

Frequently Asked Questions
MTC Industry Alignment Fund – Pre-Positioning (IAF-PP)
Food Manufacturing Grant (FMG)

S/N	Question	Response
APPLICATION		
1.	What is the process for research performers to submit proposals?	<p>Researchers keen to apply for funding may submit their full proposal directly to the MTC IAF-PP Implementing Agency (IA) for consideration via email to IAF-PP MTC@hq.a-star.edu.sg from 1 January to 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Proposals need to be endorsed by the Host Institution Director of Research (HI DOR).</p> <p>Applicants must download and use the FMG application templates that will be available on the IAF-PP Webpage from 1 December 2023.</p>
2.	Can one FMG project have 2 lead PIs with complementary skill sets?	Although rare, it is not impossible. However, for administrative reasons, it will be better for one of the PIs to take the lead.
3.	What sort of documents are required to demonstrate commitment of industry at point of application?	<p>Applicants are required to include at least three letters of support from potential industry collaborators and/or VCs in the Full Proposal. The letters of support from industry should address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the work scope is differentiated, how it compares with international efforts • How the company may use the outcomes from the project • What forms of formal collaboration will the company enter with the programme, if successful • What milestones the company would like to see next • Company's potential cash/in-kind contribution (strongly recommended to include)
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
4.	One of the eligibility criteria for the competitive grants is the track record of PIs. Will researchers who have not worked independently as a PI before be disadvantaged in this regard?	FMG proposals may be put together by several research groups aggregating their expertise and capabilities to address a certain scientific problem. Researchers can participate by contributing his/her individual expertise.
5.	Programmes are expected to lead to industry participation within 3-5 years. Can you elaborate on this requirement?	<p>The maximum duration of FMG proposals should not exceed 3 years (36 months).</p> <p>Programmes should possess the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment to FMG themes and ability to deliver RIE2025 Food Manufacturing outcomes • Pre-positioning for value creation and value capture in Singapore • Potential to attract corporate R&D spending and investment (e.g. joint or corporate lab, co-development of project,

		<p>creation of jobs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiation and competitiveness at an international level
ASSESSMENT		
6.	What are the evaluation criteria that the Review Panel is looking out for?	<p>FMG proposals should focus on one of the following themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Productisation in Stratified Nutrition Food Side Stream Valorisation Sustainable Food Packaging <p>Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:</p> <p>Strategic alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key programme objectives and proposed milestones are aligned with RIE2025 Food Manufacturing plan, in order to achieve industry development (i.e. grow existing industry activities or attract new industry sector) and economic value capture for Singapore. <p>Technology soundness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technologies deployed are novel, innovative, and with the potential to be transformative; that exploit Singapore's unique and existing strengths; and have the potential to generate economic outcomes within a 3 to 5-year time frame. <p>Composition of performers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage on and integrate existing strengths and capabilities across various Singapore publicly funded research and/or tertiary institutions to create a Singapore R&D proposition that is differentiated and globally competitive.
PROJECT BUDGET		
7.	What is the indirect cost (overhead) of FMG proposals?	The indirect cost is 30% of the Direct cost awarded. Overheads are included in computation of the IRS gearing ratio.
8.	What is the minimum and maximum funding amount?	FMG proposals should be scoped at \$5M to \$8M (including 30% overheads) over 3 years.
9.	Can money flow to international collaborators?	No. RIE2025 grants are intended to fund public sector research conducted in Singapore. International collaborators can participate in the research, but they will not receive any funding.
10.	Can overseas universities participate in an FMG project? If funds cannot flow to these overseas universities, there will not be any incentive for them to be part of the project.	RIE2025 funds are intended to support public sector researchers in conducting research in Singapore. Given this, local PIs are free to partner overseas universities, but the research funding cannot flow to the overseas partners. To overcome this, PIs could consider a consortia model in which international collaborators source for their own funding, but the outcomes are shared by all parties involved.
INDUSTRY COLLABORATION		
11.	For FMG proposals, must the industry partner be based in Singapore?	No. But if they do not have a local presence that can benefit from or commercialise the technology that we develop with them, then the value capture would be difficult to realise. For potential partners that do not have a local presence, there will need to be a case for how the collaboration or project could potentially result in economic outcomes, such as jobs and investments in

		Singapore.
12.	When and how are industry R&D Spending (IRS) clocked?	<p>IRS commitment by the company, whether in cash or in qualifying in-kind contributions, should be reflected in the agreements signed between the company and the relevant performer(s) during the duration of the FMG project.</p> <p>Applicants should take note of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IRS contributions should be spent in Singapore • The IRS contributions should be directly related to the FMG R&D project. • The IRS contributions must be from a private company registered in Singapore. <p>For FMG proposals, the projected IRS spending (cash and/or in-kind) ratio needs to be at least 1 (Grant Funding) : 0.5(Industry).</p>
OTHERS		
13.	What is the purpose of the MTC IAF-PP Food Manufacturing Grant Workshop?	<p>The MTC IAF-PP Food Manufacturing Grant Workshop on 19 January 2024 is a platform for interested researchers to find out more about the grant call.</p> <p>The workshop details are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date: Friday 19 January 2024 • Time: 8.30 am to 1.30pm • Venue: Multi-Purpose Hall 2 @ Innovis, Level 1 Tower A, 2 Fusionopolis Way, Singapore 138634 • Registration link - https://forms.office.com/r/W8h9sEmbVi
14.	If a project results in technology that can be productised and sold, but the benefits are accrued to an overseas manufacturer, will the project be supported?	Unlikely, unless this is a local company. Either way, there needs to be a case for how there will be value captured in Singapore from the project.
15.	What is the typical IP arrangement with companies?	The usual IP arrangements such as ownership will stand (e.g., SDSO, JDJO). If companies are paying significantly for the project, they will typically expect an option for an exclusive license. Performers must take reference from the National IP Protocol.