



Mauritius Research Council

Private Sector Collaborative Research Grant Scheme

General Information

**MRC-PSCRGS
April 2012**

Private Sector Collaborative Research Grant Scheme

1.0 Purpose of the Scheme

The MRC Private Sector Collaborative Research (PSCR) 3-Phase Programme has the intent to enhance Research-Industry / Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) interactions on joint venture opportunities of commercial value. The MRC, through this Programme, encourages synergism in the proposed research project wherein a team approach is required, in which the project leader is from the private sector company and the project investigator(s) is/are employed by the collaborating institution(s). The MRC PSCR Programme aims to combine the strength of all participating entities by coupling entrepreneurial skills to high technology research efforts.

Programme Emphasis for 2010-2015

Project proposals will be accepted in the areas of the Government and matched with areas of need of private sector. Proposals must contain innovative concepts with a view to sharpening the competitive edge of Mauritian Industries.

Phase I - Concept Feasibility

In Phase I, the proposer shows the scientific, technical, innovative and commercial merit of the collaborative research project. The work proposed for Phase I should be a base for progression to Phases II and III. The ultimate objective of the project will be to develop products, processes, and/or techniques for commercial competitiveness and sustainability.

Phase II - Concept Refinement

The objective of phase II is to continue the research efforts from Phase I. Only Phase I awardees are eligible to participate in Phase II.

Phase III - Commercial Application

The objective of the third phase is to pursue the commercial application of the products, processes, and/or techniques developed in Phases I and II to stimulate innovation and recover the investment.

2.0 Eligibility

For Phases I, II, and III the project activities conducted by the private sector company and collaborating research, training, and/or private entities must be undertaken in the Republic of Mauritius and its dependent territories.

Eligibility of Proposer - The Private Sector Company

Only Private Sector Companies registered in the Republic of Mauritius, including micro, small and medium enterprises, and large companies are eligible to submit proposals under this scheme.

Eligibility of Research / Training Institution / Private Sector Company

The collaborating entities must agree to undertake the research project with the ultimate goal of developing innovative products, processes, and/or techniques to enhance the commercial competitiveness and sustainability of Mauritius.

Eligibility of the Project Leader and the Project Collaborators

The Project Leader (PL) must be primarily employed by the private sector company submitting the project proposal. Primary employment means that more than one-half of the PL's time is spent in the employ of the company concerned. The individual who is proposed as the PL at the time of the submission of the Phase I proposal is expected to be the PL at the time of the inception of the Phase I award. A change in PL prior to an award could affect whether an award will be made.

The Project Collaborator (PC) from the collaborating entity(s) must have a primary employment with this entity(s). If either the PL or the PC is employed on a contractual basis with the company or the collaborating entity, the period of the contract must at least cover Phase I.

Management of the Private Sector Collaborative Research Programme

The private sector company must provide satisfactory evidence that it will exercise management, control and audit of the performance of the funds to be allocated under this grant. Regardless of the proportion of the work or funding of each of the participants under an award, the private company is to be the grantee with overall responsibility for performance.

3.0 Amount funded by the MRC

Phase I - Concept Feasibility

Under this solicitation, MRC anticipates that it will make about 2 Phase I awards. Normally each award will not exceed Rs 500,000. In exceptional cases of highly sophisticated research the quantum for the phase I award may be increased up to Rs 1 million. Work under Phase I should be completed within 12 months.

Phase II - Concept Refinement

Phase II awards will have an expected period of performance of up to 12 months and the level of support will not exceed Rs 1,250,000 for the 12-month period. In exceptional cases of highly sophisticated research this grant may be increased to up to Rs 2.0 million.

Phase III - Commercial Application

Phase III awards will have an expected period of performance of up to 12 months, and the level of support will not exceed Rs 2,500,000 for this period. Project leaders/collaborators will have to seek additional sources of funding from other funding bodies/agencies after the completion of the Phase III 12 month period.

4.0 Application procedure

3 copies of the Proposals that meet and adhere to other PSCR Grant Scheme guideline requirements must be submitted to directly to the MRC.

Please note that evaluation and processing may require about three (3) months for completion and no information or proposal status will normally be available during the 3 month-processing period.

5.0 Evaluation Criteria

- Proposals will be screened to determine responsiveness to the specific requirements of the solicitation.
- Proposals passing this screening will then be evaluated by experts in the relevant field.
- Each proposal will be evaluated on its merits and judged on a competitive basis.

- MRC is under no obligation to fund any proposal or any number of specific proposals on a given topic.
- MRC will not enter into communication with any organization whose proposal has not been approved.

Administrative Screening

MRC will review each proposal to determine if it satisfies all the requirements described in Section 6, Proposal Preparation Instructions and Requirements. Non-responsive proposals will be returned to the proposer.

Merit Review

Responsive proposals will be competitively evaluated in a process of external merit review by experts in the appropriate field. Reviewers will be from Universities, Government, Research Laboratories and Industries, and Private companies, both local and overseas. Reviewers will remain anonymous to the Project Leader.

In all instances, proposals will be handled on a confidential basis and care taken to avoid conflicts of interest. Evaluations will be confidential to MRC and to the Project Leader.

In the Phase I merit review process, approximately equal consideration will be given to each of the following five criteria:

- (i) The quality of the proposed collaborative project.
- (ii) The soundness of the collaborative project proposal plan to establish the probable technical and commercial feasibility of the concept. The plan must specifically address the amount and type of work to be performed both by the private sector company and by the collaborating entities and describe the necessary cooperation and coordination.

- (iii) The uniqueness/ingenuity of the proposed concept or application as an innovative concept.
- (iv) The potential of the proposed concept for significant commercial application and economic benefit; the likelihood that the proposed work could lead to a marketable product or process; the likelihood that the project could attract further development funding after the MRC sponsorship ends; and the success of the firm's past commercialization efforts.
- (v) Qualification and experience of the Project Leader, the Project Collaborators, other key staff, and consultants in relation to the proposed research, including the strength of their commitments; and the availability of instrumentation and facilities.

For more details on the scheme, please consult the PSCRGs: Guidelines for Applicants available at the Mauritius Research Council or on its website <http://www.mrc.org.mu>

Important Note: A call for Proposals is advertised for specific schemes at least once every year. Only applications submitted as a response to the call for Proposals and within the prescribed delay will be considered by the MRC.

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