

RESEARCH COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

“Transforming Pet Ownership Behaviour: A Strategic Approach to Cat Licensing and Sterilisation”

1. Invitation

The National Parks Board (NParks) is inviting potential research collaborator(s) to submit proposals for grant funding, under the research topic *“Transforming Pet Ownership Behaviour: A Strategic Approach to Cat Licensing and Sterilisation”*

2. Research Topic

2.1 Please refer to **Annex A** for the details of the research topic.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Researchers from all Singapore-based research institutions or companies are eligible to apply.

3.2 The Lead Principal Investigator (“PI”) must be based in Singapore¹. All research work should be undertaken in Singapore, unless expressly approved by NParks. The Lead PI may involve researchers from other institutions or companies in the proposal.

3.3 The research team should possess the necessary expertise to fulfil the objectives of the proposal. The PI is encouraged to engage other researchers outside his/her lab to develop a comprehensive proposal that addresses the stated objectives. Proposals that only address the objectives partially will not be considered favourably.

3.4 The PI is also encouraged to collaborate with industry partners, where relevant, to develop innovative solutions that address the stated objectives and demonstrate strong potential for real-world application within and beyond Singapore.

3.5 Proposals already funded by other government agencies will not be considered for funding. Proposals with similar scope to proposals or projects which are currently under evaluation by other funding initiatives, must be declared in the proposal submission, and will not be considered until the results from the other funding initiatives are finalised. PIs are encouraged to describe the synergies between past or current projects and this proposal.

¹ Lead PIs must have an employment contract of a minimum of 9 months’ future employment (calculated from the date of the submission of the proposal) with a Singapore-based organisation (e.g., Singapore-based Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs), not-for profit research laboratories as well as companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions). The Lead PI must also fulfil at least 6 months of residency in Singapore over a period of 1 calendar year, from the date of proposal submission throughout the project.

4. Funding Support

- 4.1 The proposed budget must not exceed the funding support limit stated in the **Annex**. Priority will be accorded to proposals that demonstrate cost-effectiveness and optimal resource allocation.
- 4.2 The proposed budget should be based on realistic costings with appropriate justifications. The reasonableness of the budget will be considered when evaluating the proposal. NParks may suggest amendments and revisions to the proposal, for the research team's consideration. Such amendments and revisions, if so accepted, will form part of the award.
- 4.3 When budgeting for funding, the total cost of the project should include all approved direct costs² and indirect costs³. All expenditures should be budgeted inclusive of any applicable Goods and Services Taxes (GST) at the prevailing rates, where applicable. No additional claims for GST will be reimbursed.
- 4.4 Direct costs are incremental costs required to execute the programme. Supportable direct costs can be classified into the following cost categories:
- (a) Expenditure on manpower (EOM);
 - (b) Equipment;
 - (c) Other Operating Expenses (OOE); and
 - (d) Overseas Travel.
- 4.5 For all direct cost items proposed for the project, please note that:
- (a) Funded Institutions must strictly comply with their own procurement practices;
 - (b) Funded Institutions must ensure that all cost items are reasonable and are incurred under formally established, consistently applied policies and prevailing practices of the funded Institution; and
 - (c) All items/ services/ manpower purchased/ engaged must be necessary for the R&D work.
- 4.6 The Lead PI must exercise due diligence and ensure that the proposed budget is correct and free from error.
- 4.7 Please ensure that proposed equipment to be purchased are currently unavailable in the funded Institution or institution of collaborators. In the event where a similar equipment is available in a funded Institution, necessary justifications for purchase have to be provided, and NParks' explicit approval has to be obtained. Equipment purchased

² More information on the non-fundable direct costs of research can be found in **Annex B**.

³ Indirect costs are costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored research project but contribute to the ability of the Institutions to support such research projects (e.g. providing research space, research administration and utilities), and not through the actual performance of activities under the sponsored projects.

using NParks' funding support needs to be available for NParks' use during the project as needed.

