Stable and Sustainable R&D Funding

**Reactivating & Rebuilding of Existing Labs Initiative**

**Project-level Funding**

**Proposal Template**

**Reactivating & Rebuilding of Existing Labs Initiative**

# About the initiative:

In the center of knowledge, innovation, and discovery, the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is embarking on an ambitious journey of transformation. RDIA believes in the boundless potential of the nation and are committed to fostering a strong scientific and research ecosystem underpinning our nation’s growth and international competitiveness. As part of this pursuit, RDIA is launching an initiative of paramount importance: “The reactivation and rebuilding of existing labs”. Aimed at further propelling the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) ecosystem, this initiative is in alignment with the national aspirations and priorities of Saudi Arabia. RDIA perceives Saudi research labs and centers not just as physical spaces, but as the epicenters of discovery, innovation, and excellence - places where ideas take shape, solutions are crafted, and the future is continuously being mapped.

Proposals submitted from research labs and centers across the kingdom under this initiative should have the potential to lead to future innovation and development activities. Throughout the initiative, RDIA is seeking to support facilities that will realize the following initiative’s strategic objectives:

* Identification and procurement of state-of-the-art laboratory equipment to ensure our facilities are at the forefront of scientific and technological advancements.
* Facility enhancement by undertaking necessary maintenance and upgrading measures to revamp and modernize existing research lab facilities, to make them cutting-edge spaces conducive to world-class research.
* Capacity building by attracting, hiring, and training of highly skilled researchers and research students, with a clear focus on expanding and enhancing the research capabilities and capacities.
* Ensuring and strengthening the competitive positioning of our research facilities at both local and global levels in the RDI ecosystem, by investing in our infrastructure, people, and processes.
* Create a driving force that supports the kingdom's ambitious journey towards a knowledge-based economy and a cultural beacon of scientific discoverability.

# Budget and Term:

Grant cap SAR 1.5m and 4m for researchers and institutions for a duration of 1 years, respectively.

# Document Format:

* **Research Narrative page limits**: 15 pages maximum. Excluding all graphs, images, tables, management plan, Gantt chart, and references. Save as PDF before uploading to the portal.
* **Fonts and font size**: Arial, Courier New or Palatino: 10 points or larger; Times New Roman, Calibri: 11 points or larger.
* **Margins:** At least 1.5cm on all sides. Single line space or larger.
* **Footer**: Include proposal title (smaller font size can be used) and page number (outside right corner)
* **References**: Use numbered referencing styles which is characterized by references indicated in-text by superscript numbers, or numbers in brackets.

**SECTION 1: Title:**

* The title of the proposal should accurately reflect the research facility (i.e. research lab/center) being pursued.

**SECTION 2: Executive Summary:**

* + Overview of the proposal’s objectives.
  + Summary of the impact it will have on the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) ecosystem.

**SECTION 3: Primary Applicant's Information:**

* + Full name.
  + Job title.
  + Organization.
  + Contact information (e-mail, phone number).

**SECTION 4: Research Lab/Center Information:**

* + Facility name (name of the lab or center).
  + Organization name (University, hospital, etc.).
  + Facility contacts information (e-mail, phone number).
  + Infrastructure Location:
    - Specify the location of the research facility (e.g., Department, Institute, etc.).

**SECTION 5: Facility relevance to RDIA’s Focus Areas (0.5 page max, weight 5%):**

Select one of the RDI national aspiration and priorities and explain its relevance to your facility:

* Health & Wellness.
* Sustainability and Essential Needs.
* Energy and Industrials.
* Economies of the Future.

**SECTION 6: Background and Rational (1 page max, weight 15%):**

* + Current state of research labs.
  + Why the labs need to be reactivated and rebuilt.
  + Evidence to support the need for the initiative.
  + Detailed description of the grant request should provide information that reviewers will need to evaluate the justification of need for the grant.

**SECTION 7: Research Center/Lab Objectives:**

* + Clearly state the facility objectives in general and for this initiative.

**SECTION 8: Impact and Expected Outcomes (2-3 pages max, weight 20%):**

Explain how the proposed funding would drive growth and impact:

* Illustrate the alignment of the requested grant with the institution's broader strategy.
* Detail how the grant will help with industrial ties and collaboration.
* Explain how RDIA reactivating and rebuilding existing lab grant might attract external funding to the research lab/center.
* Discuss the lab/center potential in attracting top-tier researchers.
* Describe the grant’s role in advancing broader research strategy.
* State how this grant will help the facility to impact the overall RDI ecosystem and the kingdom’s economy.
  + Outcomes anticipated.

**SECTION 9: Program Activity Details (2-3 pages max, weight 20%):**

* + Equipment needs.
  + Existing facility maintenance/upgrades.
  + Recruitment and training plans for researchers and research students.
  + Strategies to ensure competitiveness at both the local and global level of the RDI ecosystem.
  + Provide a thorough explanation for every element in the proposal. Describe each grant item requested and explain the need for new or upgraded equipment. Ensure solid reasoning is given for the grant's demand, considering current facilities.
  + Highlight how securing the grant will enhance and advance the ongoing research program.
  + Describe the users and outline how this grant will benefit and elevate research endeavors for the primary research center/lab, as well as associated departments, research entities.
  + Emphasize the infrastructure's wide-ranging usage potential throughout KSA in your description of primary users.

**SECTION 10: Budget and Project Timeline (2 pages max, weight 20%):**

* + Detailed projected expenses accounting for all parts of the initiative including equipment purchasing, facility upgrades, and staffing.
  + Proposed timeline for the initiatives including initiation, major milestones, and expected completion time.

**SECTION 11: Key Stakeholders and Partnerships:**

* + Involved organizations or individuals, and their roles.
  + Potential partnerships that could support the initiative.

**SECTION 12: Monitoring and Evaluation (1 page max, weight 5%):**

* + How the initiative's progress and success will be tracked, monitored, and measured.

**SECTION 13: Sustainability (2 pages max, weight 10%):**

* + Strategy for making the renovated and upgraded labs sustainable.
  + Long term perspective for labs' utilization.
  + Research facilities are anticipated to possess the capabilities and resources to upkeep items funded by this grant, which should be explicitly outlined in the proposal. When relevant, applicants should also address the following:
    - Present a feasible financial strategy for the enduring operation and upkeep of the research lab/center.
    - Specify the experts or technicians responsible for the proficient usage of the proposed equipment.
    - Highlight the competence of key users or designated staff in handling the infrastructure, overseeing related research, and analyzing research outcomes.
    - Detail training protocols for new staff/researchers.
    - Discuss the potential benefits of resource sharing and how the grant would optimize existing facilities, estimating the number of researchers who'd benefit.

**SECTION 14: Applicant's Profile and Relevant Experience (1.5 pages max, weight 5%):**

- Previous experience in operating, managing, or upgrading research labs.

- Key research initiatives taken in the past.