NRF COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME (CRP) 9TH CALL

The National Research Foundation Competitive Research Programme (CRP) Funding Scheme aims to encourage high-impact research and enhance intellectual and human capital development for R&D.

2. The CRP scheme aims to fund a broad base of research ideas at the programme level through a competitive bottom-up approach. Each programme may be made up of several related projects sharing a common unifying theme. This will allow a coordinated, integrated and sustained way of supporting high-impact interdisciplinary research because a larger budget can be allocated to fund a number of smaller related projects that address a given problem. The tight linkage among the projects in a programme will also facilitate the commercialisation of research results.

3. In addition, the CRP scheme provides a way to identify future strategic research areas and would complement other on-going research focuses identified via a top-down approach. Two call-for-proposals will be launched yearly.

Dual Tracks
4. This latest CRP 9th call request-for-proposal comprises of two tracks: A and B.

a) Track A: Open/General Competitive Research Programme (CRP)

Proposals in all areas of science and technology, except those primarily involving biomedical sciences (BMS) research\(^1\) or energy research\(^2\) are sought. More details on track A are available at the following web-link, and all submissions under this track must be completed here: https://rita.nrf.gov.sg/CRP9-TrackA/default.aspx.

b) Track B: Energy-related Competitive Research Programme (CRP)

The Energy Innovation Challenge Directorate (EICD) was established by NRF in Feb 2011 to catalyse significant changes in Singapore’s energy landscape in a whole-of-government effort to meet the National Innovation Challenge of Energy Resilience for Sustainable Growth (ENIC). Proposals that fulfil the objectives of the ENIC – to develop cost-competitive energy solutions for deployment within 20 years to help Singapore improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and increase energy options, are sought. More details on track B are available at the following web-link, and all submissions under this track must be completed here: https://rita.nrf.gov.sg/CRP9-TrackB/default.aspx.

5. Multi-disciplinary research is strongly encouraged for all submitted proposals, as is partnership between industry and academia.

Grant
6. The CRP scheme offers funding support for programme of varying sizes over three to five years, capped at a funding quantum of S$10million. Stronger justifications on the economic contribution would be required for proposals with requested budget in excess of S$5million. NRF will support 100% of the approved direct costs for supported programmes.

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\(^1\) A separate funding scheme is administered by NMRC and BMRC for BMS proposals.

\(^2\) Energy-related proposals should be submitted under Track B.
proposed by public sector organisations. For supported programmes proposed by Singapore-based private sector organisations, funding will be up to 70% of qualifying costs.

**Selection Process**

7. Interested applicants need to submit a **White Paper** of up to five pages describing their research proposal and objectives as well as expected outcomes by 31 Jan 2012. NRF will shortlist promising White Papers to be developed into **Full Proposals**, which will be put through an international peer review process. NRF’s International Evaluation Panel will select the final proposals for funding support. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria of research excellence, manpower development potential, economic impact and industry involvement.

**Application**

8. All submissions must be completed via the Research, Innovation and Technology Administration (RITA) system at [https://rita.nrf.gov.sg](https://rita.nrf.gov.sg) through the relevant web-links for the two tracks listed in section 4.

9. Applicants are reminded to submit their whitepaper to either Track A or Track B only. There should be no duplication in the submissions, e.g. the same whitepaper submitted to Track A should not be submitted to Track B, and vice versa. Violation of this ruling will result in automatic removal of the proposal from the evaluation process for both tracks under this call.