

PRESS RELEASE

11 May 2009

POLYTECHNICS RECEIVE S\$25 MILLION GRANT TO TRANSLATE RESEARCH RESULTS FOR THE MARKET

- *Grant enables polytechnics to develop commercial products using intellectual property (IP) from the universities and research institutes*
- *Grant will match downstream development at the polytechnics with upstream university research*

1. A new grant of \$25 million was announced by the National Research Foundation (NRF) today to fund translational research & development at the 5 polytechnics in Singapore. Called the Translational Research and Development (TRD) grant, this is an initiative under the National Framework for Innovation and Enterprise ¹ (NFIE), announced by the Prime Minister in March 2008. The TRD grant provides the polytechnics with resources to build on the research results from the universities and research institutes and turn these into commercialisable products and applications (see **Annex A** for more details).

2. Dr Francis Yeoh, Chief Executive Officer of NRF, said: “The polytechnics are traditionally close to the industry and have been active in using technology to develop practical applications. The universities and research institutes, on the other hand, have developed much intellectual property from extensive research over the years. The TRD Grant aims to bring the 2 parties together and fill the gap between academic research and the development of innovative products and systems for the marketplace”.

3. Mr Chan Lee Mun, Nanyang Polytechnic’s Principal and Chief Executive Officer said: “We are encouraged by this initiative which provides a unique grant scheme targeted at the polytechnics. It recognises the capabilities of the polytechnics to be able to take an IP to the next level towards successful commercialisation. We are confident

¹ The National Framework for Innovation and Enterprise (NFIE) builds on the strong R&D foundation established through earlier investments in R&D to develop innovation and enterprise in Singapore. A key focus of the framework is on developing academic entrepreneurship in the institutes of higher learning (universities and polytechnics). A sum of S\$360 million over five years (2008 – 2012) has been allocated to fund the initiatives under the NFIE.

that this scheme will encourage more researchers to be enterprising and develop innovative products for the market place.”

4. Dr Lily Chan, CEO of NUS Enterprise, said: "We strongly welcome this TRD grant scheme from NRF, which will help translate NUS research and technologies into new, commercialisable and useful products and services, with support from the Polytechnics. This initiative will build upon the multiple master research collaborative agreements that NUS Enterprise signed last year with the five Polytechnics in Singapore. I look forward to seeing the fruits of these initiatives, which will contribute towards creating more innovations for a better world.”

5. The TRD Grant scheme aims to support at least 10 projects per year at steady state, with up to S\$500,000 per project. Projects will be selected via a competitive evaluation process. The Grant will be given in two tranches. The first tranche of S\$15 million will be made available for the first three years. Pending a satisfactory review in the third year, the second tranche of S\$10 million will be released for the scheme.

6. Each polytechnic will carry out an internal evaluation of submitted projects for technical feasibility and novelty. Shortlisted projects from this process across the 5 polytechnics will then be submitted to the TRD Grant Evaluation Panel for final assessment and recommendation for award (see **Annex B** for more details). The TRD Grant Evaluation Panel is made up of the Deputy Principals of the five polytechnics, senior representatives from the technology transfer offices of A*STAR, NUS, NTU, SMU, and NRF. Venture capitalists and representatives from the private industry will also be invited to the panel. The Panel Chair is rotated among the Polytechnics' Deputy Principals annually (see **Annex C** for more details).

7. TRD grant calls will be made twice a year, in January and July, through NRF's Research Portal – the Research, Innovation and Technology Administration system or RITA at <https://rita.nrf.gov.sg>.

About the National Research Foundation (NRF)

The National Research Foundation (NRF), set up on 1 January 2006, is a department under the Prime Minister's Office.

The NRF sets the national direction for research and development (R&D) by developing policies, plans and strategies for research, innovation and enterprise, funds strategic initiatives, builds up R&D capabilities and capacities through nurturing indigenous and attracting foreign talent, and coordinates the research agenda of different agencies to transform Singapore into a knowledge-intensive, innovative and entrepreneurial economy. It provides secretariat support to the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC), chaired by the Prime Minister. A five-year budget of S\$5 billion has been allocated to the NRF in 2006 to achieve this mission.

