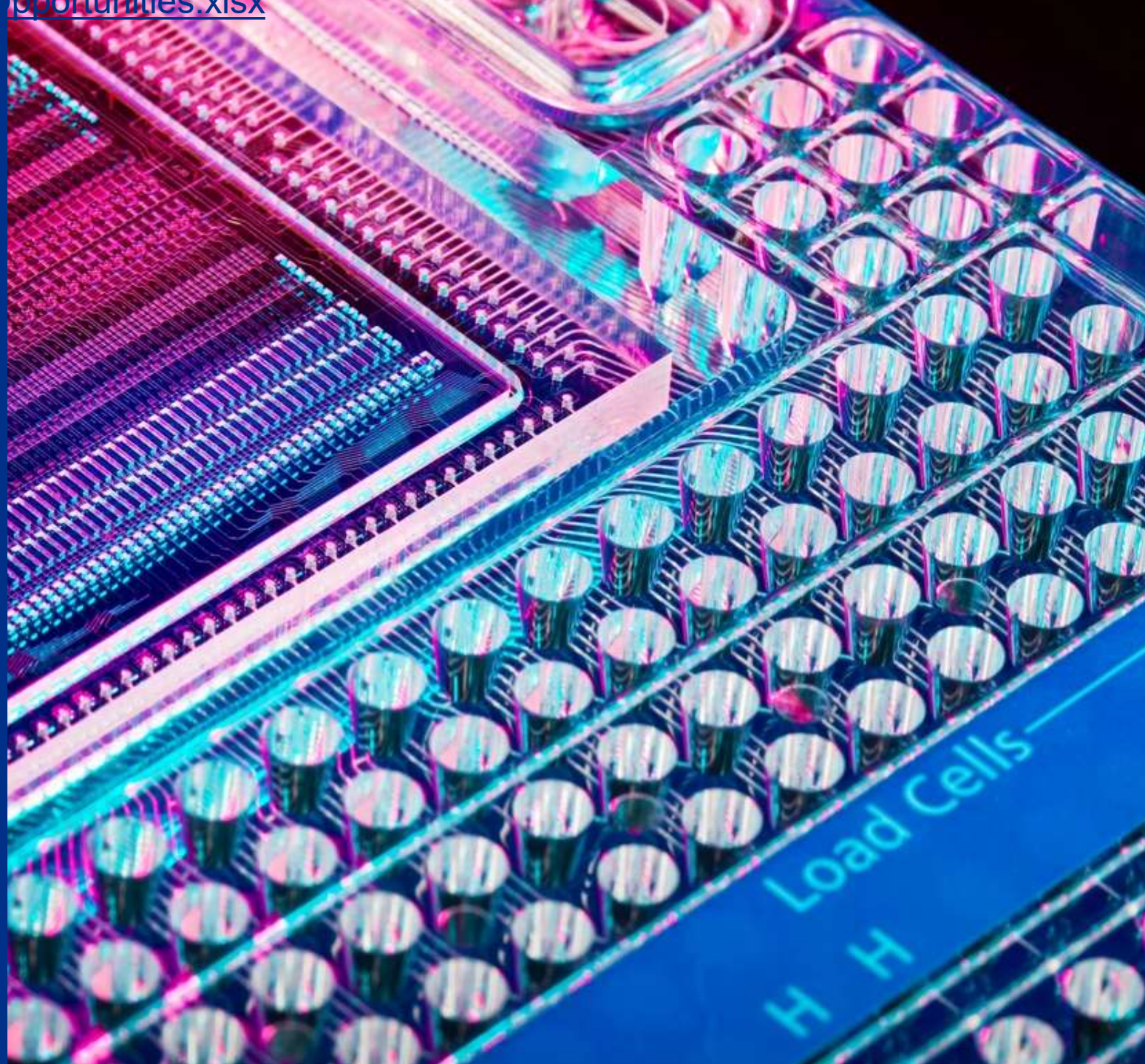
Agency for Science, Technology and Research
SINGAPORE

MTC MISSION Funding Initiative

Oct 2026



Sharing on the shifts in MTC Domain and MTC MISSION FI

1. Shifts in Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC) Domain
2. MTC MISSION FI
3. MTC MISSION project Application and Evaluation Process
4. Project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) / Tracking Indicators (TIs)
5. Post-Award Management and Reporting
6. Key Differences between MTC IAF-PP FI and MTC MISSION FI
7. Key Takeaways

