Funding Opportunity Title

2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PCIEERD STARTUP GRANT FUND PROGRAM (Cycle 2)

Key information

Type of funding	Grant
Funding Agency	DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology (DOST-PCIEERD)
Add link to start the application	DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS): http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph

Timeline

Event	Date	Time
Opening date	July 12, 2023	8:00 A.M.
Closing date	July 31, 2023	5:00 P.M.
Evaluation Period	Aug 1 to Sept 14, 2023 (30 Working Days)	
Start of projects	October 2023	

Overview

The Innovative Startup Act (ISA) or the Republic Act (RA) No. 11337 is an act providing benefits and programs to strengthen, promote and develop the Philippine Startup Ecosystem. Through this Act, the State shall provide incentives and remove constraints aimed at encouraging the establishment and operation of innovative new businesses, businesses crucial to their growth and expansion, and to strengthen, promote, and develop an ecosystem of businesses and government and nongovernment institutions that foster an innovative entrepreneurial culture in the Philippines. This includes the creation of the Philippine Startup Development Program which shall be composed of programs, benefits, and incentives for startups and startup enablers promulgated through the respective mandates of national government agencies, and through

additional mandates provided by the provisions of RA 11337. Rule 2. Sec 1.(i) in the Implementing Rules and Guidelines of RA 11337 defines startup as "any person or entity registered in the Philippines which aims to
develop an innovative product, process, or business model'.

In line with this, the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) has launched the Startup Grant Fund (SGF) Program in 2021 to support technology-based startup in translating their early stage technologies into market ready products. After four (4) cycles with a total of thirty seven (37) startups funded, the PCIEERD is announcing the **2023 Call for Proposals for the Startup Grant Fund Program.**

The fund assistance being requested should aim to:

- Overcome R&D roadblocks
- Strengthen Intellectual Property
- Establish initial market traction
- Refine business model
- Prepare Business Continuity Plan

Opportunity summary

The Full-Blown Proposal should fall within the following categories to qualify as a research and development project:

- **Prototype to a Market-ready Product** - this shall include programs/projects that provide support on developing the minimum viable product for startups and startup teams. The output of this assistance shall be marketable and validated products or services. Startups with early stage prototypes that require assistance in product improvement, market testing, data gathering, market validation, business modeling, IP protection and product certification are also welcome to apply.

The PCIEERD shall provide funding support to a startup **up to Php 5M** for its research and development (R&D) activities <u>for a maximum of 18 months (1.5 years) project duration.</u>

Who can apply

This call for proposal is open to qualified startups especially the startups located in any of the DOST-supported Technology Business Incubators. The startup is qualified if:
- Legally registered with the DTI or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of seven (7) years provided that the business model has not been established.
- Have an early stage prototype or proof of concept for the product or service. Ideas or mere concepts are not allowed;
  - ○ **Proof of concept** - is evidence obtained from a pilot project, which is executed to demonstrate that a product idea, business plan, or project

plan is feasible.
- Has demonstrated capability to conduct R&D and differentiate research from their regular business operations; provided, that ownership and nationality requirements under the Philippine Constitution and pertinent laws, including RA No. 10055 or the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009, are complied with;
- Has legal personality to issue an Official Receipt for the receipt of grants-in-aid;

During the evaluation process, the following requirements should be submitted:

- Authenticated copy of DTI Registration, for Sole Proprietorship; or, authenticated copies of SEC-registered Articles of Incorporation and the latest General Information Sheet; authenticated copy of Business Permit; and authenticated copy of Licenses;

- Latest copies of Income Tax Returns, Audited Financial Statements, and other financial reports;

- Disclosure of other businesses, if any;

- Sworn Affidavits from all of the startup owners/ incorporators/ stockholders/ organizers/ partners, directors and/ or officers that they are not agents of or related by consanguinity or affinity up to the fourth civil degree to any DOST officer authorized to process and/or approve the grant and release of funds.

What we're looking for

The proposals should be geared towards translating early-stage technologies into market ready solutions under the following areas of concern:
- **Sustainable Industries** - Technologies intended to fill-in the gaps in the value chain of critically important industries to increase productivity, reduce costs and facilitate production and distribution of goods in the next normal. This also includes solutions that enable processes, products, and services that reduce negative environmental impacts.
- **Learning/Education** - Technologies in support to the improvement of learning of students, teaching delivery of teachers, and to the advancement of the educational system in schools and universities
- **Solutions for the Creative Industries** - Tech support for content development, infusion/ enhancement of new digital tools and technologies, marketing and customer engagement activities for the creative sector
- **Industry Data Driven Solutions** - Technologies that will enable strategic decisions based on data analysis and interpretation. A data-driven approach enables companies to examine and organize their data with the goal of better serving their customers and consumers and improve their productivity. These solutions utilize advanced technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning, Internet of Things (IoT), among others.

- **Climate Change Technologies** - Technologies that will address climate change and can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes but is not limited to renewable energies such as wind energy, solar power and hydropower, tools like climate management and accounting platforms for companies to accurately measure their carbon footprint and advance existing technologies' capabilities in renewables and weather forecasting.
- **Productivity Enhancement Tools** - Solutions that are designed to simplify tasks, streamline workflow, and enhance productivity. They are the means of refining and upgrading the qualitative as well as the quantitative aspect of any task, workforce, or even machinery to boost the current productivity of an individual or machinery for better results in less time.

