

# SINERGY Seed Grant General Information

June 2020



# SINERGY Seed Grant Overview

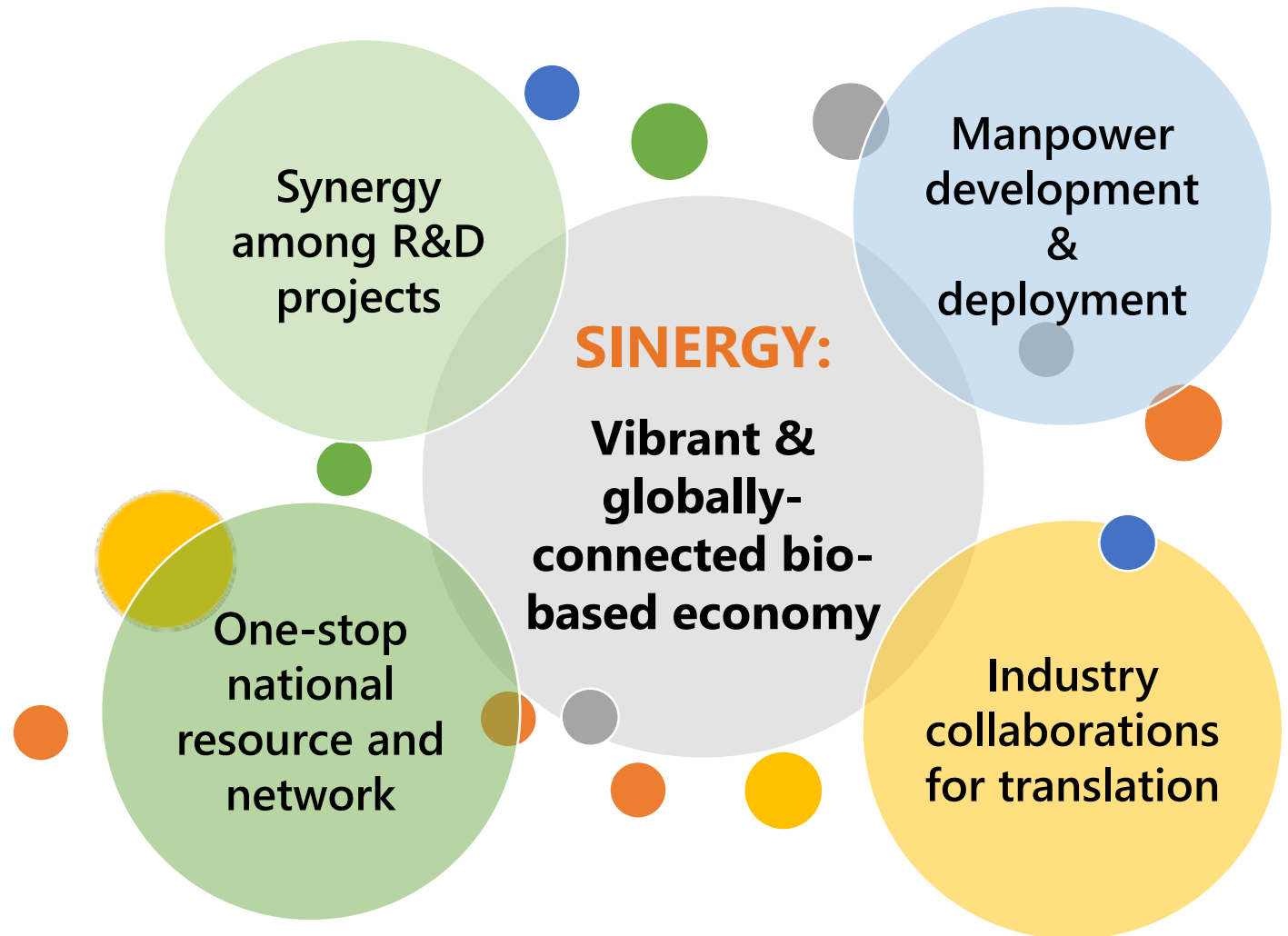
- The **SINERGY Seed Grant** provides funding support for **SINERGY Academic Partners** to explore new innovative ideas and/or to translate technologies/know-how in collaborative projects with **SINERGY Industry Full Members**
- **Funding Quantum and Industry Contribution:**
  - **SINERGY Seed Grant:** up to \$50,000 cash/project/year
  - **Industry Full Member:** \$10,000 cash\* and/or in-kind
- The grant call is open throughout the year with submission deadlines on **28<sup>th</sup> February** and **30<sup>th</sup> September** respectively.
- Applicants can submit their proposals using the SINERGY Seed Grant Application Form to [Sinergy@nus.edu.sg](mailto:Sinergy@nus.edu.sg).

