

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NRF PROOF-OF-CONCEPT (POC) GRANT SCHEME**

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**Q1. How many POC grants can a researcher have at any one time?**

A. There is no limit to the number of POC grants a researcher can hold at any one point as long as the proposal satisfies the panel of experts that it is truly at the technology readiness level that fits the POC grant scheme.

**Q2. What would be the next step for a POC grant awardee upon successful completion of the project? Can the researcher apply for another POC grant as a follow-on grant to the earlier POC grant?**

A. The PI of a POC grant should actively seek companies for partnership in the commercialization of the invention once the prototype or product has proven to be successful. NRF expects the research to progress to the next stage on the commercialization path once the POC grant is completed.

It would be counter productive to have multiple POC grants on a single technology idea.

**Q3. Can students from ITE apply for the NRF POC grant?**

A. Students from ITE are encouraged to apply for POC grants with their ideas that have a strong case for commercialization.

**Q4. Will NRF increase the funding under the POC Scheme in future?**

A: The funding quantum for each POC project is S\$250,000 over 12 months. We will review the scheme in future, and this quantum could be adjusted if necessary. Overall, the POC scheme that NRF administers has a budget of S\$50 million over 5 years. SPRING administers a similar POC scheme for the SMEs called Technology Enterprise Commercialisation Scheme (TECS), and the budget is S\$25 million over 5 years.

**Q5. What are the expected outcomes of the POC proposals?**

A: We expect to see more technology from the IHLs being commercialized following the completion of the POC projects. This may be in the form of spin-off companies or licensing deals.

**Q6. Can the research teams involve overseas collaborators?**

A: Yes. But the funds will only go towards work done in Singapore.

**Q7. What happens if the amount utilized for a project exceeds S\$250,000? Would the team be given more funds to continue their work?**

A: The awards are capped at S\$250,000. They are expected to plan their budget within this cap.