

# Innovation to Startup (I2Start)

## Grant information sheet

*Development of clinician innovations towards Health and Biomedical Sciences Startups*



### Letter of Intent Call

The I2Start grant call (Letter of Intent) is now open for applications. The closing date is on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

### Aim

I2Start program is a streamlined funding pathway which brings together three successful grant schemes: SMART Innovation Grant, NHIC Innovation to Develop (I2D) and ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE Startup SG Tech, in a manner to support company formation around health and biomedical science innovations.

An I2Start application **must clearly illustrate** the **technical feasibility** of the technology, a defined **go-to-market strategy**, and demonstrate the **potential for translation** to a point where the technology would be **attractive for a start-up company formation**.

### Eligibility

- The team **must** consist of **one Clinical Principal Investigator** and **one Technical Principal Investigator** from Singapore public-funded institutions. The team should have a **strong intention to start-up a company**.
- The Clinical PI must hold a primary appointment in a public healthcare institution or academic medical school in Singapore and be salaried by the institution.
- The Technical PI must be employed by public-funded institution in Singapore (e.g. NUS, NTU, SUTD, SIT, SIM, SMU, A\*STAR Institutions, Polytechnics, CREATE Institutions, and etc.). The Technical PI must have relevant scientific/technical background and possess necessary experience to co-direct the project being supported by the grant.

### Funding criteria

Funding is considered if the application satisfies the following criteria:

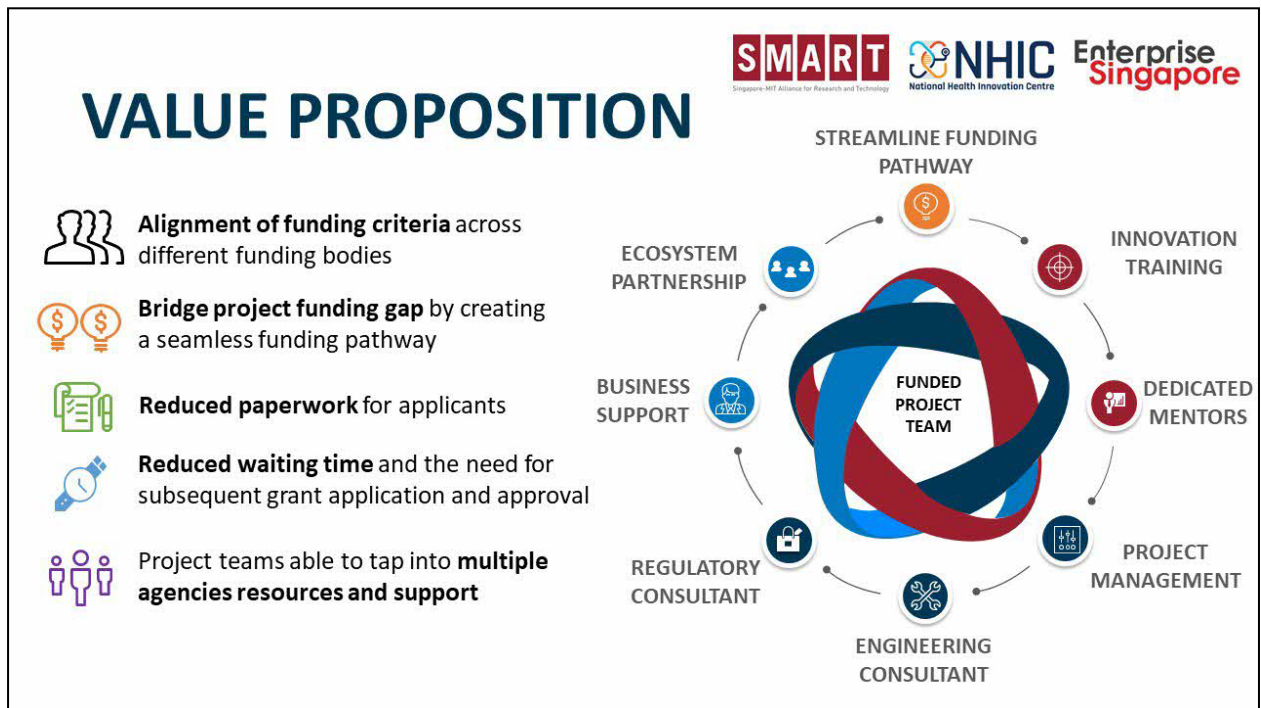
- Strong intellectual property position
- Demonstrated preliminary proof-of-concept data, *in-vitro* and/or *in-vivo* research/laboratory models (TRL 3\* and above)
- Detailed technical and clinical development plan leading to a start-up, highlighting project scope, milestones and budget for each phase
- Clear and achievable commercial plan outlining the unmet healthcare need, the proposed start-up structure and competitive landscape

