

# STDF Capacity Building Grant (STDF-CBG)-Call 6

Science and Technology Development Fund

[www.stdf.org.eg](http://www.stdf.org.eg)

Call for Applications

October, 2019

## I. Introduction

The Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) was established by Presidential decree number 218/2007. Its mandate is to promote science and technology (S&T) through funding scientific research and technological development in a way that supports the complete cycle of innovation. STDF's specific objectives are to improve Egypt's research and development (R&D) environment, to fund S&T activities and to develop the innovation capacity in Egypt. STDF implements its objectives within the context of the national S&T development strategy. Since its establishment, STDF has disbursed tens of millions of pounds to researchers in universities and research institutions to improve the research and development capacity in these institutions.

The current call **Capacity Building Grant (CBG) scope** is the improvement of the research-supporting environment by improving the research infrastructure. **CBG - Call 5** serves to provide scientific research equipment in Egyptian institutions, with emphasis on newly established and regional universities and research centers. This grant is directed towards institutions and not individual researchers with the intention of upgrading research facilities. The applications shall be submitted by the research institutions. The grant is provided within the framework of the strategic plan of the applicant's institution. Each university or research center will be funded a maximum of two proposals irrespective of their number of faculties or research entities.

## II. Grant Objectives

The project proposals shall be directed towards **achieving the following objectives:**

- Supporting the acquisition of major state-of-the-art equipment, thereby improving access to, and increased use of, modern research equipment by scientists.
- Supporting the acquisition of equipment that contributes to, or takes advantage of, existing investments, while avoiding duplication of services already provisioned by previous investments.
- Promoting substantive and meaningful partnerships between academia and the private sector. Such partnerships have the potential to build capacity and develop industry sectors with the help of academia in leading research and development efforts.
- Enabling academic departments, disciplinary and cross disciplinary units, and collaborations to create well equipped research environments.
- Acquisition of optional and auxiliary parts related to acquired equipment which can enhance the capabilities of existing facilities.
- Replacement of properly used but rapidly consumed parts of equipment resulting from wear and tear.

### III. Eligible Entities and Fields:

This CBG is intended to cover the establishing and upgrading laboratories related to some of the priority research themes related to the Ministry of Scientific Research strategic action areas in all Egyptian institutions. However, it should be noted that:

- In the current call, the proposed research area shall focus on the following main themes;



*Please, refer to the subthemes as given in the application form.*

- Newly established universities are encouraged to apply in the grant.
- Priority will be given to proposals ideas in line with the strategic plan for Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research 2030 and addressed as national priorities.
- Priority will be given to institutions having excellent researchers in related areas of expertise.
- Laboratories related to emerging technologies that could positively affect national research priorities and serve industrial challenges are also encouraged.
- The coordinator of the project representing the institution must have a Ph.D. degree. **Only one proposal is allowed to be submitted by each principal investigator, given that the principal investigator doesn't have a running granted Capacity Building or Center of Excellence project from STDF.**
- Funding more than one laboratory per institution depends on the availability of excessive funds in view of the received proposals.
- The projects' budget **shall not exceed 10 Million EGP.**
- The implementation period of the project **shall not exceed 30 Months.**

- Equipment shall be maintained by their original manufacturer or one of their agents.
- An endorsement letter from the research institution to be granted stating that the activity is part of the institution's strategic plan and ensure that the hosting institution will support the sustainability of the proposed lab after the end of the project. This must be clearly addressed in the endorsement letter which must be included in the proposal.

#### IV. Eligible expenses

Grant applications must include a detailed estimated budget in which all expenditures are given in Egyptian Pounds (see [application form](#)).

Budgets should be carefully developed according the grant's financial rules and should not be overestimated. STDF reserves the right to reject a proposal which is considered overestimated by the reviewers. The eligible expenditures of the grant must be directly linked to performing the capacity building upgrading activities. Indirect costs are covered by this grant, to be used for funding and developing technology transfer offices, cost of necessary facilities upgrade (wiring, ventilation, furniture, etc.) as well as salaries for administration staff, and cost of training, technical support and workshops. Accordingly, the project's budget can only be directed towards the following items:

- Cost of equipment as well as optional and auxiliary parts
- Cost of shipping and handling
- Applicable taxes and customs
- Cost of replacement of rapidly consumed parts of equipment
- Cost of training on the new instrument purchased through the funded grant.

#### V. Proposal Submission Process

All applications must be uploaded on the STDF website ([www.stdf.org.eg](http://www.stdf.org.eg)) to which registration is required (Download the [application form](#)).

#### VI. Submission Timeline

The launching of the call will on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2019 and the deadline to receive applications via the STDF submission website is on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2019 midnight.

## VII. Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will be executed by independent experts and the STDF will assure that the process is transparent, impartial and researcher-supportive. Also, after full proposal submission, the applicant may be addressed to make presentation illustrating the importance of the proposed research topic targeted by the proposal as well as the requested equipment and the available place allocated for the project implementation as well as the importance of the proposed idea for the social community, researchers and for solving major problem in Egypt. STDF officers may make site visits to assess the facility preparedness for the proposed research and at different stages thereafter.

## VIII. General Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to the grant:

- All proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis and in line with the above-mentioned criteria.
- The application must include a letter from the implementing institution's legal representative stating the project title, the name, position and affiliation of the PI in charge of the proposal, that the project idea was not funded or submitted to another agency (national or international), or otherwise declare, and that the institution approves the project. This letter must be signed and stamped by the institution.
- All proposals must be drafted using the exact formatting requirements for the current call given in the attached Application Form. Failure to adhere to the exact format required will automatically deem the proposal ineligible.
- All proposals must be uploaded to the STDF website ([www.stdf.org.eg](http://www.stdf.org.eg)); proposals submitted by e-mail or sent as hard copies will not be considered.
- All proposals must be in English.
- The project team must not include any foreign researchers. However, foreign consultants may be allowed, given that due security approval has been obtained.
- Equipment and/ or service given by equipment purchased using STDF funds **must be made available to all Egyptian researchers, governmental and industrial entities.**
- STDF and/or third party shall make **regular site visits** for the selected projects after contracting, to monitor the progress of the project and the availability of the supported equipment for the researchers and the research community as well as to monitor the outputs resulted from the project, including publications, theses, workshops, social impact, adding STDF logo on equipment, etc. The assessment on the CBP will last for 10 years after the end of the project.
- A separate bank account for the project should be opened and managed by the host institution.

## **IX. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**

It is expected that the applicant and the implementing institution will conform to the STDF-IPR regulations, detailed as a separate document on the STDF website ([www.stdf.org.eg](http://www.stdf.org.eg)).

## **X. Contact**

If you have any queries, please contact ([amany.badreldin@stdf.eg](mailto:amany.badreldin@stdf.eg)) or at Science Technology and Development Fund (STDF).