiality agreements. Targets must be disclosed to enable conduct of due diligence.
STDR reserves the right to change the review process and timelines from time to time at its sole discretion.

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THANK YOU

For more information, visit https://www.a-star.edu.sg/Research/funding-opportunities/stdr

Contact: STDR_Secretariat@a-star.edu.sg