The NRF aims to:

- Transform Singapore into a vibrant R&D hub that contributes towards a knowledge-intensive, innovative and entrepreneurial economy; and
- Make Singapore a talent magnet for scientific and innovation excellence.

For more information, please visit www.nrf.gov.sg.

About Nanyang Polytechnic

Established in 1992, Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) (www.nyp.edu.sg) is a premier tertiary institution that offers quality education in Engineering, Information Technology, Design, Interactive & Digital Media, Business Management, Health Sciences and Chemical & Life Sciences. Currently, it offers 45 full-time diploma courses and a suite of customised courses for continuing education.

About Singapore Polytechnic

Established in 1954 to meet the manpower needs identified by the government, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) (www.sp.edu.sg) is Singapore's first educational institution of its kind. Its nine academic schools offer 46 full-time diploma courses for its 14,900 students and courses are kept relevant through close links with industry and government bodies, as well as with various overseas institutions. SP offers broad-based, multi-disciplinary and flexible curriculum dedicated to hands-on experience and is committed to the development of its applied research and development capability to enhance the quality of teaching and commercialisation efforts. Among SP's 145,000 alumni are successful entrepreneurs, top executives in multinational and public-listed corporations, and well-known professionals, many of whom are captains of industries, university professors and researchers, and leaders in government

About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Ngee Ann Polytechnic is one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning. The polytechnic offers both business-related and technology-based diploma and advanced diploma programmes. The polytechnic aims to provide relevant, balanced and value-added curricula by creating an effective teaching and learning environment. A key thrust for the polytechnic is forging partnerships with industry and other institutions in order to keep students close to current industry and market practices. For more information, please visit www.np.edu.sg

About Temasek Polytechnic

Temasek Polytechnic (TP) is a significant contributor to the field of para-professional education in Singapore. TP currently offers 50 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 40 part-time courses, up to the advanced diploma level. TP students undergo a holistic learning system that combines hands-on experience, relevant life skills and an enriching learning environment. Through this approach, we ensure that our graduates are economy relevant, future relevant and life relevant. For more information, please visit www.tp.edu.sg.

About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to adopt the Problem-Based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has six schools and one centre offering thirty diploma courses in Information and Communications Technology, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health & Leisure, Events and Hospitality, and Culture and Communication. Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving process skills and a life-long learning attitude. Its holistic, broad-based curriculum, covering culture, enterprise development and cognitive

processes, prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society. Republic Polytechnic strives for excellence by achieving various international and national accreditations, including ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, TR19, People Developer Standards, Singapore Quality Class and Singapore Innovation Class. For more information, visit <http://www.rp.edu.sg>