## Example Project Topics

- Synthetic biology tools and methodology development
- Synthetic biology applications in...
  - Industrial chemical/ material synthesis
  - Therapeutics production
  - Live biotherapeutics development
  - Waste processing and recycling
  - Environmental remediation
  - Other applications

# About SINERGY

The **Singapore Consortium for Synthetic Biology (SINERGY)** was launched by the National Research Foundation (NRF) Singapore in September 2018.



# Objectives of SINERGY Seed Grant

- The **SINERGY Seed Grant** provides funding support for **SINERGY Academic Partners** to explore new innovative ideas and/or to translate technologies/know-how in collaborative projects with **SINERGY Industry Full Members**
- **Objectives**
  - To support Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) - Industry collaborations in the areas of synthetic biology that have **high potential of industry adoption**
  - To support feasibility studies that could potentially **lead to larger scale IHL- Industry collaborations** aimed at IHL intellectual property (IP) adoption into SINERGY Industry Member's product pipeline. This can be expected to lead to larger grant applications such as the Industry Alignment Fund (IAF)

# Eligibility

- Full-time faculty members of SINERGY Academic Partners are eligible to be the **Lead Principal Investigator (PI)** of the project. The Academic Partner in this case will be the '**Host Institution**' of the project who will receive and administer the funding
- Each project must have an industry collaborator who is a **SINERGY Industry Full Member**

# Project Funding

- **Funding Quantum and Industry Contribution**

- **SINERGY Seed Grant:** up to \$50,000 cash/project/year

- **Industry Full Member:** \$10,000 cash\* and/or in-kind

- \* Cash contribution from Industry Full Member is exclusive of any applicable Goods and Services Tax (GST) payable by the Industry Full Member thereon at the prevailing rates*

- **Supportable Direct Costs**

- Expenditure of manpower (EOM);
  - Expenditure on new equipment (EQPT);
  - Other operating expenses (OOE); and
  - Overseas travel (OT)

