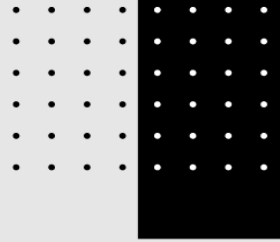


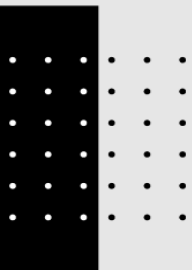


Mauritius Research and
Innovation Council



Innovation Boost Grant

Guidelines to Applicants



 www.mric.mu/apply 

MRIC/CFP-IBG2/001

Issue 2 Rev 0

1. Background

“Les Assises de la Recherche et de L’Innovation 2022” (ARI 2022) was a platform that initiated a national dialogue and provided the conducive framework for policy revamping while concurrently providing insights on emerging and frontier innovations.

The aim of ARI 2022 was to set the foundations for the development of a National Masterplan / Roadmap for Research and Innovation. The objectives are more specifically outlined as follows:

- Development of a National Innovation Strategy;
- Provision of novel insights for emerging sectors and technologies;
- Identification and introduction of enhanced strategies to drive leadership in emerging sectors and technologies;
- Elimination of barriers for innovation;
- Coordination of disparate policies towards research, technology commercialization, investments, education, tax, trade, IP, government procurement, and regulatory policies in an integrated fashion that drives economic growth; and
- Charting of incentives to foster sustainable innovation.

Mauritius Research and Innovation Council

Following this national consultative exercise, a total of 372 projects were identified, spread across numerous actions, and spanned through the six Thematic Areas, RodInov and the Strategic Plan of the Council. These projects are detailed in the National Roadmap for Research and Innovation.

Hence, this Call aims at addressing prioritised short-term and medium-term projects under the National Roadmap for Research and Innovation through the Innovation Boost Grant.

2. Aim and Objectives

This Call for Proposals for the ‘Innovation Boost Grant’ is aimed at supporting short-term and medium-term innovative projects in specific thematic areas. The ultimate objective of any proposed project should be the development or improvement of products, processes or techniques that will benefit the economy or provide potential solutions to the identified national challenges.

3. Thematic Areas and Projects

The projects, identified under thematic areas in the National Roadmap for Research and Innovation, that will be considered for funding under this Call are as follows:

Financial Innovation

1. Market Aggregators (Short-term)
2. Cybersecurity (Short-term)
3. Regulation Technology (RegTech) (Medium-term)

Blue and Green Innovation

1. Blockchain food traceability (Short-term)
2. Biotechnological tools to breed crops with a longer shelf life (Short-term)
3. Manufacturing of biodegradable and compostable blue and green products (Medium-term)

Travel, Tourism and Entertainment Innovation

1. Developing social conscience and responsible citizens: research on innovative international best practices (Short-term)
2. Turnover and turnaway intention of employees and perceptions of customers and hotel employees towards introduction of service robots in the tourism industry (Short-term)
3. Digital mapping of natural heritage sites and other tourist attraction sites (Medium-term)

Health & Wellness Innovation

1. Ayurvedic/Traditional Medicine (Short-term)
2. Use of digital technologies in the Health and Wellness Sector (Short-term)
3. Promoting a nutraceutical industry (Medium-term)

Social and Grassroots Innovation

1. Capacity Building/Skills Development with a particular attention to empowering grassroots communities and civil society as pillars of social innovation (both short-term and medium-term)

IT, Emerging and Enabling Technologies Innovation

1. Space data applications (Short-term)
2. Edge computing in IoT (Short-term)
3. Encouraging startup development in programming new MedicalTech and SpaceTech (Short-term)

Rodrigues Innovation (RodInov)¹

1. Rodrigues Enhancing food security (Short-term)
2. Rodrigues Sustainable Ocean and marine resource management (Short-term)
3. Rodrigues Health and Wellness/Tourism Innovation (Medium-term)

Applicants are encouraged to consult the National Roadmap on Research and Innovation (www.mric.mu/publications) for more details pertaining to each project.

Projects submitted for funding under this Call are encouraged to leverage on existing infrastructure, capabilities, and networks with local/international partners.

4. Deadline

- The **Application Deadline** is **Monday 16th October 2023 by latest 15h00.** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- The online application form is available at <http://www.mric.mu/apply>.
- All queries should be sent to the MRIC by email on sism@mric.mu.

5. Eligibility

5.1 The main applicant must be one of the following:

- i. A Company (including MSMEs, large enterprises) registered for at least one year with the Registrar of Companies in the Republic of Mauritius.

¹ For Rodrigues Innovation (RodInov), eligibility is restricted to entities operating in Rodrigues.

- ii. An Organisation/Association including Non-Governmental Organisations registered with the Registrar of Associations in the Republic of Mauritius for at least one year.
- iii. An Academic Institution (recognised/accredited tertiary education institutions or Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions) registered with the Higher Education Commission for at least one year.
- iv. A Public/Private Research Institution in the Republic of Mauritius in existence for at least one year.
- v. A Government Institution or Parastatal Body.

The main applicant is encouraged to collaborate with local or international institutions/companies/organisations. For some thematic areas, applicants may consider specific collaborators which have been proposed in the National Roadmap for Research and Innovation.

5.2 The Project Leader must be employed by the institution/company/organisation submitting the application. The individual who is proposed as the Project Leader at the time of the submission of the application is expected to be the Project Leader for implementation of the project.

The Project Leader must be a Mauritian national/resident or holder of a Mauritian work permit covering at least the period during which the proposed project will be undertaken.

6. Funding opportunity

The maximum amount that may be awarded for an approved project is

- MUR 1 million over a maximum period of 12 months for a **short-term project**
- MUR 2 million over a maximum period of 24 months for a **medium-term project**

While this is a 100% grant to be awarded for approved projects, applicants are advised to demonstrate their contribution to the project. The applicant's contribution can be in-cash and/or in-kind.

Applicants are strongly advised to consult the Guide on Allowable and Non-Allowable Expenses specific to this Call (<http://www.mric.mu/apply>).

7. Terms, Conditions and Process

The terms, conditions, and process applicable to this Call are detailed in the document: MRIC Grants – Terms, Conditions and Process (<http://www.mric.mu/apply>).

