

1. Sponsor:

Nano & Advanced Materials Institute Limited

2. Background of Sponsor:

The Nano and Advanced Materials Institute Limited (NAMI), hosted by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), was designated by the Innovation and Technology Commission as a Research and Development Centre for nanotechnology and advanced materials, and was incorporated as a not-for-profit company in Hong Kong in 2006. In partnership with local industries, NAMI's missions include:-

- 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 electronic packaging and other application
- 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 four 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 **ONE** industry sponsor who should make a total cash contribution of at least 10% of the total project cost.
- 4.2 Collaborative Research Programme - Projects designed for 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 Public Sector Trial Scheme - The Public Sector Trial Scheme provides funding support for production of prototypes/samples and conducting of trial schemes in the public sector to facilitate and promote the realisation and commercialisation of R&D results under completed ITF projects. The prototypes/samples and the trial schemes should aim to facilitate the development of new products not already available in the market currently, and employing the R&D results/deliverables of the completed ITF projects.
- 4.4 Contract Research – Projects that NAMI undertakes for a company on a specific topic on 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. 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 ITC IP Policies and Arrangements. Details are downloadable from ITC's website <http://www.itf.gov.hk/1-eng/IPGuide.asp>).

7. Indication of Intention for Proposal Submission:

For all project applications, a two-page form of “Indication of Intention for Proposal Submission” (IOI) 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 via ITCFAS.

9. Industrial Support:

In order to distinguish 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. The degree of industrial commitment, involvement and sponsorship will be the main criteria for proposal vetting.

10. Application Deadline:

Submission of IOI forms are open all year round. Upon approval by NAMI's management, full proposals should be submitted about 2 months prior to following scheduled NAMI's Technology Committee Meeting Months:

Apr 2017

June 2017

Sept 2017

Oct 2017

Jan 2018

Mar 2018

11. Queries: For any queries, please contact

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