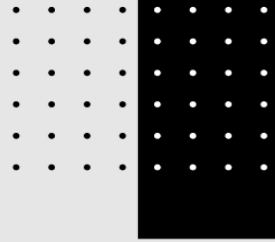


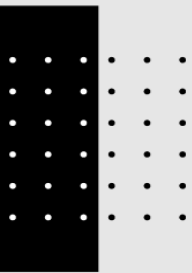


Mauritius Research and
Innovation Council



Innovation Boost Grant

Guidelines to Applicants



 www.mric.mu/apply 

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;
- Charting of incentives to foster sustainable innovation

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Following this national consultative exercise, a total of 372 projects was identified, spread across numerous actions and spanned through the 6 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 projects under the National Roadmap for Research and Innovation through the Innovation Boost Grant.

2. Aim and Objectives

The Call for Proposals for the Innovation Boost Grant is aimed at supporting short-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. Application Programming Interface (API) providers
2. Payment Infrastructure
3. Telematics Insurance

Blue and Green Innovation

1. Use of IoT to monitor livestock
2. Development of smart greenhouse horticulture structures ideal for the Mauritian tropical climate
3. Improved post-harvest techniques and development of intelligent storage facilities

Travel, Tourism and Entertainment Innovation

1. Development of a digital app for tourist nature-based activities
2. Understanding the needs, attitudes, and behaviours of tourists in the aftermath of Covid19
3. Investigating the skills gap between tourism/hospitality graduates and industry expectations

Health & Wellness Innovation

1. Setting up of a Sports & Nutrition Innovation Centre
2. Valorisation of Indigenous plants in the Health & Wellness sector
3. Application of emerging technologies in the Health & Wellness Sector

Social and Grassroots Innovation

1. Social Innovation Lab
2. Online Repository of S&G practitioners with up-to-date sector specific S&G solutions/best practices to facilitate scouting and application
3. Regular Research and Innovation Grant Development Course

IT and Emerging Technologies Innovation

1. Immersive Digital Adventure using Metaverse to improve on user experience
2. Inciting and incentivising the younger Mauritian generation to latest technologies by adopting the learning by doing methodology
3. Create an online platform dedicated to providing the public with all the necessary resources such as free online courses or the link to tutorials

Rodrigues Innovation (RodInov)¹

1. Rodrigues Teenage Pregnancy Project
2. Rodrigues Blue School Project
3. Rodrigues Centre for Marine and Coastal Resources Management

Applicants are encouraged to consult the National Roadmap on Research and Innovation (www.mric.mu) 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.

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4. Deadline

- The **Application Deadline** is **Friday 28th April 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 of time 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 period of maximum 12 months.

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 (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 (www.mric.mu/apply).

