

Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) Info Session

~ Get Supports from ITPR

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Institute for Innovation,
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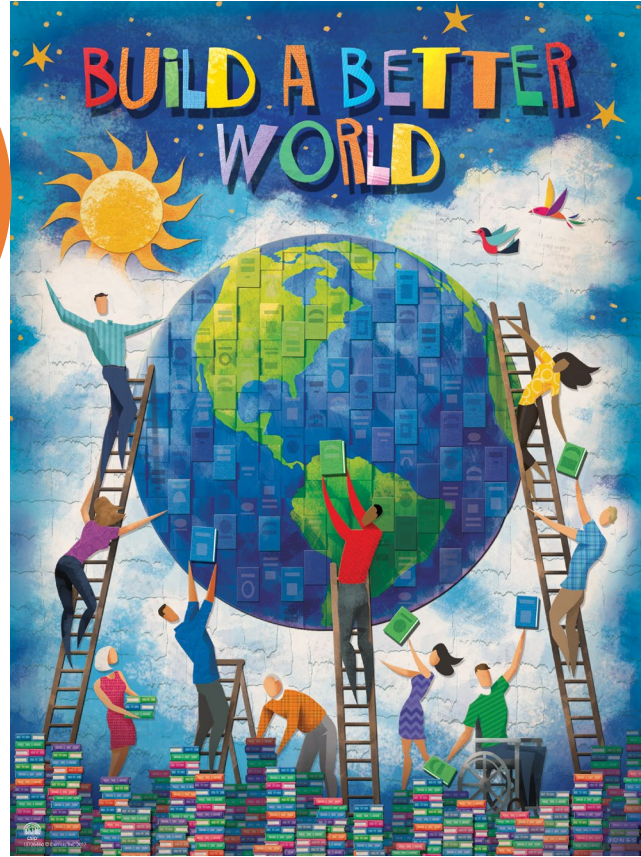
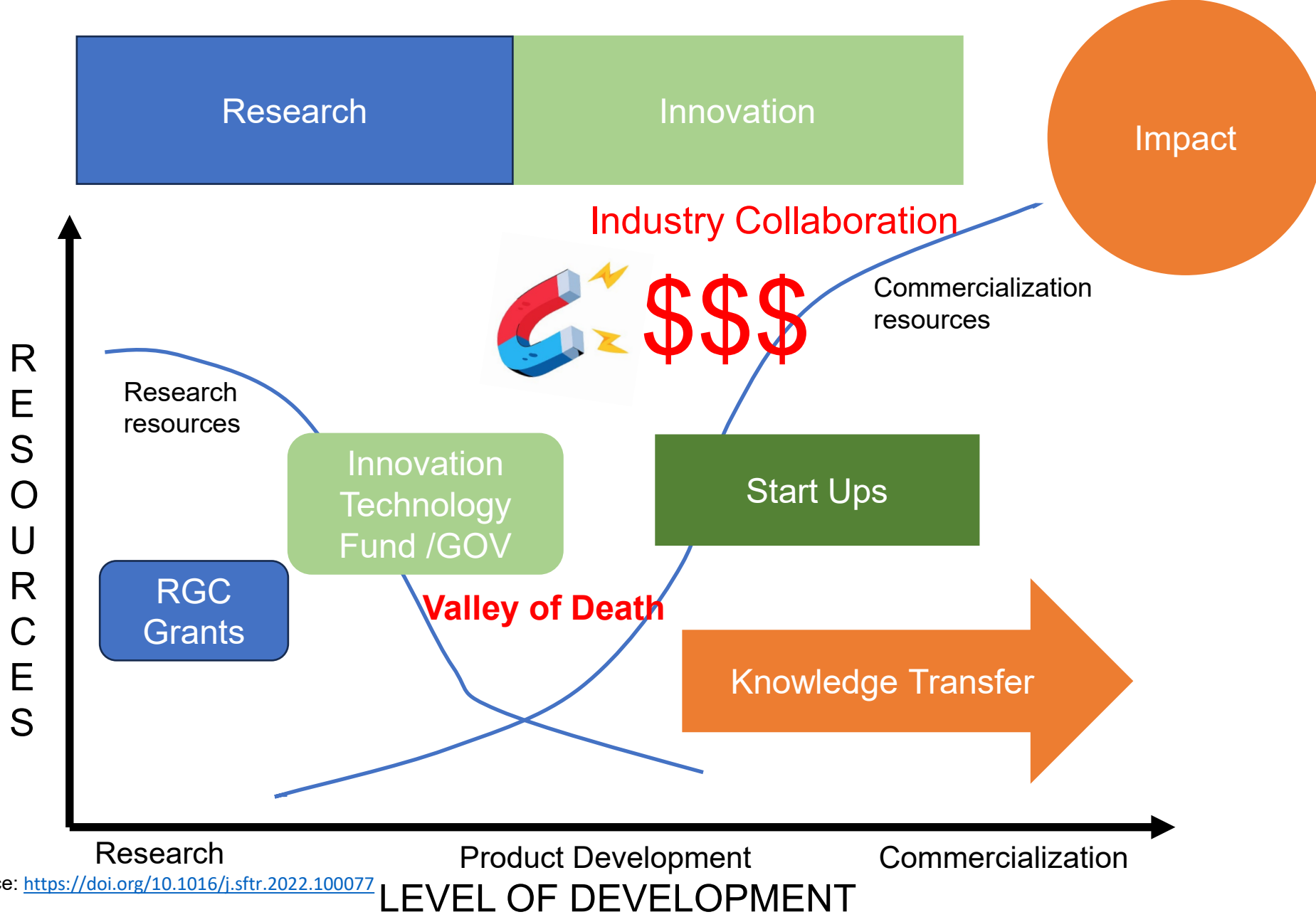
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ITF Funding for University



