Frequently Asked Questions for DTC Singapore Innovation Grant

Research Scope

1. **Would the Innovation Grant Call include Trust AI research (as part of trust computing)?**
   Yes.

2. **The faculty is interested in the topic Trusted Accreditation, where there were 3 challenges listed (Trustworthy AI, Responsible AI, Safe AI). Must the proposal cover all 3 challenges, or can the team focus on just one?**
   It is not necessary to cover all the topics. The PI can focus on just one, or more if preferred.

Application

3. **Can submissions be made through the respective research institutions instead of through the central research office?**
   Yes, it is acceptable if it adheres to the respective IHL/RI's research office standard procedures.

4. **Can a person be involved in only one project?**
   Co-PIs and collaborators (project sponsors) are recommended not to engage in more than 2 proposals. For research staff, a person can be involved in more than one project and the staff costs should be charged based on time commitment to the research. Please refer to the below relevant clause.

   > 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.

5. **Are different RIs or IHLs encouraged to work together to jointly submit a proposal?**
   Yes, but it is not mandatory.

6. **What are the requirements for the letter of commitment from the company? Do you require the company to state how many people are participating in the research and their time contribution to the project?**
   The company may specify their role/contribution to the project if awarded.

Funding and Project Support

7. **What is the maximum funding amount for each proposal?**
   The funding is up to $1 million over 12 months, inclusive of 30% indirect cost.

8. **On common research-engineering capabilities that DTC may be able to support with, does it include access to cloud-based GPUs such as those hosted on Amazon, Azure etc.?**
   No. The proposal should include the cost of cloud services under OOE category of the

budget.

9. **Does the grant support research scholars? If yes, does the portion for research scholars incur 30% IRC? Are research students who are holding a scholarship allowed to do paid internship or student helper work?**

This grant call does not support research scholarships. For research students holding a scholarship, paid internship or student helper work are claimable under the grant if they adhere to their scholarship T&Cs and IHLs' policies.

10. **Typically, what percentage of the company contribution to the total budget?**

There is no minimal percentage. However, the amount of cash co-funding by companies will determine the ownership of intellectual property developed under the grant.

11. **If the research and development activities must be conducted in Singapore, how does the company contribute computing and manpower?**

The resources should be made available to the researchers in Singapore.

12. **Is it okay if it happens that the project needs to be extended?**

Referring to Annex-C, PI can request a project extension, which requires compelling justification and is subject to approval.

> **Grant Extension**
>
> 27. Request for no-cost grant extension should be made to the Grantor <u>before the last six (6) months</u> of the original end of the Term. Any variation requests necessary to meet the extension period must be made known as part of the extension request.
>
> 28. A one-off project extension should not be more than a total of six <u>(6) months.</u> An extension beyond six (6) months will require compelling justification.

13. **If we deliver the project in time but with a certain amount of grant left, can we keep using it after the grant supporting period?**

No, funds will be disbursed on a <u>reimbursement</u> basis and all expenditure should be incurred <u>within</u> the project qualifying period.

> 3. All expenditure should be incurred <u>(based on invoice or service rendered date)</u> within the Term[1].

14. **Can a nominal part of the funding awarded pass through the IHL/RI to a participating company providing a core capability to offset hard direct costs incurred to support the grant? (e.g. the company would be providing in-kind resources and manpower for technical aspects, and there would be some costs incurred for compute and possibly some knowledge engineering to optimize some technology and knowledge content specific to an aspect of the study).**

Referring to Annex B, the funds shall not be channelled to the participating company (Project Sponsor (Industry Collaborator)).

> 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.

Project Deliverables and Outcomes

15. **Under "Project Deliverables and Outcomes", technologies under TRL 4–5 categories may not translate to industry jobs. May we understand how this will be reviewed in the proposal?**
The PI may propose whether to include industry jobs in the KPI.

