

Call for Proposals Invitation Form

Programme Title	SCALE-ASEAN (strengthening S&T commercialisation ecosystem in ASEAN for sustainable growth): supporting cross-border scalability of innovations.
Programme summary	FCDO is seeking applicant-led proposals that validate, adapt, deploy and promote early / commercial adoption of mature, high-impact innovations in Southeast Asia. Each project must present a credible pathway to scale one innovation to at least two ASEAN Member States beyond its country of origin.
Max value of funding opportunity	Up to £100,000 per award / project, subject to final approval. FCDO may make up to two awards, and the allocated funding may differ depending on the selected proposals.
Expected grant start date	November 2026 (subject to assessment, due diligence and signature of the funding arrangement)
Expected grant end date	31 March 2028 (subject to the final funding arrangement)
Could funding value be split into multiple awards?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Region(s) and Sector(s)	Southeast Asia / ASEAN. Climate action, renewable energy, blue or circular economy, and health.
Contact	Rizky.Januar@fcdo.gov.uk

Note - FCDO reserves the right to award to one or more organisation and the right to abandon this grant competition at any time without incurring costs.

Process and Timelines

This invitation should be read alongside the Statement of Outcomes.

Eligibility requirements

- The lead applicant must be an eligible not-for-profit organisation, with legal capacity to manage an FCDO Accountable Grant.
- Consortium of cross-institutional partnerships is required for delivery, which may include civil society organisations, research institutions, universities, SMEs, start-ups, among others – including partners based in the targeted ASEAN Member States (AMS).
- The project must aim to adapt, deploy, and scale one high-impact innovation to at least two AMS beyond its country of origin, with the key aim to promote commercial adoption and partnerships that sustain the scale-ups.
- A UK-led innovation should include a Southeast Asia-based institutional partner(s), which should have clearly defined, meaningful roles in decisions, delivery and learning. Southeast Asia-led

innovation is encouraged to involve relevant UK expertise where this adds clear value, but this is not mandatory.

- Projects must primarily aim to benefit the ODA¹-eligible countries in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam). Any activity involving Myanmar must be designed and managed so that UK programme funds do not benefit the current Myanmar military regime. Activities which are *specifically* designed to benefit Brunei Darussalam or Singapore must be self-funded.
- Proposals may select one of the following thematic areas: climate action, renewable energy, blue or circular economy, health.
- Proposals focused mainly on early-stage laboratory research, generic networking / visits, conferences, market studies without deployment pathway, or activities strictly confined to a single country are not eligible.
- Co-funding is highly encouraged, which may be financial and/or in-kind (including technical expertise). A proposal will not be made ineligible solely because it does not include co-funding.

Indicative timeline

Process stage	Indicative timing
Call opens	5 th August 2026
Deadline for clarification questions	19 th August 2026
Clarification responses issued	26 th August 2026
Proposal submission deadline	11 th September 2026
Proposal assessment, due diligence and grant finalisation	September-October 2026
Start of project implementation	November 2026 (TBD)

Submission and assurance

- Submit the technical proposal, financial proposal and required annexes as separate files to Rizky.Januar@fcdo.gov.uk and Margaret.Vasu@fcdo.gov.uk by the deadline. Proposals must be in English.
- The technical proposal should be provided in PDF and editable Word format.
- Any award is conditional on satisfactory due diligence, delegated approval, and signature of the funding arrangement. No costs may be incurred before the grant start date.
- The selected lead will be required to maintain financial controls, delivery-chain oversight, safeguarding, duty of care, and risk management.

¹SCALE-ASEAN funding is Official Development Assistance (ODA). Funded project(s) must ensure compliance with the [OECD DAC Definition](#) of Official Development Assistance (ODA). The primary intent of the activity must meet ODA eligibility criteria.

Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

Also refer to the Statement of Outcomes for the expected details that will be required in the technical proposal.

Criteria	Score
Strategic alignment and development impact	20%
Partnership and delivery capability	20%
Innovation maturity and evidence	10%
Delivery approach, project plan and activities	20%
Intellectual Property	10%
Value for money & sustainability	15%
Risk register	5%
Total score	100%

Format for Technical Proposal

The technical proposal should not exceed 15 A4 pages, excluding the cover, content page and annex. Use Arial 10pt or larger, and normal margins. Applicants should provide a technical proposal that addresses the sections below.

Section	Expected content
Executive Summary	A stand-alone section that summarises the key content across all sections of the proposal
Strategic alignment and development impact	- problem statement and targeted development challenge(s), including impact to social inclusion and women economic empowerment, where applicable; - countries of implementation and ultimate beneficiaries e.g., communities, MSMEs, innovation ecosystems. - relevance to ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation 2026-2035
Partnership and delivery capability	- organisational expertise and capacity to deliver the proposed project (both lead applicant and the consortium members) - capacity to manage UK FCDO funds - project team governance and roles - key personnel and relevant experience.
Innovation maturity and evidence	evidence of maturity of the proposed innovations, including prior testing or deployment;

	• readiness for cross-border scale-up.
Delivery approach, workplan and activities	• clarity of proposed project workplan and activities, • proposed indicators of what success looks like for the project; • brief Theory of Change (ToC), showing how the proposed activities will contribute to commercial adoption and institutional uptake of innovations, and ultimately to regional development outcomes
Intellectual Property (IP)	• Clear and proportionate IP arrangements and governance, including ownership/access rights, licensing and management of project-generated IP, that support cross-country deployment, knowledge transfer, equitable partnerships and future commercialisation.
Value for money & sustainability	• consistent & proportionate demonstration of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity; • Details, added value and credibility of proposed co-funding, where applicable; • Realistic pathway / arrangement to achieve sustainable impact beyond grant period e.g., continued deployment, institutional ownership, partnerships, market uptake
Risk register	• Outline of key risks associated with project delivery, and the mitigation strategies.

Format for Financial Proposal

- The financial proposal must be submitted separately using the budget template provided. It must be in Pounds Sterling (GBP), and consistent with the technical proposal.
- The financial proposal must include a financial narrative/summary that outlines key cost drivers and assumptions, and provide relevant information that would not be captured in the budget file.
- Where applicable, the budget must be separated from any financial and in-kind co-funding contribution.
- The proposal should confirm that the costs comply with the applicable FCDO Eligible Cost Guidance.
- FCDO uses OANDA as currency conversion tool.

Required Annexes

- Team structure and short CVs of key personnels.
- Detailed version of the Theory of Change

Break Clause

Funding for each project will initially be available only for the period ending 31 March 2027 – up to a maximum of £50,000 per project. Any continuation of funding beyond this date, up to the total

amount approved by FCDO, will be conditional on FCDO's confirmation by February 2027. If such confirmation is not provided, FCDO will have no obligation to make further funds available beyond 31 March 2027.

In the proposal, prospective applicants may request up to £100,000 per project over the full project period until 31 March 2028 at the latest. Proposals must be structured to reflect that funding available prior to 31 March 2027 will not exceed £50,000 per project -- and it must be commensurate with the proposed delivery approach, project plan and activities. Any activities and budget beyond this amount will be contingent on continuation funding.