Innovation and Technology Fund
Innovation and Technology Commission
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Supporting Research & Development

- Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP)
- Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme (MHKJFS)
- Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS)
- Partnership Research Programme (PRP)
- Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS)
- Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme (CRS)

Facilitating Technology Adoption

- [Public Sector Trial Scheme \(PSTS\)](#)
- Technology Voucher Programme (TVP)
- Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS)
- Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living (FBL)

Nurturing Technology Talent

- Research Talent Hub (RTH)
- Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP)
- STEM Internship Scheme

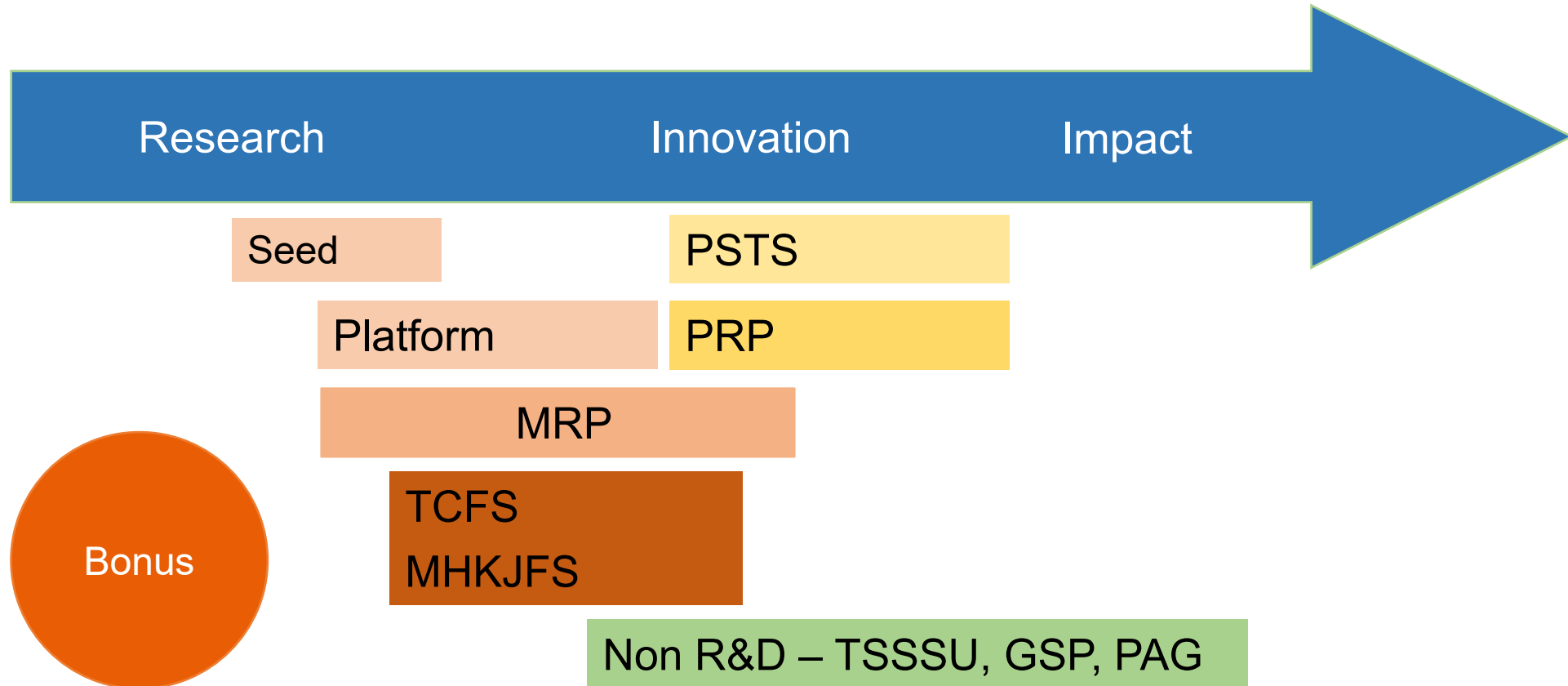
Supporting Technology Start-ups

- Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU)
- [The Innovation and Technology Venture Fund \(ITVF\)](#)

Fostering an I&T Culture

- General Support Programme (GSP)
- Patent Application Grant (PAG)

ITF Funding for University



ITSP - Seed

- > **Exploratory** and **forward-looking**
- > Funding capped at **HK\$1.4M** for University or **HK\$2.8** R&D Centre
- > Duration: Max. **18 months**
- > Industry Sponsorship: **NOT mandatory**

ITSP - Platform

- > Industry-oriented applied R&D projects with potential for **commercialisation**
- > Duration: Max. **24 months**
- > Industry Sponsorship: **at least 10% #1**

> IP Rights Ownership: lead applicant