16. **What does "industry R&D jobs" and "Technologies deployed, including licenses" mean?**
Industry R&D jobs: This means jobs induced in the ecosystem by public R&D investments. This KPI counts the job roles/positions created by companies in the private sector. The project managers, product designers, technicians are considered non RSE jobs, but are counted under industry R&D jobs.
Technologies deployed, including licenses: This means the research findings or technologies developed that are deployed (e.g. through a license or deployment at an actual site) that will contribute to at least one of the following outcomes:
(i) Introduction of new product in the market;
(ii) Introduction of new service in the market;
(iii) product or process improvement

17. **Does "industry R&D jobs" mean positions in the company to support this project? Do we need to open new positions for this, or can the company assign existing personnel for this purpose?**
The "No. of industry R&D jobs" KPI measures positions created and hired by the company in the private sector for the collaborative project during the collaboration duration. It can refer to newly created job role/position or existing filled job role/position that is pivoted due to obsoletion. Please check with DTC Singapore whenever in doubt.

18. **Do the licenses mean patents being created by this project? This would be very difficult as the filing of patent could take more than 12 months.**
I wonder how I should understand these deliverables and how to assess if our project can meet them?
A license is different from a patent. A license is an agreement for the licensee to use your software, etc.
Besides deploying the research findings or technologies developed through a license, they could also be deployed at an actual site (see the KPI definition highlighted in yellow below):
Technologies deployed, including licenses: This means the research findings or technologies developed that are deployed (e.g. through a license or deployment at an actual site) that will contribute to at least one of the following outcomes:
(i) Introduction of new product in the market;
(ii) Introduction of new service in the market;
(iii) product or process improvement

19. **Since this grant cannot be used to support scholarships, how should we train PhD and Master's students under this grant if they are already assigned to and supported by other grants?**
PhD and Master's students who are self-funded or supported under other scholarships (e.g. MOE) can be counted towards the KPI if they are attached to your project or engaged to work on your project through short-term assignments.

20. **Publication is one of the deliverables. If we start hiring research fellows after getting the grant, conduct research, file the invention disclosure, then publish the paper and wait another 2-3 months for peer-review, it could take more than 1 year. Is it required that the paper be officially published by the end of the grant supporting period? If this is the case, I think it will be very difficult to meet this deliverable.**

    Yes, the publications must be published within the project's qualifying period. The researchers will have to decide what can be disclosed in the publications prior to patent filing.

Eligibility

21. **Can a company be collaborator of the grant call?**

    Yes.

22. **Is having an industry partner a must for submission?**

    Yes.

23. **Must the industry partner be in Singapore, or can it be counted if the industry partner is outside of Singapore?**

    The industry partner can be overseas, but the research and development activities must be conducted in Singapore. Please refer to the relevant clause below:

    > 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.

24. **May I know can public agency or hospital be the Project Sponsors (Industry Collaborators) for the DTC Singapore Innovation Grant Call?**

    Government agencies can be project sponsors (industry collaborators). For hospitals to be project sponsors (industry collaborators), please check with DTC on a case-by-case basis.

25. **Does the collaborating company providing a unique, enabling component of the study need to have operations in Singapore?**

    Referring to the grant call guidelines, the participating company will need to have operations in Singapore and provide the Unique Entity Number (UEN) in the proposal template.

    > 1.4 The DTC Singapore Innovation Grant Call is a competitive research funding initiative that seeks to support collaboration between Singapore-based Institute of Higher Learning (IHLs) [1]/Research Institutes (RIs)[2] and companies with presence in Singapore ("companies") to co-develop Trust Tech solutions. The goal is to promote and facilitate

General

26. **Does the company need to sign an RCA with IHL before start of project? If so, can the start date be defined as upon signing of the RCA?**

    IHLs shall manage their collaboration agreements with their project sponsors in accordance with the internal policies of their IHLs. Please note that the signed RCA should not be dated earlier than the project start date.