MTC MedTech Programmatic Seed Grant Call Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

S/N	Question	Response
General		
1	What are the themes for the grant call?	The two themes covered by this thematic grant call includes the following: Thematic #1: Sensor Development & Miniaturization: Novel Biochemical Sensors for Non-Invasive Point-of-Care Testing (POCT); and Thematic #2: Resilient & Sustainable MedTech Manufacturing.
2	Why only focus on two themes for the grant call instead of the five endorsed areas?	Description of the MTC Focus Areas can be found here: https://t984-p547-blue-admin.prd.cwp2.sg/docs/librariesprovider1/default-document-library/research/funding-opportunities/ame-programmatic-funds/mtc-sector-areas-21-nov-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=c889b5e3_2 The selected two themes are the most suitable for the proposed programmatic seed grant call which aims to evaluate a broad range of targeted technological solutions that can eventually lead to a full-scale programmatic programme.
Application Process		
3	What is the process for research performers to submit proposals?	The Project PI must submit their applications electronically via iGrants to the "MedTech MTC Programmatic Seed Grant" between 14 June 2024 and 26 July 2024, 1700hrs. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Applications must be endorsed by the applying Host Institution(s) before submission. For applications originating from A*STAR RIs, endorsement from RI EDs is necessary. All queries must be submitted through A*STAR (as Implementing Agency) at programmatic_ame@hq.a-star.edu.sg. Please contact your institution's Office of Research (ORE) to create an iGrants account if you do not have one.
4	What documents are required to state the value-add to the MedTech Industry in Singapore?	For MTC Programmatic, letters of interest from industry are not compulsory, but the proposal must demonstrate its relevance to supporting the medtech manufacturing sector in Singapore and relevance for industry receptacles to take up over time.
5	How long does the proposal review process take? When would we know the results of the grant call?	It will take approximately 6 months between submission to award.
6	What is the maximum funding amount?	The maximum funding is SGD$350K (including 30% overheads). Overheads go to the institution to support items such as rental, utilities, administrative staff and operating costs.

7	What are the difference between Phase 1 and 2?	Phase 1 is the current programmatic seed grant call that aims to award up to 10 proposals per theme, with funding up to SGD$350k (including overheads) per proposal for a duration of up to 12 months. Projects that show promising progress and ability to achieve the quantifiable milestones in Phase 1 can apply for Phase 2 full programmatic funding of up to SGD$5 million.
8	What is the TRL level of the proposals?	TRL2-4.
Eligibility		
9	Do we need to partner A*STAR Research Institutes (RIs) in our projects or ensure that the research areas are in line with the RIs' interest?	No, so long as proposals are within the scope of the two themes.
10	Are applicants supported on grants, either partially or fully, eligible to apply for the grant?	Yes, so long as the applicant is hired by a public institution and satisfies the other eligibility criteria.
11	Can money flow to international collaborators?	RIE2025 funds are intended to support public-sector researchers in conducting research in Singapore. Nevertheless, local PIs are free to partner international collaborators. However, the international collaborators will not receive any funding.
12	Does Programmatic have minimum industry R&D spending (IRS)?	There is no minimum IRS for Programmatic.
13	Could the grant be used to support pilot trials?	Yes, if it is part of the testing required to validate the specifications and acceptance criteria of the planned experiment/technology milestone to be derisked. Applicants are encouraged to only focus on one use case to derive the minimum viable product/platform. The MTC funding focuses on developing platform technologies to grow the manufacturing sector rather than for testing on many different clinical use cases. Large scale clinical trials are not supported for this grant call.
14	Do such proposals need a "medical" collaborator/PI, or an engineering team is fine?	It is not compulsory at the seed grant stage (Phase1), but it would be preferable if applicants clearly understand the medical-related problem statement.
15	What are the diseases in target for MTC MedTech Thematic #1?	Open to all disease areas.
16	For MTC MedTech thematic #1, is "biomechanical" sensor being considered for application?	The thematic is focussed on detecting ≥3 biochemical analytes. We do not specify the type of technology used to detect these analytes.
17	Are data acquisition, signal analysis, and AI used to predict the disease outside the scope?	Software development must be linked to the sensor to be developed as part of the analytics and firmware. Standalone software analytics for disease prediction is out-of-scope for the thematic call.
Milestones and Deliverables		
18	Are there any KPIs required for this grant call	Awarded projects for this grant call will be reviewed on their 'success' based on ability to meet the project objectives and achieve the (quantifiable) milestones and deliverables. However, IA reserves the right to impose KPI(s) for selected proposals if necessary.
19	How can the applicant unlock the 2nd phase full programmatic?	Only successful PIs for Phase 1 may go on to apply for Phase 2 funding. At the mid-term review, project teams will be invited to submit and present their plan

		for a full programmatic proposal. Subsequently, they will be invited to submit a full programmatic proposal. The strategic review panel will evaluate the merits of the proposal and decide on Phase 2 funding awardees.
20	What is the expected outcome of Phase 2?	The programmatic grant is targeted at TRL 2 - 4. By the end of Phase 2, project teams are expected to deliver a working prototype (TRL4) for the technology being developed.