**National Science Council 2025 Batch 1 Taiwan Germination Program**

**Call for Applications**

1. Program Goals:

To promote original research results with significant commercial potential to the market, enhance the feasibility of commercializing R&D results, and achieve the goal of spinning off a new company or connecting with inter-ministerial new innovation resources to nurture new ventures to lead the future, the NSTC is seeking entrepreneurial projects that align with the government's industrial innovation policy and are based on disruptive innovations and technologies.

1. Applicant Organizations:
2. The proposing organization must be an implementing organization of the NSTC's “Global Research & Industry Alliance."
3. Other organizations funded by the NSTC that meet the requirements of Point 2 of the Operational Guidelines Governing NSTC Grants for Research Projects are invited to apply through their respective Global Research & Industry Alliances.
4. Application Period and Methods:
5. Application Period: August 16, 2024to September 16, 2024.
6. Each Global Research & Industry Alliance should conduct case evaluation and screening of potential applications in accordance with the established preliminary review mechanism and the scoring items listed in the Counseling Recommendation Form. The review should be conducted by a panel of at least three reviewers, including at least two external reviewers. For applications approved and recommended by each Platform, preliminary review comments by reviewers should be provided for each case when submitting the application.
7. The technical content to be used in entrepreneurship by the case must be the research and development results produced by projects funded by the government and belong to the implementing organization in accordance with the provisions of the “Fundamental Science and Technology Act”.
8. A preliminary review by the Platform is required to investigate the intellectual and financial background of the case and to assess whether the technology is an original early stage technology with significant commercialization potential.
9. The project director or co-director of the case must have actually participated in the development or co-development of the relevant R&D results of the application and be one of the inventors of the core technologies of the application.
10. Grant Categories and Funding:
11. Sprout Project: Research results with commercial potential and preliminary business ideas, with the goal of establishing a viable business model and complete a commercialization prototype, with a grant amount of NT$8 million in principle.
12. Top-notch Project: For technologies that have demonstrated good results in the implementation of a Sprout Program or have been evaluated by the Global Research & Industry Alliance as having significant development potential, the application requires an evaluation report from a qualified investor, a suitable candidate for CEO/COO of the future startup company, and documents proving that the application for the use of intellectual property rights for business startup has been submitted to the implementing organization for technical pricing and a list of intellectual property rights, with a grant amount of NT$15 million in principle.
13. Following the approval of the proposal, funds will be allocated in two installments: the first installment will be disbursed upon approval of the project and completion of the requisition requirements; the second installment will be disbursed upon approval of the midterm review meeting.
14. Duration of Program Implementation:

In principle, the funding period for each project will not exceed one year. If the program includes a multi-year development plan, the applicant should provide a description in the proposal for review consideration.

1. Review Method:

The review of applications recommended by the R&D Industrialization Platform consists of of a written preliminary review, commercial training, and meeting review, with experts in the relevant fields being invited to act as reviewers. The review process is illustrated below:

1. Stage 1 Preliminary Written Review

A written review of new applications will be conducted based on the application materials such as the proposal and the Counseling Recommendation Form. Due to the commercialization process and the need to respond to market opportunities, an ongoing TGP Sprout project may apply for renewal and, depending on the current implementation status, may be exempted from the initial review and go directly to the second stage of the meeting review process upon the recommendation of the committee members and the project office. However, the application materials must still be prepared and uploaded to the system and made available to the committee members for review and comment, and the team will be asked to provide a concise response in the final presentation to facilitate the evaluation.

1. Business Development Training and Consulting

Cases that pass the preliminary written review will be arranged for commercial training to evaluate the team in terms of (1) feasibility of the original technology (including patent evaluation), (2) upstream and downstream analysis of the supply chain and commercialization of the product market, (3) entrepreneurial enthusiasm and commitment of the team, integrity of team composition and execution, (4) financing and goal achievement, (5) validation of the product or business model and mature conditions. Key staff of the case should participate in the whole process and the dedicated technical manager of the Global Research & Industry Alliance will be invited to assist in the whole process.

