



STDR
Singapore Therapeutics
Development Review

Launch of STDR 2026 (Jul) Grant Call

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Information for STDR 2026 (Jul) Grant Call Applicants

- 1 Administrative Info on STDR Pre-Pilot**
 - 2 Therapeutic Platforms:**
Revised Eligibility Criteria for Platform Technologies
-
- 3 Administrative Info on STDR Pilot**
 - 4 How to strengthen your STDR Pilot submission**

Lead PIs must have at least 0.7 FTE and IP must be owned by HIs

1 PI Eligibility Requirements

The Lead Principal Investigator (PI) should:

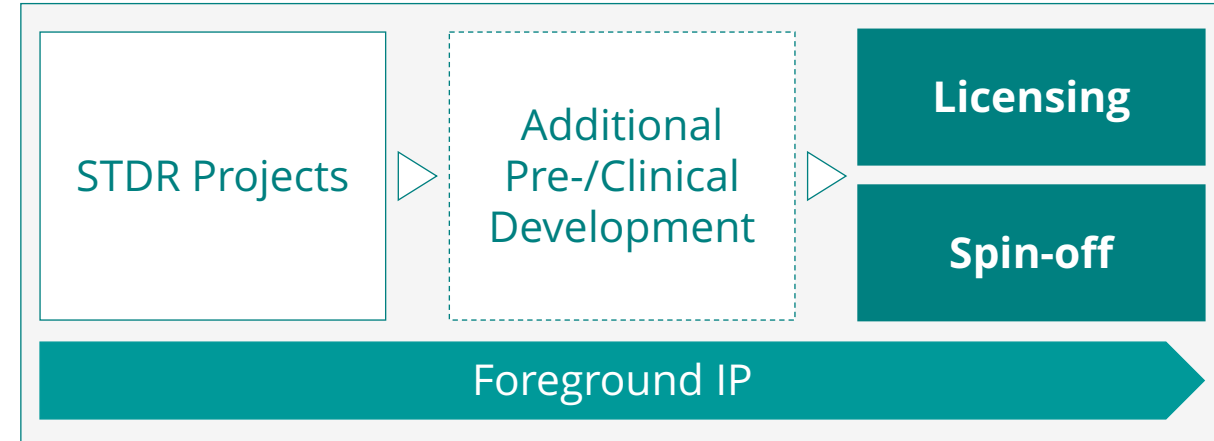
- a) Hold at least a **0.7 FTE** primary appointment in a **Singapore** publicly funded research / tertiary institution
- b) Have the relevant scientific/technical background and necessary experience to direct the project being supported by the grant

Post-doctoral researchers should submit a letter from their supervisor declaring that:

- a) Their supervisor supports their application
- b) Their contract covers the entire STDR grant period
- c) The grant body funding the post-doc is agreeable to the STDR application (if relevant)

Exceptions to the eligibility criteria will be considered on a case-by-case basis. **Submit waiver to STDR CO at least 7 days before the grant deadline (i.e., by 20 Aug 2026).**

2 IP Ownership by Host Institutions



To ensure that STDR projects can eventually enter into commercialisation agreements with industry partners, all foreground IP developed through STDR **must** be owned by Host Institutions (HIs) of Lead PI and/or Co-I(s).

If your proposed STDR project:

- (1) requires the use of background IP **not owned** by your Host Institution(s); and/or
- (2) has **committed foreground IP** to commercial partner(s)

Please consult your institution's IEO / TTO and obtain their **inputs and endorsement** for your application.

Pre-Pilot



Stream 1
Target Validation

Stream 2
Platform Development

Asset-focused



Stage

Target validation to show
mechanism of action

Platform validation using
known / novel target



Duration

Up to 12 months



Funding

Up to S\$325K

(S\$250K Direct Costs + 30% Indirect Costs)

2 documents required

Ensure the **correct**
Stream is selected

1 **Stream 1**
Target Validation
Stream 2
Platform Development

**Technical
Write-Up**



2

Budget



Must be endorsed by IEO & Research Director

Submit on iGrants by
27 Aug 2026 (Thu), 5 pm

STDR supports the development of Therapeutic Platforms

Previous Definition for Platform Technologies

Platforms are technologies that enable broad application of the underlying science and in so doing, create value by enabling multiple applications or products



Revised Definition for Therapeutic Platforms



A therapeutic platform is a **reusable** discovery, design, engineering, or development system that enables the **generation of multiple distinct therapeutic product candidates** from a **proprietary underlying technology**, modality, workflow, or biological principle

Enable pipeline of therapeutic assets

The platform should have a **credible path** to producing a **pipeline of therapeutic assets** across different targets, indications, mechanisms, patient populations, or therapeutic constructs



Out-of-scope projects

Technologies whose primary output is a **research tool, assay, model, dataset, diagnostic, delivery method, or manufacturing process** will **not** be considered therapeutic platforms **unless they are directly integrated with a repeatable process for generating therapeutic candidates**

Platform projects that do not develop therapeutics are out-of-scope



STDR projects **must** lead to the development of **first / best-in-class** therapeutic asset(s)

Examples of in-scope projects*

Modality	Mechanism	Therapeutic developed
Biologics & Antibody Engines	Target-Binding Scaffolds	Non-antibody scaffold customizable for different pathological targets
	Antibody-Drug Conjugate Linked-Payload	Fixed linker/toxin combination pairable with different antibodies
Cell, Gene, & Nucleic Acid Engines	Modular mRNA Construct	Core LNP with optimized mRNA backbone for different payloads
	Engineered Viral Vector	Library of AAV capsids able to cross BBB with different genetic payloads
	Off-the-shelf Cell Platform	Master iPSC line differentiated into different cell types (T, NK cells)
Small Molecule & Targeted Protein Degradation	Protein Degradation	Optimized E3 ligase binder with linker to pathological proteins
	AI-Driven Drug Discovery	Discovery of novel, small molecule inhibitors for “undruggable” targets

