

	<p style="text-align: center;">TD/START-UPS/D/PB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programme Brief</p>	Issue No:01 Date: 08/11/2013
		Revision No.: 03 (02/07/2015)
		4 Pages

PROGRAMME:
Technology Grant Scheme - “Support for Start up Businesses Based on Novel Technologies (Start ups)”

RATIONALE

Having a researcher who is passionate about innovation and understands its true market potential and knows how to get that potential across can be the deciding factor for drawing financial support for business development. Unfortunately, not many of those who are involved in R & D activities show up in their organizations with business concepts or ready with the value propositions that brings income to their organizations thus, leaving the findings confined to laboratories. One of the reasons for this inactive role of researchers is probably the lack of required funding and system support. This scheme is mainly intended to encourage the researchers/scientists and engineers to create value to their research findings with focused value propositions for establishing startup companies or spin-offs. The scheme is projected towards people with entrepreneurial skills outside the research systems to initiate new businesses based on novel technologies. Given the financial risks involved in establishing start-up companies or corporate spin-offs, such skilled people/entrepreneurs often find it difficult to obtain necessary seed funding in financial markets. Under this scheme it is expected to provide an opportunity for people or companies with entrepreneurial skills to establish new businesses based on new technologies/inventions. The NSF will provide seed funds for a limited period for establishing the business. This funding scheme, particularly for the establishment of new technology-based firms based on university protected technology, can have an impact on the likelihood of such enterprises developing and surviving beyond the start-up phase.

OBJECTIVES

- Convert university & research institute research outputs into marketable products/services.
- Encourage scientists, researchers and engineers from universities and research institutes to become successful entrepreneurs.
- Encourage establishment of new technology-based firms by state & non-state sector organizations and individuals.
- Promote technology transfer and commercialization of new technologies.

Corporate Plan Reference

Goal 2: To be the leader in facilitating technology development and transfer and to emerge as the eminent catalyst for RD&I commercialization.

Objective 2.1: To support technology development through RD&I

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PROGRAMME CONCEPT

Clear, dynamic entrepreneurial thinking and action based on focused value propositions/projects is the hope for success in the knowledge economy. Winning as an entrepreneur, and creating successful economic value is a challenge. To support innovative thinkers who want to become successful entrepreneurs, the NSF wishes to invest resources to start new companies that create jobs. The NSF wants to make sure that the start-ups are healthy and can survive on their own, and if they are not, we will help them to survive based on strict evaluation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Techno-economic feasibility of the business concept.
- Sustainability of the business
- Adequacy of possessing technical know-how, HR potential financial capability etc.
- Technology assessment/feasibility.
 - Novelty
 - Relevance
 - Suitability
 - Licensing potential (low, moderate, high)¹
- Financial need by prospective applicants
- Environmental impact where relevant
- Business operating strategies
- Proprietary condition (right to develop the business or issues concerning ownership of Intellectual Property Rights/release from institution)²
- Critical risks
- Soundness of the work plan designed for implementation
- Meeting relevant regulatory requirements from relevant authorities³


Acquisitions of technologies (turn-key) are not considered by this scheme. Proposals regarding manufacturing of viable substitutes for imports are encouraged.

PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

¹ Applicable to universities and research institutes. When opportunity for technology licensing is high, technology transfer to existing private sector firms is considered as more appropriate.

² The mode of operation in the business incubator/spin-off company (issues concerning the release from institution) has to be dealt and confirmed with the concerned authorities before applying. Intellectual property rights issues are also to be dealt with concerned authorities before applying.

³ Documentation should be provided from relevant authorized institutions.

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General


- Grant applications are called twice a year.
- Applications must be made on the specific grant application form (TD/Start-ups/A1).
- Applicants should follow the instructions given in the application form as well as Guidelines for Applicants attached to the application form.
- A complete set of applications in three copies should be submitted by the applicant.
- A soft copy of the application in pdf form should be submitted/e-mailed to td@nsf.ac.lk.
- Only one grant is awarded to one individual (team leader) at a time. After completion of the project he/she may apply for another grant.
- Project duration is preferably one year.
- There is no upper limit though grants more than Rs. 5 Mn are not encouraged.
- Fund disbursement will be subjected to applicable rules and regulations. NSF Board approved guidelines are applicable for fund disbursement for all categories.
- Government approved financial regulations are applicable for managing finances for all categories.
- Work flow chart approved by the Board (2013-09 of Aug 16th, 2013 is followed processing of grant applications.

Funds are provided for

- Equipment/equipment fabrication
- Fabrication costs
- Consumable items
- Consultancies on developing a business plan, market survey & design and fabrication

Working capital such as expenses involved in construction of buildings/tents etc., payments of rents & settling utility bills, salaries/stipend and purchasing raw material is not supported.

Project proposals are not fully funded. The NSF expects the applicants to bear part funding. The NSF will bear 50% - 70% of the fund requirement under each vote and for equipment, 50% - 70% of the cost of each equipment item. The applicants will have to bear the balance 50% - 30%.

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OUTPUTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New business enterprises. • Improved innovation culture. 		
TARGET GROUPS/BENEFICIARIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists researchers and engineers in the universities & research institutes. • Non-state and state sector organizations. • Entrepreneurs or Individuals not belonging to above two categories. 		
POSSIBLE COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS Non-state and state sector organizations		
REMARKS Other initiatives with which the project will link: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSF Policy Guidelines for IP Protection/Support. • NSF Technology Awards Scheme. 		
Prepared by: Dr Thamara F. Dias/Head Technology Division Signature:		
Authorized and issued by: Signature:		