



الأكاديمية العربية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا والنقل البحري
Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport

Call for Collaboration Research and Innovation Project

1. BACKGROUND OF THE AASTMT GRANT CALL

In line with its vision to be recognized as a leading national and regional university distinguished by high-quality education, research, training, and consultancy, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) continues to strengthen its role in advancing research and innovation. AASTMT is committed to fostering an environment that supports academic excellence by providing researchers with the necessary resources, administrative support, and tools to pursue impactful studies.

To further this mission, AASTMT is launching the **fourth round of its grant call**, offering funding opportunities designed to empower researchers at all levels—ranging from students to experienced professionals across academia, industry, and the public sector. These grants aim to stimulate the development of projects that contribute not only to the growth of the individual researchers but also to the advancement of AASTMT and the wider national and regional communities.

The **AASTMT Innovation Research Grant (IRG)** represents a core component of the Academy's scientific research strategy and serves as a key mechanism for addressing pressing national priorities.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE AASTMT GRANT CALL

This grant call aims to foster **long-term research collaboration** between AASTMT researchers and regional institutions through open and competitive funding. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Encourage **multidisciplinary collaborative R&D projects** within AASTMT.
- ii. Strengthen the **application and innovation of research outputs**, with stronger links to regional industries.
- iii. Advance **competitiveness, collaboration, and venture capital opportunities**.
- iv. Support **applied research** that contributes directly to **sustainable development goals**.
- v. Increase awareness of the critical role of **R&D and innovation** in driving new technologies and their **economic and social impacts**.

3. THEMATIC FOCUS AND FUNDED ACTIVITIES

This call supports activities carried out through **joint partnerships** between AASTMT researchers and other institutions (consortia). The funded instruments include:

3.1. Innovation Research Grant (IRG):

This theme focuses on **innovative ideas** that align with AASTMT's strategic research agenda, aiming to generate new knowledge through scientific research and move toward the development of a working—though not necessarily final—product.

- **Scope:** Establish evidence for a novel concept with demonstrable added value across any research discipline.
- **Funding & Duration:** Up to **EGP 500,000** with a **maximum duration of one year**.
- **Eligibility:** Applications must include at least two researchers in addition to the Principal Investigator (PI). Postgraduate students may also participate.
- **Expected Outputs:** The primary target is a **patent or intellectual property**. Additional acceptable outputs include:
 - Peer-reviewed journal articles (minimum Scopus-indexed),
 - Working prototypes or pilot-scale processes.

While IRGs may not deliver a complete solution, they are expected to demonstrate clear potential, even if further research, feature enhancement, or customization for specific applications is still required.

3.2. Commercialization and Innovation Project (CIP)

This theme focuses on **proven concepts or ideas** that require further development to evolve into market-ready applications. It aims to bridge the gap between research outcomes and commercialization by supporting activities related to:

- First applications and early-stage market uptake,
- Further refinement of innovative techniques, processes, products, or services,
- Addressing barriers that may hinder commercial success.



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A **comprehensive feasibility study** must accompany each proposal, clearly demonstrating the anticipated added value and the resources required.

- **Funding & Duration:** Up to **EGP 1,000,000** with a **maximum duration of 24 months**.
- **Eligibility:** Each application must include at least **four researchers** in addition to the Principal Investigator (PI). Strong collaboration with industry partners and other academic institutions in the Arab region is **highly encouraged and valued**.
- **Expected Outputs:** The main outcome should be a **fully functional, real-world application** that proves both its added value and scalability. Additional acceptable outputs include:
 - Peer-reviewed journal articles (minimum JCR-indexed),
 - Patents.

By the end of the CIP period, the project output should meet the specifications of a **commercial product**, ready for market deployment.

Multidisciplinary Emphasis

The AASTMT strongly supports **cross-disciplinary projects**. The AASTMT Grant advances both knowledge and education by funding original, competitively selected research in all fields of science, with particular focus on the following strategic pillars:

1. Computer Science and ICT:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Cloud Computing, Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Transformation.

