



Saudi Applied Research & Technology Initiative

Project-level Funding

Technology Breakthrough Grant (TBG)

Call For Proposal

Stable and Sustainable R&D Funding

Saudi Applied Research & Technology (SART) Initiative for Project-level Funding

Technology Breakthrough Grant (TBG)

About Saudi Applied Research & Technology Initiative

The Saudi Applied Research and Technology (SART) is a project-level funding offered by the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA). The initiative supports applied science and technology development research in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) with a focus on the research, development, and innovation (RDI) of national aspirations and priorities. This initiative enables KSA researchers to convert their scientific activities and ideas from the discovery stage to the development stage with the possibility of market testing and commercialization. Research institutions and researchers within the Kingdom are encouraged to partner with private, public, or not-for-profit organizations while collaborating with other universities. This important opportunity allows for the development of new technology and strengthening of research links and collaborations between different institutions. In addition, the initiative supports the creation of economic, social, and environmental benefits while contributing to the research ecosystem continuum.

Goals and Objectives

The Technology Breakthrough Grant (TBG) is dedicated to supporting and empowering researchers across the Kingdom. As a competitive funding track under SART, **the grant awards funds of up to SAR 20,000,000 over a period of 5 years**. Proposals submitted under the SART initiative, specifically in the TBG, should propose projects in the advanced stages of applied research (i.e., prototyping and minimum viable products) that have the potential to lead to novel techniques and technological developments in cutting-edge science. In this grant, researchers are required to quantify and apply the knowledge accumulated from applied science (i.e., publications, patents, concepts, innovative ideas, feasibility analysis, and proof of concept) to solve current problems at the national or global level. Researchers will drive research and development activities within the KSA by promoting scientific excellence and innovation in applied research, which can lead to significant developments and advancements in various fields. The grant's required outcome consists of all the details and steps required to reach the readiness level essential for successful technological advancement or commercialization. The research output of successful proposals should contribute to addressing one or more of the four areas of the national research priorities. In summary, the grant-specific objectives are as follows:

- **Quantify & apply** the knowledge accumulated from applied research to solve existing problems at the national and global level;
- **Utilize** early applied research activities (i.e., proof of concept, patents, feasibility analysis, and laboratory-scale testing) to further advance the development of the technology under investigation;
- **Develop** scientific talent and skills of scholars;
- **Technology advancement and breakthrough** in cutting-edge scientific activities;
- **Build** innovative technology to solve global and national challenges;
- **Translate** the research into practical applications via local/international partnerships.

Core activities in the TRL: Development Stage TRL 6–7 (for TRL definitions, refer to the grant guidelines document)

Eligible Applications

Successful applications should meet the following criteria:

- Joint applications from at least two different institutions (mix of non-profit and for-profit institutions)
- The application must clearly assign a Primary Principle Investigator and Secondary Principle Investigator
- Applicants must be affiliated with a Saudi-based institution
- Applicants can be PhD holders, engineers and specialists in technology development (i.e. applicants with experience in the pathway towards technology development and commercialization).
- Applicants should be able to understand and distinguish between the different stages of the TRL

Focus Areas

The grant will consider proposals in any subarea of the four main areas of the national research priorities for RDI. These focus areas have been identified to help guide research, development, and innovation (RDI) efforts across the Kingdom to address short-, medium-, and long-term needs and challenges. The four areas are as follows (for additional details, please check the grant's guidelines):

1. Health and Wellness
2. Sustainability and Essential Needs
3. Energy and Industrials
4. Economies of the Future

Terms and Conditions

1. This grant is subject to the RDIA's policies and national regulations for research grants that govern all award personnel and activities.
2. All applicants should comply with the grant's guidelines.
3. Proposals must not duplicate or have significant overlap with existing grants.
4. Applicants must provide information on their CVs about ongoing grants and grants awarded after receiving a doctoral degree, if any.
5. The final grant amount may differ from the requested amount based on review recommendations and availability of funds.
6. All applicant institutions must have a science and technology unit (STU)¹ to manage the grant cycle.

¹ The STU is an independent unit that supervises the plans and follow-up of strategic programs and projects related to scientific and technical activities at the institution.

Important Dates

Grant Announcement	30-Aug-2023
Deadline to Submit the Proposal	30-Sep-2023
To submit your application, please visit the link: https://rdia.gov.sa/grants	

For additional details on the grant, regulations, and policies, please refer to the grant guidelines.
For the proposal template, kindly refer to the template document.

Contact Information

For application enquiries, such as eligibility queries, budget preparation questions, or technical issues with the portal, please contact:
GRANTS-INFO@rdia.gov.sa