*\* Definition: Technology Readiness Level 3 - Initial proof-of-concept demonstrated*

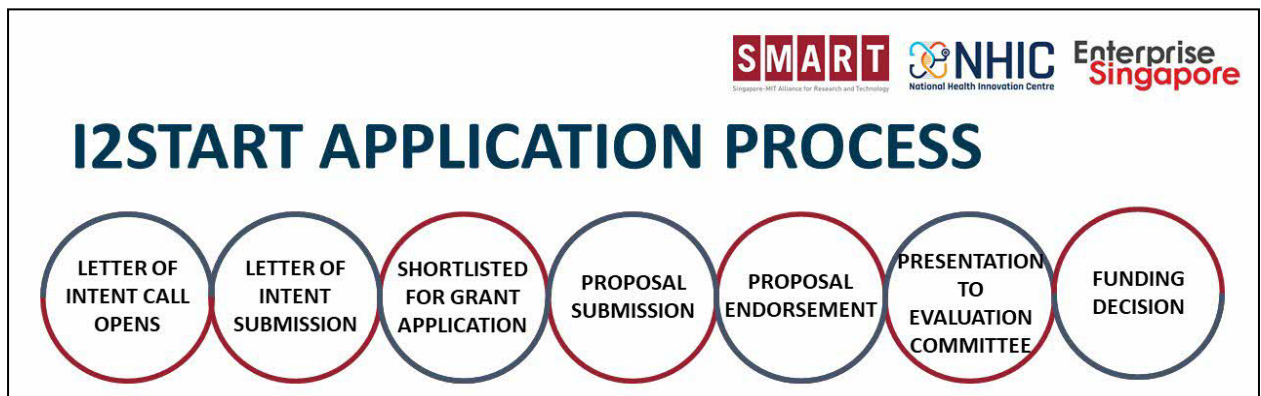
The project should **preferably fall under one of the following areas**:

- Clinical diagnostics
- Medical device and products
- Digital health
- Life science tools