> Application closing date for HKBU is **27 October 2023**

> Applications from R&D Centres* is accepted all year round

* R&D Centres include:

1. Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre;
2. Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel;
3. Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute;
4. Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre; and
5. Nano and Advanced Materials Institute.

Innovation and Technology Fund Research Projects Assessment Panel

(1.1.2023 - 31.12.2024)

- [Automotive Platforms and Application Systems Subgroup](#)
- [Electronics Subgroup](#)
- [Information Technology Subgroup](#)
- [Nanotechnology and Materials Technology Subgroup](#)

- [Biotechnology Subgroup](#)
- [Environmental Technology Subgroup](#)
- [Mechanical Systems and Manufacturing Technology Subgroup](#)
- [Textiles and Clothing Subgroup](#)

#1 CHECK WITH ITPR

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/itsp/itsp-platform-seed/index.html>
<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/crs/index.html>

ITSP Mid-stream Research Programme (MRP)

- > Theme-based
- > Funding capped at **HK\$5M (Standalone)** & **HK\$10M (Collaboration)**

Standalone: By applicant

Collaboration: By applicant and all co-applicants

Co-applicants: local and/or non-local university/
research institute

- > Duration: Max. **36 months**
- > Industry Sponsorship: **NOT mandatory**
- > IP Rights Ownership: lead applicant

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/itsp/itsp-mid-stream/index.html>

Application:- Once a year.

The application period in 2023 was 10 July 2023 to **22 September 2023**.