- 4.8 At the end of the project, NParks shall have the option to own any equipment purchased using NParks' funding support at no transfer cost.
- 4.9 NParks will support 100% of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project for Singapore-based IHLs / public RIs. Private sector entities⁴⁵ will qualify for up to 50% of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project, depending on the entities involved:
- (a) 30% for all non-Singapore entities based in Singapore (including non-Singapore not-for-profits) and Singapore-based Large Local Enterprises; and
 - (b) 50% for Singapore-based Small, Medium Enterprises and start-ups.
- 4.10 Support for indirect costs, in the form of overheads, will only be provided for Singapore-based IHLs / public RIs. Funding support of 30% of the total qualifying approved direct costs will be allowed. Funded Institutions will be responsible for administering and managing the support provided by NParks for the indirect costs of research. Indirect costs must be specifically provided for in the grant, and approved by NParks based on the nature of the research.
- 4.11 Unlike Lead PIs and Co-Investigators, Collaborators in the research team are not permitted to receive any part of the funding, directly or indirectly, unless expressly approved by NParks. Similarly, overseas organisations are not permitted to receive any part of the funding, directly or indirectly, unless expressly approved by NParks.

5. Data Management

- 5.1 To safeguard against data leaks/breaches, depending on the nature of the research, the Institutions and/or collaborators may be required by NParks to:
- (a) Attain one of the data and/or cybersecurity standards certification listed below (hyperlinked) as a pre-requisite to start the project, receive data requested or execute the data collection (e.g. survey) for the Research.
 - (b) Conduct an independent exit external audit assessment⁶ upon completion or termination of the Research.

⁴ Definitions of the different private sector entity types can be found in **Annex C**.

⁵ Funding support for Singapore not-for-profits will be based on their size (i.e., will qualify for up to 50% of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project, if they meet the Small Medium Enterprise definition).

⁶ The independent assessment is to be conducted by an external auditor unless directed otherwise by NParks, and the report shall confirm that all classified information provided by the Government or generated during the project has been securely disposed of in accordance with Singapore's data protection laws, contractual obligations, and industry best practices.

5.2 Exact requirements will be determined after evaluation⁷ and NParks will officially inform the applicants selected for award in writing⁸. Failure to obtain the required certifications may affect project progress leading to delays in payment milestones, and potentially termination of the award.

<u>Cyber Security Agency (CSA) Cybersecurity Standards</u> ^{9, 10}	Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) Data Security Standards
<u>Cyber Essentials Mark (CEM)</u>	<u>Data Protection Essentials (DPE)</u>
<u>Cyber Trust Mark (CTM)</u> <i>Note – there are a few tiers under CTM, Institutions will only have to attain certification for one tier for the project, if required.</i>	<u>Data Protection Trust Mark (DPTM)</u>

5.3 Any datasets shared by agencies may be aggregated, anonymised and desensitised, where feasible, to lower the data classification/sensitivity. In the same vein, where feasible, any proposed data collection from human subjects (e.g. survey) by the researchers should be anonymised as well. These efforts would help to reduce the inherent data/cybersecurity risks of the research and minimise the need for data/cybersecurity standards certifications.

6. Financial, Progress and Audit Reports

6.1 Financial Reports

- (a) The research team is required to submit financial reports on budget utilisation at project milestones.
- (b) Required supporting documents for claims include a completed Statement of Expenditure (SOE) form, actual receipts of expenses incurred, and a progress report on completion of specific milestones. Refer to template in the Project Agreement (PA) **Appendix 2**.
- (c) A final Statement of Accounts must be submitted within six months of project completion for reimbursement of final claims.

6.2 Progress Reports

- (a) The research team must submit progress reports upon completion of each project milestone. Refer to template in the PA **Appendix 1**

⁷ To ensure accurate evaluation of Institutions' cybersecurity posture, Institutions are required to submit internet-facing sites relevant to the delivery of the project in the Proposal template.

⁸ Should there be new data request or new data collection works identified later over the course of the project, NParks reserves the right to require additional certifications to be attained during the project's progress (i.e. after project is awarded).

⁹ Applicants with ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification may use that to meet CEM and all tiers of CTM.

¹⁰ A list of CSA-certified service providers for CSA's CEM and CTM can be found here - <https://www.csa.gov.sg/our-programmes/support-for-enterprises/sg-cyber-safe-programme/cybersecurity-certification-for-organisations/how-to-get-certified/>

- (b) An interim report is required prior to intervention implementation. This report must present detailed findings from the initial project phases, including data analysis, stakeholder consultations, barriers and enablers for sterilisation and licensing, and preliminary assessments. The report should clearly outline proposed interventions with supporting rationale, implementation strategies, matrices for assessment of interventions, timelines, and expected outcomes. This milestone serves as a critical checkpoint to ensure project direction aligns with grant objectives and provides stakeholders with the opportunity to review the proposed approach before proceeding to the implementation phase.
- (c) Submission and acceptance of a comprehensive final project report will mark completion of the project. The final report should include an executive summary, methodology, analysis of results, and discussion. Project outcomes should be presented against project objectives, milestones, and deliverables, including completion status, challenges encountered and mitigation strategies, lessons learnt and recommendations for future research.

