



The Malta Council for  
**Science & Technology**



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT  
FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
DIGITAL ECONOMY AND INNOVATION

## **FUSION R&I Commercialisation Voucher Programme 2014 - 2020**

### **Application Form**

#### **Note to applicant:**

- The application follows a pre-determined editable pdf template with fixed font and margin size.
- Altering the parameters of the template will automatically lead to disqualification. Text should not exceed the printable area of the text boxes.
- Annex I (optional) can be used to include a clear diagrammatic representation of how the project will go beyond the state-of-the-art. Annex I should be stamped or signed by the Legal Representative and scanned together with the application form.



**FUSION**  
The R+I  
Programme

Malta Council for  
Science & Technology  
Villa Bighi, Kalkara  
KKR 1320 - Malta

Tel: +356 2360 2115

Email: [voucher.mcst@gov.mt](mailto:voucher.mcst@gov.mt)

[www.mcst.gov.mt](http://www.mcst.gov.mt)

**SECTION ONE: APPLICANT'S DETAILS**

Details of Entity			
<b>Name of Entity</b>		<b>Department/ Institute/Centre Name</b> (where applicable)	
<b>Type of Entity</b>	(Choose between Maltese Public or Maltese Private Body)		
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	
	<b>ID Card No.</b>		
<b>E-mail</b>		<b>Tel. No.</b>	
		<b>Mobile No.</b>	
<b>Address:</b> (Please provide full postal address and website)			
<b>No. of employees (FTE)</b> (where applicable)		<b>Turnover of business in last financial year</b> (where applicable)	
<b>Provide a profile of the entity – principal activities and profile</b>			

## SECTION TWO: PROPOSAL DETAILS

<b>Proposal Title and Acronym</b>	
<b>Proposal Abstract</b>  <i>Kindly provide a non-confidential summary of the project including a brief background, the problem to be resolved or the opportunity to be exploited and the approach to be undertaken.</i>	
<b>Smart Specialisation Areas</b> <i>Additional information on the SMART Specialisation Areas may be found on the Council's website.</i>  <i>Only one area should be indicated. Please select that area which is most applicable to your project.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Tourism Product Development <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Maritime Services <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Aviation and Aerospace <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Health with a focus on healthy living and active ageing, and e-health <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Resource-efficient buildings <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• High value-added manufacturing with a focus on processes and design <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Aquaculture <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Other: <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<b>How does the proposal address / contribute to the Smart Specialisation Area?</b>  	
<b>Other Issues:</b> <i>If applicable, briefly identify any gender considerations, ethical or legal issues that may be connected with the proposed project. Otherwise enter "n/a".</i>	

## 1. EXCELLENCE

- What is the current State-of-the-Art and how will your project go beyond the current State-of-the-Art? Make reference to and distinguish your proposal from previous work / projects within the area?
- *Give examples of the current State-of-the-Art product / service / technology available and highlight how your proposal will go beyond – explain the quantum leap your proposal will take.*

- **What are the specific project objectives?**
- *Describe the specific objectives for the project, which should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project. Objectives should be consistent with the expected exploitation and impact of the project;*
- *Explain the industrial / economic / social problem to overcome, or the business opportunity to be taken advantage of, that has not yet been solved / offered and can be solved / offered through your project;*
- *Explain also how your solution solves a possible problem or avails of the business opportunity;*
- *Describe the objectives and expected outcome of your innovation business project.*

- **Describe the project concept & approach.**

- *Explain the current stage of development of the project and the key milestones that have led to it, or similar indications of results.*
- *Describe and explain the concept and the approach / activities that you will implement during this project (e.g. demonstration, testing, prototyping, pilot lines, scale-up studies, miniaturisation, design, performance verification, market replication encouraging the involvement of end users and potential clients, research etc.);*
- *Explain how the concept and objectives for the project fit into the overall plan to reach the market;*
- *Describe how your project intends to develop something new that addresses EU-wide challenges.*

- **Describe this project's ambition.**

- *Highlight and explain the novelty of your project and how will this be achieved.*
- *Describe the expected key market application(s) extracted from the results already achieved, that differentiates your project and provides the highest added value for potential customers;*
- *Describe the expected performance / impact on defined needs, when in use, including improvement potential over time, regarding costs, environmental benefits, ease-of-use and any other relevant benefit and/or added value for end users and/or potential clients compared to alternatives solving the same or similar problems. Main advantages of your solution with respect to competing solutions.*