Theme:-

- Engineering technologies for environmental sustainability
- Biologics and cell-based therapies

Partnership Research Programme (PRP)

- > Also called **Collaborative** R&D projects
- > Company co-applicant must be HK registered,
- > Industry Sponsorship: *at least 50%*
- > IP Rights Ownership: industry co-applicant if it contributes at least 50% of the total project cost.

Note the HKBU new Policy

- > Duration: Max. **36 months**
- > **Opens all year round**

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/prp/index.html>

- The industry co-applicant: either
- i. Company incorporated in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622); or
 - ii. Industry support organisation,
 - iii. Trade and industry association or
 - iv. Professional body

Guidance Note on Project Overhead Waiver, & Contract / Collaborative Research Endorsement to University (as at September 2022)

New IP Policy
Briefing Session

6th October
Friday 3:30pm

Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme (MHKJFS)

- > Under specific themes
- > Duration: Max. **24 months**
- > **Platform** and **Collaborative** R&D projects in Mainland and Hong Kong
- > Industry Sponsorship: **10% (Platform)** & **50% (Collaborative)**
- > IP Rights Ownership: lead applicant (**Platform**); industry (**Collaborative**) if contributes at least 50%

Note the HKBU new Policy

- > Application is currently **closed** (The application period was 15 May to **30 June 2023**)

R&D work **MUST BE** conducted in both Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Funding and Project Monitoring

ITC => HK applicants

MOST => Mainland applicants

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Three specific themes were being invited -

1. Biotechnology: Chinese medicine-based new medicines, research on medicines for treating rare diseases, etc;
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI): Research on the security and privacy of AI systems, brain-inspired intelligence, smart transportation, smart healthcare (including medical robots); and
3. New Materials: Optoelectronic materials; third-generation semiconductor technologies, key materials for highly secured, high energy and density fuel cells, research on and application of biomedical materials.

Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS)

> **Platform** and **collaborative** R&D projects in HK and Guangdong/Shenzhen.

Category A: funded by HK

Category B: funded by Guangdong/Shenzhen.

Category C1: jointly funded by Guangdong and HK

Category C2: jointly funded by Shenzhen and HK

> Duration: Max. **24 months**

> Industry Sponsorship: **10% (Platform); 50% (Collaborative)**

> IP Rights Ownership: lead applicant (**Platform**); industry (**Collaborative**) if contributes at least 50%

Note the HKBU new Policy

> Application is currently **closed** (previous round closed on 13 Jan 2023)

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/tcfs/index.html>

Quick Summary

Seed

Platform

Collaborative

Mid-Stream
Theme base

Mainland

Guangdong

Shenzhen

Theme
base



Facilitating Technology Adoption

Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS)

- > Prototyping R&D deliverables not available in the market
- > Trials conducted in Hong Kong public sector (Government, registered public bodies, non-profit-making trade associations, charitable organisations, statutory bodies, Hong Kong Government subvented non-governmental bodies in the welfare sector.
- > **Opens all year round**

PSTS-ITF

- > Employ the R&D results/deliverables of the completed ITF projects
- > Funding capped at **50%** of the original R&D project; **100%** if initiated by R&D Centres
- > Duration: Max **24 months**
- > Industry sponsorship: **NOT** mandatory

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/ess/index.html>

PSTS-SPC

- > Incubatee or graduate tenant of HKSTPC or Cyberport
- > Employ the R&D results/deliverables developed by the applicant
- > Funding capped at **HK\$1M**
- > Duration: Max. **12 months**

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/facilitating-technology/psts/psts-spc/index.html>

PSTS-TC

- > Technology companies conducting local R&D activities
- > Employ the R&D results/deliverables developed by the applicant
- > Funding capped at **HK\$1M**
- > Duration: Max. **12 months**

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/facilitating-technology/psts/psts-tc/index.html>

Supporting Technology Start-ups

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TSSSU

Technology Start-up
Support Scheme for
Universities

2024-25

FUNDING UP TO
HK\$1.5M

START-UP SUCCESS STARTS HERE
APPLY NOW!