6.3 Audit Report

- (a) The research team must appoint an auditor to conduct an audit on all claims associated with the project under the Agreement, covering the entire duration of the project.
- (b) The audit report must be submitted together with the final financial report within six months of project completion as mandatory components of the project closure process. The audit report ensures independent verification of financial expenditure, compliance with grant terms and conditions, and proper utilisation of allocated funds. Refer to template in the PA **Appendix 3**.

7. Evaluation of Proposals

7.1 Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

(a) **Strength & Quality of Proposal**

- *Research Approach* – The proposal should demonstrate clear relevance to addressing the research objectives and expected deliverables stated by NParks. The methodology is technically sound and appropriate for addressing the research topic. The proposed research builds upon outcomes of published research and/or other ongoing/past research.
- *Potential for Application, Deployment or Commercialisation/ Export* – The proposed research should generate outcomes that are suitable for deployment or application (e.g., for policy, operational, commercial needs), both in Singapore and globally.
- *Execution Plan* – The proposed plans to execute the research, and to facilitate the deployment or application of the research outcomes, should be clear and practical to implement. The proposed timeline should be reasonable and achievable, with the project outcomes produced in a timely manner. The proposed budget should be reasonable and based on realistic costings to achieve the research deliverables.

(b) Strength & Quality of Research Team

- The proposed research team composition should have the relevant expertise and experience to effectively fulfil all project tasks.

(c) Value-Added Research Components

- Proposals which demonstrate scientific novelty and potential for scientific breakthrough / innovation, and with added research outcomes (exceeding those in the expected deliverables stated by NParks) deemed of value to NParks, will be favourably considered.

7.2 Proposal submissions will be subject to evaluation by a Project Evaluation Panel appointed by NParks. NParks may also decide to send the research proposal to third-party reviewer(s) for comments.

7.3 NParks reserves the right, at its sole discretion, not to select any of the proposals submitted for this Research Collaboration Opportunity for funding. NParks may require proposals to be revised as it sees fit to enhance research outcomes, facilitate integration of research concepts and technologies, and optimise funding resources. Specific data/cybersecurity standards certifications required (if applicable) will also be communicated to the applicant in writing for the selected proposal for award. **NParks' decision on project and funding support will be final** and shall be abided by the applicants.

8. Project and Funding Agreement

8.1 Before the start of any project, a research collaboration agreement ("RCA"), or a similar agreement, setting out the full responsibilities and obligations of collaborators, will be signed between the institution of the Lead PI and NParks.

8.2 For an institution acting as a party to the Singapore Public Sector Organisations Master Research Collaboration Agreement ("MRCA"), a Project Agreement ("PA") will be signed between the institution of the Lead PI and NParks.

9. Submission Instructions

9.1 All project proposals for this Research Collaboration Opportunity must be submitted using the prescribed Project Proposal Template, and in Microsoft Word format, to ALICIA_TAY@nparks.gov.sg or LIN_HUI_LING@nparks.gov.sg by **12 June 2026, 6:00PM Singapore time (UTC +08:00). Late submissions will not be entertained, and submissions received through other means will not be considered.**

9.2 Files must be named in the following convention: *FP_<RCO Number>_<Name of Lead PI>*

9.3 Full proposals and supporting documents shall only be deemed to be submitted if all relevant forms with relevant attachments are submitted. Incomplete or non-compliant submissions may be considered disqualified. Please refer to the Project Proposal Template in **Appendix 1**.

10. Enquiries

10.1 For transparency, all enquiries and associated clarifications will be published on the NParks website for the Research Collaboration Opportunity. We regret that phone enquiries will not be accepted.

