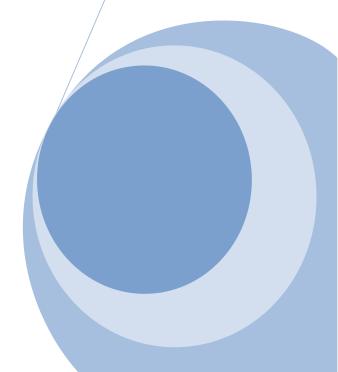# Microelectronic Circuits Centre Ireland (MCCI) Call for Proposals Frequently Asked Questions

Released

Donnacha O'Riordan
18 June 2020

1 ELIGIBILITY

1. **What are the basic requirements to qualify for MCCI Research Funding?**
   a. MCCI research must be industry-led
   b. Proposals must be in the area of microelectronics integrated circuits design and associated algorithms
   c. Proposals should strongly align with the MCCI scope of research
   d. The research outputs should be of benefit to companies located in Ireland
   e. The research fund must be spent within Ireland
   f. Submission are invited from research providers both public and private based in Ireland
   g. The research should be of a quality equivalent to post graduate / post doctorate level
   h. The research should show a good match to the established strengths of the research team
   i. A project should not duplicate work already in progress or completed

2 APPLICATION PROCESS

2. **What is the process for applications and approvals?**
   a. Please read the associated documentation on the research scope
   b. Fill in a MCCI Research Proposal form (see accompanying template) for each project and sign
   c. Submit signed proposals electronically to paul.hyland@mcci.ie no later than **14th Aug 2020**
   d. All applications will be reviewed by MCCI industry members
   e. Complete proposals will be reviewed by the MCCI Technical Steering Group (TSG) and Centre Steering Committee (CSC) and a final set of proposals may be selected for funding
   f. Applicants will be notified of the final outcome and will be provided with feedback

3. **How long will the process from application to notification take?**
   a. Applicants should be notified approximately 8 weeks after application

4. **What criteria will be used for judging applications?**
   a. Potential to credibly create jobs and increased turnover in member companies
   b. Potential to credibly improve MCCI metrics including:
      i. Tier1 Target Publications (*ISSCC, ESSCIRC, JSSC, TCAS I, APEC, VLSI Symp, CICC, RFIC Sym, MTT, IMS, Trans Bio*)
      ii. Publications in other conferences & journals
      iii. Level of leveraged industry cash anticipated (€)
      iv. Level of leveraged industry in-kind anticipated (€)
      v. Level of leveraged co-funding anticipated (€)
      vi. New industry members brought into MCCI
      vii. Industry full-time-equivalents collaborating on the research
      viii. Number of commercial licences
      ix. Number of trained people transferred to industry
      x. Number of start-ups or SMEs enabled or supported
      xi. Number of academic staff/students working on research
   c. Alignment to the scope of research as defined in the accompanying document
   d. Ability of the team to execute the project and work with industry partners

5. **Is there a limit to the number of project proposal applications I can make?**
   a. No.

6. **What documentation is required?**
   a. A completed MCCI Research Proposal application in electronic format

b. Any supporting documentation in the form of letters of support, while optional will be favourably considered at this point.

3   RESEARCH

7. **What type of research does MCCI support?**
   a. Fundamental Research
   b. Industrial Research
   c. Experimental Development

8. **What areas of research does MCCI support?**
   a. Proposals must be in the area of microelectronics integrated circuits design and associated algorithms
   b. Proposals should strongly align with the scope of research described in the accompanying documentation

9. **What durations should proposals be for?**
   a. Short feasibility studies of 3 to 12 months are welcome and in particular feasibility studies which have the potential to lead on to longer term projects
   b. Specific project proposals delivering outcomes in approximately 2 years
   c. Full programmes of work, which could cover multiple projects coherently working together on a specific research topic and lasting up to a maximum of 4 years, but split into two phases of approximately 2 years each.

10. **Does MCCI fund MSc and PhD studentships?**
    a. PhD studentships will not be funded unless a strong case for industry requiring long term research in the area can be made. This would need to be discussed during detailed planning.
    b. MSc studentships may be funded

4   TEAM AND PARTNERS

11. **Can I use MCCI to fund researchers outside of Ireland?**
    a. Not directly, other than necessary travel costs of Irish based researchers to use essential facilities, spend time with collaborators or to attend conferences as agreed with MCCI

12. **Can I participate as a Principal Investigator in more than one MCCI Program?**
    a. Yes

13. **Can more than one academic or industrial partner be involved?**
    a. Yes, collaboration with other departments, institutions, companies and the MCCI core research team are all encouraged

14. **Do I need to find industrial partners in advance of submitting a proposal?**
    a. It is not necessary. Industrial partners will declare their interest in initial research proposals and may begin to participate after the initial proposal submission

5   COSTS & PAYMENT

15. **What is the normal breakdown of project costs?**

a. Typically salaries should be 60%+ of the project cost
b. Materials and equipment should normally be no more than 20-25% of the total cost
c. The travel budget should normally not exceed 10%
d. A nominal amount towards consultancy including overseas collaborators may be considered in exceptional circumstances

16. **Should CAD tool and shuttle run costs be included in the budget?**
    a. MCCI CAD tools should be used except in exceptional circumstances
    b. CAD tool costs should not normally be included in the budget
    c. MCCI will provide agreed space on a 28nm TSMC run annually in spring and autumn timeframe
    d. 28nm TSMC annual shuttle costs through MCCI should not be included in the budget
    e. If a company provides shuttle runs as in-kind, costs should not be included in the budget
    f. MCCI may assist researchers in finding potential free shuttle runs (e.g. 65nm TSMC)
    g. Costs for silicon not provided by MCCI or companies should be included in the budget

17. **What level of detail is required in respect of costs requested under the headings of travel, materials, staff etc?**
    a. It is sufficient to put in top line figures without breakdowns in the application
    b. Funding details will be agreed with the research team prior to contract start

18. **Are travel costs incurred in relation to the company visits and attendance at conferences eligible?**
    a. Yes, the associated cost should be justified and reasonable
    b. Conference travel must be directly relevant to the work being undertaken in the project

19. **How are payments made to the research provider?**
    a. This will be worked out on a case by case basis but normally 30% of the costs will be paid to the research provider on acceptance and receipt of project contract

20. **How are overheads paid to public research organisations?**
    a. An overhead of 30% on its grant total (*except capital equipment)* will be paid
    b. This will be part of annual overheads payment to the third level institution
    c. This will not be included in the MCCI project payments

21. **Are costs associated with filing patents eligible under MCCI funding?**
    a. No.

6   INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLICATIONS

22. **How are Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) handled?**
    a. IP management is detailed in the MCCI Collaboration and IP agreement which is signed by all participants in MCCI projects

23. **May I publish work funded by MCCI?**
    a. Yes. It is a goal of MCCI to publish high quality papers in journals and conferences
    b. Publications will follow a process defined in the MCCI collaboration agreement

7   FURTHER INFORMATION

24. **How can I get more information?**

a. Contact Donnacha O'Riordan (MCCI Executive Director), donnacha.oriodan@mcci.ie or Paul Hyland (MCCI Operations Manager), paul.hyland@mcci.ie