RIGHT Fund Request for Proposals

RF-RFP-2019-001

The RIGHT investments for real impact

In this 2019 call for proposals we are seeking practical investments on late-stage projects to deliver tangible global health solutions by leveraging the intellectual and technical strengths of Korea.

1. RIGHT Fund background

Infectious diseases remain a leading cause of death worldwide, disproportionately affecting low income countries and especially young children. The RIGHT Fund was established as a public private partnership between the Korean government, pharmaceutical companies, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) with the goal of delivering transformative and innovative technologies for therapeutics, vaccines, and diagnostics which can ameliorate the burden of infectious disease. We seek to leverage Korea’s innovation and industry successes in vaccine development, manufacturing, and technology to promote global health equity by advancing the discovery and development of new affordable and applicable products to meet the public health needs of the world’s poorest populations.

The RIGHT Fund seeks original and innovative concepts for vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to alleviate the acquisition, progression, or transmission of infectious diseases emerging and endemic in developing countries. Towards this vision and through this 2019 RFP, the RIGHT Fund aims to support up to ten research projects that involve collaborations between Korean and international research organizations/companies.

Collaborations between investigators are a preferred component of the proposals and applicants should outline a concrete framework for the collaboration between partners. The grant will be managed by the RIGHT Fund with payment contingencies well-coordinated to ensure that key milestones are met, and that the collaborative nature of each grant is maintained.
2. Investment eligibility

Mandatory requirement
RIGHT Fund investments will be awarded to existing or new partnerships that includes at least one Korean entity with a capacity of health intervention R&D and the expertise to identify projects that represent substantial additions to the field (Table 2.1).

RIGHT Fund focuses on diseases for which there is a Korean company/academic or government research institution with the capability and the development platform to advance/improve existing products and delivery capabilities.

Table 2.1 Eligible partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Korean entity</th>
<th>Non-Korean entity</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Korean corporations (or entities with a research facility in Korea)</td>
<td>• Life Science/Healthcare companies</td>
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<td>• Not-for-profit research organizations and foundations</td>
<td>• Not-for-profit research organizations and foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Government research institutions</td>
<td>• Product Development Partnerships</td>
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<td>• Academic institutions</td>
<td>• Government research institutions</td>
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<td>• Academic institutions</td>
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Eligibility criteria: The RIGHT Fund reserves the right to determine eligibility of applicants and public health priority among proposals at its discretion.

Acceptance of Global Access Policy: All existing and future partners within the partnership will also be required to sign Global Access Agreements to provide access to relevant data, intellectual property, and product use. Proposals should clearly describe how the approach can achieve the objective of ensuring that the intended product(s) be made available and accessible at reasonable cost to people most in need. RIGHT Fund’s access policies can be viewed at [http://rightfund.org/investments/access-policy/](http://rightfund.org/investments/access-policy/)
3. Funding opportunity

Target diseases: Infectious diseases endemic and emerging in developing countries

Award amount: RIGHT Fund will invest up to 50% of total project cost over the funding period (The RIGHT Fund award per project will not exceed 4 billion Korean won).

Project duration: The duration of the funding is up to 3 years.

Focus areas and Development stages:
- Three main focus areas: New Approaches and Constructs, Product Improvements, and Patient Access
- Development stages:
  1) Therapeutics and Vaccines: Projects at preclinical development stages or beyond
  2) Diagnostics: Projects for which the proof of principle have been successfully validated (i.e. development phase and beyond).