## Why I2START?

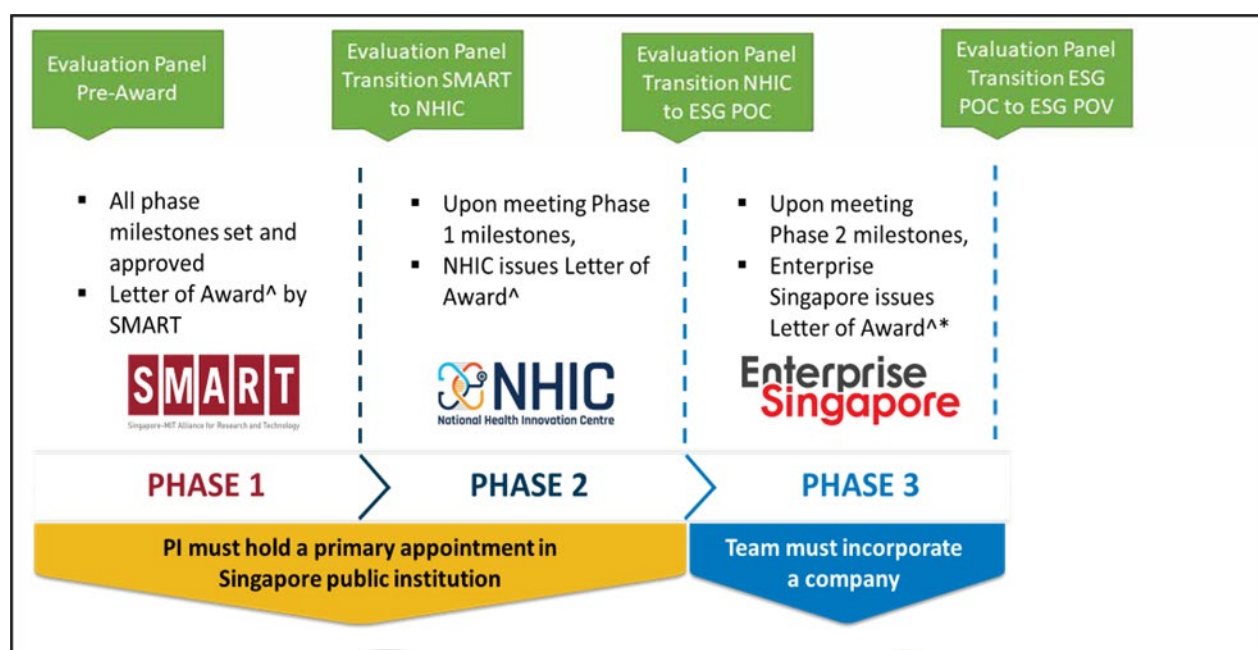


## Application process



All I2Start grant applications will be jointly evaluated by the 3 funding agencies.

## Funding process



Successful applicants will be awarded SMART Grant<sup>^</sup> under Phase 1.

Upon meeting the approved Phase 1 milestones, the project will transit into Phase 2, where it will be funded under NHIC I2D grant<sup>^</sup>.

Upon meeting the approved Phase 2 milestones and the required requisites\*, the project will transit into Phase 3, whereby the startup company will be supported under Startup SG Tech POC/POV grant<sup>^</sup>. To find out more general information about the ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE Startup SG Tech grant, please visit [Startup SG Tech](#).

### \* Requisites:

- (1) Incorporate a company (start-up) with key members hired full-time with at least 30% local shareholding, and
- (2) License the IPs developed at SMART/ NHIC phase (Licensing agreement)

<sup>^</sup> Individual grant terms apply

## Funding quantum and duration

Phase 1&2: Total of \$600,000 inclusive of maximum 30% Indirect Research Cost

Phase 3: up to \$1,200,000 to support spin-off company

- **Phase 1:** SMART Grant funding quantum is capped at \$300,000 (inclusive of max. 30% indirect costs) awarded to the host institution. The SMART Innovation Grant funding support is up to 1 year.
- **Phase 2:** NHIC I2D funding quantum is capped at \$300,000 (inclusive of max. 30% indirect costs) awarded to the host institution. The NHIC I2D funding support is up to 1 year.
- **Phase 3:** ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE Startup SG Tech (SSG Tech) funding is capped at \$400,000 for Proof-of-Concept (POC) projects and \$800,000 for Proof-of-Value (POV) projects, awarded to startups incorporated in Singapore with at least 30% local shareholding. The SSG Tech funding support is up to 1.5 years for POC projects and 2.5 years for POV projects. To maintain financial discipline, startups would be required to increase its paid-up capital to 10% and 20% of the grant amount for POC and POV respectively. Startup SG Tech will also include an equity component to cultivate greater financial discipline and a growth-oriented mindset that is consistent with venture-backed startups. Click [here](#) on FAQ for Startup SG Tech.

### Submission details

- The Letter of Intent must be submitted by Lead PI to the I2Start Grant Secretariat at [grant@nhic.cris.sg](mailto:grant@nhic.cris.sg) by **04 July 2025, 5pm**
- Applicants are required to include the project scope, milestones and budget for all the 3 grant phases through a single submission using the Letter of Intent template (attached)
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a formal grant application through the respective research office.

Should you have any queries about the I2Start grant scheme, please contact the grant secretariat [grant@nhic.cris.sg](mailto:grant@nhic.cris.sg)