

## SINGAPORE THERAPEUTICS DEVELOPMENT REVIEW 2025 (FEB) – INFORMATION SHEET

### OVERVIEW

1. The Singapore Therapeutics Development Review (STDR) is a national-level grant call for public sector research, implemented by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) in partnership with our strategic partners, the Experimental Drug Development Centre (EDDC), Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) and National Health Innovation Centre (NHIC).
2. STDR aims to boost the quality and quantity of drug development and biotech pipelines in Singapore through 2 key features:
  - a. Phased funding support to potential high-value drug discovery and development projects from the local public sector research community, based on the maturity and industry-readiness of projects; and
  - b. Mentoring from leading entrepreneurs, innovators and/or venture capitalists, training through bootcamps, workshops and/or seminars, as well as industry networking opportunities to provide dedicated guidance and upskilling opportunities to grant awardees.

### STDR PRE-PILOT AND PILOT STAGES

3. The STDR (Pilot) is called twice a year, typically in Q1 and Q3. The STDR (Pre-Pilot) is called once a year, typically in Q3. It is highly encouraged but optional to have a clinical Co-Investigator or collaborator.

<b>Pre-Pilot</b>	The <b>Pre-Pilot</b> stage aims to support earlier-stage and more exploratory, proof-of-concept projects that have some preliminary data. <b>Stream 1 (Target Validation)</b> will support single target/single asset projects and will be facilitated by EDDC under the <a href="#">Target Translation Consortium (TTC)</a> <sup>1</sup> scheme from RIE2020. <b>Stream 2 (Platform Development)</b> will support platform discovery projects and will be facilitated by SMART.
<b>Pilot</b>	The <b>Pilot</b> stage aims to identify high value therapeutic projects within the community and render them the right support to achieve commercial success. Projects in the Pilot stage are expected to have sufficient research data and have already been validated to a certain degree, or already have a commercialisation plan. Both single target/single asset drug development projects and platform technologies projects may be considered.

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<sup>1</sup> The Target Translation Consortium (TTC) had previously launched an annual “Call for Targets” in 2019 and 2020. From 2021, this Call was integrated with the STDR, and the TTC now provides its support for the preclinical validation of promising, putative drug targets through this Pre-Pilot Stream 1 programme instead.



	Pilot awardees will attend mentoring sessions to receive advice and guidance from leading entrepreneurs and innovators (including VCs, ex-pharma, biotech CEOs, or experts from EDDC). Mentors will provide advice on matters relating to the development and commercial strategy including marketing, business modelling and pitch practice/advice.
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- Awarded project teams will also attend STDR bootcamps to learn commercialisation-related modules, such as market and competitive analysis, target product profile, and developing a commercialisation – ready pitch deck.
- Applicants may refer to the guide in **Annex A** to determine which grant type is most suitable for your project.

### THEMATIC AREAS

- STDR will fund therapeutic projects in areas such as small molecules, large molecules, cell and gene therapies and platform technologies.

### FUNDING PRINCIPLES

- Funding principles for STDR Pre-Pilot and Pilot Projects:

	Maximum Funding Quantum
<b>Pre-Pilot</b>	Up to S\$325K per project (including 30% indirect costs) over a maximum of 1 year.
<b>Pilot</b>	<p>A total of S\$1M (including 30% indirect costs) may be awarded for Pilot funding, split into at least 2 or more Phases.</p> <p><b>Phase 1</b> covers the period up to the achievement of the go/no-go decision point (up to 1 year) <u>Funding:</u> Up to S\$400K per project (including 30% indirect costs).</p> <p><b>Phase 2</b> covers the achievement of the remaining key milestones (up to 1 year). <u>Funding:</u> Up to S\$600K per project (including 30% indirect costs).</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Projects will be assessed towards the end of Phase 1 to determine eligibility to receive Phase 2 funding.</li><li>Applicants are encouraged to think about accelerating the project where reasonable. If milestones are achieved ahead of timeline, please write to STDR Secretariat to discuss repurposing of leftover fund (if any) and earlier unlocking of Phase 2 funding.</li><li>A portion of the budget may be set aside to engage professional help to develop a commercialisation plan.</li><li>Additional funding, or alternate allocation of Phase 1 and 2 funds, may be requested on a case-by-case basis, and will be subject to evaluation by the STDR review panel.</li></ul>

