



澳門特別行政區
Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
科學技術發展基金
Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia

Funding Scheme for External Science and Technology Cooperation – Joint Funding

Application Guide for Joint Research Funding between the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (2026)

In accordance with the Work Plan between the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province and the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao on Joint Funding for Collaborative R&D Projects, and to actively participate in the planning of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and its development into an international innovation and technology hub, the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao (hereinafter referred to as the "FDCT") and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (hereinafter referred to as the "GDST") have jointly launched a collaborative research funding scheme.

I. Competent Authorities

1. Competent authorities for this joint research funding scheme: the FDCT for the Macao side; and the GDST for the Guangdong side.
2. The application, acceptance, evaluation, approval, implementation, management, and project conclusion on the Macao side shall be governed by the prevailing Funding Scheme for External Science and Technology Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Funding Scheme") and this Guide.
3. The FDCT, the GDST, and the relevant prefecture-level science and technology bureaus will each disburse funds to their respective beneficiary collaborators in Macao and Guangdong. The funds disbursed by each party may only be used within their respective jurisdictions.

II. Collaboration with Prefecture-Level Cities

Joint technological research and development (R&D), as well as collaboration on the industrialization of research outcomes between innovation entities of Macao and certain prefecture-level cities of Guangdong Province is encouraged. The supported prefecture-level cities for this year are Foshan, Dongguan, and Jiangmen. The Macao applicants should determine the project category in consultation with the Mainland collaborators.



III. Key Supported Fields and Excluded Project Types

In line with the planning of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and its development into an international innovation and technology hub, and taking the socio-economic and technological development needs of both Macao and Guangdong into account, this Scheme leverages the complementary strengths in research of the two places to promote collaboration between industries, academia, and research institutions with a view to achieving breakthroughs in strategic emerging technologies, and thereby enhancing the international competitiveness of both places.

1. Key supported fields include joint collaborative projects in biomedicine (including traditional Chinese medicine (TCM)), new-generation information technology, energy conservation, environmental protection, marine technology, new materials, new energy and smart manufacturing, among others. Priority will be given to projects jointly submitted by institutions related to the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Key supported fields for each prefecture-level city are as follows:
 - (1) Foshan: Biomedicine and health (biomedicine, TCM, food, among others), advanced manufacturing (embodied intelligence, robotics, energy, electricity, semiconductors, high-end equipment, among others), intelligent connection and software, digital information, new materials, new energy storage and new energy, among others.
 - (2) Dongguan: Integrated circuits, semiconductor devices, frontier new materials, biomedicine (including but not limited to TCM R&D, and medical devices), artificial intelligence (including but not limited to end-side models, and machine vision).
 - (3) Jiangmen: Biomedicine and health (including but not limited to TCM R&D, and food), advanced materials (including but not limited to new energy battery materials, and green materials), high-end equipment, artificial intelligence and robotics, low-altitude economy, marine economy, smart city development (including but not limited to smart home appliances), and precision instruments, among others.
2. The Scheme will not support basic infrastructure projects, equipment procurement, policy and management and other soft science research projects, or market promotion projects.

IV. Funding Amount and Funding Period

1. The requested funding amount for each project shall not exceed MOP 1.3 million. For projects co-funded by prefecture-level cities, the requested funding amount for each project shall not exceed MOP 1 million.
2. The granted funding amount shall not exceed the requested funding amount.
3. The funding period shall not exceed two years.



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V. Application Period

18 September to 17 November 2026

VI. Collaboration Requirements

1. Support will not be offered to applications from Macao research institutions collaborating with their branches in the Mainland. The leading applicants of the two sides shall not be associated, such as affiliation and founding.
2. At least one of the leading applicants from either side must be an enterprise. Where the leading applicant from Macao is a commercial enterprise owner or a commercial enterprise, it shall provide matching self-raised funds. Requirements for the Macao side's matching funds shall be stipulated by the Macao side's Funding Scheme, while the requirements for the Guangdong side shall be referred to the GDST's regulations.
3. The leading applicant from Macao is required to consult with the Guangdong collaborator on the research content, schedule, and division of tasks, and sign a collaboration agreement, memorandum, or letter of intent that clearly specifies the R&D tasks, division of tasks, and intellectual property right ownership with the Guangdong collaborator. The laws and regulations of both Macao and the Mainland must be complied with to ensure reasonable sharing of R&D outcomes and protection of the interests of both parties.
4. Each project team shall include at least one member from each collaborating side.
5. Collaborating partners shall demonstrate strong technical capabilities or high proficiency in research and development, and shall have the willingness and ability to collaborate with Macao. Partners may contribute to the collaboration by means of technology, funding, personnel, information, advanced equipment, or proprietary resources.
6. Project leaders from both the Macao side and the Guangdong side must possess an established foundation of prior collaboration. Supporting materials demonstrating the collaborative relationship between both project leaders within five years prior to the release of the application notice must be provided, including but not limited to: co-published papers, works, or papers accepted for journal publication; joint patent applications; joint project funding applications; co-supervision of postgraduate students; and jointly organized academic activities, among others.
7. During the collaboration period, the Macao and Guangdong teams shall take at least one exchange visit to each other's institutions, and hold at least one project meeting (in any format) involving key responsible personnel from both sides every year.
8. For projects involving collaboration between a Guangdong enterprise and a Macao tertiary institution, the Guangdong enterprise must provide at least one short-term postgraduate internship (lasting for at least three months and in any format) for the Macao team during the collaboration period.



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9. Guangdong collaborators must at the same time file an application to the GDST. For detailed application methods, please refer to the GDST's relevant regulations.

VII. Expected Outcomes

Projects should achieve key technological breakthroughs and produce at least one market-ready scientific and technological outcome with independent intellectual property rights. Expected outcomes shall include patents, technical standards, prototypes, models, or formulas, and quantifiable indicators for the outcomes must be set; and the project should generate certain economic and social benefits upon completion.

VIII. Requirements for Application Proposal

1. An application proposal serves as an important basis for the FDCT and peer experts, among other parties, to learn and inquire about the projects, as well as to review and select among applications. The applicant entity shall fill out the proposal in accordance with the requirements regarding the proposal content, format, and word count.
2. Basic requirements for content of the application proposal are as follows:
 - (1) The project should achieve collaboration in relevant research fields and technology development.
 - (2) The collaboration should be of substantial significance, with valid justification, clear goals, specific content, a reasonable and feasible collaboration plan, measurable technical indicators, and a rational budget.
 - (3) The research team should be well-structured and capable of completing the project, with clear task division and substantive R&D collaboration among the project leaders and participating entities.
 - (4) The project title and the names of the applicants from both sides must be consistent across the application proposals submitted to Macao and Guangdong. The research plan should demonstrate complementation of strengths.