

Private Sector Collaborative Research Grant Scheme

Guidelines to Applicants

MRC-PSCRGS March 2011

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The information requested on these proposal forms is solicited under the authority of the Mauritius Research Council Act No. 10 of 1992, in pursuance of the coordination, and promotion of research and the commercialisation of research outputs. It will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals and may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and MRC staff as part of the review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards.

Note: Proposals not meeting the Mauritius Research Council proposal content requirements which are listed and explained in this solicitation will be returned to the submitting institutions.

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PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Does the Proposal meet the following requirements?

•	Proposal is up to a maximum of 15 pages and conforms to page size and type requirement.	[]
•	COVER PAGE is complete (Appendix A).	[]
•	Project duration does not exceed 12 months.	[]
•	Project Summary is complete (Appendix B).	[]
•	Principal Investigator is, primarily employed by this firm.	[]
•	Not less than 50% of the work will be performed by the Private Sector Company concerned, and not less than 30% of the work will be performed by the Institution.	[]
•	Written Collaborative Agreement is completed, signed and included.	[]
•	Statement of current and pending support is included.	[]
•	Proposal describes commercial potential	[]
•	Proposal budget details are provided as shown in Appendix (C) and signed by the Head of the company and the Head of the Institution.	[]
•	Proposal budget excludes foreign travel.	[]
•	Three copies, including the original one, of the proposal are submitted.	[]

1. INTRODUCTION

Under this Proposal Solicitation, the Mauritius Research Council (MRC), which is a para-statal body under the aegis of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology (MoTESRT) invites Private Sector Companies, ranging from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, to Large companies to submit proposals for innovative, commercially feasible, collaborative research and development projects, in partnership with local/overseas research, training or private enterprises.

2. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

2.1 The MRC Private Sector Collaborative Research (PSCR) Programme expands the research/industry public private partnership (PPP) to establish sustainable joint venture opportunities for the Mauritian Private Sector. The MRC encourages synergism in the proposed research project where 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.

2.2 Programme Emphasis for 2010-2015

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

This solicitation is for Phase I proposals only:

2.3 Phase I - Concept Feasibility

In Phase I, the proposer shows the scientific, technical, innovative and commercial merit and 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.

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.

2.4 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 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.

2.5 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.

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.

3. 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.

3.1 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. See section 4.4.

3.2 Eligibility of Research / Training Institution / Private Sector Company

The collaborating entities (as defined in sections 4.4 and 4.5.) 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

4. **DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this solicitation:

- **4.1 Project Leader** The single individual designated by the grantee in a grant application who is responsible for the overall direction of the project.
- **4.2 Research** Any activity which is a systematic, intensive study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the subject studied or a systematic study diverted specifically toward applying new knowledge to meet a recognised award.
- **4.3 Development** a systematic application of knowledge toward the production of useful materials, devices, systems, processes or methods, including design and improvement of prototypes to meet specific requirements.
- **4.4 Private Sector Company** Any private company (inclusive of micro, small and medium enterprises, and large companies) registered in the Republic of Mauritius. *Note: collaborating private sector companies may be registered overseas.*
- **4.5 Research/Training Institution** An organisation, which is involved in either research or training at a post secondary level. This includes all the tertiary education institutions, polytechniques, government and private research institutions and all post-secondary training institutions registered with the Mauritius Institute of Training & Development (MITD).

4.6 Collaborative Research and Development - Research and Development conducted jointly by a private sector company and a research, training or other private entity in which not less than 50% of the work is performed by the driving private sector company concerned, and not less than 30% of the work is performed by other institution(s). It may be that a small amount of the work has to be submitted to a third party (e.g. externally contracted work).

5. METHOD OF SELECTION AND 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 organisation whose proposal has not been approved.

5.1 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.

5.2 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 commercialisation 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.

5.3 Selection for Award

MRC cannot support all the meritorious Phase I proposals that are recommended for funding.

