

**INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT FUND PRE-POSITIONING (IAF-PP)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

Question	Response
Funding Application	
What is the process for research performers to submit IAF-PP proposals?	<p>Letter of Intent (LOI) can be drafted based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed approach: Themes announced by Implementing Agency (IA); or • Non-directed approach: Ground-up idea(s) that <u>do not</u> fall under announced theme(s), but have potential for industry development and economic impact may be considered. <p>LOIs can be submitted <u>any time throughout the year</u>. Submission deadlines will be communicated via emails and A*STAR website. All submissions should be directed to A*STAR (as Implementing Agency) for consideration via: IAF_PP_HBMS@hq.a-star.edu.sg (HBMS domain).</p>
Noting that the IAF-PP grants are thematic, if researchers have an opportunistic idea but the proposals under a certain theme had already been considered in the last funding cycle, can new ideas synthesized under this same theme still be considered for funding?	Yes. These can be surfaced directly to A*STAR for consideration via IAF_PP_HBMS@hq.a-star.edu.sg (HBMS domain).
What are the purposes of grant calls and public workshops?	<p>Public workshops will be organized, when necessary, to bring together relevant researchers and to encourage collaborations.</p> <p>Grant calls will also be launched for thematic areas when necessary. Details will be announced to the research community via the A*STAR website or through email blasts.</p>
What documents should be submitted during the Letter of Intent (LOI) stage?	Applicants are to submit the LOI, together with the email endorsement from the Head of Research Office or equivalent, to the IAF-PP Secretariat at IAF_PP_HBMS@hq.a-star.edu.sg (HBMS domain) by the stipulated date of submission for each cycle.

	Supplementary slides and documents that support the LOI may also be submitted, where necessary.
By the time the grant period ends, is the PI required to secure an industry collaborator?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The IAF-PP (AME and HBMS domains) application form asks for the state of industry engagement at the point of application, and any future strategies to engage industry. This will be an important evaluation criterion. It would be useful for the applicant to highlight these points if there is not already a steady industry collaborator.</p> <p>At the time of LOI/full proposal submission, it is not necessary to have a steady industry collaborator in terms of monetary commitment and project involvement. However, the PI should be actively seeking for industry interest as the programme progresses and develops.</p>
When does A*STAR funding stop?	A*STAR funding will cease after the approved duration of support for the programme.
Assessment Criteria	
What is the minimum and maximum funding quantum?	There is no minimum and maximum funding quantum for projects funded under IAF-PP. However, applicants are advised to budget their projects prudently.
What are the characteristics of IAF PP projects?	<p>Programmes should possess the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of programme to Domain strategic objectives and ability to deliver RIE2020 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, creation of jobs) • Differentiation and competitiveness at an international level
What are the evaluation criteria for IAF-PP proposals that the IAF-PP Review Panel is looking out for?	<p>Is the underlying science of the proposal excellent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal address a pertinent scientific problem? • Are the proposed objectives and concepts original and innovative?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the proposed investigation process rigorous and appropriate to address the scientific problem? • Is the intellectual merit of the proposal well-conceived, and organized, and has a high likelihood of success? <p>Is the proposal strategic for the HBMS domain?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the proposal aligned to the strategies and priorities of the HBMS Domain and its relevant industry sectors? • Is the proposal differentiated from related programmes in the Asia Pacific and/or globally? • Does the proposal have the potential to create a regionally or globally competitive programme or platform in Singapore? <p>Will the proposal generate industry interest and R&D investments in Singapore?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal address a capability gap, major trend and/or driver of change that could impact or disrupt the HBMS industry? • Does the proposal develop a capability or niche that could enhance the attractiveness of Singapore as an R&D location for one or more of the HBMS industry sectors? • For new programmes, is the proposal likely to attract industry investments or co-investments to Singapore within 3 to 5 years? • For existing programmes, has the programme demonstrated strong track record of success in generating industry engagement and partnerships, and/or contributed to the development of innovation in a HBMS industry sector in Singapore? • Does the proposal have the potential to scale-up or translate to activities that could enhance economic value capture for Singapore? • Does the proposal have the potential to develop a product, process or service that can lead to commercialisation outcomes?
--	---

	<p>Is the proposal likely to achieve its stated outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the programme leader have the vision and attributes to drive and manage the programme to achieve its outcomes? • Does the proposal effectively integrate relevant public and/or private sector researchers from across Singapore to enhance its international competitiveness? • Does the programme duplicate or directly compete with other initiatives in Singapore? • Are the milestones and deliverables adequately articulated and achievable within the stated timelines? • Are the resources requested appropriate? • Is IAF-PP the appropriate source of funding for this proposal?
International and Industry Collaborations	
Can money flow to international collaborators?	No. RIE2020 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.
Can overseas universities participate in an IAF-PP project? If funds cannot flow to these overseas universities, there will not be any incentive for them to be part of the project.	RIE2020 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.
For IAF-PP, must the industry partner be based in Singapore?	No. But if they do not have a presence that can benefit from or commercialize technology we develop with them then value capture is difficult to realize. For potential partners that do not have a 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.
If a project results in a technology that can be productised and sold, but the benefits	Unlikely, unless this is a local company. Either way, there needs to be a case for

are accrued to an overseas manufacturer, will the project be supported?	how there will be value captured in Singapore from the project.
Review and Endorsement	
The website states that the IAF-PP Review Panel will be convened on a quarterly basis. Is there an indication as to the dates of these review meetings?	Actual dates of the panel reviews will not be made known. IAF-PP application is open throughout the year and all applications will be collated by A*STAR as the Implementing Agency and submitted to the IAF-PP Review Panel for consideration every quarter.
What is the role of the IAF-PP SOC?	The IAF-PP SOC endorses programmes seeking IAF-PP funding, including the associated programme budgets and KPIs.