## 1. IMPACT

- Describe the potential impact of the proposed technology, product or service which will result from the proposal.
- *Explain what is your proposed technology, product or service and how this will bring about economic / social impact.*

- What is the current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the technology / product / service being proposed?
- *Describe the positioning of the project, e.g. where it is situated in the spectrum from 'idea to application', or from 'lab to market'. (Vide Appendix 2 for more information about TRLs).*

- Who do you foresee your product / services to be targeted to – potential users? Would it attract both the national and international market?
- *Highlight potential end-users locally and on an international scale and explain why this product / service would in fact be useful.*

- **Measures to maximise Impact: Dissemination & Exploitation of Results and Communication of measures to promote the project idea.**
- *Explain which stakeholders are vital for a successful commercial exploitation;*
- *A brief description on the dissemination and exploitation measures to access the full range of potential users should be provided.*

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- Highlight the skills, background and competences that the organization may require, in the future, to ensure the implementation of the project. *(up to 200 words)*

#### *Company*

- *Explain the entity's technical and commercial capability to ensure that research undertaken in relation to this proposal is successful.*

#### *Consortium*

- *Describe the consortium. How will it deliver the project's objectives? How do the members complement one another (and cover the value chain, where appropriate)? In what way does each of them contribute to the project? How will they be able to work effectively together?*

- Highlight the key Risks and the Contingency actions proposed. *(up to 200 words)*

- *Describe any critical risks, relating to the project implementation;*
- *Highlight any potential risk mitigation measures within the table below.*

<b>Description of risk</b>	<b>Proposed risk-mitigation measures</b>



**Outline any previous funding that have been awarded for the background research, if any.**

- Highlight potential synergies with other projects.

**SECTION THREE: THE COMMERCIALISATION VOUCHERS**

<b>Activity being applied for:</b>				
<p><i>In the case of Public bodies, NGOs, Academic Institutions and Research Organisations - the Voucher will be 100% funded inclusive of Non-Recoverable VAT (NR VAT).</i></p> <p><i>In the case of other organisations, the Vouchers will be 75% funded inclusive of Non-Recoverable VAT. A co-financing rate of 25% is therefore required. Recoverable VAT on the global amount will not be funded.</i></p>				
<p><b>Confirm your intent to apply for the voucher by ticking the box below with an ‘X’:</b></p>	<b>Private Sector</b>		<b>Public bodies, NGOs, Academic Institutions and Research Organisations</b>	
	75% of Voucher Value granted to All Other Orgs. + NR VAT €	25% Co-Financing + Recoverable VAT on the global Amount for All Other Orgs. €	100% of Voucher Value 100% + NR VAT (Public bodies, NGOs, Academic Institutions, Research Orgs.) €	
IP Check <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 3000 + NR VAT	Up to 1000 + NR VAT	Up to 4000 + NR VAT	
Market Research and Product Development Costing <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 5250 + NR VAT	Up to 1750 + NR VAT	Up to 7000 + NR VAT	
Economic Impact and Risk Profile <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 4500 + NR VAT	Up to 1500 + NR VAT	Up to 6000 + NR VAT	
Technology Development Programme <input type="checkbox"/>				
Business Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 3750 + NR VAT	Up to 1,250 + NR VAT	Up to 5,000 + NR VAT	
Initial Patent Application <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 11,250 + NR VAT	Up to 3,750 + NR VAT	Up to 15,000 + NR VAT	
Meeting with Potential Investors <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 3000 + NR VAT	Up to 1000 + NR VAT	Up to 4000 + NR VAT	

**Describe why the Commercialisation Voucher Programme is important for the Proposal?**

**DECLARATION BY APPLICANTS**

A legal representative of the Research Institution or the Company should complete this Declaration.