- Evaluation scores, rankings, and comments from review panels and/or external reviewers are advisory to MRC.
- In addition to evaluation and comments from external reviewers, MRC will consider the commercial potential, national priority, programme balance and other factors in making award decisions.

5.4 Debriefing

When an award or declination is made, the PL receives:

- verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers;
- summaries of review panel deliberations, if any;
- a description of the process by which the proposal was reviewed; and
- the context of the decision such as the number of proposals and awards and information about budget availability.
- PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Contact with MRC

Request for copies of this solicitation as well as questions relating to the MRC Private Sector Collaborative Research may be addressed to the:

Executive Director
Mauritius Research Council
Level 6, Ebene Heights,
34 Cybercity, Ebene
Mauritius

6.2 Proposal Preparation

Proposals not meeting the requirements below will be returned.

Limit the Phase I proposal up to a maximum of 15 consecutively numbered pages (single or doubled-spaces) including cover page, Project Summary, Main text, References, C.V's and the Budget.

Use standard A4 size page

A proposal must contain adequate information to be reviewed as research. MRC reserves the right not to submit to technical review any proposal which it finds to have insufficient scientific or technical information.

6.3 Phase I Proposal Format

- The proposal should include all the following items in the under shown.
- MRC forms (see Appendices) may be photocopied as required.
- The proposal should contain original signatures.
- **A.** Cover Page (Appendix A) Complete this form and use it as page 1 of each proposal.

The period of performance of Phase I is normally up to 12 months.

The title of the proposal should be brief, technically valid, intelligible to the non-scientist or engineer, and suitable for use in the public press.

B. Project Summary (Appendix B) - Use this form as page 2 of the proposal document.

Under 'Project Abstract':

- Identify the problem or opportunity and project objectives.
- Describe the project anticipated results and potential commercial applications of the initiative.

Be brief, clear, concise and intelligible.

In the event of any award, this information may be made public.

C. Identification and Significance of the Problem or Opportunity - Make a clear statement of the specific research problem or opportunity addressed and its importance. This section will begin page 3 of your proposal.

D. Background

Describe the overall background and technical approach to the problem or opportunity and how the proposed project will provide the anticipated results.

Highlight the innovativeness and originality of the project.

State the anticipated results and potential commercial applications if the project is successful, including the significance of the base to attract follow-on investment for product or process development in Phases II and III, and stimulate or achieve innovation.

- **E. Phase I Project Objectives** List and explain the specific objectives to be accomplished in the course of the Phase I, including the questions it will try to answer which determine the feasibility of the proposed approach. Establish the connections with the Phase II research and Phase III efforts.
- **F.** Phase I Project Plan This is a key section and should be about one-third of the total proposal four (4) or more pages. Describe the Phase I project plan in detail.
- Indicate not only what is planned, but also how the research will be carried out.
- Include a technical discussion of the proposed concept, the methods planned to achieve each objective or task, and the sequence project activities.
- Specifically address the amount and type of work to be performed both by the company concerned and by the collaborating institutions and describe the necessary cooperative, co-ordination and complementation. List key personnel involved in the project and describe the programmatic and fiscal arrangement for the collaborative project.

G. Commercial Potential

- Describe the potential application of the project results in the marketplace and the plan to market and commercialise the innovative concept(s).
- Briefly describe the major competitive products in those fields; any significant advantages the approach

has over existing technology in application, performance, technique, efficiency or cost; and how the private sector company involved plans to move from research to market, as anticipated at this time.

H. Related Research - Describe:

- significant and recent research directly related to the proposed effort;
- how it relates to the proposed research; and
- include a concise bibliography, if any.
- I. Project Leader and Project Collaborator Provide information on the Project Leader and Project Collaborator and other personnel from the company and the collaborating institution(s) which shows that they have adequate qualifications/experience to undertake the collaborative effort.

Pages devoted to vitae are included within the 15 page limit of the proposal.

For administrative purposes, a collaborator from the private company involved must be designated as the Project Leader.