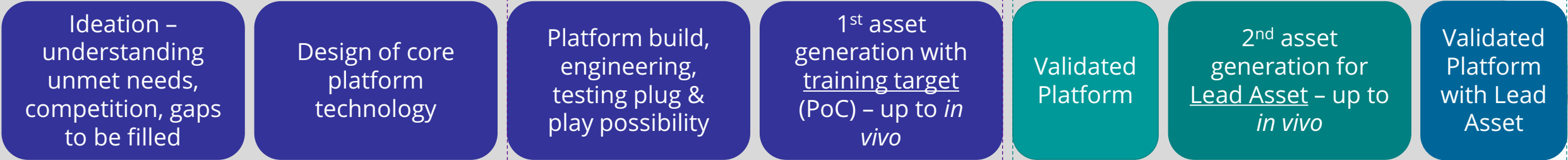
Examples of out-of-scope projects* – No asset

Disease/therapeutic response modelling platforms: disease models, organoids, animal models	Hit screening assays	Biomarker platforms, diagnostic platforms	
Omics datasets and other target-discovery resources	Imaging platforms		General AI prediction tools (e.g., modelling therapeutic response)
Delivery systems <u>alone</u>	Formulation technologies <u>alone</u>	Manufacturing platforms	A single target discovery programme

*Examples are non-exhaustive.

Eligible Therapeutic Platforms must generate (POC or Lead) therapeutic asset

Developmental Pathway for Therapeutic Platforms



In addition to technical aspects of platform, applicants should identify the **optimal indication** and **biological use-case** the platform would be best positioned to address, relative to current solutions.

Eligible for STDR Pre-Pilot (Stream 2)

- Pre-Pilot (Stream 2) can support therapeutic platform projects to generate their first proof-of-concept (PoC) asset using a clinically validated therapeutic target (“training target”) with the goal of demonstrating the utility of the platform.
- **The application should describe a plan for the generation of the first lead asset and subsequent assets which must be first / best-in-class.**

Eligible for STDR Pilot

- Pilot can support validated therapeutic platform projects to develop their **Lead Asset**.
- Applicants can **directly apply** for Pilot if they meet this criteria.

Submission for STDR Pilot will conclude on 27 Aug 2026, 5 pm

Pilot



Single asset or asset-focused platform technologies



Target validation* to pre-clinical stage

*May include target validation of known targets for secondary indication(s)



Phase 1

Up to 12 months

Phase 2

Up to 12 months

Up to 24 months, review at end of Phase 1



Up to S\$1M

(S\$769.2K Direct Costs + 30% Indirect Costs)

Phase 1 – Up to S\$400K

Phase 2 – Up to S\$600K

3 documents required

1

Technical Write-Up



2

Budget



Must be endorsed by IEO & Research Director

3

Ensure data is **consistent**

Pitch Deck

No more than **10 slides** (excluding cover slides, acknowledgements and annex). Annex should not have more than 10 slides.

Submit on iGrants by
27 Aug 2026 (Thu), 5 pm

Strengthen your Pilot application by avoiding these common pitfalls

	Insufficient preliminary data	- Lack target validation data - Only virtual hits compounds identified with no further verification	 	Encouraged to apply for Pre-Pilot instead
	Lack detailed mechanism of action (MOA)	Lack data on how molecule was implicated in disease, its mode of action, synergistic effect or causative link with other molecules		
	Lack relevant expertise	Unable to answer questions relating to the project during Q&A		
	Lack explanation on differentiation compared to current SOC or other therapies under development	- Did not highlight key differentiation factors of approach vs competitors - Lack of head-to-head comparison with available competitor drugs / standard-of-care / clinical trials - Did not present a convincing plan to overcome failed clinical trials / other issues faced by their direct competitors		
	Lack consideration on how to address potential safety issues	- Lack safety profile data of proposed therapeutic approach / molecule - Did not address how the team plans to mitigate the potential toxicity issues (associated with the target / molecule / delivery method)		
	Lack a good Target Product Profile (TPP)	No clear criteria for success		
	Lack a strong development plan and commercialisation strategy	- Formulation and delivery issues were not addressed - Did not outline a clear market entry path / commercialisation pathway (e.g., licensing / spin-off / partnering with biotech / pharma)		

STDR has additional resources to help you strengthen your application

EDDC Insights



Experimental
Drug Development
Centre



The Art of Pitching



Dr Alice Chen

Partner

Head of Accelerator Life Science Partners



Pitch Deck Guiding Questions (Please keep to 10 slides limit)

Note: You may expand some sections beyond 1 slide, or combine 2 sections in the same slide.



Product Vision

- **For Single Assets: Target Product Profile (TPP):**
 - What is the **desired profile** of the final asset, and how is it an improvement over the current standard of care?
 - How does the current hit/lead's performance compare to the TPP (where applicable)?
 - Please describe the TPP in terms of the following:
 - **Efficacy:** What is the specific minimum efficacy needed to show differentiation against the current standard of care and competitors?
 - **Safety:** Are there any potential adverse effects, particularly in comparison to the current standard of care?
 - **Administration:** What would be the dosing frequency and mode of administration?
- **For Platforms:**
 - What is the breadth and scope of potential applications?
 - How would you prioritize applications for translation?
 - Why would your platform be an improvement over the current practice in these prioritized applications?

Successful applicants can expect the STDR Letter of Award by 2027 Q1

Pre-Pilot (Stream 1 & 2)



Pilot





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THANK YOU

For more information, visit <https://www.a-star.edu.sg/Research/funding-opportunities/stdr>



Contact: STDR_Secretariat@a-star.edu.sg