



صندوق العلوم والتنمية التكنولوجية
Science & Technology Development Fund



وزارة البحث العلمي
Ministry of Scientific Research

**STDF Grants for
Targeted Call Supporting
Textile Industry**

Science and Technology Development Fund

www.stdf.org.eg

Call for Proposals

I. Introduction

The Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) was established by Presidential decree number 218/2007 to promote science and technology (S&T) through funding scientific research and technological development in a way that supports the complete cycle of innovation. Within this context, both Research Support and Technology Development Grants (RS&TD) are targeting small and short-term research activities.

The current call serves the national need to enhance textile industry, through funding research project that would help solving scientific problems and challenges facing this important industry.

II. Grant Objectives:

STDF's targeted call supporting textile industry have been introduced to address and solve problems facing this industry in Egypt.

III. Eligible Research Areas:

The call covers projects that serve the textile industry. Projects submitted within the following research areas are given high priority, nevertheless other areas within textile would be considered.

1. Wet Process Sector (finishing: e.g. Sizing, Mercerization, Bleaching Printing & Dyeing):
 - Water treatment stations
 - Recycling of chemicals, fibrous waste.
 - Mercerization of local wool for production light fabric.
 - Reduce dyeing time of blended fabrics (cotton/polyester) to increase the productivity.
2. Dry Process Sector (Spinning, Preparation, Weaving, & Knitting)
 - Data monitoring system [weaving, preparation, spinning and Finishing monitoring systems] (such as loom data, data log, and Barco).
 - Spare parts reverse engineering.
 - Natural Silk Production.
 - Authorized agency for certified Industry following the environmental requirements.
 - Production of Lycra filament.
3. Added Value Textile Products:
 - Antibacterial Textile products
 - Wrinkle free fabric
 - Self-clean fabric.
 - Flax cords for technical applications
 - Nonwoven for geotextile applications.
 - Rain harvesting using nonwoven.

IV. Grant Amount and Eligible Expenses

A successful proposal will receive STDF **funding of up to LE 3 million over a maximum period of two years**. PI should carefully have a real budget estimation to be executed in certain time frame. Over estimation or under estimation of both budget and time will have a negative impact on the overall assessment of the proposal.

V. Eligibility Criteria

The following eligibility criteria are applied on this grant:

- Any Egyptian researcher (PhD/MD holder) affiliated to an Egyptian research entity (university, research institution/center...etc.) having well-documented scientific research and development activities in a relevant area is eligible for funding in accordance with governing rules and regulations of governmental funding.
- The applicant will act as the project's Principal Investigator (PI).
- End user/Beneficiary commitment is a must to consider the application. **Collaboration between research institutions and the end user/beneficiary throughout the implementation is highly expected.**
- The proposed activities must include a well-planned applied research project which has clearly defined technical and economic (or socio-economic) objectives and desired outcomes, as well as a detailed methodology.
- The proposed project should not be funded by any other STDF funding grant or any other funding agency. Otherwise, any other sources of funding should be clearly stated and explained in the proposal.
- If more than one institution is involved, it must be clearly stated which institution is in charge and the role of each institution must be specified.
- Proposals which do not fulfill the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated.

VI. Proposal Submission and Evaluation Process

All proposals must use the exact formatting requirements for the current call given in the relevant Application Form. All proposals must then be uploaded to the STDF website (www.stdf.org.eg), to which registration is required. The proposals will be evaluated by independent experts, and STDF will ensure that the process is transparent, impartial and applicant supportive. Proposals submitted to this grant will be subjected to two different levels of evaluation:

- i. Scientific and technical evaluation, and
- ii. Feasibility, validity and economical evaluation.

Assessments will be undertaken by independent scientists, industrialists, economists, and policy makers with special expertise in technology development.

The selection criteria will depend upon:

- Technical merit; the soundness of the scientific principles on which the idea is based.
- Feasibility and validity.
- Potential impact; expected future impact on socio economic development.
- Society and market need.
- An applied research plan with clear objectives, milestones and expected measurable outcomes.
- Governmental and/or private sector collaboration and investment interest.
- A track record of success in the field for the applying institution(s), the PI and the project team.

VII. Payment of Funds

When a project is approved by STDF, a contract will be signed by STDF, the Principal Investigator (PI), and the legal representative of the endorsing institution/center/university.

Please note that for DDP and NCP projects STDF allocated funds are dedicated to support all academia/researcher centers activities (compensation, equipment, ...etc.). Estimated co-funding by the end user/beneficiary should cover all project participation activities on the end user/beneficiary side.

