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

1. To promote Technology Driven Innovations (TDI) locally.
2. To promote Market Driven Innovation (MDI) locally to meet current and emerging costumer needs.
3. To promote regionally and globally competitive innovations
4. To contribute to enhance socio-economic development and welfare of people.

Corporate Plan Reference

Goal 2: To be the leader in facilitating technology development and transfer and to emerge as the eminent catalyst for RD&I commercialization.
Objective 2.1: To support technology development through RD&I.

PROGRAMME CONCEPT

The scheme focusses 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.

PROGRAMME:
Technology Grant Scheme - "Support for Technology Development (Tech- D)"

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

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
- Techno-economic feasibility.
- Capability & capacity to conduct the project.
- Contribution to SME development is given preference
- Market potential
- Value addition
- Sustainability (technology life cycle)
- Applications of high-end technologies is encouraged.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

General

- Grant applications are called twice a year.
- Applications must be made on the specific grant application form (TD/Tech-D/D/F/SS, TD/Tech-D/D/F/NSS or TD/TECH-D/D/F/I) based on the category.
- Applicants should follow the instructions given in the application form as well as Guidelines for Applicants attached to the application form.
- A complete set of application in three copies should be submitted by the applicant.
- A soft copy of the application in pdf form should be submitted/e-mailed to td@nsf.ac.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.

	Issue No:01 Date: 08/11/2013
TD/TECH-D/D/PB **Programme Brief**	Revision No.: 03 (02/07/2015)
	Pages: 04

PROGRAMME:
Technology Grant Scheme - "Support for Technology Development (Tech- D)"

- 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.

Funds

Project proposals are not fully funded for applicants under "Non-state sector' and 'Individual" categories. The NSF expects the applicants under these categories to bear part funding. The NSF will bear 50% - 70% of the fund requirement under each vote and for equipment, 50% - 70% of the cost of each equipment item. The applicants will have to bear the balance 50% - 30%.

Hiring of personnel (except Technical Assistants (TAs) and Labourers (L) at NSF approved rates), stipend, overhead expenses etc. will not be covered by the NSF for "Non-state sector' and 'Individual" categories. Research Students' allowances are covered for State Sector applicants.

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 up gradation in the existing products/processes.
- Scaling up of products or processes for commercialization.
- 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).

	Issue No:01 Date: 08/11/2013
TD/TECH-D/D/PB **Programme Brief**	Revision No.: 03 (02/07/2015)
	Pages: 04

PROGRAMME:
Technology Grant Scheme ~ "Support for Technology Development (Tech~ D)"

OUTPUTS

- Prototypes which have commercial potential.
- New/ improved or advanced technologies.
- New products processes and services.
- Increased returns 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.
- Individuals not affiliated to an organization. (Individual category).

POSSIBLE COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS

Non-state and state sector organizations.

Other initiatives with which the programme will link:

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

REMARKS

Prepared by :

Dr Thamara F. Dias/ Head Technology 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.