

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS)

1.	What is National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS)? National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS) is a facility that allows researchers, innovators, startups and high-tech entrepreneurs to test their products, services, business models and delivery mechanisms in a live environment.
2.	What is the purpose of NTIS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. To drive the development of talent so that the country achieves its potential to become a high-tech nationii. To increase the productivity of the sector through the use of advanced technologies.iii. To expedite the R&D and commercialisation process in collaboration with regulators in loosening laws and regulations for a controlled testing environment.iv. To enhance the digital infrastructure and technology platform in Malaysia.v. Increase the rate of commercialization and innovation.
3.	When will applications open for the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox? Applications open on 15 July 2020.
4.	Who are the NTIS regulators? Government departments or agencies who oversee regulations and laws that oversee a certain industry.
5.	Who are the NTIS implementation agencies? MOSTI is spearheading the NTIS, supported by the NTIS Secretariat represented by MRANTI, MIMOS and Futurise to coordinate and facilitate its implementation.
6.	How to partner with NTIS? We welcome more partners to join us as industry and tech experts, investors, facility and programme providers. Please email to ntis.enquiries@sandbox.gov.my or partnership@sandbox.gov.my
7.	Who can apply to the NTIS? Malaysian individuals or Malaysian-owned companies. The primary applicant must be a Malaysian citizen above 18 years old and residing in Malaysia.

8.	<p>How do I apply to the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox?</p> <p>Applications are all year long. The online form is available at www.sandbox.gov.my.</p>
9.	<p>Is a prototype needed?</p> <p>NTIS applicant solutions must be at Technology Availability Level (TRL) 6. TRL is a method to determine the maturity of technology during the acquisition phase of the program developed by NASA.</p>
10.	<p>How will NTIS ensure that ideas submitted by applicants are not shared, sold or stolen?</p> <p>Provide high-level concepts for the initial application process. Ideas submitted will receive email acknowledgement by the secretariat and is an overview of the concept. Submission will be kept strictly private and accessible to the secretariat only.</p>
11.	<p>Is there a limit to the number of submissions per applicant?</p> <p>There is no limit to the number of applications but all applicants are strongly encouraged to prioritise their projects.</p>
12.	<p>Is there an application fee?</p> <p>There is no application fee.</p>
13.	<p>What are the technology areas accepted for NTIS?</p> <p>NTIS is open to all technologies, with priority given to the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bioscience Technology ii. Blockchain iii. Cyber-Security & Encryption iv. 4D/5D Printing v. 5G / 6G vi. Advanced Intelligence Systems vii. Advanced Materials viii. Augmented Analytics & Data Discovery ix. Sensor Technology x. Neuro Technology <p>NTIS can consider foreign technology provided that the solutions are owned by a Malaysian majority owned company. However, this solution is not eligible for funding under MTDC.</p>

14.	<p>Outcome of the NTIS?</p> <p>Address challenges facing society and the government at the national, federal and local level, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reduce foreign national labour dependency. ii. Increase employment opportunities for Malaysians. iii. Increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) / Gross National Income (GNI). iv. Increase participation, investment and collaboration in research by the private sector. v. Increase the innovation and commercialisation rate.
15.	<p>What is the Role of MTDC in the NTIS Program?</p> <p>MTDC's involvement is to fund R&D products/technologies/services or related local innovations from the prototype stage to the commercialization stage that has qualified for the National Technology & Innovation Sandbox program. This financing is to provide financial access to SME/startup companies to develop and carry out validation process or commercialization of R&D products/technology/services or innovation in a controlled environment (sandbox). In addition, MTDC is also responsible for monitoring the use of approved funds.</p>
16.	<p>What are the funds offered by MTDC via the NTIS programme?</p> <p>There are four funds offered by MTDC via the NTIS program as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sandbox Fund 1 (Single Site Sandbox); ii. Sandbox Fund 2 (Multiple Site Sandbox); iii. Sandbox Fund 3 (Commercialisation Sandbox); and iv. Sandbox Fund 4 (Corporate Sandbox).
17.	<p>Will the project be fully funded by Sandbox Fund?</p> <p>For the Sandbox Fund 1, funding will be in the form of a 100 percent grant for all eligible costs*. For the Sandbox 2 ,3 & 4, the funding will be 70 percent of all eligible costs* according to the determined maximum quantum.</p> <p>*Eligible costs for the funds include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Technology Licensing/Consultation Fees;
Purchase of Equipment/Machinery (Sandbox Fund 3 & 4 only); ii. Product registration/regulatory compliance costs; iii. Cost of Production; iv. IP registration; v. Technology & Market Validation Activities; vi. Marketing & Promotional Costs (Sandbox Fund 3 & 4 only); and vii. Operational Expenditures.

18.	<p>Who is eligible to apply for funds under this programme (Sandbox Fund)?</p> <p>The funds are open to all Malaysian Companies registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia, excluding sole proprietorships. The eligibility for each fund is subjected to additional terms and criteria which have been determined for each fund.</p>
19.	<p>What is the type of fund instrument offered by MTDC under National and Technology Innovation Sandbox program - grant, loan or equity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. For the Sandbox Fund 1 and 2, the funding instrument is grant. ii. For the Sandbox Fund 3, the instrument is in the form of grant and Convertible Promissory Notes. iii. Whist for the Sandbox Fund 4, the funding mechanism will be mutually decided between MTDC and the corporate investor/entity.
20.	<p>What is the funding quantum for Sandbox Fund?</p> <p>The quantum of funding is between RM250,000 and RM5 million depending on the funding schemes.</p>
21.	<p>How will the disbursement process be for Sandbox Fund?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Sandbox 1 & 2, the disbursement of the fund shall be made via milestone basis. MTDC shall make payment once the set milestone is achieved. • For Sandbox 3, the disbursement shall be made via matching payment on a claim basis.
22.	<p>What are the minimum criteria to apply for funding under NTIS program?</p> <p>Applicants must be successfully accepted into the NTIS programme. The applicant must be a registered company in Malaysia which has at least 51% ownership by Malaysians and the primary base of operations is in Malaysia.</p>
23.	<p>What is the Sandbox Fund Application Process?</p> <p>All applicants must first apply for the NTIS Programme via www.sandbox.gov.my</p> <p>Once the application is accepted into the NTIS programme, the NTIS Secretariat shall notify MTDC. An officer from MTDC will contact the successful applicants to guide the applicant through the fund application process.</p>

24.	What is the duration of the Sandbox Funding? Duration of the Sandbox Funding is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Sandbox Fund 1: 6 monthsii. Sandbox Fund 2: 6 monthsiii. Sandbox Fund 3: 18 monthsiv. Sandbox Fund 4: Between 6 to 18 months depending on the project requirements.
25.	How can I get in touch with the Sandbox Fund Team? You may reach us via email at sandbox@mtdc.com.my