2. Basic and Fundamental Sciences

- Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and interdisciplinary pure/applied sciences.

3. Climate Change and Environmental Sciences

- Climate adaptation and mitigation, sustainability, environmental pollution, renewable energy integration, waste management.

4. Economics and Sustainable Development



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- Development economics, green economy, circular economy, financial systems, and innovation policy.

5. Engineering (all disciplines, including Marine and Offshore Engineering)

- Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Mechatronics, Robotics, AI-driven engineering, naval and offshore systems.

6. Medical and Health Sciences

- Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Public Health, Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology, and Digital Health.

7. Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities

- Law, Linguistics, Management, Business, Administration, Education, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, and Cultural Studies.

8. Energy

- Renewable energy, hydrogen economy, nuclear energy, energy storage, smart grids, energy efficiency.

9. Logistics Sciences

- Transport, supply chain, maritime logistics, port operations, and smart mobility solutions.

10. Water Resource Management

- Water treatment, desalination, irrigation, integrated water resources, hydro-informatics.

11. Food and Agriculture

- Smart agriculture, food security, biotechnology in agriculture, aquaculture, sustainable farming.

12. Archaeology and Heritage Studies

- Preservation, conservation technologies, digital archaeology, cultural heritage management.

13. Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies

- AI applications, robotics, quantum computing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and space technology.

14. Blue Economy and Marine Sciences



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- Oceanography, fisheries, aquaculture, marine ecosystems, sustainable use of marine resources, and coastal resilience.

15. Smart Cities and Urban Development

- Urban planning, infrastructure resilience, smart mobility, green buildings, and sustainable housing.

16. Education and Pedagogical Innovation

- E-learning, curriculum innovation, lifelong learning, educational technology, and training for future skills.

17. Public Policy, Governance, and Law

- Policy analysis, governance frameworks, legal reforms, peace and conflict resolution, and international relations.

18. Tourism, Culture, and Creative Industries

- Sustainable tourism, cultural heritage industries, digital creative industries, and entertainment technologies.

4. DURATION, FUNDING SCOPE

The AASTMT Grant is offered as a single-cycle funding opportunity with two distinct schemes:

- **Innovation Research Grant (IRG):** Funding between **EGP 200,000 and 500,000** for a duration of **6 to 12 months**.
- **Collaborative Innovation Project (CIP):** Funding between **EGP 500,000 and 1,000,000** for a duration of **12 to 24 months**.

Applicants should ensure that the proposed budget is realistically aligned with the actual requirements of the project. The AASTMT reserves the right to adjust or reduce the requested budget based on the recommendations of the peer review process.

5. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PROJECT CONSORTIA

A project consortium must include a **Principal Investigator (PI)** who is a researcher from AASTMT and holds a PhD. Partners can represent research institutions, higher education entities, industrial

companies, or other legal entities such as NGOs from Egypt. The AASTMT encourages collaborative projects that involve teams from multiple institutions and stakeholders. External institutions must provide a **letter of intent**, signed and stamped by the legal representative of the participating research unit.

Each project must be represented by a **Principal Investigator (PI)** who holds a research-focused doctorate and demonstrates a strong research record and expertise relevant to the proposed project. Within the consortium, one PI should be designated as the **Project Coordinator or Lead PI (LPI)**. Each researcher is eligible to participate as a PI, coordinator, or team member in only **one project per ongoing cycle**. Researchers involved in proposal preparation and budget planning must have a defined role in the project implementation and cannot sell equipment to the consortium.

The consortium must prepare a **consortium agreement** prior to the Grant Agreement, outlining fair management of intellectual property rights (IPR). Applicants must disclose any submission of the same or similar proposals to other funding programs, along with any funds awarded from such submissions. AASTMT reserves the right to reconsider funding if the consortium fails to comply.