Shifts in Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC) Domain

In RIE2030, MTC Domain will:

- Focus on mainly Horizon 1 and 2 efforts with Horizon 3 research right-sited to the academic horizontal as the centre of gravity

	Horizon 1	Horizon 2	Horizon 3
Timeframe	<3 Years	2026-2035 (3 – 10 years)	Beyond 2035 (>10 years)
Description	Applied research comprising of innovation with companies to deepen innovation mandate of industry leaders in Singapore	Mission-driven translational research that is aligned to the R&D focus areas identified by the sector leads (EDB, ESG, MPA or CAAS)	Curiosity driven research
Activities	Commercialisation	Translation	Research
Funding	IAF-ICP or GAP	MTC MISSION FI	YIRG, CRP, Frontier CRP

MTC will concentrate on selected sectors with outsized economic importance to Singapore

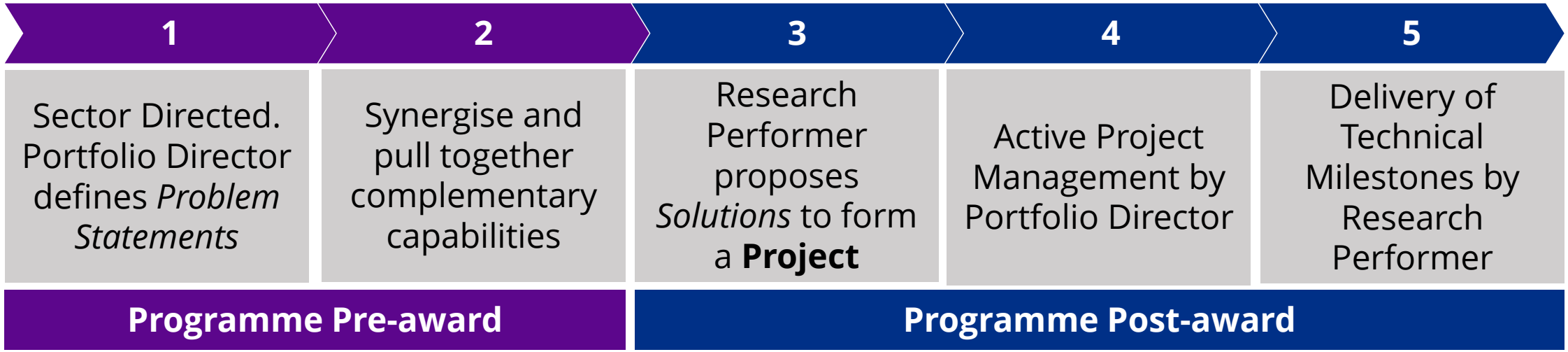
Manufacturing and Trade	**Connectivity**

• Semiconductor (incl complex eqpt for semiconductor mfg)
• Bioeconomy (*new and more focused*)
• Aerospace
• Robotics
• Additive Manufacturing
• Marine & Offshore
• Food Manufacturing
• Logistics
	• Hub of the Future
	  • Sea Transport
	  • Air Transport
	  • Land Transport (*new*)
	• Space

- Sector Leads from economic and connectivity agencies will have explicit and enhanced responsibilities to own sectoral R&D strategies and implementation plans to drive end-to-end strategies.

A MTC MISSION Programme is sector-directed and led by a Portfolio Director

- MTC MISSION FI will support Horizon 2 Programmes in the MTC domain that have a **clear pathway towards industry deployment**.
- The desired outcome is for Programmes to deliver outsized commercial impact within ten years.



** The Portfolio Director (PD) cannot participate in the research funded under the Programme he leads*

Application Process for projects under MTC MISSION Programmes

Projects under MTC MISSION Programmes

PD to initiate workshops to solicit ideas for his/her Programme

Researchers can look out for these workshops to understand emerging themes and funding opportunities.

Research Performer attends Workshops and share ideas

PD to initiate Grant Call/s for projects under a Programme

Researchers can look out for grant calls and may work with the PD to develop the project Proposal for submission.