<p><b>I confirm that:</b></p> <p>The information given on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if it is later established that I misrepresented this or related documentation and do wish to pursue this Programme then I will be required to pay for the services received up to that date. I have also read and fully understood the Rules for Participation in Fusion and the Guidelines for Applicants.</p>	<p>I agree <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>I/the Company confirms that the amount of R&amp;I Voucher will not result in a breach of the <i>De Minimis Aid</i> regulations received within the past three years. Please fill in Appendix 1.</p>	<p>I agree <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>I accept and confirm that my personal data and proposal content information can be used by the Malta Council for Science and Technology for the purposes of administering this application.</p>	<p>I agree <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>I accept and confirm that my personal data and proposal content information can be passed on to a third party i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The proposal Evaluator/s and Voucher Evaluator/s for the review of the proposal and each stage in the programme.</li> <li>- The Service Provider/s for the eventual undertaking of the activities</li> </ul>	<p>I agree <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>Name of Authorised Officer</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
<p><b>Stamp</b></p>	

## APPENDIX 1

### STATE AID DECLARATION (DE MINIMIS)

#### FUSION R&I COMMERCIALISATION VOUCHER PROGRAMME 2014-2020

If the submitted application is approved, the Project will benefit from *de minimis* State aid in line with *Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid.*

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1407/2013 allow a 'single undertaking' to receive an aggregate maximum amount of *de minimis* aid of €200,000 under all *de minimis* aid measures, over a period of three fiscal years. This aggregate maximum threshold applies in principle to all economic sectors with the exception of a 'single undertaking' performing road freight transport for hire or reward for which a lower *de minimis* threshold of €100,000 over a period of three 'fiscal years' applies. The agriculture and fisheries sectors are subject to different thresholds and criteria. For the purpose of this declaration the term 'single undertaking' shall have the meaning as established in *Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1407/2013*. Moreover 'fiscal year' means the fiscal year as used for tax purposes by the undertaking concerned. This maximum threshold would include all State aid granted under this scheme and any other State aid measure granted under the *de minimis* rule. Any *de minimis* aid received in excess of the established threshold will have to be recovered, with interest, from the undertaking receiving the aid.

The following is an indicative list of the possible forms of State Aid:

- Grants from public bodies.
- Loans or loan guarantees at favourable rates.
- Tax benefits.
- Waiving or deferral of fees or interest normally due.
- Marketing and advertising assistance.
- Consultancy, training and other support provided either free or at a reduced rate.
- Aid for investment in environmental projects or research and development assistance.
- Purchase, rent or lease of immovable property at less than market rate.

Potentially any assistance from a public body may constitute State Aid. Should you have any doubts whether any public assistance received is *de minimis* aid, you should contact the agency or department from which the assistance was received in order to ascertain this.

### DECLARATION

I declare that a comprehensive amount of *de minimis* aid received to date during the current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years is:

Fiscal Year 201X	Fiscal Year 201X	Fiscal Year 201X	TOTAL
€	€	€	€

A breakdown of the source, type and amount of all *de minimis* aid received as well as that applied for from any State aid grantor, is presented overleaf.

**RULE.**

Business Undertaking (Full Legal Name)

VAT Registration Number

Name and Surname (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Position in Establishment

Signature

Date

**DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICABLE STATE AID UNDER THE *DE MINIMIS***

*(Note: Information should include both State aid received as well as applications for de minimis State aid still pending approval by potential grantors)*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Source/Grantor</u>	<u>Type of State Aid</u>	<u>Amount in €</u>
<i>Eg: 2/01/2009</i>	<i>Central Government</i>	<i>Soft Loan Scheme</i>	<i>10,000</i>

## APPENDIX 2

### **TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS (TRLs)**

TRLs are a means to define endpoints of projects along the innovation axes from basic research to the market, ranging from 1 (basic concept) to 9 (market entrance).

<b>Readiness Level</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
TRL 1	Basic principles observed and reported.	Lowest level of technology readiness. Process concept with basic scientific foundation
TRL 2	Technology concept and/or application formulated.	Scientific research begins to be translated into applied research and development. Applications are speculative and may be unproven.
TRL 3	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof-of-concept.	Active research and development is initiated, including analytical / laboratory studies to validate predictions regarding the technology.
TRL 4	Scientific & process validation in laboratory environment.	Basic technological components are integrated to establish that they will work together.
TRL 5	Scientific & process validation in intended environment.	The basic technological components are integrated with reasonably realistic supporting elements so it can be tested in a simulated environment.
TRL 6	System / subsystem model or prototype demonstration in an intended environment (ground or space).	A representative model or prototype system is tested in an intended environment.
TRL 7	System (full-scale) prototype demonstration in a real operational environment at pre-commercial scale.	A prototype system that is at the planned operational system.
TRL 8	Actual system completed and validated as capable commercial system.	In an actual system, the technology has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions.
TRL 9	Full commercial application and technology available for consumers	The system incorporating the new technology in its final form has been used under actual mission conditions.