All project activities must take place on **AASTMT premises**, and project outcomes and deliverables will stay at the **AASTMT premises** at the conclusion of the project.

Table 1. Eligibility Requirements for Team Members by Research Role

Team member	Role		
	PI	Co-PI	Researcher
AASTMT Staff	Necessary	Necessary	Not Necessary
Ph.D.	Necessary	Not Necessary	Not Necessary
Non-AASTMT Staff	Not allowed	Not allowed	Allowed

6. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

All proposals must be prepared using the **official and updated AASTMT GRANT proposal templates**, which can be downloaded from the **Download Centre** at <https://aastmtic3.aast.edu/sri/index.html>

Use of any other format will result in disqualification. Completed applications, including the **GANTT form** and **Budget form**, must be submitted online in **PDF format** via the same site. Incomplete or incorrectly formatted proposals may be rejected.

7. EVALUATION

Proposals will undergo a rigorous evaluation process to select the most meritorious projects for **Innovation Research Grant (IRG) funding**. The evaluation process is outlined in Figure 1.

- **Eligibility Check:** Ensures that each submitted proposal meets the basic criteria to proceed to technical review.
- **Technical Evaluation:** Conducted by expert reviewers in the relevant research field. Reviewers assess whether the proposal demonstrates a **tangible, measurable, and achievable research plan** with sufficient outcomes to justify funding.
- **Panel Review:** A dedicated panel from AASTMT examines the shortlisted projects and recommends the **final selection of funded proposals**.

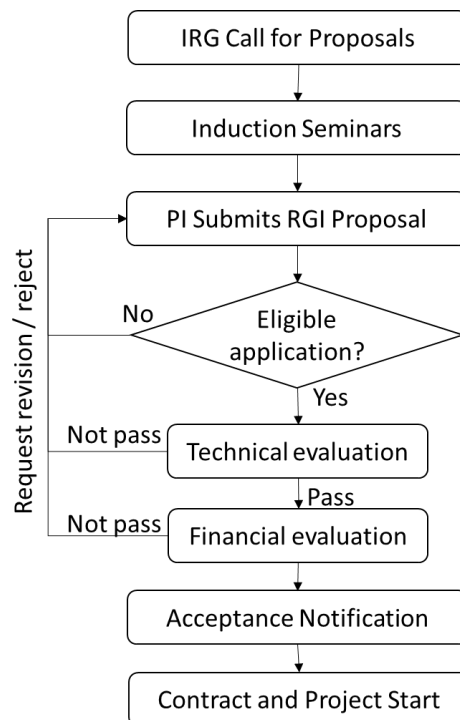


Figure 1. Flowchart of the evaluation and selection criteria showing the competition hierarchy.



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The **budgetary department**, in coordination with the research teams, will carry out a **financial assessment** to ensure optimal investment of IRG funds in each project. Once a proposal successfully passes both **technical and financial evaluations**, the applicant will be notified to **accept the grant and commence the project**.

IRG contracts serve as **regulatory documents**, outlining the requirements for **periodic due diligence** throughout the active duration of the funded project. All eligible proposals will be assessed using a **point-based scoring system** (as detailed in the proposal application form), and projects will be selected according to their scores until the **available budget is fully allocated**.

The evaluation procedure includes the following steps:

Eligibility check

AASTMT will review all submitted proposals to ensure they meet the **general eligibility criteria**. Proposals must align with the requirements outlined in Section 7 and must be submitted **by the deadline**. Any proposals failing to meet these criteria will be **rejected**.