- J. Consultants Exceptionally, when, in addition to the efforts of both the PL and the PC, the services of a consultant will be required, the following information should be provided: the qualifications of the Consultant; the tasks to be performed by him/her; evidence of the commitment of the consultant; and the agreed consultancy rate to participate in the project.
- **K. Equipment, Instrumentation, Computers and Facilities** Describe the necessary equipment, instrumentation, computers and physical facilities to carry out the research and/or analytical efforts including the availability and location, at the private sector company, at the collaborating institution, or elsewhere.
- L. Current and Pending Support of PL and PC Provide information about all research to which the Project Leader and the Project Collaborator have committed time for during the period of the MRC PSCR Programme. Provide the following information:
- amount of time that has been or will be committed to other projects during the period of the proposal.
- Indicate whether this proposal has been submitted for funding to any other organisation or agencies.

The MRC will not make awards that essentially duplicate research funded or expected to be funded by other agencies.

M. Written Collaborative Agreement - The proposing private company must provide a written Collaborative Agreement between the company and the collaborating institution(s) involved in the project. The Agreement could cover the allocation of intellectual property rights and rights, if any, to carry out follow-up research, development, and/or commercialisation.

A model agreement relating to these issues is provided in Appendix D of this solicitation. This model is for guidance only and may be modified by the parties. The agreement must be signed by the head of the company and the head of the collaborating institution(s).

N. Budget

In this MRC PSCR programme, research is to be conducted jointly by a private sector company and a collaborating institution(s). Not less than 50% of the work conducted under an MRC PSCR award must be performed by the company leading the project concerned and not less than 30% of the work must be performed by the remaining collaborating institution(s). That is, a minimum of 50% of the total budget must be allocated to the main company concerned and a minimum of 30% of the total budget must be allocated to the collaborating institution(s).

- Complete the Budget Chart given in Appendix C.
- In exceptional cases, when the services of consultants are required, the associated expenses are to be shown in section 5 of the Budget Chart.
- The Budget should reflect cost for work to be done only after the effective date of the award. Any cost incurred prior to the issuance of an award document is at the grantee's own risk.
- Foreign travel cannot be included in the budget.
- The net cost of equipment will not normally exceed 30% of the total budget.
- Budgets for local travel funds must be justified and related to the needs of the project.
- Expenses to attend conferences/workshops etc. are not permitted.

6.4 Checklist

A checklist, which appears at the beginning of this document, has been included for your convenience; it should not be submitted as part of your proposal.

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Awards

Awards will be made normally for up to a twelve (12) month period.

Prior to any award, the Council may require certain organisational, management and financial information for administrative purposes to ensure that the applicant adheres to certain business and financial standards. When requested by the MRC, this information should be returned to the requesting office as expeditiously as possible. All information received will be dealt with strictest confidentiality.

7.2 Payment Schedule

Phase I payments will normally be made as follows: 50% approximately 1-2 weeks after the effective date of the award, 25% six months after the award and, upon acceptance of a satisfactory report by MRC. The remainder will be disbursed upon the acceptance of a satisfactory **Final Report** by the MRC.

7.3 Grantee Commitments

In the event of an award, the awardees will be required to make certain legal commitments through acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Phase I funding agreements. Copies of complete terms and conditions are available upon request.

7.4 Reports

Phase I Final Report. This report will be an important document in the selection of Phase II awards. Three copies of a comprehensive Phase I Final Report (not exceeding 30 pages) must be submitted to MRC within 30 days after the end of the Phase I period.

The Final Report shall include:

a verbatim statement of Phase I objectives;

- a summary description of the research carried out;
- the research findings or results; and
- the potential commercial applications of the research.

The balance of the report should describe in detail the above topics as well as any problems addressed during the technical feasibility.

The Phase I Final Report delivered under the grant may be made available to the public by MRC, except for that portion of the report containing technical data properly identified and marked as set forth in section 7.5 below. To the extent permitted by the Act of the Council, except for evaluation purposes, MRC will not release properly identified and marked data and information outside the Government of Mauritius without the approval of the grantees for a period of four years from the expiration of Phase II or Phase III grant or of Phase I grant, when no Phase II award is made.

