SMART Innovation Centre Grant

Full Proposal

Project Title:

Grant Type:　　　　　　**Ignition Grant / Innovation Grant   [select the correct one]**

Total funds requested:　　　**S**$
Must not exceed S$50k for Ignition Grant or S$250k for Innovation Grant

Preferred contact person:
Name　　　　　　:
Title　　　　　　　:
Business Email　　:
Business Phone　　:
Business Address　:
Assistant Email　　:

Investigator Data

	First Name	**Last Name**	**Department/Lab ***	**Biz Email**	**Faculty** (Y/N)
PI	[name]				
Co-I 1					
Co-I 2					
Co-I 3					

*Department / division / lab / centre managing grant

Have you already disclosed your technology to the Technology License Office (TLO)? YES / NO

 If so, which TLO office? **MIT TLO / NUS ILO / NTU ITTO/Others:**_____

PROJECT TITLE

[name]

Executive Summary

[***NOTE: Do not disclose any proprietary information in the title or the executive summary.*** Briefly describe the problem to be solved and shortcomings of existing solutions. Briefly summarize your approach in one or two sentences. Do not focus on the technical details of your proposed solution. Assume minimal knowledge in field or industry. If a grant is awarded contents of this section will likely appear on the SMART Innovation Centre website (after TLO review). ***Must not exceed 200 words.***]

Opportunity

[Provide an overview of the problem you propose to solve. What is the potential societal and market impact? What is the customer "pain" that you are attempting to address? What is the market doing now to address the problem? Why will your approach be compelling? Concrete market data and testimonials are encouraged. *For Ignition grants:* multiple applications can be suggested and explored at this point. This should be understandable and compelling by someone not skilled in the art.]

Proposed Approach

[Describe the proposed innovation and how it addresses the problem. How will it work? How do you envision the technology being used in a product or service? What is the current status of the idea and any related intellectual property? Describe how this relates to your existing research. Emphasize novelty of proposed work.]

Commercialization

[What do you envision to be the key next step to making impact with this innovation (e.g., sponsored research support, licensing, venture financing)? What is the time frame? Describe the technical and market uncertainty and risks that might be preventing this idea from proceeding along that path. How would SMART Innovation Centre funding and assistance adequately reduce the uncertainty to advance the project to the key next step? With whom would you need to connect, and what questions do you need to answer, to determine the appropriate applications and paths to commercialization? How might you take advantage of the connections and partnerships that the SMART Innovation Centre may bring to your project through the Catalyst Program, Innovation Teams and other activities?]

Impact

[What are the expected market, societal, and scholarly impacts of the proposed work if successful? If unsuccessful?]

Prior Art

[What are the alternative or competing technologies? Elaborate on the benefits of the proposed approach over current or competitive approaches (even if the competitive approaches are not technically similar). To the best of your knowledge, what is the prior art in this area – by you and others? *List publications, patents, and patent disclosures.* Comment on the novelty of your proposal with respect to this prior art. Comment on the IP implications of this prior art; for example, will other patents have to be licensed in order to practice your technology? Please comment on whether this is an extension of existing research or something totally new for your team.]

Background IP

[Please provide a list of Invention Disclosures filed with MIT, SMART or other Singapore Institutions (eg. NUS, NTU, etc) that you and the other Investigators plan to use or further reduce to practice utilizing the grant funds or that would be needed for the eventual commercialization.]

Project Title	Lead PI	Invention Report No	US PRV No (If any)	PCT No (If any)

Supporting Data

[There must be data showing Proof-of-Principle or Proof-of-Concept. Please provide summary of this data with your application. The stronger the technical support the more likely the application will be selected.]

Research Plan

[Describe a research plan including the strategy and key experiments to be undertaken to address goals of proposed work. What are the key questions that need to be answered? You should explain how the experiments and data you gather will do so. For an innovation grant these should be data a commercialization investor would want to see, for an ignition grant, these should be data that a subsequent funding source (e.g. SMART Innovation Centre) would want to see. Identify key points of uncertainty and risk and how you plan to mange those risks.]

Milestones and Deliverables

Date	Milestone
	[Elaborate on 3-4 milestones that can be used to evaluate progress through the project, and include a timeline.]

