



PROGRAMME:

Technology Grant Scheme - “Support for Technology Development (Tech- D)”

RATIONALE

Technology is central to economic growth and social welfare of a country. As such, it is very important to enhance opportunities for technology development and innovation for value creation. The Technology Grant Scheme, “Support for Technology Development (Tech-D)” is aiming at taking research outputs beyond laboratory scales by extending financial support to both state and non-state sector organizations to conduct projects that have potential for creating value. The scheme does not limit the support to those who are attached to an innovation eco-system. It is believed that the innovative capacity of different individuals is very much ignored and untapped. Therefore, many ideas generated in the minds of people cannot be utilized for wealth creation. Very often inventors need financial and sometimes technical support to convert their ideas into practice. Unless seeking support from financial institutions such inventors/technicians become helpless not being able to find required resources. The scheme supports such individuals too by opening the avenue to perform in the innovation gateway.

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage state sector organizations (universities and research institutes), non-state sector organizations (small, medium and large companies), and individuals (technologists / technicians, inventors) by providing funds to conduct projects leading to technology driven innovations (TDI) / Market Driven Innovations (MDI), producing of locally, regionally or globally competitive new materials, products / devices, installing new processes, systems and services, or improving substantially those of already produced or installed and become active partners in the innovation process.
- To encourage Grantees for intellectual property protection and licensing their innovations.
- To promote technology transfer and commercialization of new technologies.

Corporate Plan Reference

Gall 01: Be the leader in facilitating technology development, intellectual property protection, technology diffusion and transfer and to emerge as the eminent catalyst for RD&I commercialization.

Objective 2.1: NSF to be the focal point and facilitator for further development of potential technologies, supporting start-ups, diffusion, licensing and transfer of technologies with institutionalized mechanisms.

PROGRAMME CONCEPT

The scheme focuses on specific output-oriented projects in order to;

- Encourage universities and research institutes to conduct projects leading to technology driven innovations (TDI)/Market Driven Innovations (MDI), based on existing knowledge gained through basic and applied research.
- Strengthen capacity and capability of non-state sector companies (small, medium and large) to conduct activities directed to producing locally, regionally or globally competitive new materials, products or devices, installing new processes, systems and services, or to improving substantially those of already produced or installed and become active partners in the innovation process.



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- Assist technologists/technicians, inventors to develop prototypes/processes which are of commercial use and have industrial potential.



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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Novelty of the technology developed.
- Techno-economic feasibility.
- Capability & capacity to conduct the project.
- Contribution to SME development
- Market potential
- Value addition
- Sustainability (technology life cycle)
- High-end technology development

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

General

- Expressions of Interest (EoI) are called twice a year or by a period defined by the NSF management.
- EoIs must be made on the specific Form.
- More than one EoI can be submitted at a time, but priority will be given only for one EoI.
- Hard Copy of the duly completed and signed EoI should be submitted by the Applicant by post, addressed to Director General, National Science Foundation, 47/5, Maitland Place, Colombo 07 or fax it to 0112696771. Scanned copy also requested by email to tgrants@nsf.gov.lk.
- Applicants are invited to make a presentation on their EoI.
- For successful EoIs, applicants of those EoIs will be requested to submit detailed Grant Applications.
- Grant Application must be made on the specific Grant Application Form, which can be downloaded from the NSF Website or obtained from the Technology Development and Innovations Division.
- Applicants should follow the instructions given in the Application Form.
- A complete set of application in three copies (Hard copies) should be submitted by the applicant along with a soft copy of the Application in pdf form (e-mail: info@nsf.gov.lk)
- Only one Grant is awarded to one Team Leader at a time. After completion of the Project he /she may apply for another Grant.
- No ceiling for allocation of funds is established. However, a thorough justification for the requirement of funds needs to be provided.
- 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 for processing of grant applications.

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Funds

Project proposals are not fully funded for “Non-state sector” and ‘Individual’ categories. NSF expects the Applicants under these two categories to bear part funding. The NSF will bear 50% - 70% of the fund requirement under each Vote. The Applicants will have to bear the balance 50% - 30%.

For “Non-state sector” and ‘Individual’ categories, hiring of personnel, stipend, overhead expenses *etc.* will not be covered by NSF. However, they can request funds for Technical Assistants (TAs) and Labourers (L) at NSF approved rates. Research Students’ allowances are also covered for the State Sector.

Funds are provided to conduct projects under following main streams.

- Developing new products (including prototypes), processes and services which are of commercial value.
- Significant improvement/substantial quality upgradation in the existing products/processes.
- Scaling up of products or processes for commercialization.
- New Industrial designing of products.
- Efficient use of resources such as reduced material / energy consumption resulting in significant cost reduction leading to improved competitiveness.
- Reverse engineering or technology adaptation / modification for effective absorption of imported technologies
- Technology acquisition with substantial improvement to suit to local environment.
- Technologies for replacing imported raw materials / components with local substitutes.
- Market surveillance (plan required).

OUTPUTS

- Prototypes which have commercial potential.
- New/ improved or advanced technologies.
- New products processes and services.
- Increased return on investment on R& D

TARGET GROUPS/ BENEFICIARIES ¹

- Scientists, researchers and engineers from universities and research institutes.
- Non-state sector companies (SMEs and large)². SMEs (if they have no R & D capability) may apply in collaboration with state sector organizations.
- Individuals³ not affiliated to an organization (Individual category). They should apply with a commercial partner / collaborator.

¹ Conditions are applied for fund disbursement depending on the target group (category).

² Applicant must be a company. Company’s R & D capability has to be proven and may be assessed based on its annual reports, audited statements and other relevant documents where company profile is demonstrated.

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POSSIBLE COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS
 State Sector and Non- State Sector organizations.

Other initiatives with which the programme will link:

- NSF Technology Awards Scheme
- NSF policy for protecting Intellectual property (IP)

REMARKS
 As a filtering system, it is introduced calling of Expression of Interest (EoI) without calling for Applications at the beginning.

More publicity among the stakeholders will be provided for Technology Development Grants by means of introducing new channels for providing publicity.

Prepared by:
 Head / Technology Development and Innovations Division

Signature:

Authorized and Issued by:

Signature:

1. Conditions are applied for fund disbursement depending on the target group(category).
2. Applicant must be the company. Company’s R & D capability has to be proven and may be assessed based on its annual reports, audited statements and other relevant documents where company profile is demonstrated.
3. Individuals should provide a proof of location with the copy of NIC/ passport, a recent Gramasewa certificate and a recent water/electricity bill.