10.2 For any enquiries or clarifications, please contact ALICIA_TAY@nparks.gov.sg or LIN_HUI_LING@nparks.gov.sg

ANNEX A

Research Collaboration Opportunity Ref No.: RCO-NPARKS-2026-01

Research Topic:

Pet Ownership Behaviour: A Strategic Approach to Cat Licensing and Sterilisation

1. Background

- 1.1 Cats rank as the second most popular pet in Singapore according to YouGov Profiles¹¹ data in June 2023. Euromonitor International estimated the pet cat population in Singapore at approximately 95,000 in 2025, marking nearly a 10% increase from 2019, with projections suggesting continued growth due to their suitability for urban living. However, irresponsible pet ownership, abandonment and population management issues remain a concern, necessitating comprehensive management measures.
- 1.2 The Cat Management Framework (CMF) was implemented by the Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster of NParks, on 1 September 2024 to enhance the traceability and welfare of cats, safeguard public and animal health, and promote responsible cat ownership and caregiving in Singapore. The framework regulates cat ownership by permitting up to two cats per HDB flat and up to three cats or dogs (or a combination thereof) in private premises.
- 1.3 Under the framework, all pet cats must be microchipped and licensed, mirroring existing requirements for pet dogs. A two-year transition period (1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026) was introduced to allow cat owners time to comply with licensing requirements. Keeping unlicensed pet cats will constitute an offence from 1 September 2026.
- 1.4 Cat owners can apply for licences online via AVS' Pet Animal Licensing System (PALS). Before submitting a licence application, cat owners must ensure their cats are microchipped for identification purposes. First-time applicants must also complete a mandatory one-time online pet ownership course which is freely available online and in various languages.
- 1.5 During the two-year transition period, cat owners can declare in PALS that their cat is sterilised, if they are unable to produce a sterilisation certificate. This takes into account that some pet cats may have been adopted or taken in from the streets, and owners may not have the necessary documents on hand. From 1 September 2026, a sterilisation certificate must be submitted for sterilised pet cats.

¹¹ YouGov Profiles is based on continuously collected data and rolling surveys, rather than from a single limited questionnaire. Profiles data for Singapore is nationally representative of all adults (18 years or older), weighted by age, gender, and ethnicity, and reflect the latest Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) estimates.

- 1.6 To incentivise sterilisation and licensing, AVS has implemented supporting measures including: (a) allowing owners to retain all existing¹² pet cats (even if exceeding number limits) if licensed during the transition period, and health and welfare needs are met; (b) free licensing during the transition period; (c) lifetime licence for sterilised cats; and (d) higher licence fees on a renewal basis for unsterilised cats after the transition period. Please refer to the table below for the licensing fee structure:

Cat Licence fees from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2026

Licence fees for pet cats during the two-year transition period (From 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026)

	One-Year Licence	Two-Year Licence	Three-Year Licence	One-Time Licence
Sterilised Cats	NA	NA	NA	Free one-time licences with lifetime validity
Unsterilised Cats	Free licences covering the transition period (Licences for unsterilised cats are issued on a renewal basis)		NA	NA

¹² Cats owned before 1 September 2024. Excluding newly acquired cats (e.g. purchased directly from pet shops) during the transition period.

Cat Licence fees from 1st September 2026

Licence fees for cats/dogs not kept in a farm*

	One-year licence	Two-year licence	Three-year licence	One-time licence**
Cats/Dogs below five months of age	S\$15 per cat/dog	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
First three cats and/or dogs	Sterilised: S\$15 per cat/dog Non-sterilised: S\$90 per cat/dog	Sterilised: S\$25 per cat/dog Non-sterilised: S\$165 per cat/dog	S\$230 per non-sterilised cat/dog	S\$35 per sterilised cat/dog
Fourth and subsequent cat/dog	S\$180 per cat/dog OR A reduced licence fee of S\$15 for the fourth cat/dog^	S\$325 per cat/dog OR A reduced licence fee of S\$25 for the fourth cat/dog^	S\$460 per non-sterilised cat/dog	S\$460 per sterilised cat/dog OR A reduced licence fee of S\$35 for the fourth cat/dog^

- 1.7 AVS encourages all cat owners to sterilise their pets to prevent unintended breeding. To support lower-income households, the Pet Cat Sterilisation Support (PCSS) programme was launched on 1 September 2024 to provide free sterilisation and microchipping, and pet transport services where required. Applicants must either live in a public rental flat, hold a blue CHAS card or receive financial assistance (e.g. MSF, CDC) to be eligible for the programme. PCSS facilitates early intervention to prevent unintended breeding, addressing potential downstream animal welfare issues and disamenities arising from pet cat overpopulation. Sterilised and microchipped pet cats are returned to owners together with a goodie bag comprising cat food, treats, litter and educational material on responsible cat care.
- 1.8 AVS has been providing free pet cat microchipping services through regular microchipping and licensing drives. Over 10,000 pet cats have been microchipped for free since 1 Sep 2024. These drives are held at schools, community centres, and participating veterinary clinics, as well as other community pet-related community events.