1. Stage 2 Meeting Review

New applications approved in the first stage of preliminary written review and ongoing TGP Sprout projects recommended by the committee and the program office will be subject to the second stage of meeting review.

1. Application Method:
2. Each Global Research & Industry Alliance should attach the relevant application information (including electronic files) and submit the application by official letter to the Council by the deadline (based on the date the letter is issued). Late applications or incomplete applications that are not corrected by the deadline after notification will not be accepted. The following documents should be attached to the application (the relevant information can be downloaded from the Program Platform/Document Download Area):
3. Application List (to be filled out by each research and industrialization platform, with confirmation that the content of the entrepreneurial technology used in the case belongs to the implementing organization in accordance with the provisions of the "Fundamental Science and Technology Act").
4. Pre-proposal with a list of intellectual property required for the start-up (in case of sharing or use of others' IP, the relevant documents must be attached with a signed authorization for the application by the implementing organization).
5. Counseling Recommendation Form (with a list of preliminary reviewers from the university).
6. Those recommended by the Global Research & Industry Alliance for Top-notch projects should provide an evaluation report from a qualified investor, CV of the candidate for CEO/COO of the future startup company, and documents proving that the application for the use of intellectual property rights for business startup has been submitted to the implementing organization for technical pricing and a list of intellectual property rights.
7. Affidavit of Information for Taiwan Germination Program.
8. Project directors are required to fill out the application information on the program platform and upload the required documents before the application deadline. (Platform Website: <https://tgp.stpi.narl.org.tw/login> )

Be sure to download the latest version of the pre-proposal template and do not arbitrarily delete items listed in the template, as any missing information will be considered incomplete.

1. If the application involves ethical review as stipulated in Article 11 of the "Operational Guidelines Governing Grants for Research Projects” by NSTC, please be sure to attach the relevant documents of ethical review as stipulated.
2. Program Management and Audit
3. Each Global Research & Industry Alliance is required to assist in tracking and managing the implementation of Sprout projects and Top-notch projects, and to update the TGP Office with relevant information on a regular basis.
4. During the period of the TGP Program, grantees are not allowed to receive any other government subsidies for commercialization of R&D results of the same nature. The grantee team should cooperate with the Council and the TGP Office to participate in relevant education and training courses and activities, and provide the Office of Research and Entrepreneurship Programs with relevant information for audit and follow-up of the project.
5. The Council will conduct case management and audit based on the review comments, and will conduct mid-term and end-of-term evaluations of the effectiveness of program implementation, and may add additional checkpoints during the implementation period as needed. In case of failure to meet the project checkpoints or related requirements of the project, or in case of serious delays or failure to make improvements after the deadline, the Council will terminate the project or request partial reimbursement of the funds in accordance with the relevant regulations.
6. During and after the TGP program, the team will be required to cooperate with the TGP Office's follow-up and to participate in the presentation of the program's results.
7. After a TGP project has been approved by the Council, the implementing organization should complete the following checklist:
8. Formulate and complete intellectual property management regulations and establish an intellectual property appraisal mechanism.
9. Define the rules and regulations for the allocation and ownership of the results of the TGP project and the distribution of the derivative benefits.
10. All records of project procedures should be kept intact for periodic or occasional evaluation.
11. Implementing organizations and project directors must properly manage project R&D records and results.
12. Call for Application Briefings

TGP program will hold 3 call for application briefings. Please refer to our website for the exact time and other details of each session (the registration system will be closed when the number of applicants is full). Web site: <https://pse.is/65yxnk>