- \* Indirect costs not supportable*

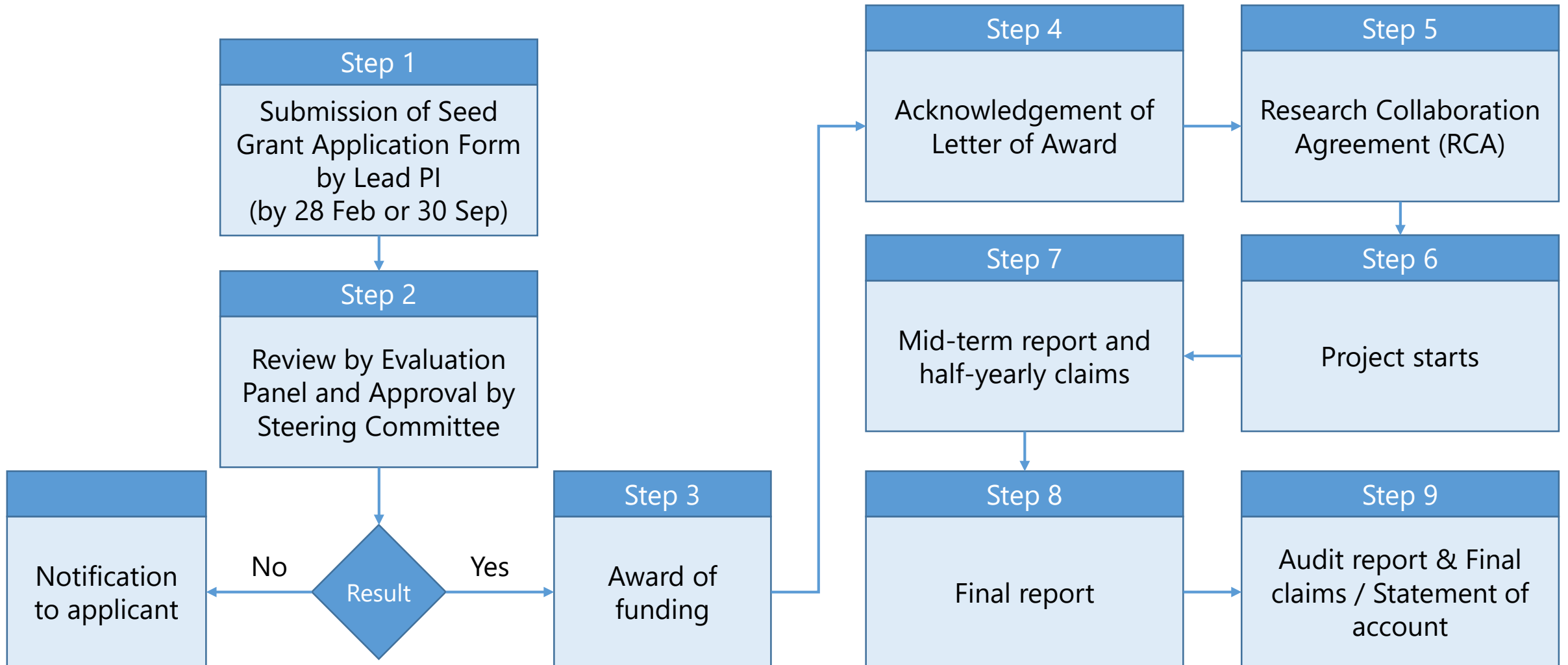
- **Disbursement of Funds**

- Half-yearly basis based on reimbursement

# Grant Call and Application Process

- Problem statement derived from an Industry Full Member will be developed into a project proposal co-created by both Academic Partner and Industry Full Member, and be submitted by the Academic Partner to SINERGY for review by the SINERGY evaluation panel.
- The grant call is open throughout the year with submission deadlines on **28<sup>th</sup> February** and **30<sup>th</sup> September** respectively.
- Applicants can submit their proposals using the SINERGY Seed Grant Application Form to [Sinergy@nus.edu.sg](mailto:Sinergy@nus.edu.sg).
- The SINERGY evaluation panel will convene twice a year to evaluate the proposals and make recommendations on proposals to be awarded the grant to the SINERGY Steering Committee (SC).
- Following approval by the SC, SINERGY will inform the successful applicants.

# Administration Workflow





# Evaluation Criteria

| Criteria               | Weightage | Guiding Remarks   |
|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Commercialisation plan | 40%       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for IP adoption and commercialization by Industry Full Member.</li> <li>Whether the project addresses important scope of the technology development roadmap or productization plan.</li> <li>The extent to which the Industry Full Member will be committed in deploying the technologies developed and executing the commercialisation plan.</li> </ul>  |
| Project scope          | 30%       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevance of project scope with the aims of the grant.</li> <li>The extent to which the proposed idea is able to address the Industry Full Member's problem statement and its technical soundness.</li> <li>Technology transfer (if any) from academia to industry and how the technology will be translated.</li> <li>Deliverables and milestones to commensurate with expected impact and objectives, and budget.</li> </ul> |
| Innovativeness         | 15%       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent to which the proposed idea/approach challenges existing paradigms and employs new methodologies, designs or concepts.</li> </ul>  |
| Quality                | 15%       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent to which the proposed idea and the research methodology are clearly explained and includes a compelling or well-defined outcome metric.</li> </ul>  |

# Intellectual Property

- Free access of **Background IP (BIP)** among collaborating parties necessary for the purpose of carrying out the research collaboration.
- **Foreground IP (FIP)** shall be jointly owned as tenants in common in equal and undivided shares between the collaborating parties. The parties shall make joint applications for protection of FIP and determine commercialisation exploitation of the same. Any deviation from this arrangement will subject to negotiation between the collaborating parties in a written agreement.
- Each party shall grant to each Industry Full Member of SINERGY, as defined in the SINERGY Consortium Agreement a non-exclusive, royalty free, worldwide license in any FIP for the Industry Full Member's R&D and non-commercial purposes during the Industry Full Member's Membership Period and for two (2) years thereafter.
- The Host Institution shall enter into a Research Collaboration Agreement (RCA) with the collaborating parties including the Industry Full Member before commencing any part of the project.
- The RCA shall include the terms and conditions of the collaboration, including but not limited to Intellectual Property Management.

For enquiries, please email  
[Sinergy@nus.edu.sg](mailto:Sinergy@nus.edu.sg)

*Thank you!*