

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (DST), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
&
AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH (A*STAR),
SINGAPORE**

**INDIA - SINGAPORE
JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH COOPERATION**

CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS 2025

Digital Health/Medical Technologies & Green Hydrogen

DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 16 MAY 2025

Within the framework of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Government of the Republic of Singapore on Cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation** signed on February 23 2022, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India and Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore invite Indian and Singapore scientists / researchers to submit proposals for joint research projects in the areas of “**Digital Health/ Medical technologies**” and “**Green Hydrogen**”.

Who may apply?

Indian Project Lead and Co-Is should be scientists/faculty members working in regular capacity in universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/institutes. The Indian Project Lead and Co-Is should not be retiring or leaving the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project. The Indian scientist involved in any way in the implementation of two or more projects supported by DST (International Group) that are not expected to be completed by March 31, 2025 are not eligible to be a member of Research team/Project Lead.

Singaporean Applicants must reside in Singapore and be full-time employed researchers at a Singapore public sector research organisation.

Project proposal **must** include the name of one Principal Investigator (PI) in both India and Singapore, and optionally a Co-Investigator (Co-I). The PI and Co-I are responsible for submitting annual scientific and financial reports in order to ensure continued funding; each project will be funded for a period of three years, barring failure to adequately report on or complete project activities. PI and Co-I are also responsible for the technical and administrative coordination of their projects. The Principal Investigators (PIs) on the two sides will bear full responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.

Participation of an industry partner on both sides will be encouraged. However, the industry partners are expected to fund their own expenditure for participation in the project.

Research Funding

The successful projects will be funded in India by DST and in Singapore by A*STAR. The joint projects must meet the criteria of the funding agencies. The research projects are funded for a maximum of three years.

Types of support available for Joint Project:

Each selected project will be funded for a period of up to three years. However, projects of both sides must pass the annual evaluation in each country for continuation of funding. To facilitate the objective of the Project, the manpower cost, consumables and minor accessories, research expenses, project related visits of Indian and Singapore researchers to the counterpart country may be supported.

Eligible Costs for India based Applicants

Expenditure by project team in India would be borne by DST

This DST funding will cover the following expenses in connection with a project:

- **Support for Exchange visit component:** The sending side will provide round-trip economy-class airfare to the relevant entry city of the host country as well as medical insurance. The sending side will also provide accommodation and living expenses, i.e., transportation for pick-up service to and from the airport, food, etc. Two persons per year with a maximum of one month stay at a time will be allowed;
- **Support for Consumables:** A maximum of 30 - 40% of the budget may be allowed for consumables and accessories.
- **Human resources:** Participation of Research students would be encouraged. On the Indian side Fellowship to one student (JRF/SRF/RA) can be supported.
- **Institutional Overhead:** Institutional Overhead will be determined in accordance with prevalent DST norms.
- While the exact nature of expenditure is not fixed, the following may not be funded from this allocation: consultant's fees, educational expenses, insurance and medical care, equipment, project management fees, temporary staff fees, etc.

Eligible Costs for Singapore-based Applicants

Please refer to the A*STAR Grants T&Cs and Guidelines for fundable items.

A list of non-fundable direct cost items is provided in the table below.

Type of Expenses	Description
Salaries of Lead PI / Investigators / Visiting Professors & researchers/ Collaborators/ general administrative support staff	Not allowable unless specifically provided for in the grant and approved by Grantor.
Teaching buy outs	Not allowable for the hiring of substitutes to perform the Investigators' teaching duties.

Stipend top-up for existing post-graduate scholarship holders	Not allowable.
Undergraduate stipend and tuition support	Not allowable.
Costs related to general administration and management.	Not allowable unless specifically provided for in the grant and approved by Grantor. This includes common office equipment, such as furniture and fittings, office software, photocopiers, scanners and office supplies.
Costs of office or laboratory space	Not allowable unless specifically provided for in the grant and approved by Grantor. This includes renovation/outfitting costs, rent or depreciation of buildings and equipment, and related expenditures such as water, electricity, waste disposal and building/facilities maintenance charges.
Personal productivity tools & communication expenses	Not allowable, unless the use of mobile phones and other form of smart devices were indicated in the methodology for the Research.
Audit fees (Internal and external audit) and Legal fees	Not allowable.
Entertainment	No allowable.
Refreshment	Not allowable, unless this is related to a hosted conference or workshop, specifically approved by the Grantor for the Research.
Fines and Penalties	Not allowable.
Patent Application	Not allowable. This includes patent application filing, maintenance and other related cost.
Professional Membership Fees	Not allowable.
Staff retreat and team-building activities.	Not allowable.

This list is not exhaustive and applies only to the expenditure of the grant funds. Other costs may be ineligible where we decide that they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project or that they are contrary to the objective of the program.

