

## NRF COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The National Research Foundation Competitive Research Programme (CRP) Funding Scheme aims to encourage high-impact research and enhance intellectual and human capital development for R&D.

2. The CRP scheme aims to fund a broad base of research ideas at the programme level through a competitive bottom-up approach. Each programme may be made up of several related projects sharing a common unifying theme. This will allow a coordinated, integrated and sustained way of supporting high-impact interdisciplinary research because a larger budget can be allocated to fund a number of smaller related projects that address a given problem. The tight linkage among the projects in a programme will also facilitate the commercialisation of research results.

3. In addition, the CRP scheme provides a way to identify future strategic research areas. It will therefore complement the top-down manner in which the present three strategic research programmes have been identified.

### Eligibility

4. The CRP is open to all areas of science and technology. Multi-disciplinary research is strongly encouraged as is partnership between industry and academia.

### Grant

5. The CRP scheme offers funding support of up to S\$10 million per programme over three to five years. Two grant calls are expected to be made yearly. Supported programmes from public sector organisations will be fully funded, while programmes from private sector organisations will be given partial funding. NRF has allocated S\$100 million for the CRP scheme for 2 grant calls in the period of 1 June 2010- 31 May 2011, and expects to grant up to S\$50 million worth of programmes for each call.

### Selection Process

6. Interested applicants need to submit a **White Paper** of up to five pages describing their research proposal and objectives as well as expected outcomes by 5 August 2010. NRF will shortlist promising White Papers to be developed into **Full Proposals**, which will be put through an international peer review process. The Evaluation Panel will select the final proposals for funding support. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria of research excellence, manpower development potential, economic impact and industry involvement.

### Assessment

7. The CRP proposals will be assessed by an eminent Evaluation Panel chaired by Dr Rita R. Colwell, a member of NRF's Scientific Advisory Board and a former Director of the US National Science Foundation.

### Application

8. Interested applicants should log onto NRF's Research Portal – the Research, Innovation and Technology Administration system or RITA at <https://rita.nrf.gov.sg> to submit their White Papers.