- 1.9 Furthermore, AVS actively conducts comprehensive public outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about the CMF through various channels. Outreach efforts include community roadshows, school programmes, and large-scale events such as Pets' Day Out. Publicity campaigns include traditional and social media, Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs), digital display panels (DDP) at HDB lift lobbies, lift decals and bus stop advertisements, posters at veterinary clinics and pet shops
- 1.10 As of end Aug 2025, over 41,000 pet cats have been licensed and more than 1,300 have received assistance under PCSS. The reported sterilisation rate among licensed cats stands at approximately 95%. As we near the end of the transition period, continued efforts are needed to encourage cat owners to license and sterilise their pets, with targeted interventions to address potential barriers to compliance.
- 1.11 During a public consultation on the CMF in 2023, key barriers to sterilisation were identified, including cats perceived to be too young, affordability concerns, and limited access to veterinary services. Surveys conducted during AVS' free microchipping and licensing drives in 2025 revealed that indoor confinement of pet cats was also a reason for non-sterilisation.
- 1.12 The failure to sterilise, microchip and license pet cats can significantly impact animal welfare, public health, and community well-being. Unsterilised cats are more prone to problematic behaviours including roaming, caterwauling, fighting and urine marking, whilst a single breeding pair can produce over 300 kittens within four years. The microchipping and licensing of pet cats improves traceability and helps keep owners accountable, especially in cases involving irresponsible pet ownership, hoarding, or abandonment. Traceability is also a key component of disease outbreak control, management and response plans.
- 1.13 This uncontrolled cat population growth imposes substantial costs across multiple stakeholders. Affected residents experience chronic noise, stench and hygiene issues, property damage, public health risks, and heightened neighbourly tensions. Community cat caregivers shoulder increasing financial and emotional burdens caring for abandoned cats, whilst animal shelters operate beyond capacity and Town Councils face escalating maintenance costs. Moreover, breeding among free-roaming unsterilised pet cats undermine the effectiveness of our national Trap-Neuter-Rehome/Release-Manage (TNRM) programme in controlling community cat populations.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The research grant aims to achieve the following:
- (a) Develop targeted interventions leveraging Human Behavioural Change (HBC) strategies to increase pet cat licensing and sterilisation rates, thereby improving traceability, strengthening animal health, welfare and population control, and reducing cat-related disamenities.

- (b) Identify socio-ecological and behavioural barriers and enablers for licensing and sterilising pet cats, including among target groups, in Singapore.
- (c) Develop and assess socio-ecological and behavioural interventions, including those specific to target groups, to increase pet cat licensing and sterilisation rates.
- (d) Evaluate the effectiveness and measure the impact of socio-ecological and behavioural interventions for refinement or scaling up.
- (e) (Optional) Subject to project proposals and outcomes, extend the application of objectives 2(a) to 2(d) to encompass pet dogs in Singapore.

Projects are also encouraged to further build upon the above-mentioned objectives, and/or propose additional research objectives.

3. Minimum Project Deliverables

3.1 The deliverables described here represent the minimum outcomes arising from the proposed project:

- (a) Comprehensive documentation and analysis of the pet cat owner journey from acquisition to licensing and sterilisation, mapping current touchpoints, identifying barriers and enablers, and designing an optimised pathway to improve licensing compliance and sterilisation uptake.
- (b) Mapping of key influence points including but not limited to veterinary clinics, pet shops, groomers, animal groups, grassroots, community and/or religious leaders, community cat caregivers, and social service agencies to identify optimal intervention channels for increasing licensing compliance and sterilisation uptake.
- (c) Segmentation of pet cat owners into distinct groups based on demographic, socio-economic, and behavioural characteristics to identify priority segments for targeted licensing and sterilisation interventions.
- (d) Data collection through a multi-method research approach including but not limited to surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions to inform intervention design.
- (e) Comprehensive synthesis of research findings identifying key intervention opportunities and evidence-based recommendations to drive licensing and sterilisation uptake.
- (f) Execution of interventions through one of three methodological approaches: (i) Randomised Control Trial (RCT); (ii) Implementation and Process Evaluation; or (iii) Alternative methodology proposed by the research team and agreed upon by AVS.
- (g) Evaluation of intervention effectiveness on licensing and sterilisation rates, with recommendations for refinement and potential re-trial based on outcomes.