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

8. The detailed evaluation criteria for the Pre-Pilot (Streams 1 & 2) and Pilot stages are in **Annex B**.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

9. Applicants are required to fulfil the following criteria at the point of application:

The Lead Principal Investigator (PI) should:

- a. Hold at least a 0.7 FTE primary appointment in a Singapore publicly funded research or tertiary institution;
  - b. Have the relevant scientific/technical background and necessary experience to direct the project being supported by the grant
10. Post-doctoral researchers who wish to apply for STDR should submit a letter from their supervisor, as part of the application submission on iGrants, declaring that:
- a. The supervisor supports the post-doctoral researcher's STDR application,
  - b. The contract of the post-doctoral researcher covers the entire STDR grant period, and
  - c. The grant body that is funding the post-doctoral researcher is agreeable to their application for STDR grants (if relevant).
11. Exceptions to the eligibility criteria will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the submission of a waiver request. Please write to the grant secretariat before the submission of your application, at least 7 days before the grant deadline on 20 Mar 2025, i.e., 13 Mar 2025.

## GRANT CALL TIMELINES

12. Indicative Timeline for Pre-Pilot Streams 1& 2:

Submission of Full Proposals	
Launch of Call for Full Proposals	4 Feb 2025
Deadline for Submission of Full Proposals on iGrants	20 Mar 2025, 5pm
Presentation to Review Panel* (for Stream 2 only)	End Mar/ Early Apr (TBC)
Award	Q3 2025

\*Applicants must ensure they are available to the meeting marked (\*) above.

13. Indicative Timeline for Pilot:

Submission of Pitch Deck & Short Write-up	
Launch of Call for Pitch Deck & Short Write-up	4 Feb 2025
Deadline for Submission of Pitch Deck & Short Write-up	20 Mar 2025, 5pm
Presentation to Review Panel [Virtual]*	Second half of May 2025 (6pm – 12am)
Award	Q3 2025

\*Applicants must ensure they are available to the meeting marked (\*) above.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

14. Applicants are required to submit their applications via the iGrants website: <https://igrants-app.a-star.edu.sg/> by **20 Mar 2025, 5pm (Singapore time)**.
15. The STDR Pre-Pilot and Pilot grant calls are listed as two separate grant calls on iGrants:
  - a. Singapore Therapeutics Development Review 2025 (Feb) Pre-Pilot
  - b. Singapore Therapeutics Development Review 2025 (Feb) Pilot
16. Only complete applications submitted on iGrants by the deadline will be accepted. Applicants are advised to submit their applications early in the event of technical errors with the iGrants website.
17. Applications must be fully endorsed by the applicant, applicants' respective Innovation and Enterprise Offices (IEOs) and Directors of Research<sup>2</sup> (DORs). Applicants are strongly encouraged to approach their respective IEO representatives and DORs early to give sufficient time to gather input and endorsement.
18. More details on the grant application steps using iGrants can be found in **Annex C**.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

19. For queries related to iGrants, please reach out to [A-STAR\\_OGA@hq.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:A-STAR_OGA@hq.a-star.edu.sg)
20. For queries related to STDR Pilot, please reach out to: [STDR\\_Secretariat@hq.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:STDR_Secretariat@hq.a-star.edu.sg)
21. For enquiries about Pre-Pilot Stream 1 and consultation on single asset applications, please reach out to:  
  
Dr Christophe Bodenreider (EDDC) [christophe\\_bodenreider@eddc.sg](mailto:christophe_bodenreider@eddc.sg)  
Ms Chia Hsin-Ee (EDDC) [chia\\_hsin\\_ee@eddc.sg](mailto:chia_hsin_ee@eddc.sg)
22. For enquiries about Pre-Pilot Stream 2 and consultation on platform applications, please reach out to:  
  
Dr Howard Califano (SMART) [howard.califano@smart.mit.edu](mailto:howard.califano@smart.mit.edu)  
Mr Brian Yen (SMART) [brian.yen@smart.mit.edu](mailto:brian.yen@smart.mit.edu)

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<sup>2</sup> DOR refers to Executive Director of the A\*STAR RI or Chief Executive Director, Executive Director, the Director of Research or equivalent of the institution.