- The budget will be disbursed on subsequent installments. The first installment will be disbursed at the beginning of the project. The following installments will be paid after the receipt and approval of the technical and financial progress reports.
- The disbursement of the final installment of the project (10% of the budget) is conditioned by the delivery of the outputs mentioned in the proposal in the scheduled time and subject to the internal rules and regulations of STDF.

VIII. Project Monitoring and Follow-up

Technical progress reports:

Semi-annual progress reports should be submitted by the PI during the execution of the project, starting after 6 months of project start date. In general, all technical reports should be written using the standard STDF templates.

In cases where modifications in the research team and/or original work plan are necessary, such modifications must be pre-approved by STDF, and the progress reports should include a modified (updated) Gantt chart that takes the approved modifications into consideration.

Final Report and Achievements report:

Within one month following the official end date of the project, the “Final Report” together with an “Achievements Report” must be submitted, using the standard STDF templates for “final reports” and for the “Achievements Report”.

Evaluation of technical reports:

All submitted reports are evaluated by STDF, and feedback will be sent to the project’s PI and host institute.

In the event of receiving a progress report that is rejected by evaluators, the PI may be required to present additional follow-up reports (totally independent from the regular progress reports stated before). In the event that the evaluators of progress reports give a justified recommendation to terminate the project (for reasons including scientific misconduct by the PI, plagiarism, lack of seriousness,... etc.), STDF reserves the right to terminate the project.

Financial Reports:

According to the financial regulations of the government of Egypt, a financial report for the project must be submitted every three months. Copies of all expenditure vouchers must be attached. The reports, as well as all the attached expenditure vouchers, must be signed and stamped by the official seal of the endorsing institution.

IX. General Terms and Conditions:

The following terms and conditions apply to the grant:

- All proposals must be uploaded to the STDF website, proposals submitted by e-mail or sent as hard copies will not be considered.
- All proposals must use 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 in English Language, Arabic is allowed only for proposals in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- The application must include a **signed and stamped Endorsement letter from the institution's legal representative** as shown in the Application Form.
- The application must include a scanned copy of the **signed and stamped beneficiary (cost sharing partner/end user) endorsement letter**.
- Same proposal should not be submitted in more than one grant. (Duplicate submission of the same proposal is not allowed).
- At any time, Each PI can only submit a maximum of two proposals until notified with the evaluation results of his/her submitted proposals.
- At any time, a contracted STDF project team member should only be participating in a maximum of 3 projects (or a maximum of 2 projects as a PI).
- DO NOT submit proposals previously funded either by STDF or any other funding agency. Proposals deemed to be funded by other grants will be disqualified & applicants will be banned from submitting proposals to STDF.
- Any publications delivered as a result of STDF funded proposals, should acknowledge STDF funding in the publication.
- STDF's IPR rules and regulations in addition to STDF code of ethics are applied on all relevant cases.
- Foreign partners are allowed in this grant only as consultants given that the relevant security approval has been obtained.
- Equipment purchased using STDF funds must be made available to all Egyptian researchers, provided that the project work is not disrupted.
- If more than one institution is involved it must be clearly stated which institution is in charge and the role of each institution has to be specified.
- Extending a project's duration is prohibited, only under very strict and justified conditions shall STDF allow any project extension, and any request for project extension will affect negatively STDF future decisions regarding the performance of the research team members.

- Having members from different research institutes in the same research team is allowed and encouraged, however all the team members will adhere to STDF guidelines, IPR rules, code of ethics, ...etc.
- Conflict of interest should be avoided in any proposal application.
- All proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis.
- In case a proposal is accepted for funding, the PI will be requested to complete the contracting process within a maximum of one month.

X. Ethical Rules:

Applicants to STDF are expected to maintain a high level of scientific honesty and integrity in all aspects of their work. Applicants are expected to refrain from plagiarism, i.e. "the act of taking credit, or attempting to take credit, for the work of another" (quoted from the publication ethics policies for medical journals, at www.wame.org). Applicants are also expected to avoid self-plagiarism or multiple submission of the same content in more than one document. Multiple reporting of the same data or results in various projects is also considered self-plagiarism and is strongly discouraged. Fabrication of data or results, or suppression of unexpected results is not accepted by STDF. STDF expects all research activities involving human subjects to strictly follow the bio-ethical guidelines.

Breaching the rules of research integrity will result in halting all research funding activities to the involved parties after thorough investigation and judgment by a specialized STDF committee.