- (h) Evidence-based recommendations for intervention optimisation and potential re-trial, including identification of scalability requirements, implementation considerations, and strategic guidance for wider deployment of successful interventions.
- (i) Comprehensive impact achievement report detailing implemented activities with timeline of completion and key parties engaged, resources and support utilised, and strategic guidance for organisational adoption and scaling of successful interventions.

4. Optional Deliverables

- 4.1 If objective 2(e) is activated, deliverables 3.1(a) to 3.1(i) shall be extended to encompass pet dogs in Singapore.

Projects are also encouraged to further build upon the above-mentioned deliverables, and/or propose additional deliverables.

5. Funding Support and Duration

- 5.1 The Call for Proposals offers funding support up to S\$200,000 (including all direct and indirect costs). Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate cost-effectiveness in their proposals.
- 5.2 This Call for Proposals offers funding support for a period of 18 to 24 months
- 5.3 NParks' decision on the funding support to be awarded for this project is final.

ANNEX B

Non-Fundable Direct Costs of Research

This list may be subject to revision.

Type of Expenses	Description
Salaries of Lead PIs / Investigators / Project Leads	Not allowable, to ensure no double-funding of salaries and related costs, as the salaries are already supported from other sources (e.g. faculty salaries are supported separately by the IHL as it is in support of the IHLs' core mission).
Salaries of teaching staff / teaching substitutes	Not allowable, as this is already being supported from capitation grants.
Undergraduate tuition support	Not allowable, as this should be supported under the respective scholarship grants and bursary schemes.
Salaries of general administrative support staff	Not allowable, as this is an indirect cost*.
Costs related to general administration and management	Not allowable, as this is an indirect cost*. This includes common office equipment, such as furniture and fittings, office software, photocopiers, scanners and office supplies.
Costs of office or laboratory space	Not allowable, as this is an indirect cost*. This includes renovation/outfitting costs, rent, depreciation of buildings and equipment, and related expenditures such as water, electricity, general waste disposal and building/facilities maintenance charges.
Personal productivity tools & communication expenses	Not allowable, unless the use of mobile phones and other form of smart devices were indicated in the methodology for the Research/I&E Project. All other costs under this expense type is an indirect cost*.
Entertainment	Not allowable, as this is an indirect cost*.
Refreshment	Not allowable, unless this is related to a hosted conference or workshop for the Research/I&E Project. All other costs under this expense type is an indirect cost*.
Audit fees (Internal and external audit) and Legal fees	Not allowable, as this is an indirect cost*.
Fines and Penalties	
Professional Membership Fees	

Staff retreat and team-building activities	
Patent Application	Not allowable, as this should be supported from overheads given to I&E Office (IEO)*. This includes patent application filing, maintenance and other related costs.

* Note: Indirect cost items should be supported from overheads or other funding sources.

(Aligned with National Research Fund Guide, version w.e.f. Dec 2020)

ANNEX C

Definitions of Different Private Sector Entity Types

S/N	Type	Criteria
1	Non-Singapore entities based in Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <30% local shareholding, determined by the ultimate individual ownership
2	Large Local Enterprises (LLEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≥30% local shareholding; and• More than \$100M in annual turnover
3	Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have Group Annual Sales Turnover of not more than \$100M, or maximum employment of 200 employees• To qualify as an SG entity, the entity must also have at least 30% local shareholding, i.e. local equity held directly or indirectly by Singaporean(s) and/or Singapore PR(s)
4	Start-ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registered for less than 5 years at time of grant application• Has individual ownership of more than 50% at reference year; and• Employs at least 1 worker• To qualify as an SG entity, the entity must also have at least 30% local shareholding
5	Not-for-profits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registered as a public Company Limited by guarantee, society or charity trust• Main purpose is to support or engage in activities of public or private interest without any commercial or monetary profit, and are prohibited from distributing monetary residual to their own members• To qualify as an SG not-for-profit, the entity must meet all 3 of the following criteria:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Registered and physically present in Singapore;(2) Core funding (i.e. excluding competitive grant funding) is derived entirely/mostly from SG entities;(3) Managed by a Board, which is at least half appointed by SG entities

(Aligned with National Research Fund Guide, version w.e.f. 19 Jul 2021)