You must ensure you have adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the project.

How much should I apply for?

- Expenditure by project team in their country would be borne by the respective country, i.e., DST would support expenditure on Indian side of the project whereas A*STAR would meet the expenditure of Singapore side
- A maximum of **SGD 250,000 (inclusive of 30% overheads)** per joint project to the Singapore applicant for **over three years**.

Please note that both scientific and financial reporting on the project is an obligatory condition for continued funding. It is recommended that students should be afforded the opportunity for exchange visits under this programme.

Proposal Requirements

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.

How do I apply?

Indian and Singapore applicants shall write a common application to be submitted to both DST and A*STAR, using the common application form prescribed by DST and A*STAR.

Indian applicants should submit their proposals on format available at www.onlinedst.gov.in by 5:00pm India time on last date (16 May 2025). After registration, they should move to “scheme and format” section where details about this call would be available in the International Cooperation (bilateral). An email acknowledging receipt of the application will be provided to the applicant in 3-5 working days. It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her Singapore counterpart scientist with A*STAR by due date.

Singapore applicants are required to apply electronically via the iGrants platform (igrants-app.a-star.edu.sg) by **16 May 2025 23:59pm (Singapore Standard Time)**

Applications received after the due date will not be considered for funding. **Proposals which have only been received in either Singapore or India, but not both, will not be evaluated or considered for funding.**

Only applications endorsed by the research office (or its equivalent) at higher education or research institutions will be accepted. Both DST and A*STAR 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.

The call process is highly competitive; therefore, submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The availability of funds and the evaluation of applications from both countries should be positive for them to be funded. The A*STAR and DST will not be held responsible for non-submission of the application in the partner country.

How are applications evaluated?

All applications received by the notified deadline will undergo a peer review process and then be referred to an independent advisory panel for consideration and ranking. Applications must attain a positive rating to be considered eligible for funding. Joint selection of successful applications by DST and A*STAR will be discussed by the respective nodal agencies and informed by the rankings. Decisions made by the India-Singapore Joint Science & Technology Committee will be final. The following criteria will be taken into consideration for selection of proposals:

- Conformity with the Program’s aims and designated research fields:
 - The proposed methodology should be feasible, with well-defined research and exchange milestones from both sides and KPIs (from the Singapore side).
 - Research objectives must be matched to the research field of this grant call.

Plans, and deliverables must be clearly described, and technical challenges must be properly addressed.

- Teams highlight the novelty of their approaches or methodology based on providing the clues necessary to demonstrate the feasibility of the research concept.
- Capability of research leaders: the research leaders should have the insight, appropriate expertise, the ability to manage the collaboration and achieve the project goals during the period of support.
- Appropriateness of project plan: the project plan should be realistic in terms of the activities proposed.
- Effect of the activities: The benefits and future joint research likely to accrue from the collaboration, and the wider benefits of the project to the scientific community are important. Accordingly, the proposed activities should achieve one or more of the following:
 - Opening up of new fields or new advances in science and technology through the creation of new scientific knowledge in an existing research field;
 - Nurturing of young researchers to be able to play a central role in future research exchanges between Singapore and India; and
 - Sustained development of research exchanges between Singapore and India initiated by this activity.
- Ongoing research activity: the proposed collaboration should build on, reinforce and add significant value to on-going research activities in each research group.

Proposal selection and award process

DST and A*STAR 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.

Notification of awards will be sent to the respective Principal Investigator with a copy to Head of the Institution by both DST and A*STAR

Information ownership

It is required that an Implementation Plan will be signed for any joint research collaboration. In the interest of encouraging meaningful collaborations, the concerned parties are requested to engage in appropriate discussions and negotiations to determine issues such as ownership of any arising intellectual properties and each party's rights and obligations under the collaboration. The Plan should be submitted to DST and A*STAR by the respective researchers within three months starting from the date in the Letter of Award. Permission from A*STAR and DST must be sought at least one month in advance if further time extension is required for the completion of the Plan. A*STAR reserves the right to terminate further fund disbursements if this condition is not met.

For Singapore-based applicants, please note that the awarded projects will be subject to the Terms and Conditions set by A*STAR. Management of the projects will be in accordance with the A*STAR Guidelines for Managing A*STAR Grants. Arrangements relating to intellectual property rights (including copyright and patent rights) and commercialisation of

such intellectual property shall be in accordance with the A*STAR Grants Terms & Conditions Clause 14.

Programme review and monitoring

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.

Contact Information

DST (India)	A*STAR (Singapore)
<u>Dr Sulakshana Jain</u> Scientist International Cooperation Department of Science & Technology Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi – 110 016 E-mail: jain.s@nic.in	Ms. Nicole Chua, Assistant Manager Email: oga_bilats@hq.a-star.edu.sg