BRIEFING SESSION

27 SEP 2023

13:00-14:30 HONG KONG TIME

Venue: WLB109

APPLICATION DEADLINE

24 NOV 2023

17:00 HONG KONG TIME

Nurturing Technology Talent

1. Research Talent Hub (RTH) for ITF projects (RTH-ITF)
2. RTH for Incubatees and I&T Tenants of the HKSTPC and the Cyberport (RTH-SPC)
3. RTH for Technology Companies Conducting R&D Activities in Hong Kong (RTH-TC)

> Each ITF project/applicant company can have up to **4 RTHs** at any one time

> Max. **36 months for each RTH** graduated from local university or well-recognised non-local institution in "STEM" related discipline

> Allowance: Max. **HK\$20,000 (bachelor), HK\$23,000 (master), HK\$35,000 + \$10,000 living allowance (Ph.D.)**

> **Opens all year round**

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/nurturing-talent/research-talent-hub/research-talent-hub-for-itf-projects-rth-itf-/index.html>

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/nurturing-talent/research-talent-hub/research-talent-hub-for-spc-projects-rth-spc-/index.html>

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/nurturing-talent/research-talent-hub/research-talent-hub-for-technology-companies-condu/index.html>

Bonus

Fostering an I&T Culture

General Support Programme (GSP)

- > Support non-R&D projects: conferences, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, promotional events, studies and surveys, popular science activities, events or projects to support upgrading and development of industry, etc.
- > Sponsorship: at least **10%** of the total project cost
- > **Opens all year round**

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/fostering-culture/gsp/index.html>

Patent Application Grant (PAG)

- > First-time patent seekers only (individual or company) with technology elements (Cosmetic designs will not be supported)
- > Funding capped at **HK\$250,000** or **90%** of the total direct costs of patent application (including the cost for patent search-cum-technical assessment), whichever is the lower, while the applicant bear the remaining balance
- > Approval non-transferrable and valid for 3 years
- > **Opens all year round**

<https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/fostering-culture/pag/index.html>

Assessment

	Seed	Platform	PRP	TCFS (Platform & Collaboration)	MHKJFS (Platform & Collaborative)	MRP (Standalone & Collaboration)
Innovation and Technology Component	36			20		26
Technical Capability	32			20		20
Management Capability	8			8		12
Financial Considerations	8			16		14
Existence of a Holistic Plan to Realisation/Commercialisation	4			16		18
Relevance with Government Policies or in Overall Interest of the Community	8			12		4
IP Rights and Benefit Sharing	4			8		6
Commercial Viability of Project Deliverables				/		

Assessment

Reasonableness – Innovation and technology elements & competitive edge. Mass production activities would generally not be supported;

Relevance with Government Policies or in Overall Interest of the Community

Proportionality – should comprise a balanced mix of midstream and downstream R&D activities (e.g. development engineering/system integration, large scale process optimisation, compliance testing and clinical trials, licensing of third-party IP and industrial design, etc.);

Existence of a Holistic Plan to Realisation/Commercialisation Facilitating Public Trial of R&D outcomes – can fine-tune the outcomes, build up ‘reference’ for subsequent marketing, and bring about wider economic and social benefits to the community;

Investment – motivating the private sector to invest more in R&D activities in Hong Kong;

Cooperation – enhancing cooperation among Government, industry, academia and research institutes (政產學研).

Technical Capability – Viability and quality of technical proposal & Competence of technical team

FAQ 1

Q: Can the R&D work of the project be conducted outside HK?

A: The majority of the R&D work of a project should be conducted within Hong Kong. However, given the close ties between Hong Kong and the Mainland, **up to 50% of the R&D work of the project can be conducted (and relevant expenditure incurred) in the Mainland.** Where certain R&D tasks need to be conducted outside Hong Kong (other than the Mainland), the applicant should provide justifications and seek prior approval from ITC.

FAQ 2

Q: For Platform project and collaboration projects (or PRP), what is the maximum funding cap at?