Research Performer submits *project* Proposal

Project proposals undergo independent review and approval

Project proposals are evaluated by the PD and independent review is sought before approval for budget allocation.

Research Performer is allocated funding to run their project

Important Note for research performers submitting project proposals:

- Applicants must use the latest version of the project proposal template that can be downloaded from MTC MISSION (a-star.edu.sg).
- All project applications must be endorsed by Host Institution's Research Director or equivalent.
- Incomplete project applications may result in the application being rejected.
- Project applicants are encouraged to contact their institution's Tech Transfer Office during the scoping stage to understand key industry trends, market landscape, and identify potential industry partners/users of their technology.

Evaluation Process for projects within a Programme

1. Project proposals are submitted directly to Secretariat mailbox (MTC_MISSION@a-star.edu.sg).
2. Proposals will first be evaluated by the PD based on their alignment with the programme's problem statements, their clear pathway towards industry deployment, and their ability to deliver against progressive technical milestones.
3. Project proposals will be sent for independent technical review.
4. IA will obtain budget approval from the appropriate authority before issuing Letter of Allocation.

MTC MISSION Project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) / Tracking Indicators (TIs)

KPIs

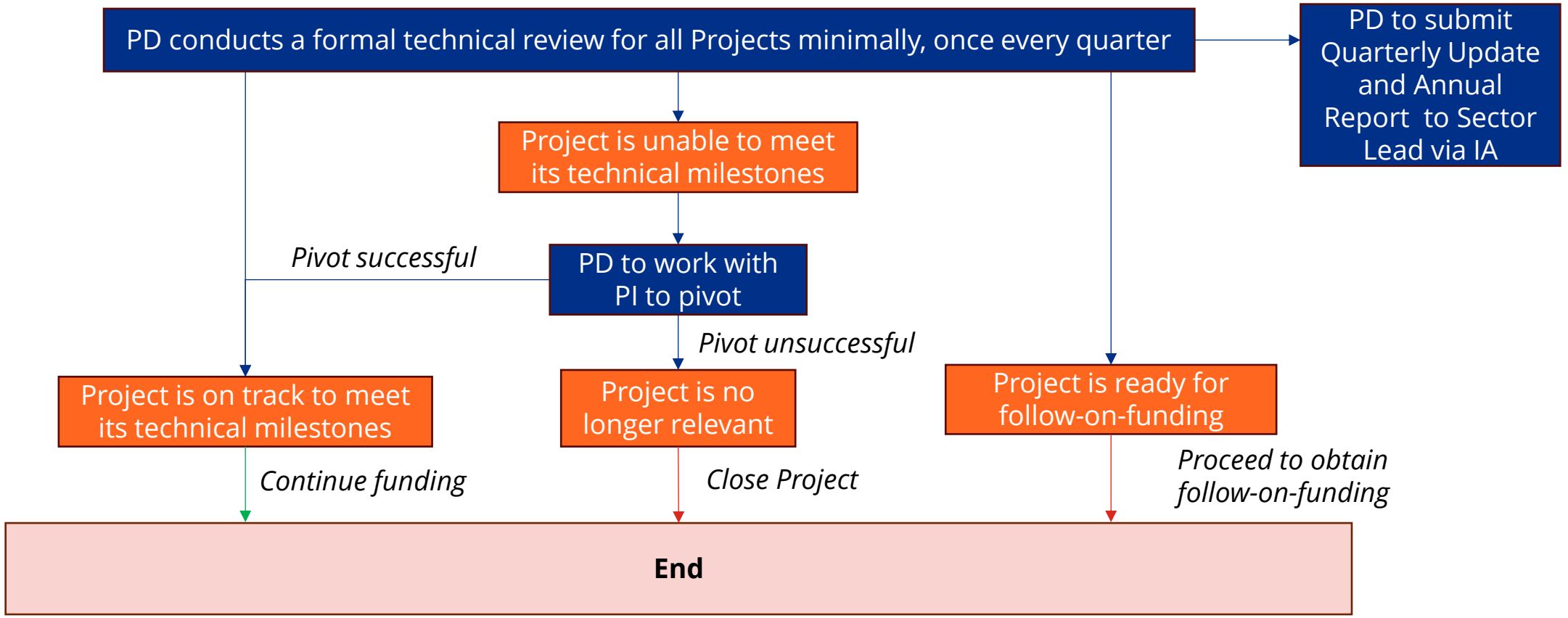
- Projects will need to meet their progressive milestone for funding to continue.
- PD may propose other KPIs or OKRs that should be tracked.