Exclusions:
1) Vaccine or therapeutics targeting a pandemic emergency response
2) Requests for capital investments

Figure 3.1 Eligible Stages

Therapeutics & Vaccines

| Preclinical          | Clinical Phase I | Clinical Phase II | Clinical Phase III | Registration |

Diagnostics

| Product development | Product validation-early | Product validation-late | Clinical validation | Registration |
Table 3.1 Eligible scope of work

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Vaccines</th>
<th>Therapeutics</th>
<th>Diagnostics</th>
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| **New Approaches and Constructs** | - New vaccines for target diseases  
- New pediatric combination vaccines | - New chemical or biological approaches to current unmet need | - New diagnostics and/or those that can improve efficiency of treatments with a preferred focus on POC diagnostics  
- Proof of concept for ICT combined diagnostics |
| **Product Improvements** | - Improvements in immunization schedule, production method, thermostability (cold chain), route of administration, and/or reduced numbers doses that achieve protective end points. | - Incrementally modified drugs (i.e. new dosage forms, drug combinations, reformulations)  
- New treatment regimens and modifications that improve drug uptake and outcomes | - Improvements in existing diagnostics for use in low resourced countries |
| **Patient Access** | - Interventions seeking or nearing WHO PQ  
- Lower cost manufacturing platforms | | - Proof of concept for ICT applied patient access tools or surveillance |

4. Interventions for target diseases and pathogens

This RFP seeks to identify new interventions against infectious diseases emerging and endemic in developing countries and will consider complementary funding for ongoing projects in global health.

4.1 Therapeutics (drugs)

What we are looking for:

**New Approaches and Constructs:**

New therapeutic options (chemical or biological) to treat target diseases with an interest in approaches which cannot be addressed or explored with current agents or technologies. We will also consider approaches to prevent or significantly moderate infection and the spread of disease.
Product Improvements
• Proposals for reformulation of existing drugs with primary focus on new indications, paediatric formulations and/or lower dosage that maintains or improves efficacy.
• Incrementally modified drugs (e.g. new drug combinations demonstrating better safety, efficacy, and utility) for use in low resourced countries.
• Cost reduction constructs in production of small molecules and/or biologics.

Patient Access
• Interventions seeking or nearing WHO PQ
• Lower cost manufacturing platform for producing small molecules or biologics for target diseases

We will not consider funding for:
• Any basic research proposals or discovery phase (drug screening, in vitro efficacy)
• Proposals for setting up research facilities or capital equipment
• Therapeutics for fast tracking pandemic emergency responses

4.2 Vaccines
What we are looking for:

New Approaches and Constructs:
Approaches to generating novel concepts, antigens, and candidate vaccines that can serve as transformative tools in the efforts to prevent, control, or eliminate disease. The scope of vaccine concepts may include individually targeted global health pathogens and/or new pediatric combination vaccines.

Product Improvements
• Improvements in existing vaccines (or combinations) with respect to immunization schedule, production methods, thermostability (cold chain), route of administration (e.g. oral, Microneedle Array Patch technology)

Patient Access
• Manufacturing innovations that lower the cost of new or existing vaccines
What we will not consider funding for:

- Vaccine concepts not based on an explicit hypothesis or rationale for improved efficacy and or ease of use over other candidates currently in development
- Basic research studies of pathogen or human biology or antibody screening that are pre-FIH
- Proposals for setting up research facilities or acquisition of capital equipment
- Vaccines for fast tracking pandemic emergency responses.

4.3 Diagnostics

What we are looking for:

**New Approaches and Constructs**

- Diagnostics tools that are not currently available to or affordable for developing countries.
- Diagnostics which can improve efficacy/efficiency of treatment (companion diagnostics)
- Focus on Point of Care diagnostic preferable but not a requirement.
- New diagnostics utilizing innovative ICT yet applicable in developing countries.

**Product Improvements**

- Improvements in existing diagnostics and/or platform capabilities for use in low resourced countries (i.e. lateral flow tests)

**Patient Access**

- Diagnostics platform that enhances patient access and disease surveillance outcomes (ex. Mobile diagnostics, cloud surveillance).

What we will not consider funding for:

- Proposals for basic automated platform technologies that are not practical for or affordable to poorly resourced settings.
### 4.4 Appendix

#### Summary of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>BMGF</td>
<td>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
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<td>NTD</td>
<td>Neglected Tropical Diseases</td>
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<td>PDP</td>
<td>Product Development Partners</td>
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<td>POC</td>
<td>Point of Care</td>
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<td>RFP</td>
<td>Request for Proposal</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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