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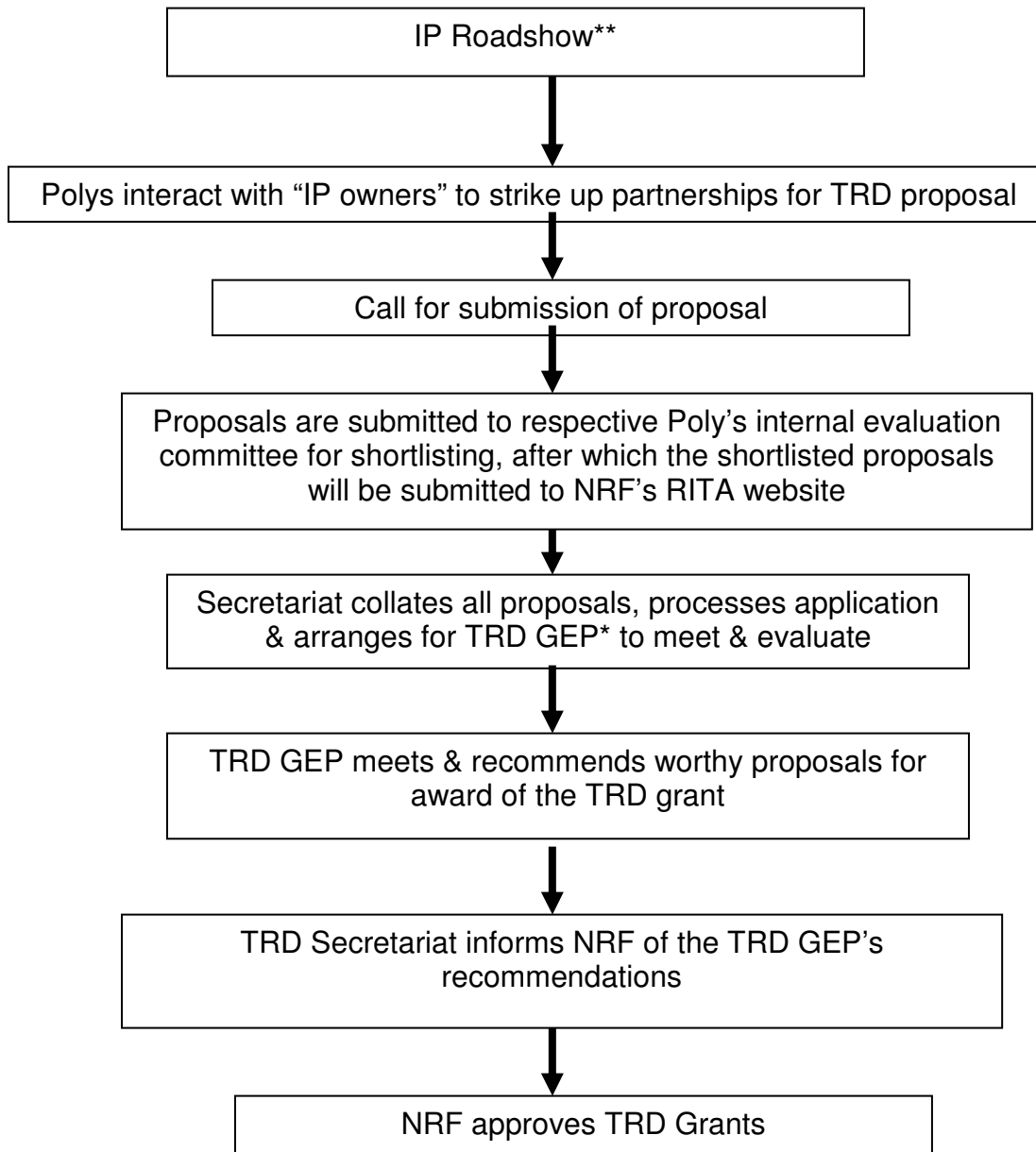
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ANNEX A

Translational R&D Grant Scheme

Funding quantum	Up to S\$500,000 per project
Eligibility for application	All full time polytechnic researchers i.e. staff or students of the polytechnics
Frequency of calls	Twice a year
Technology areas	All technology areas
Evaluation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researchers submit proposals to their polytechnics, which are evaluated for technical feasibility and novelty by the respective Offices of Research and Technology Transfer• A TRD Grant Evaluation Panel evaluates the short-listed projects and recommends awards to NRF based on technical and commercial merit• NRF approves the awards

The Polytechnics' Translational Research and Development Grant Cycle



Note:

* TRD GEP – Translational Research & Development Grant Evaluation Panel

** The IP Roadshow will be held over 4 days within 2 weeks for IP presentations by A*STAR, NUS, NTU & SMU

Composition of TRD Grant Evaluation Panel

Designation
Deputy Principal, Nanyang Polytechnic (Chairman for the first year, rotated yearly)
Deputy Principal, Singapore Polytechnic
Deputy Principal, Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Deputy Principal, Temasek Polytechnic
Deputy Principal, Republic Polytechnic
Senior Staff, A*STAR Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd
Senior Staff, NUS Industry Liaison Office
Senior Staff, NTU Innovation & Technology Transfer Office
Senior Staff, SMU Institute of Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Director (Projects), NRF
Venture capitalists and industry representatives