[Additionally, list the expected deliverables that you propose to achieve *within the proposed time line of the grant* and at the end of the project– code, prototype, data proving feasibility, etc.]

Resources and Budget (please send budget template separately)

[Summarize resources you require to complete project. *Ignition grants* can request up to S$50,000. *Innovation program grants* can range from S$50,000 to S$250,000. Because of the limited funds available and the number of proposals we expect, budgets will be scrutinized carefully, and entrepreneurial frugality is encouraged. Term of funding should not exceed one year for the Ignition Grant and two years for the Innovation Grant. (For the Innovation Grant, the second year of funding will be approved based on progress of research and market analysis made during the first year of the Grant). *Attach detailed budget and justification; a separate file is ok.*]

Funding

[Have you sought other sources of funding? Please identify other sources of funding that have been used, or might be used to co-fund this work. Have you applied previously for an Innovation Centre grant?]

Team and Collaborations

[List team members and collaborators and describe their relevant experience and roles in the project. Identify areas of talent needed now and anticipated towards the end of the project term. Does this work require or depend on collaborations that involve the transfer of materials or information from others (e.g. companies, organizations, universities, individuals) outside of SMART? If so, please identify the collaborator and their past, present or future role in this work. Comment on the potential IP ownership implications of this collaboration. Please disclose financial interest or affiliation (if any) that investigators have with collaborators. Have any of the team members established a start-up related to the work? Identify any potential conflicts of interest and how they will be managed.]

Suggested reviewers

[Suggest at least three independent scientific reviewers, preferably not all in your department or lab. Please keep in mind that they should not have any conflict of interest with this work. Refer to the SMART Innovation Centre Volunteer Guidelines online for more information about conflict of interest. Additional external reviewers also are welcome. Optional: please indicate if there is anyone you would prefer not to receive a copy of this proposal. ***Please include title, email, and phone.***]

Name of Reviewer	Title	Business Email	Business Contact

NOTE : Please ensure the reviewers are willing to write the review as the project will be disqualified if no reviewers reply.

Expectations

We acknowledge that funding from the SMART Innovation Centre carries with it certain expectations, as outlined below:

Use of Funds
The funding shall be used for innovative research as described in the proposal.

Program Participation
There is an expectation that faculty funded by the SMART Innovation Centre are keen to see their research make an impact on the marketplace, whether through a start-up or some other license. The Centre provides guidance and teambuilding opportunities through its Catalyst Program, connections to the entrepreneurial community, and the i-Teams class. Funded projects will have the opportunity to present at the Deshpande "IdeaStream" event to enhance and showcase innovative work done at SMART. We understand that, if funded by the Centre, you and your team will be asked to participate as appropriate.

Sustainability
To provide a sustainable source of funding for innovative research and assistance to help it reach the marketplace, voluntary donations of equity from start-ups resulting from work funded by the SMART Innovation Centre are appreciated and encouraged to ensure the future sustainability of the Centre.

Intellectual Property
Faculty funded by the SMART Innovation Centre shall seek to establish IP where appropriate, via disclosures of potentially patentable inventions submitted to the Singapore TLO as normal SMART practice, with an indication that SMART Innovation Centre funding has been used to support the work.

Communication

The Principal Investigator shall communicate the project's progress through various means, including the following:

- **Initial kick-off meeting with the Singapore TLO**
- **Regular meetings with Catalyst** - as appropriate, usually monthly
- **Informal notification of all significant milestones achieved**
- **A midterm and final status report presentation each year**
- **Final written report to the SMART Innovation Centre**
- **Patent disclosures** - as described above
- **Publications** - Publication of results from work sponsored by the Centre is encouraged, and with appropriate acknowledgement of the SMART Innovation Centre support
- **Participate in a weekend Bootcamp** organized by SMART, the cost of which will be subtracted from the Grant funds
- **Media relations** – Grant recipients will be announced to the media shortly after they are selected. When appropriate, faculty funded by the Centre might be asked to interface with the press. Media training will be available.

Conflict of Interest

Faculty funded by the SMART Innovation Centre should follow SMART Centre guidelines in Policy and Procedures and be diligent to avoid conflict of interest related to the funding, research, or collaborators on the project.