TIs

- Follow-on-Funding (Public/ Private) within one-year after Project completion
- Number of IPs filed
- Number of RCA secured with industry
- Publications in top 10% highly cited journals

For more details on KPIs/TIs can be found in the Annex of this deck.

Post Award Management by Portfolio Director (PD)



- Follow the A*STAR Grants T&Cs and Guidelines.
- Projects are expected to undergo formal technical reviews once every quarter.
- Projects can be closed if they are no longer relevant or unable to meet their technical milestones.
- Projects may end early if they are ready to obtain follow-on-funding.

Post Award Reporting

Governance	Role	Reports To	Reports on	Reporting Frequency
RIE Programme Level	Sector Lead	Sector Lead MD/CE	RIE Programme Progress	Mid-Term RIE Programme Review
				Final Term RIE Programme Review
	PD	IA A*STAR	RIE Programme Progress	Technical Project Reviews: Quarterly
				RIE Programme Progress Updates: Quarterly
				RIE Programme Update: Annual Written Report to be submitted on iGrants.
Project Level	PI	PD	Project Progress	Quarterly (or more frequently)

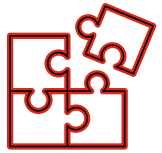
Key Differences between MTC IAF-PP FI and MTC MISSION FI

Category	MTC IAF-PP	MTC MISSION
Grant Award Approach	Rolling Grant call for grounds up Programme Proposals	Sector Directed and PD-led - Sectors identify areas of investment. - PD identify problem statements and form R&D teams to address them.
KPI	Industry R&D Spending (IRS) as a main KPI.	Projects needs to meet technical milestones for funding to continue.
Post-Award Project Management	Project management was carried out by the Lead PI.	PD will be responsible for conducting a formal technical review once every quarter. This is to ensure projects are meeting technical milestones, respond to emerging technologies, and adapt Projects to address evolving challenges and opportunities. Projects can be closed early if: - They are no longer relevant and not able to pivot - They are assessed to be ready for follow-on-funding

Key Takeaways



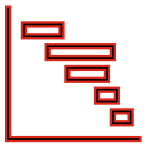
No rolling grant call – Programmes are Sector directed and PD-led



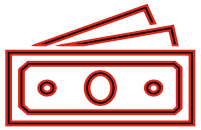
Research Performers propose solutions to problem statements defined within a Programme to form a Project



IRS is no longer the main KPI. Research Performers need to ensure technical milestones are met for funding to continue.



Projects within the Programme are actively managed by the PD



Projects will be considered favourably for follow-on-funding if they successfully gain commercial traction!

Researchers and institutions may contact **MTC_MISSION@a-star.edu.sg** for enquiries or to learn more about future opportunities.

Project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI	Definition	Data Collection Methodology
Project progressive outcome	Projects will need to meet their progressive technical milestones for funding to continue.	Project progress will be reviewed by PD with termination as a possible outcome.

Project Tracking Indicators (TIs)

TIs	Definition	Data Collection Methodology
Follow-on-funding (Public/ Private) within one-year after Project completion	This measures the number of Projects funded by MTC MISSION FI in RIE2030 obtaining public or private follow-on-funding within one year after Project completion. This tracks all forms of follow-on-funding, regardless of TRL level.	Data reported via quarterly reviews and post-Project surveys sent out by IA.
Number of IP filed	This measures the number of complete IP applications that have entered national phase (in MTC fields) filed by public research performers as a result of Projects funded by MTC MISSION FI in RIE2030. IP counts are based on priority dates	Data reported via quarterly reviews.

Project Tracking Indicators (TIs)

TIs	Definition	Data Collection Methodology
Number of RCA secured with industry	This measures the number of RCAs secured with industry because of Projects funded by MTC MISSION FI in RIE2030.	Data reported via company declarations that accompany Data reported via quarterly reviews.
Top 10% highly cited publications	This measures the number of top 10% highly cited publications from Projects funded by MTC MISSION FI in RIE2030.	Data reported via quarterly reviews.