

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

1. Sponsor:

Nano & Advanced Materials Institute Limited

2. Background of Sponsor:

The Hong Kong R&D Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials, sponsored by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) of the Hong Kong SAR Government and hosted by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), is incorporated as a not-for-profit company in Hong Kong called Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI) Limited. In partnership with local industries, NAMI's missions are

- developing core competences in nanotechnology and advanced materials to offer a powerful technology platform that could lead to a wide spectrum of innovative products;
- acting as the focal point for conducting market-driven, demand-led R&D aimed at the technology upgrading of regional enterprises;
- training human resources in nanotechnology and advanced materials for the present and future needs of Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region.

NAMI is intended for operation as an open R&D platform. All local research institutions and relevant industries are invited to participate at the project level to conduct market-driven, demand-led development of nanotechnology and advanced materials. As the focal point of nanotechnology research in Hong Kong, NAMI will actively seek collaborations with applied research institutions worldwide. A close collaboration with mainland research institutions is highly desirable. At the project level, the research team will work hand-in-hand with the industrial sponsor/partners. In addition, NAMI will provide services to local industries at large through the Industrial Consortium. NAMI will connect with other organizations aimed at promoting nanotechnology to keep abreast of international market trends and to arouse awareness of the general public on the development of nanotechnology.

3. Technology Focus Areas:

NAMI is now inviting applications that have strong industry sponsorship in each of the five nano and advanced materials technology areas:

- Nanomaterials : Functionalisation & Applications
- Nanotechnology-enabled Nano Opto-electronics
- Nano-structured/textured Material Applications
- Advanced Materials for Interconnection, Packaging and Thermal Management
- Forming of Advanced Materials

NAMI will emphasize supporting projects that would apply existing technologies to develop and commercialize products with high added-values and potential benefits to the economy of Hong Kong SAR and PRD region.

4. Programme:

Applications will fall under three R&D programme areas:

- 4.1 Platform Research Programme - Projects are primarily aimed to benefit the industry or a certain sector of industry in a general manner. Applications are open to universities, institutions, trade and industry associations. This programme requires support from at least two industry sponsors who should make a total cash contribution of at least 10% of the total project cost.
- 4.2 Collaborative Research Programme - Projects designed to those companies that aim to further develop a specific product but require research and development support. Applications are open to private companies who should collaborate with a local public-funded research institution (e.g. a university or Hong Kong Productivity Council). This programme requires the industry sponsor to make a cash contribution of at least 30% of the total project cost.
- 4.3 Contract Research – Projects that NAMI undertakes for a company on a specific topic with a full cost recovery basis.

5. Project Duration:

Typically from 12 to 24 months.

6. Intellectual Property Rights:

The title of the IP generated from the R&D projects will rest with NAMI in general. But there will be arrangement for sharing of benefits, exclusive license and buy-out arrangements under the Platform Research Programme and Collaborative Research Programme. (Please refer to the NAMI IP Policies and Arrangements for details, which are downloadable from NAMI's website <http://www.nami.org.hk>)

7. Indication of Intention for Proposal Submission:

For all project applications, a two-page form of “Indication of Intention for Proposal Submission” is required by NAMI to illustrate the market potential, the merits for commercial adoption and other relevant project features. This form is available at NAMI's website. NAMI's staff will work with the project applicants to further develop the concept into full proposals.

8. Electronic Submission of Proposals:

Please note that the application proposal for the funding has to be submitted electronically through the Innovation and Technology Commission Funding Administrative System (ITCFAS). (<https://www3.itf.gov.hk/>)

Before lodging onto this System, applicants are required to register the full name of NAMI in the "Organization Name" column of the "Register Project Coordinator" page before selecting the relevant application form.

The Illustrative Guide at:

<https://www3.itf.gov.hk/eUserGuide/eUserGuide.asp>

provides details of the necessary application procedures and also gives a demonstration of how to complete the application.

9. Industrial Support:

In order to be distinguished from the conventional Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) projects of ITC, this round of R&D projects from NAMI will highlight collaborative and platform research led by the industry. In particular, industrialists are encouraged to serve as the primary applicants of R&D projects. The degree of industrial commitment, involvement and sponsorship will be the main criteria for proposal vetting.

10. Application Deadline:

For Contract Research Programme, applications are open all year round.

For Platform Research and Collaborative Research Programmes, the filled forms of "Indication of Intention for Proposal Submission" must reach NAMI by 10 March 2008. The full proposals should be submitted through ITCFAS on or before 7 April 2008.

11. Queries:

For any queries, please contact

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