

More Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1	Can I submit cash rebate applications by fax or electronically?
A1	An enterprise should register as a user and submit its application through the Cash Rebate Scheme Funding Administrative System (CRSFAS). No application fee will be charged.
Q2	What kind of applied R&D work in Partnership projects will be eligible for cash rebate under the Scheme?
A2	Generally speaking, the projects should contain a significant amount of R&D content mainly in science and engineering disciplines. Please refer to the “Eligibility” section of the Scheme’s Application Guide and contact the relevant designated local public research institutions for advice.
Q3	Will the Scheme allow part of the R&D work to be conducted overseas?
A3	Yes. Under the prevailing ITF funding guidelines, we allow up to 50% of the R&D work to be conducted (and relevant expenditure incurred) in the Mainland, or undertaken by overseas universities or research institutes which have entered into technology collaboration agreements with the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or local universities/R&D Centres. The same rule applies to Partnership projects.
Q4	Can I apply for the cash rebate in one go upfront instead of two phases in an ITF collaborative project or a Partnership project?
A4	We will not disburse full payment of the cash rebate upfront for these projects as the R&D project expenditure will only be finalised after project completion. From our experience, the final project cost may be lower than the original cost estimate.
Q5	Can I choose to receive the cash rebate in other bank accounts not under my company name or in the form of cash payment under the Scheme?
A5	We will normally disburse the cash rebate to bank accounts under the name of the applicant company. We will not arrange for cash payment under the Scheme.

Q6	Will in-kind/non-cash sponsorship under ITF projects be accepted for calculating the amount of cash rebate under the Scheme?
A6	In-kind/non-cash sponsorship, such as research equipment and consumables which are essential and necessary for the conduct of ITF projects, will be eligible for cash rebate under the Scheme.
Q7	How many cash rebate applications can be submitted by a company each year? What is the minimum and maximum amount of cash rebate to be disbursed in an application?
A7	We do not set any restriction on the amount of rebate that may be received by a company nor the number of applications that it may submit in a year. There is no maximum amount of cash rebate that can be disbursed in an application, but when the cash rebate amount for a project exceeds \$50 million, approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council is required.
Q8	If there are minor changes to the project scope of a Partnership project after pre-registration, do I need to inform the ITC?
A8	No approval for the change of project scope is required. To facilitate communication and subsequent processing of applications, it would be helpful for the company to inform the ITC of such changes which have been agreed with the designated local public research institution undertaking the project.
Q9	For a Partnership project, can the applicant and the designated research institution submit the application and project report to ITC separately?
A9	The project report forms part of the application. The applicant should obtain the report from the designated research institution, confirm it is accurate and in order, and submit it together with the application form. Application form without the support of project report will not be processed.