1. Additional Notes:
2. Before submitting the application, each research and industrialization platform should ask the case implementing organization to:
	1. Complete the internal technical pricing flow chart and the announcement of the regulations on innovation spin-offs.
	2. In the case of joint ownership or use of intellectual property by others, one should obtain the agreement on the distribution of interests of all the inventors of the intellectual property rights to be utilized in the case, and the intellectual property agreement with the joint ownership or use of intellectual property by others (including the agreement that the implementing organization will coordinate the handling of the technical pricing, and that the ratio of technical shares of the two parties will be determined within the ratio of the allocation of technical shares to the implementing organization, etc.), and provide the supporting documents, and then proceed with the allocation of the technical shares in accordance with the previously disclosed agreement when the case is matured after receiving the grant.
	3. If the project director has already established a spin-off company or had technology transferred to another company, please clarify the relationship and rights and obligations between the technology being applied for and the company or technology that was transferred.
3. When an approved and funded case creates a spin-off start-up company, the implementing organization should follow the following principles to conduct the technical pricing process:
4. During the review stage before the confirmation of the authorization conditions, the implementing organization should provide the relevant documents of the review and authorization conditions to the TGP Office for examination.
5. Complete the confirmation of the authorization conditions within the prescribed review period (including the scope and conditions of the authorization/re-authorization of intellectual property required for the start-up, the allocation of technical shares of the implementing organization and the team, the future secondment and part-time employment of personnel, and the principle of non-occupation of the board of directors and supervisors of the start-up, etc., as well as complying with the relevant regulations and allocation principles of the Council), and submit the relevant supporting documents to the NSTC for record.
6. The technical stocks allocated to the implementing organization of the TGP team should, in principle, represent 6% of the total number of shares of the start-up company. A maximum of 16% of the total number of shares in the start-up company may be allotted to the implementing organization providing customized consulting services, after the content and planning of the consulting has been presented to and approved by the Council.
7. The implementing organization should cooperate in completing the signing of the "TGP Spin-off Startup Agreement" and submit supporting documents in accordance with the management examination procedures such as the conditions of contract acquisition, funding allocation, or additional checkpoints, etc. within the prescribed review period.
8. The technology used for entrepreneurship in the case should be the result of research and development that can empirically demonstrate the feasibility of its innovative application.
9. If the intellectual property required for start-up is shared or used by others, please attach the relevant documents signed by the implementing organization to authorize the use of the intellectual property for the application of the program. If the application is approved, a copy of the agreement on the distribution of rights and interests of all inventors of the intellectual property to be used in the case, as well as the agreement on the use of the intellectual property by the joint entities or others, must be attached before signing the contract.
10. Cases that are not recommended but recognized by the review committee as having significant original R&D results are encouraged to resubmit their application. The TGP Office will request the R&D industrialization platforms to continue to provide them with a compilation based on the review comments as well as appropriate entrepreneurial resources.
11. Please allocate the application funds reasonably according to the funding items and criteria specified in Point 6 of the "Operational Directions Governing NSTC Grants for the Taiwan Germination Program". Diversion of funds to subsidized projects should be approved in advance by the Council.
12. In general, there is no research equipment fee, except for special cases that have been reviewed and approved on an exceptional basis.
13. Overseas travel expenses: limited to foreign travel expenses related to the business development of the project, and the related foreign travel plan must be included as a project checkpoint.
14. The project director should use the funds in accordance with the purposes for which they have been allocated and shall be responsible and liable for the authenticity of the documents submitted in support of each expenditure and for any inaccuracies.
15. Sprout projects receiving funding must review and submit operational checkpoints and progress on operational planning during the mid-term review period, and must be reviewed and approved before the second installment is approved for funding.
16. Top-notch projects receiving funding are required to hire a CEO or COO with relevant industry management experience within 3 months, sign the co-founder agreement, provide relevant documents to the Program Office for review, and submit a business plan and fundraising plan during the midterm review of the project, with the performance of the CEO or COO as a key point of the review. Funding for the second installment will be approved upon successful completion of the mid-term review.
17. By applying for the program, you agree that the basic information and project summary provided by the project director on the TGP Platform may be used by the Council for verification purposes.
18. For the number of approved NSTC projects, please refer to the "NSTC Subsidy for Single Project Director" for the approval criteria for the number of projects.
19. Matters not covered herein or the principles of project funding will be handled in accordance with the "Operational Guidelines Governing Grants for Research Projects by NSTC," the "Principles for the Administration of Research Project Grants," and other relevant regulations.
20. The Council reserves the right to adjust the content of the solicitation notice.
21. The results of the project review are not appealable.
22. Contact Information:

TGP Office, Department of Academia-Industry Collaboration and Science Park Affairs, NSTC

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