

INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT FUND PRE-POSITIONING (PP) HBMS DOMAIN

Last Updated: June 2020



Overview

To develop industry-ready capabilities towards deepening alignment of public sector research

To develop multidisciplinary and integrated programmes with early industry involvement

Supports new programmes, as well as existing programmes that have demonstrated strong track record of success and industry potential

Programmes supported should be aligned with domains' themes and strategies



Governance

- **Strategic Oversight Committee (SOC*)**
 - Makes decisions on all IAF-PP policies and programmes
 - Comprises CEO A*STAR, MD EDB and CEO NRF



- The RIE Strategy Committee has tasked A*STAR as the **Implementing Agency**, reporting to the IAF-PP SOC

Role of Implementing Agency includes

- *evaluation and scoping of proposals together with research performers and companies*
- *management of budget (e.g. fund disbursement, monitoring overall fund commitment and utilisation)*
- *tracking progress of endorsed proposals*

*Co-chaired by CEO A*STAR and MD EDB



General Assessment Criteria

Programmes supported by IAF-PP are expected to **lead to industry investments within 3-5 years**

Key Criteria: **Potential for industry development and economic impact**

- Alignment of programme to Domain strategic objectives and ability to deliver RIE2020 outcomes (Details can be found at <http://www.nrf.gov.sg/rie2020>)
- Pre-positioning for **value creation** and **value capture** in Singapore
- Potential to **attract corporate R&D spending and investments** (e.g. joint or corporate lab, co-development of project, creation of high quality jobs)
- **Differentiation and competitiveness** at regional or global level



Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Is the underlying science of the proposal excellent?

- Does the proposal address a pertinent scientific problem?
- Are the proposed objectives and concepts original and innovative?
- 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?

Is the proposal strategic for the HBMS domain?

- 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?



Will the proposal generate industry interest and R&D investments in Singapore?

- 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?

Is the proposal likely to achieve its stated outcomes?

- 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?



Eligibility Criteria

Programme director should:

- Hold at least a 0.7 FTE primary appointment in a Singapore publicly funded research or tertiary institution;
- Run a laboratory or research programme that carries out research in Singapore; and
- Have a track record of leadership ability in coordinating research programmes, as well as achieving productive research outcomes.



HBMS IAF-PP Workflow



- Grant call cycles will be launched and announced throughout the year. LOIs can be submitted to the Secretariat any time throughout the year, but will only be considered for review by cycles
- LOI submission deadlines will be communicated via emails and the A*STAR website. **All application materials** are furnished here: <https://www.a-star.edu.sg/Research/Funding-Opportunities/Grants-Sponsorship/IAF-PP.aspx>

- Corresponding PI submits LOI (PPT), and email endorsement (PDF) from corresponding PI's Research Office (or equivalent)
- LOI Review Panel** makes assessment, and shortlists LOIs
 - LOI Review Panel**
 - ED RIECO, NRF
 - EVP, EDB
 - ACE (BMRC), A*STAR
- SOC gives **in-principle** endorsement of supported LOIs to proceed to **Full Proposal stage**
- Corresponding PI informed of outcome

- Corresponding PI submits (1) full proposal (word doc) and (2) presentation (PPT)
- Corresponding PIs will give a presentation to the **Full Proposal Review Panel**, which will assess and shortlist proposal(s) for funding support
 - Full Proposal Review Panel**
 - Chmn (BMRC), A*STAR
 - ED RIECO, NRF
 - EVP, EDB
 - ACE (BMRC), A*STAR
 - Co-opted experts from local public institutions / industry

- Implementing agency (IA) seeks SOC's endorsement of **shortlisted proposal(s)**
 - SOC**
 - MD, EDB
 - CEO, A*STAR
 - CEO, NRF
- Approving Authority approves **SOC-endorsed proposal**
 - Approving Authority**
 - ≤ \$25m: Chmn A*STAR*
 - \$25m < x ≤ \$150m: Min of lead IA
 - >\$150M: NRF Board EXCO

- IA informs corresponding PI of approval decision
- IA issues Letter of Award (LOA) to awardee

~6-8 months*

* Timeline stipulated is only an estimation and applicable to proposals requesting for funding quantum of not more than \$25M

Application Process

- Announcements will be made periodically to inform or solicit proposals from the R&D community on key focus areas via:
 - A*STAR website (<https://www.a-star.edu.sg/Research/Funding-Opportunities/Grants-Sponsorship/IAF-PP.aspx>)
 - Thematic workshops and grant calls
 - Announcements through the Research Administration Office (or equivalent) of the institutes of higher learning, academic medical centres, hospitals and A*STAR research institutes
- Applications must be endorsed by the applying Host Institution(s) prior to submission
- All queries and applications must be submitted through A*STAR (as the Implementing agency) at IAF-PP_HBMS@hq.a-star.edu.sg





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THANK YOU

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