A: For all platform and collaboration projects (or PRP), there is **no cap on maximum funding.** Funding great than HK\$ 50M will need approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. Only Seed project has a maximum funding capped at HK\$ 1.4M for HKBU as main applicant and HKD\$ 2.8 M for R&D Centre as main applicant.

FAQ 3

Q: Can a Mainland registered company sponsor for my Platform or Collaboration Project?

A: **HK or Mainland registered company can sponsor all Platform projects** (including TCFS-Platform & MHKJFS-Platform projects). The IP Rights ownership will belong to the local lead applicant even if the sponsorship is more than 50%.

Only **HK registered company can sponsor all Collaboration project** (including PRP, TCFS-Collaboration, MHKJFS-Collaboration).

FAQ 4

Q: What is the difference between TCFS-Platform and TCFS-Collaboration Scheme?

A: The only major difference is that **TCFS-Platform project requires only 10% industry sponsorship** and the IP Rights ownership will belong to the lead applicant; whereas **TCFS-Collaboration project requires 50% industry sponsorship** and the IP Rights ownership will belong to the industry of sponsor for >50% of the total project cost.

Both TCFS-Platform and TCFS-Collaboration Scheme involve at least **3 parties: HK partner, Mainland partner** (Mainland R&D institute, higher education institute, enterprise or healthcare unit partner), **company sponsor**.

FAQ 5

Q: What is Category B of TCFS?

A: Category B of TCFS means funding of Mainland partner by Guangdong/Shenzhen authorities but not by ITC. **TCFS mainly concerns Categories A & C.**

FAQ 6

Q: What is the difference between MHKJFS and the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS)?

A: TCFS aims to enhance R&D collaboration between Hong Kong and Guangdong or Shenzhen. To support and encourage further R&D collaboration between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the HKSAR Government and MOST launched MHKJFS in 2019 to support R&D projects jointly conducted by Hong Kong and Mainland institutions.

The funding model and modus operandi of MHKJFS largely follow that of the projects jointly funded under **Category C of TCFS. Applications under MHKJFS must be submitted simultaneously by the Hong Kong and the Mainland institutions** (Mainland partners) to ITC and MOST respectively.

FAQ 7

Q: Who is eligible to apply as a co-applicant of a MRP-collaboration project?

A: A different unit of the **same university** of the lead applicant, or a **different local/ non-local university/ research institute** may apply as co-applicant of a collaboration project. **Private companies are not eligible.**

Research to Innovation & KT

1. ITSP Platform Project (HK\$2m)

- a. To solve an industrial problem [Rapid Testing of Chinese Medicine in manufacturing]
- b. Identified Industry Sponsors
 - Associations [not successful]
 - Semi-related companies [Food and Biologics]
- c. 2 Years Project

2. ITSP Collaborative Project (HK\$1.5m)

- a. Developed a new QC method for Chinese Medicine accepted by Dept of Health

3. ITF-General Support Fund – Marketing of the technology

4. Create a Joint Research Lab – Secure 6 years of industry sponsorships

5. ITSP-Platform for Biologics (HK\$11m)

1. [Need] Company A => Industry (More than one industry sponsors)
2. Compliment the expansion of the research institution (Applicant)
3. Biologics Process Development & GMP Pilot Production for clinical trials
 1. Platform that is used by Company A, Research Institute

6. ITSP-Collaborative (HK\$5m+)

1. Further R&D with Company B and the research institute
2. Outcome – Develop and Manufacturing of H5N1 pDNA vaccine for poultry

7. ITSP-Platform for Chinese Medicine (HK\$30m)

1. [Need] Government/Dept of Health, and Industry
2. Process Development & GMP Chinese Medicine

Supports from ITPR



Industry Sponsors

- > Identification
- > Facilitate discussion with industry



Proposal Preparation

- > Innovation and technology (beyond basic research)
- > Explore platform technology and subsequent opportunities
- > SWOT Analysis
- > Proposal review
- > Presentation preparation and rehearsal

Thank You

Acknowledgement: Mr Ivan Lau, Research Office



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Q&A