

Review Criteria for Academia Sinica Biotechnology Research Park Translation (BRPT) Project

Academia Sinica has established a Biomedical Translational Research Center within the National Biotechnology Research Park in 2019, with a mission to bridge the gap between fundamental research and industrial applications. As part of the effort to accomplish this mission, funding for **Biotechnology Research Park Translation (BRPT)** projects are provided for translational research in biomedicine that leads to technology transfer in 3-5 years. Successful projects will be conducted at the National Biotechnology Research Park and should contribute to its development into a world-class biotech industrial research environment. Funding period for each project is 3+2 years, with the last two years of funding determined by progress towards milestones. Research topics may include, but are not limited to, cancer treatment, immunology, regenerative medicine, metabolic diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and diagnostics. Preference will be given to those meeting the following criteria:

1. Plans and milestones for technology transfer or spinning-off a start-up company
 2. Track record in technology transfer and collaboration with industry
 3. Availability of matching fund for intended research project
-

To aid Principal Investigators in preparing grant applications, the **review criteria** for BRPT projects are provided below. **Reviewers** will be asked to provide a thorough evaluation based on the following specific bullet-point questions and rank the proposal accordingly on a scale of 1–5. Applicants are reminded that **the prospects for product commercialization and/or company spin-off in 3 years' time** will be the main points considered in the overall funding decision.

1. How significant is the specific problem to be addressed?

- What is the specific problem to be addressed?
- Does solving the specific problem have translational potentials important to science and/or society?
- Has the problem and its translational aspects been identified by others before?
- Has the problem been solved before?

2. To what extent is the idea innovative?

- What are the novel elements in this application? Is the product patentable?
- What are the closest ideas conceived by others to date?
- Is there any major scientific flaw in the proposed idea?

3. What is the extent of anticipated impact?

- If the project succeeds, to what extent will its technology transfer or commercialization impact the biotech industry?
- Will the success of this project enhance the international competitiveness of Taiwan in biotechnology?

4. How feasible is the Research Plan and proposed approach?

- Has the applicant thought through the problem to be addressed and its associated technology transfer and/or commercialization path thoroughly?
- Has the applicant identified the risks involved and have plans to de-risk?
- Are there any major technical and/or commercialization flaws in realizing the milestone?
- Can valuable findings of basic science be developed into clinical and industrial applications within the proposed time frame? How feasible are the proposed timeline and the projected milestones?
- Is any collaboration with industry established or to be sought? Is matching fund from any source being committed?

5. Do the applicants have relevant expertise? Are they committed?

- Does the applicant have strong track record in technology transfer and collaboration with industry?
- Can you find evidence that the applicant is committed to meet the milestone?

6. Is the proposed project internationally competitive?

- How does the quality of this application compare with the top level globally?
- Does the project leverage on local advantages including residency at the National Biotechnology Research Park?

Applicants are advised to prepare their proposals so that Reviewers can easily identify the answers to each of the questions. The score sheets and evaluation reports from all solicited **ad hoc Reviewers** will be compiled and forwarded to a standing **Review Panel**. Two Panel members will be assigned to critically evaluate each of the shortlisted applications based on the same review criteria. The Panel members will be asked to take into consideration the assessments by ad hoc reviewers but are free to provide independent critique and counter arguments, particularly during the final round-table discussion.

All Reviewer's comments will be redacted and provided to the applicants after the completion of the review process.

Note: Please refer to the funding opportunity announcements and other relevant documents available online including the guidelines provided in the application forms and templates, for additional requirements and details for BRPT project.