An acknowledgement of MRC support and disclaimer must also appear in publications of any materials, whether copyrighted or not, based on or developed under the MRC - supported projects. The disclaimer may be deleted from any articles or papers published in scientific, technical or professional journal.

7.5 Proprietary Information, Rights in Data and Inventions

A. Proprietary Information in Proposals - Information contained in unsuccessful proposals will remain the property of the proposer, but MRC will retain file copies of all proposals.

Proposers should limit proprietary information to that deemed essential for proper evaluation of the proposal. Proprietary information may be included in the body of the proposal or set apart from other text. Any proprietary information included in the proposal must be clearly marked by sentence or paragraph, as proprietary. Confine it to those critical items that, if disclosed, could jeopardise the obtaining of patents or could reveal trade secrets or commercial or other financial information that could adversely affect the competitive position of the proposers.

Proposals which attempt to restrict dissemination of large amounts of information may be found unacceptable by MRC

Proprietary information submitted to MRC will be treated in confidence, to the extent permitted by law, if it is

clearly identified. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, MRC will limit dissemination of properly marked information to its employees and, as necessary for the evaluation of the proposal, to outside reviewers on a confidential basis.

B. Rights in Data Developed under this MRC grant - The grantees may retain rights in technical data, including software development under this MRC grant, except that the Government shall have the right to use such data for Governmental purposes. The Final Report delivered under the grant, including technical data, may be made available to the public by MRC except for that portion of the report containing technical data properly identified and marked. Such data must be clearly labelled as proprietary and marked with a legend similar to the following:

"The following is proprietary information which (name of grantee) requests not to be released to persons outside the MRC except for purposes of evaluation, for a period of four years from the expiration of Grant No........ or, if a follow-on Phase II or Phase III grant if awarded, whichever is later."

7.6 Additional Critical Information

- Management Responsibility The performance of the Project Leader and other employees or consultants who carry out the proposed work is to be managed by the private sector company concerned receiving the PSCR award.
- Accuracy of Information The proposing organisation and the Project Leader are responsible for the accuracy and validity of all the administrative, fiscal, and scientific information in the proposal.

Deliberate withholding, falsification, or misrepresentation of information could result in administrative action such as declination of a proposal or the suspension and/or termination of an award as well as possible criminal penalties.

- Audits Phase I, Phase II and Phase III are all subject to regular technical and financial audits by MRC staff or independent assessors to be appointed by MRC. Unsatisfactory reports may lead to termination of the award and reimbursement of funds.
- Changes in Project Leader, Organisation, or Research/Training Collaborator status Any changes of the PL must be requested in writing at least 30 days prior to the change (except in extraordinary circumstances) and must be approved by the MRC. MRC should be notified promptly if there is any change in the name, address and status of the private sector company or if the Project Collaborator changes.

- Budget Reallocation Any redefinition and reallocation in the agreed tasks and associated budget described in the Task Scheduling and Budget Chart can only be carried out in consultation with MRC which, if satisfied, will authorise the necessary amendments.
- This Programme Solicitation is intended for Informational Purposes and Reflects Current Planning. If there is any inconsistency between the information contained herein and the terms of any resulting MRC grant, the terms of the grant are controlling.

8. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

8.1 Deadline

Proposals which do not meet the deadline or that do not adhere to other requirements of this solicitation will be returned to the proposer. Evaluation and processing may require about three (3) months for completion.

No information or proposal status will normally be available during the 3 month-processing period.

8.2 Submission

Proposal (3) copies should be addressed to:

Executive Director
Mauritius Research Council
Level 6, Ebene Heights,
34 Cybercity, Ebene
Mauritius

Tel: (230) 465 1235 Fax: (230) 465 1239 E-mail: mrc@intnet.mu

Website: http://www.mrc.org.mu

The MRC reserves the right to revise and amend the terms and conditions laid down in this solicitation as and whenever necessary.

MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

Private Sector Collaborative Research Programme

PHASE I Cover Page

ТОРІС:							
PROPOSAL TITLE:							
NAME OF PRIVATE COMPAN	IY:	NAME OF INSTITUTION	ON:				
Address:		Address:					
Address:		Address.					
Year founded:							
Reg. No.:							
Tel.:		Tel:					
Fax:		Fax:					
e-mail:		e-mail:					
Requested Amount (Rs):		Proposal Duration: (up to 1	2 months)				
	PROJECT	LEADER					
Name :			Titlle: Mr, Mrs, Miss,	, Miss, Dr.			
Address:		Tel.:					
		Fax:					
	e-mail:						
PROJECT COLLABORATOR Name: Titlle: Mr, Mrs, Miss, Dr.							
Name.			Titlie. IVII, IVIIS, IVIISS,	DI.			
Address:			Tel.:				
			Fax:				
			e-mail:				
The Private Company certific	es that:			YES	NO		
1. It is a Private Company as define							
2. It will exercise management and	i.						
	received this proposal from the compar						
It will perform per cent of t described in the proposal.	he work and the collaborating institution	on will perform per ce	nt of the work as				
Company Director's name:		Date:					
PROPRIETARY NOTICE							
(Check here ☐ if proposal contains	proprietary information)						
FOR MRC USE ONLY	Total no. of pages:						
Date received:	Comments:						
	İ						

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MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL Private Sector Collaborative Research Programme PHASE I - PROJECT SUMMARY

Company name:	
Address:	The information on this form may
	be made public
	·
Project Leader(s) (Name and Title)	
Project Title:	
TECHNICAL ABSTRACT	Include Potential Commercial
(200 words or less)	Applications
Key Words to Identify Research (8 maximum)	

APPENDIX C

MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL BUDGET CHART and TASK SCHEDULING

1	Company Name:	Project Title:													
2	Project Activities	Durations (months)							Responsible	FOR MRC USE					
_	Project Activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Party	ONLY
															Starting date:
															Duration:
															Company Budget allocation (%):
															anocation (%).
															Institution Budget
															allocation (%):
3	Staff Cost														COST (Rs)
	Project Leader														
	Project Collaborator														
	Project Assistant														
	Secretarial / Clerical														
	Other (please specify)														
										TOTAL (A)					
4	Equipment Cost, including hardware & software									COST (Rs)					
														TOTAL (B)	
5	Other Direct Costs														COST (Rs)
	Consultancy														
	Consumables (to specify,	if n	eces	sary	on	sepa	rate	she	et)						
	IT and Other Services														
	Local Travel														
	Documentation/Publication														
	Other (please specify)														
Sig	Signed by Company Director		Signed by Head of Institutions: Date:											TOTA: (6)	
												TOTAL (C)			
Na	me:	Name:									GRAND TO	TAL (A+B+C)			
											5.3.115				

MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL Private Sector Collaborative Research Programme (MODEL) AGREEMENT

This Agreement between:									
Private Company name:	Name of Provider Institution	Name of Provider Institution:							
Address:	Address:	Address:							
in anti-med into only for the more	f -ll								
		rties certain rights to a project to be e Sector Collaborative Research Grant							
	Research Council to fund a project er								
Project Title:									
It is hereby agreed by both parties t	hat:								
a) The Project Leader from the Private Company is:									
Mr, Mrs, Miss, Dr.									
b) The Project Collaborator from th	e Institution is:								
Mr, Mrs, Miss, Dr.									
c) The terms and conditions as laid	down in the Mauritius Research Cou	ncil Document will be adhered to in							
the management of the project									
•	uritius Research Council for this proje	=							
	lations and used only for the agreed								
e) Confidentiality and rights to any	aspect of the project have been sett	led by both parties.							
f) This agreement may be terminate Mauritius Research Council.	ed by either Party upon 30 days writ	ten notice to the other Party and the							
Signed by the Company Director:	Signed by the Head of the	Mauritius Research Council							
organis y and company or coord	Institution:								
Name:	Name:	Name:							
Date:	Date:	Date:							

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