

BRICS STI Framework Programme
BRICS STI Framework Programme Pilot STI Flagship Projects Call 2026
Science, Technology & Innovation Funding Authority (STDF)
National Annex

1. Name of the Funding Agency:

Science, Technology & Innovation Funding Authority (STDF)

Address: New Administrative Capital, Government District, The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Building L1, Cluster C3A, First Floor

2. National Contact Point:

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3. Submission deadline:

20 June 2026

4. Thematic Areas of Cooperation

Projects must fall within one of the following areas:

1. Digital Earth.
2. BRICS Intelligent Telescope and Data Network.

5. Participation & Eligibility Criteria:

General eligibility criteria:

The PI Requirements:

- Principal Investigator (PI) must be an Egyptian PhD holder affiliated with an Egyptian university or research centre.
- PI may not participate in more than two ongoing STDF projects (as PI) or three ongoing projects (as team member).
- The PI & Co-PI should be affiliated to the same institution.
- The PI & Co-PI must dedicate at least 40% of their time; individual team members cannot exceed 80% total commitment across projects (in all the submitted/running projects).
- PI cannot apply for more than one project under this call.

Financial Eligibility Criteria:

The PI should consider the following:

Eligible Costs:

Category	Details
Personnel / Incentives	Max 25% of budget (up to EGP 2 million); subject to STDF incentive scheme which takes into consideration each team member's academic credentials and the percentage of time spent on performing the project's activities.
Equipment & Materials	Procurement of necessary equipment, parts, and consumables is permitted
Services	Prototype manufacturing, IP registration, software, publication, facility fees, etc.
Events	Workshops, conferences, training directly related to the project
Travel	Max 20% of total budget (up to EGP 1 million); economy class only
Per Diem	Based on Mission Directorate rules and institutional regulations and depending on the visited country. Sometimes it's limited by the internal regulations of the PI's institution
Indirect Costs	Up to 10% of direct cost (excluding equipment), capped at EGP 150,000

6. Scientific and Technical Requirement

Proposals must:

- Align with BRICS STI Framework Programme evaluation principles
- Clarify the added value and balance of the research collaboration
- Clarify the expected impacts (scientific, technological, economic, societal)
- Ensure Competence, expertise, and complementarity of the consortium
- Ensure Appropriateness of requested resources and funding
- Give Opportunities for early-career researchers
- Encourage to engage business sector in joint research
- Ensure Scientific quality and innovation of the joint research plan
- Achieve sound project management, methodology and feasibility
- Consider value chain integration ensuring feasible system solutions with long-term growth potential
- Strengthen STI sectors or deliver model solutions to key societal challenges
- Ensure that outcomes must reach at least a system/process prototype demonstrated in an operational environment.
- Consider sustainability: potential for long-term continuation, impact, and post-funding follow-up.

7. Funding Regulations:

- Maximum funding per project: L.E. 15 million.
- The amount of funding is divided into instalments, to be disbursed upon the acceptance of periodic technical and financial progress reports.
- The fund is allocated to both the host institution and the PI, administered by the host institution's financial department, and managed by the PI of the project. Non-governmental host institutions are requested to either submit a Letter of Guarantee against the amount of fund, or follow a post-activity milestone payment schedule.

8. Required Documents (STDF submission)

Applicants must submit a **single PDF file** including:

- Identical version of JAF to be submitted on STDF website, it is a must in order to pass the eligibility stage.
- Application form submitted as readable pdf (not scanned). Applications not prepared according to the application template will not be considered.
- In case an Industrial Partner is involved in the project, submission of an endorsement letter is mandatory . The letter must clarify the following :
 - Project title
 - PI's name, position, and affiliation.
 - The Industrial partner contact person, position, contact information
 - Clear role of the industry in the project
- Egyptian Research team table with live signatures
- CVs of all Egyptian team members.
- Budget table: A detailed budget table in Egyptian Pound must be included, and prepared in accordance with the STDF template. The Budget must be signed & stamped by the Institution's President.

9. Additional National Provisions

- Proposals undergo originality checks for plagiarism. STDF takes issues of Infringement of Academic Integrity, plagiarism, similarity or other breaches very seriously. To verify originality, your Proposal may be checked by the originality detection service and Similarity Check. Accordingly, the proposal must be submitted in a readable PDF format (i.e., not scanned) to facilitate the plagiarism checks. By submitting your proposal to STDF, you are agreeing to originality checks.
- Consortium agreement is optional but must not contradict STDF rules.
- Upon proposal acceptance, project contracts are made between three parties: STDF, the legal representative of the host institution, and the PI of the project (each project is expected to be managed by only one PI and his affiliation).
- Private sector is welcomed to participate with its own fund.

- Contracting of projects are pending finalizing administrative approvals and permits from relevant authorities.
- The consortium may include multiple Egyptian institutions, but they will be treated as a single partner. There will be one responsible Principal Investigator (PI)
- Conflict of interest should be avoided.