

## Frequently Asked Questions for CRPO Research Grant

Question	Response
1. Can a company be collaborator of the grant call?	Yes.
2. Is it mandatory to have industry partner for participating in grant call?	Yes.
3. Is it mandatory to have potential end customer?	Yes.
4. Are different RIs or IHLs encouraged to work together to jointly submit a proposal?	Yes, but not mandatory.
5. Can a person be involved in only one project?	<p>A research staff member is permitted to participate in multiple projects, and the costs associated with staff should be allocated based on their time commitment to each research endeavor. According to NRF guidelines, there are no restrictions on Principal Investigators (PIs), or Co-PIs being involved in more than one project. Please refer to the pertinent clause below for detailed information.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>8. All EOM related expenses shall be pro-rated taking reference from the project start date, except for lump-sum insurance claims, which shall be allowable as claimed. As a general principle, staff costs should be charged based on time commitment to the Research.</p> </div>
6. Could you offer additional clarification on the expectations concerning industry partners and industry collaborators? Is their involvement mandatory, or is it optional?	The submission of the proposal by an Industry Partner is mandatory. However, industry collaborators have the option to contribute one or more elements such as use case scenarios, test data, in-kind contributions, etc. While not obligatory, such contributions would be advantageous.

<p>7. What are the stipulations for the letter of commitment from the company? Is it necessary for the company to specify the number of individuals participating in the research and outline their respective time contributions to the project?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firstly, the industry partner is required to furnish a letter of commitment containing information about the translation plan and their dedication to the translation process.</li> <li>• Secondly, in the case of the potential end customer (who may be the industry partner or a third-party end customer), a letter of commitment is needed, outlining the commitment to deploy or utilize the solution.</li> <li>• Thirdly, the industry collaborator has the option to delineate the role and contribution they anticipate making to the project if it is awarded.</li> </ul>
<p>8. Within the Research Project Performance Assessment section, it is highlighted that the project undergoes periodic reviews. Successfully passing the interim review is crucial for the continuity of funding support. We would like to inquire about the funding structure: Is there a specific breakdown delineating the allocation for the initial 15 months, and is there a subsequent adjustment post the interim review? Alternatively, should the team anticipate budgeting for the entire three-year duration, with the understanding that funding may cease if the project is terminated or if the interim review is not successfully cleared?</p>	<p>The budget needs to be reasonably distributed over the entire project period (e.g., entire 3 years).</p>
<p>9. Is having an industry partner a must for submission?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

<p>10. The faculty expresses keen interest in the field of AI Security. Is it mandatory for proposals to address the listed challenges, or does the team have the flexibility to concentrate on AI Security and formulate their own unique problem statement and challenge?</p>	<p>Faculty members are not mandated to concentrate on the proposed challenges; instead, they have the flexibility to formulate their own problem statements and challenges within the specified topics of AI Security and Secure and Private Data Sharing.</p>
<p>11. Regarding the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) section, specifically under the Research Excellence category, it was specified that only conference and journal papers falling within the top tier conferences will be considered as KPIs. Could you clarify whether there is flexibility to publish in conferences or journals outside the top tier conferences or if adherence to this criterion is mandatory?</p>	<p>Certainly not. The grantee is required to submit a Change Request to seek approval for amending the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) definition to incorporate the top tier conference. Alongside the request, a thorough justification must be provided, explaining the credibility and significance of each new conference as a reputable venue.</p>
<p>12. What is the maximum funding amount for each proposal?</p>	<p>Up to \$6 million over three years, inclusive of 30% indirect cost.</p>
<p>13. Noted that the project commencement is from April 2024 onwards, can the project start date be at a later date (e.g., Sep 2024)?</p>	<p>While it is not anticipated for a Principal Investigator (PI) to defer the initiation of the project, exceptions may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, provided there is a compelling and well-substantiated justification.</p>

<p>14. Within the "Project Support and Facilitation" section, concerning the shared research-engineering capabilities that CRPO may offer assistance with, does this encompass access to cloud-based GPUs, such as those hosted on platforms like Amazon and Azure?</p>	<p>No. Proposal should include the cost of cloud services under the OOE category of the budget.</p>
<p>15. In the "Project Deliverables and Outcomes" section, it's highlighted those technologies falling within the TRL (Technology Readiness Level) 4–5 categories may not necessarily lead to industry jobs. Could you provide clarity on how this aspect will be assessed within the proposal review process?</p>	<p>PI may propose whether to include industry jobs in the KPI.</p>
<p>16. Is there provision for supporting research scholars through the grant? If so, does the allocation for research scholars include a 30% Institutional Research Cost (IRC)? Additionally, are research students who hold scholarships permitted to engage in paid internships or student helper roles?</p>	<p>This grant call does not support research scholarships. For research students who are holding a scholarship, paid internship or student helper work are not claimable under the grant since they are existing scholarship holders.</p>
<p>17. Is it required for the industry partner to be based in Singapore, or is it acceptable if the industry partner is located outside of Singapore?</p>	<p>The industry partner must be a Singapore-based company, and the research must be conducted within Singapore. However, if the industry partner is located overseas but maintains a presence in Singapore and the research activities are carried out in Singapore, such an arrangement is also deemed acceptable. Please refer to the pertinent clause below for detailed information.</p>

	<div data-bbox="564 300 1366 383" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>2.4 Other than expressly allowed under this Contract, the Funds or any part thereof shall not be channelled to Collaborators or to fund research and development activities overseas.</p></div>
<p>18. Within the "Project Support and Facilitation" section, there's a reference to various testbeds and labs. Is it obligatory to utilize these facilities, or do project teams have the flexibility to choose their own?</p>	<p>No, it is not obligatory to utilize the facilities of the labs or testbeds provided in the Project Support and Facilitation section. Nevertheless, there is encouragement for including them in the proposal.</p>