Multiple Submissions of a Project Proposal:

At the time of submitting a project proposal to STDF, the PI is required to provide a statement (stamped and signed by his/her hosting institution) declaring that the submitted proposal has not been simultaneously submitted to STDF (neither under the same funding program, nor under any other STDF funding program) or to any other funding agency, and that the project proposal will not be re-submitted to STDF for funding (under the same, or any other STDF funding program), or to any other funding agency, until STDF has reached a decision to reject the original project proposal, and has notified the PI of its decision. The above restrictions apply to identical project proposals, as well as project proposals which have similar objectives, methodology, ...etc. as the current project proposal, and which may differ only in title and/or other minor details. The decision whether any two (or more) submitted project proposals are similar (and therefore constitute a breach of this condition) is solely the right of STDF.

In cases where STDF reviewers decide that, in its present form, the proposal cannot be recommended for funding, or that certain modifications are needed in order for the project to be considered for funding, the PI is allowed to re-submit the revised version of the project proposal only once (after making the suggested modifications, if any) in the subsequent cycle of the same funding program, or of any other STDF funding program. At the time of submitting the revised proposal, the PI is required to declare that an older version of the project proposal has been previously submitted to STDF, and that the revised proposal is the only version of the proposal that is re-submitted for funding by STDF. Also, the revised proposal should include substantial modifications that scientifically distinguish it from the original proposal.

Failure to comply with the aforementioned conditions may result in a decision by STDF to ban any cooperation with the PI and/or the PI's institution.

Applicants are also expected to adhere to the highest standards of integrity within the domains of bioethical, biosafety and animal protection considerations. The following regulations are to be adopted, whenever needed, based on the field or topic of the proposed research:

Bioethical considerations:

- Projects dealing with human subjects are required to satisfy the STDF requirements of bioethical aspects, and to comply with any other relevant laws. Such projects may include, but are not limited to, experiments on human subjects, testing of new therapeutic, preventive or diagnostic agents, handling human personal information, etc.
- In such cases, it is mandatory that the PI presents an ethical clearance form approved from the ethical committee or institutional review board (IRB), before finalization of the project contracting process. In the case of absence of an IRB in the PI's institution, obtaining an ethical clearance from a national, regional or collaborating body will be subject to consideration and assessment by the STDF.

Bio-safety considerations:

Projects with bio-safety aspects, such as those dealing with genetically modified organisms (GMOs), should strictly adhere to the national bio-safety policies, which may require obtaining special permits and clearances from the relevant authorities.

Animal protection considerations:

STDF strongly rejects the unnecessary exposure of animals to pain, distress or fatality during scientific experimentation. It is the responsibility of the PI and his/her institute that these

principles are adhered to. In the case of unacceptable acts of cruelty against animals, the STDF has the right to immediately terminate/suspend the project activities, and to hold the PI accountable for such acts.

Obtaining permits from relevant authorities:

STDF has the experience that the processing of research proposals involving activities which require special permits from the relevant governmental (or otherwise) authorities may be delayed. In order to speed up the process of handling the applications, the applicants are encouraged to obtain such permits before submitting their applications, and to include them in the project proposal. The following are examples of activities requiring approval from the authorities:

- Conducting surveys,
- Collecting data, or conducting any other research activities near the country's international borders, in the sea or on land,
- Sending genetic and biological resources outside the country,
- Ethical issues related to research on living matter (bio-safety, conservation of biodiversity, research ethics, etc.),
- Involvement of or collaboration with foreign researchers in the research activities,
- Dealing with historical objects, or
- Development of patents that may violate the intellectual property rights of other (existing) patent holders.

XI. Negotiation and Contract Signing

Negotiation and signing of the project's funding agreement will take place shortly after the announcement of the evaluation results. Since the processing and evaluation of the submitted proposals entail significant expenditure of financial and human resources, it is highly discouraged for the PI to decline from continuation of the project after proposal submission. Requests asking for project discontinuation by the PI after proposal submission, following contract signing, or during the project lifetime will be thoroughly investigated by STDF. STDF has the right to financial compensation and/or to impose a ban period on the PI from participating in STDF-related activities. Moreover, the PI should clearly state in the application which of the following options he/she prefers in the unlikely event of his/her inability to complete the project:

a- Discontinuation of the project; however, the PI should be aware that, if he/she chooses this option, all funds and expenses paid by STDF must be refunded to STDF upon termination of the project.

b- Transferring all the PI responsibilities and rights to the Co-PI (if any).



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XII. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

The applicant and the endorsing institution(s) shall conform to the STDF-IPR regulations, detailed as a separate document on the STDF website (www.stdf.org.eg)

XIII. Submission Timeline

The launching of the call will on the **1st of December 2019** and the deadline to receive applications via the STDF submission website is on the **1st of January 2020- 12:00 midnight**.

XIII. Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Ms. Azza Hamdy (azza.hamdy@stdf.eg) at Science Technology and Development Fund (STDF).