How to apply

Step 1: Prepare a Capsule Proposal containing the following:

1. Title of the proposed project
2. Duration of the proposed project
3. Description of the startup and the founders
4. Description of the product and value proposition
5. Background of the startup and the development of the technology (evolution of the startup, first prototype, first test, first sale)
6. Description of the target market and size
7. Competitive advantage analysis using a comparative advantage table
8. IP status and protection
9. Objective and scope of the proposed research
10. Methodology and expected outputs
11. Work plan or Gantt Chart of activities
12. Curriculum vitae of the project leader
13. Line-Item-Budget

Step 2: Submit a Capsule Proposal in word format (editable) following also the above format to the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) through Ms. Russell M. Pili or Engr. Edward Paul H. Apigo via email at rmpili@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph or ehapigo@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph starting July 12 - 31, 2023.

Step 3: Attend the following preparatory activities:
- Capsule Proposal Submission and One-on-one Review - July 12 - 21, 2023
- Proposal Writeshop Conference - July 21, 2023

Step 4: Submit the Full-Blown Proposal to the **DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS)** through this link**:** http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph starting July 12 until July 31, 2023.

When submitting your application, please follow these steps:
1. Register and create an account in the DPMIS

2. Log in to your DPMIS account
2. Select Type of Proposal: PCIEERD GIA Program/Project (2023 Funding)
3. Select Classification: New Proposal

The following will automatically be disapproved:
1) **Proposals from organizations that are not qualified to submit during this Call (ex. Academe, Government Agencies, Startup Enablers, etc.);**
2) **Proposals outside the priority areas of the Call (ex. Supply Chain and Logistics, Fintech, Agriculture and Health related technologies, etc.)**
3) **Proposals with solutions that are duplications of previously funded startups with no clear competitive advantage/s.**
4) **Proposals submitted to any other call route/Council/s.**
5) **Proposals not submitted through DPMIS.**
6) **Proposals from startups that are not yet DTI/SEC registered for a minimum of one (1) year and maximum of seven (7) years**
7) **Proposals with no proof of concept (idea stage)**
8) **Proposals that exceed the budget limit**

Documents Required

As a summary, your application should include the following documents.
1) DOST Proposal Form
2) Supplementary Files
   Workplan
   Endorsement of Head of Agency
   Gender and Development (GAD) Score Sheet
   Curriculum Vitae of the Project Leader

No additional attachments are permitted.

How we will assess your application

A. Review and Selection Process

Proposals shall be evaluated according to a set of criteria for each level of evaluation: Division Level, PCIEERD Management Team (PMT) level, Technical Panel (TP) level, Governing Council (GC) level, and the DOST Executive Committee (EXECOM) level (for proposals for DOST GIA funding) as shown below. Applicants should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal submission.

The project proposal shall be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Workability/ Technical Viability
   Technical soundness of the technology based on existing scientific and technological principles

2. Maturity of the technology
   Advanced features of the technology over existing product or process with the same functions and/or contribution to the advancement of science and technology

3. Social and Environmental Impacts
   Employment generation from the technology
   No potentially irreversible immediate and long-term hazards/ consequences on the environment as well as in health and safety

4. Commercial Viability
   Competitiveness of the technology over existing product or process in the market
   Market potential of the technology

5. Management Capability
   Technical and managerial capacity of the proponent demonstrates a competent and experienced leadership
   Availability of competent and reliable workforce and facilities
   Manageable Timeframe

Contact

DOST-PCIEERD Project Managers are available to provide appropriate assistance to potential applicants interested in competing for this Call for Proposals. This may include assistance to potential applicants in determining eligibility of the applicant or the applicant's proposed project for funding, questions about administrative issues relating to the submission of a proposal, and clarifications on the announcement.

Contacts:
Research Information and Technology Transfer Division (RITTD)
Ms. Russell M. Pili - rmpili@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph
Engr. Edward Paul Apigo - ehapigo@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph

Additional information

PCIEERD Eligibility Criteria Checklist
PCIEERD Technical Panel (TP) Evaluation Criteria/Scoresheet
PCIEERD Management Team (PMT) Evaluation Criteria/Scoresheet
PCIEERD Governing Council (GC) Criteria/Scoresheet

List any supporting documents you will provide

References for PCIEERD-supported projects:
http://projects.pcieerd.dost.gov.ph/
https://pcieerd.dost.gov.ph/library/annual-reports
https://pcieerd.dost.gov.ph/supported-programs-projects/supported-programs-and-projects/on-going-projects
https://pcieerd.dost.gov.ph/supported-programs-projects/supported-programs-and-projects/completed-projects

List any related content links

AO 011 series of 2020 Revised Guidelines for the [Grants-in-aid Program of the Department of Science and Technology and its Agencies](#)

DOST A.O. 005 s. of 2021 [Guidelines for the DOST Startup Grant Fund Program](#)