



Reactivating & Rebuilding of Existing Labs Initiative

Project-level Funding

Call For Proposal

Stable and Sustainable R&D Funding

Reactivating & Rebuilding of Existing Labs Initiative

A. About the Initiative

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia has more than 124 research centers and 180 research chairs scattered between universities, hospitals, ministries, and non-profit organizations. For the past decade, these centers were serving and contributing to the overall research and development activities within the kingdom. However, with the lack of a sustainable funding and support a considerable number of centers has reduced their capacity in term of research staff, or decreased their research outputs, or even temporarily stopped their research activities. In addition, many number of these research centers do not have a proper fabrication or prototyping facilities. The Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) is launching several initiatives to support the entire research, development, and innovation (RDI) ecosystem. In particular, RDIA has designed an initiative to fund existing labs to rebuild and increase their system capacity, to address the challenge of limited availability of fabrication and prototyping facilities, and to support their operational needs.

The reactivating and rebuilding of existing labs initiative in general is designed to support the overall research activity in the Kingdom and tailored to achieve the broader goal of creating economic, societal, and environmental impact. The initiative aims to foster scientific excellence and promote innovation, ultimately leading to significant breakthroughs and advancements across the four areas of national research and innovation priorities. The fund provided through the initiative targets the enhancement of the existing labs which will lead to increasing the number and quality of research outputs in terms of publication, patents, or ready for commercialization IPs. It will also expand the pool of national talented researchers and stimulate their participation in areas that will lead to breakthroughs in targeted fields. And enable them to pursue their scientific activities and ideas at all stages of the Technology Readiness Level (TRL1-TRL9).

B. Initiative's Goals and Objectives

The initiative is dedicated to support and invest in the kingdom's research centers and labs to maximize their impact to the economy and to ensure the competitiveness in the local and global RDI ecosystem. As one of the competitive funding initiatives between research centers/labs, the initiative awards funds of up to SAR 1.5m and 4m for researchers and institutions over a maximum period of 1 years, respectively.

This initiative will be focusing on reactivating and rebuilding the existing labs to support the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) ecosystem in the kingdom in the national aspiration and priorities and seeks to contribute to the development of the research ecosystem continuum. Through this initiative, research centers in the kingdom can take the opportunities to benefit from the provided support to acquire one or several piece of equipment/instrument that support their research activities or goals, help them to train researchers, and be a part of the current advancement in research technologies. Also, labs and centers can benefit from this opportunity to perform maintenance or upgrading existing equipment which will advance their competitiveness and provide a continuous support to the RDI ecosystem. In addition, the initiative will allow them to hire research staff such as postdoctoral fellows and researchers to support the research activity in the center. And hire supporting staff such as technicians, specialists, or engineers to support researchers in the center. In summary the initiative will:

- **Fund** research facilities in various research fields in alignment with the national priorities;
- **Support** the competitiveness of the research activities of the kingdom at the local and national level;
- **Provide** the required fund to maintain or upgrade the status of the research labs or research centers in Saudi institutions;
- **Develop** scientific skills of Saudi researchers\scholars on utilizing cutting edge scientific technology;
- **Enable** research facilities in the kingdom to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and to the scientific community;

- **Assist** the facility with the required human capital, tools, and technologies;
- **Equip** KSA's research community with state-of-the-art facilities, elevating research quality and fostering innovation in pivotal areas;
- **Position** Saudi research establishments as prime hubs for attracting top-tier global scientific and engineering talent;
- **Stimulate** industry-research collaborations by providing industries access to specialized infrastructure;
- **Maximize** the efficiency of research facilities and ensure their long-term viability through comprehensive management and service providing;

Core activities: Reactivating and rebuilding the existing research labs/centers through purchasing of new equipment, maintaining/upgrading existing facilities, and hiring skilled researchers/research students to increase its overall capability and capacity, to ensure the kingdom's research facilities competitiveness at the local and global level of RDI ecosystem (refer to the initiative guidelines for additional information).

C. Application Eligibility

Research facilities with good research outputs record (i.e. currently or in the past) that do not have a sustainable funding source, and with the potential to support the overall kingdom's RDI sector competitiveness are encouraged to submit their proposals. Applications can be received from all research centers or research labs in universities, hospitals, ministries, and non-profit organizations in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Proposals are invited from individual eligible researcher, research bodies or internal consortia of eligible research facilities for reactivating and rebuilding research labs/centers requests. Each application must have a primary Applicant from the Research facility who will have the main responsibility and accountability for the management of the reactivating and rebuilding research labs/centers grant award. Please refer to the guidelines document for the eligibility criteria of this Primary Applicant.

D. Focus Areas

The initiative will consider proposals from facilities that is currently or potentially working on any of the sub-area of the four main areas of national research priorities for RDI. These focus areas have been identified to help guide research, development, and innovation (RDI) efforts across the kingdom to address short, medium-, and long-term needs and challenges. The four areas are (for additional details please check the initiative's guidelines):

1. Health & Wellness
2. Sustainability and Essential Needs
3. Energy and Industrials
4. Economies of the Future

E. Terms and Conditions

1. This initiative subjected to RDIA's policies and national regulations for research grants which govern all award personnel and activities.
2. All applications should comply with program's guidelines.
3. Proposals must not duplicate or have significant overlap with existing grants.
4. Primary Applicants must provide information in their CVs about ongoing awarded grants and grants awarded since receiving doctoral degree if any.

5. Final grant amounts may differ from requested amount based on review recommendations and availability of funds.
6. All applicants' institutions must have a Science and Technology Unit (STU) that manage the grants cycle. **The STU is an independent unit that supervises the plans, and follow-up of strategic programs and projects related to scientific and technical activities at the institution.**

F. Important Dates

Grant Announcement	30-Aug-2023
Deadline to Submit the Proposal	31-Oct-2023
To submit your application, please visit the link: https://rdia.gov.sa/grants	

For additional details on the grant, regulations, and policies, please refer to the grant guidelines.

For the proposal template, kindly refer to the template document.

G. Contact

For application inquiries such as eligibility questions, budget preparation questions and for technical with the portal please contact: (GRANTS-INFO@rdia.gov.sa)