Peer review

Eligible proposals are evaluated **anonymously** by a dedicated pool of **independent expert Peer Reviewers (PRs)**. Reviewers provide detailed narrative feedback, highlighting the **strengths and weaknesses** of each proposal. To qualify for funding, a proposal must achieve at least **70% of the maximum score**. PRs score proposals based on six evaluation criteria: **Significance, Originality, Approach/Methodology, Research Team, Resources, and Budget**, as outlined below:

1. Significance (Maximum 30 points)

Evaluates the contribution of the research to advancing knowledge within or across disciplines:

- Relevance of expected results to key problems in the research area.
- Appropriateness of cited literature.
- Effectiveness of planned dissemination methods.



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Assesses the potential impact of the project on priority areas, including alignment with **AASTMT strategy**:

- Benefits of the research activity to AASTMT.
- Plans for continuing or expanding the project after AASTMT support ends.

2. Originality (Maximum 20 points)

Measures the novelty of the proposed research:

- Innovation of the idea or concept.
- Originality of the approach or methodology.
- Contribution to existing knowledge or literature in the field.

3. Approach/Methodology (Maximum 15 points)

Assesses the clarity and organization of the proposed project:

- Appropriateness of the experimental design, statistical methods, data collection, and analysis.
- Clarity and feasibility of the timeline and specific objectives.

4. Qualifications of the Research Team (Maximum 20 points)

Evaluates the expertise and suitability of the research team:

- Competence of team members from AASTMT and other institutions.
- Appropriateness of designated roles to execute the project successfully.
- Consideration of prior research experience where relevant.

5. Resources (Maximum 5 points)

Assesses the adequacy of available resources to support project activities.

6. Budget (Maximum 10 points)

Evaluates whether the proposed budget is realistic and justified in terms of:

- Personnel.
- Equipment and materials.



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- Travel and miscellaneous expenses.

Bonus Points

Additional points are awarded for verified collaborative activities:

- **+5 points** for collaboration with non-academic stakeholders who co-finance the project.
- **+3 points** for multidisciplinary collaboration across different research fields.

Review Committee and Funding Decision

The Review Committee will compile the evaluation results and provide funding recommendations to the AASTMT GRANT, presenting a **ranked list of proposals** recommended for support. The committee will pay special attention to proposals that received widely varying scores from different evaluators. Selected consortia must finalize their **consortium agreements** before any contract or funding award is issued.

Under the IRG call, eligible costs generally cover expenses that enhance the **research capacity of AASTMT**, focusing on three main categories: **capacity building, human capital development, and dissemination activities**.

- **Salaries and manpower costs** are eligible if adequately justified, but cannot exceed **20% of the total project budget**.
- **Travel and accommodation costs** are generally not allowed, except for activities deemed essential to the project (e.g., data collection or training), and must not exceed **5% of the total budget**.
- **Generic equipment** (laptops, digital cameras, smartphones, etc.) is not considered eligible under this call.
- For **software licenses**, applicants must consult with **AASTMT-CNDC** to verify that the required software is not already licensed by AASTMT and that the technical requirements can be supported.
- **Dissemination activities** (press conferences, seminars, digital content creation, etc.) are capped at **5% of the total budget**.



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- Any equipment purchased through the grant remains the property of AASTMT and cannot be relocated outside AASTMT campuses.

8. Contact Information

Deanery of Scientific Research and Innovation

Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)

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Email:

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9. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

- ✓ Announcement of Call for Proposals: **Monday 20 October 2025**
- ✓ Proposal Submission Deadline: **Sunday 30 November 2025**

10. LIST OF ITEMS **NOT** ALLOABLE UNDER MISCELLANEOUS

Maintenance and services for personal and/or office use
Events and Meetings Expenses
External Binding & Printing Service unless dedicated to research output
Food and Beverages Expenses
Social and Entertainment Activities
Fundraising and investment
Donations and contributions
Fines and Penalties
Marketing Expenses
Local transportation unless for research purposes related to the awarded grants.
Contingencies
Faculty Awards, Honoraria, Gifts, Vouchers
Debts
Insurance
Membership costs
Fees for Ethical Boards
Fees for Trustees, Alumni
Any item covered by any of the budget categories