

6.0 Application procedure

Under this scheme, applications can be submitted any time during the year. Awards will be made on the merits of the proposal on a first come, first serve basis.

A soft copy version of the proposal should be submitted to the MRC by email (mrc@intnet.mu), together with one original hard copy version.

A consortium, through the Mauritian Company is allowed to submit **not more than two (2)** applications for funding considerations.

7.0 Merit review

Responsive proposals will be competitively evaluated in a process of merit review by the Research and Development Working Group (RDWG). The RDWG may select a panel of experts in relevant fields to evaluate projects.

In all instances, proposals will be handled on a confidential basis and care taken to avoid conflicts of interest. The RDWG will be responsible for the final evaluation and decision taking.

RDWG is under no obligation to fund any proposal or any number of specific proposals on a given topic.

8.0 Proprietary information, rights in data and inventions

The applicants/ consortia retain rights in technical data, information, know-how, including software developed under this grant. IPR identified and developed as a result of funding provided will belong to the applicants/ consortia.

Sharing of IPR among the collaborating partners will be subject to consortium agreements that most closely meet their requirements.

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



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A National Innovation Initiative

Research and Innovation Bridges



1.0 Introduction

The Research and Development Working Group (RDWG), co-chaired by the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) and Business Mauritius (BM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation (MoTCI), invites collaborative applications from **consortia** of company(ies), research organisation/academic institution from Mauritius and Partner Countries (each consortium containing participants from two or more countries), for innovative, collaborative research and development projects with commercial potential.

2.0 Aim

This scheme aims to improve the competitiveness of Mauritius through bilateral and multilateral collaborative research and innovation partnerships between Researchers and Industry of the two or more countries.

3.0 Description

The 'Research and Innovation Bridges' expands the Research/Industry Partnership to establish sustainable joint venture opportunities for the Mauritian companies through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The RDWG encourages synergism in the proposed research and innovation project where a multi-disciplinary team approach is required. The Research and Innovation Bridge aims to combine the strength of all participating entities by coupling entrepreneurial skills to high technology research efforts.

The ultimate objective of the project will be to develop innovative products, processes, and/or techniques for commercial competitiveness and sustainability of enterprises.

3.1 Emphasis

Project proposals will be accepted in the areas of industry-oriented research that will enhance socioeconomic benefits. Proposals will have to be in line with the list of priority areas identified and communicated by the RDWG. Proposals must contain innovative concepts with a view to sharpening the competitive edge in line with the agreed principles of sustainable development.

This scheme emphasizes on **Commercial Application** of innovative concept(s)/project(s) emanating within the proposed bilateral/multilateral framework. This scheme will not support basic research.

The objective is to pursue the commercial application of any new/ improved products, processes, and/or techniques developed to stimulate innovation and business growth.

A consortium, through the Mauritian Company, may submit a proposal for concept refinement leading to Commercial Application.

4.0 Funding and project duration

Under this scheme, an approved project may be awarded a matching grant of up to **Rs 10M** for a project duration not exceeding 24 months.

The Consortium will have to contribute to the project in cash and/or in kind. A minimum financial (Cash) contribution of 40% of the matching grant being contributed by the MRC should be made by the consortium.

The remaining of the matching grant should be reflected in the "In kind" contribution.

5.0 Eligibility

Under this scheme, a Mauritian Company (Small, Medium, Large) wishing to undertake a project must partner with any of the below:

- A Company (Small, Medium, Large) from any of the partner countries
- A public/private Research/Academic Organisation from any of the partner countries

Besides the above, any public/ private organizations either local or overseas could also form part of the consortium.

The consortium could be represented by Co-Project Leaders, one from each country.

The application should also meet the following criteria for eligibility:

- Relevance to the objective of the scheme
- Priorities of the Call for Proposals
- Mutually relevant to the needs of the Private Sector in Mauritius and Partner Country(s)
- Particular added-value elements
- Capacity to innovate
- Capacity Building
- Industrial research and development

No awards will be made to applicants/ consortia who are already recipient of full project funding from other agencies for the same or any similar project.