

Taiwan Tech Arena

2025

**Request for Proposal of International Startup
Supporting Program**

1. Background

The National Science and Technology Council of Taiwan (hereby "NSTC") has established the Taiwan Tech Arena program (hereby "TTA") to support the government's initiative to transform Taiwan into the "AI island." TTA is seeking international accelerators to establish partnerships and jointly promote the growth of the scientific research and innovation ecosystem. In 2025, aligning with "Asia Silicon Valley 3.0" the focus will be on nurturing startups in key industry sectors*. Through early-stage investment and guidance, TTA aims to help startups overcome the "valley of death," achieve industrial application, and generate tangible market revenues. By leveraging Taiwan's advantages, the initiative seeks to drive AI industrialization and the AI-driven transformation of industries, propelling Taiwan's development in the new AI era and strengthening its national power.

TTA, together with selected accelerators, will uphold three core principles: "scientific innovation support, regional collaboration, and international linkage." It is committed to serving as a dual-directional platform that connects resources, funding, and industrial ecosystems for domestic and international startups. TTA aims to assist Taiwanese startups in applying their innovations across all aspects of daily life—healthcare, housing, transportation, and beyond—supporting their expansion into international markets and fostering mutual growth and integration within the global ecosystem.

*Note: Key industry sectors include (but are not limited to) ICT/Cybersecurity, Smart Manufacturing, Smart Transportation/Components, Net-Zero Green Energy, Smart Agriculture, Smart Food Services, and Health & Medical Care.

2. Request for proposal

The International Startup Supporting Program (hereby the "Program") is looking for applicants to openly recruit and mentor startup companies (teams), assisting them in securing domestic and international funding, facilitating industrial adoption, and generating revenues. Encouragement is given to, but not limited to, inviting enterprises to participate in accelerator operations or collaborate on vertical acceleration projects.

3. Qualifications of Applicants

- (1) Applicants (including universities) must be qualified as a corporate entity in Taiwan; otherwise, they should apply and sign the contract with a company or legal entity that has a solid relationship with the applicant and should provide supporting documents in the program application or contract.

- (2) Preference will be given to applicants with direct investment capability, mentoring capacity to implement innovation acceleration projects, global network, and mentoring experiences.
- (3) If the applicant has or intends to apply for the same or similar government programs (e.g., Startup Terrace Linkou, Startup Terrace Kaohsiung, or local government startup hubs, etc.), the applicant should provide information in the project proposal and the operation plan report.

4. Application Review Process:

- (1) Acceptance of applications: Applications will be accepted as soon as the announcement is made. Applicants are required to provide both an English written document (PDF format) and an English presentation (PowerPoint format) covering the contents of the requirements of item 5 and 6, and the receipt of applications will be only by email to yschang@taiwanarena.tech. The deadline for acceptance of applications will be at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6th, 2025, Taiwan time. Applicants must call Mr. Chang at (+886-2-25781813) to confirm submission after sending the materials to complete the proposal process.
- (2) Qualification Review: The TTA Project Office will invite expert committee members to conduct a qualification review based on the submitted materials. If any documents are missing, applicants will be notified and must provide the missing documents within three (3) business days of receiving the notification. Failure to do so by the deadline will result in disqualification. (Project Office staff may conduct on-site visits as needed.)
- (3) Final Review: Based on the results of the qualification review, the TTA Project Office will notify selected applicants to proceed to the final review. An external review panel organized by the council is expected to conduct the review meeting in the middle of January. Applicants who pass the qualification review must have the project leader (or an authorized representative) attend the meeting in person. The presentation will be conducted in English, with Q&A sessions in both Chinese and English.
- (4) Announcement: The final review results will be announced on the TTA's official website without notification.
(<https://www.taiwanarena.tech/program/>).

5. Qualification Review Document Checklist

Accelerator Name			
Company Name (Tax ID Number)	Please provide the officially registered company name and Tax ID number; if none, provide the name of a company with a substantial relationship that could serve as a contracting entity in the future.		
Country	<input type="checkbox"/> International Accelerator (Country: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Accelerator (Taiwan)		
Project Leader Name		Position	
Proposal Eligibility and Written Document Review Items			
1. Operations Overview	(1) Team composition (including full-time and part-time staff; please indicate the proportion of time spent abroad, if applicable). (2) Operational mechanism (startup recruitment channels, mentoring approaches, industry mentors, partners, major shareholders, demo days, etc.). (3) Focus areas (industry or technology sector, development stage, market positioning, etc.).		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Investment Track Record	(1) Size and investment performance of self-managed funds. (2) Size and investment performance of government investment accounts, private management funds, or cooperative funds. (3) If applicable, please describe any corporate entrustments, cooperation, or referral investment cases and their outcomes. (4) Other unique services or resources, along with successful case highlights.		<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Mentorship Track Record	(1) Overview of startup recruitment over the past three years, including product/service types, fundraising efforts, and business development progress. (2) Other unique services or resources, along with successful case highlights.		<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Distinctive Resources	Resources or mechanisms that support the development of early-stage startups, including fundraising, market connections, industry collaborations, and international business linkages		<input type="checkbox"/>
Declarations			
1. Do you plan to serve as the lead or co-lead for any new government projects in 2025 (excluding leads for sub-projects or ancillary projects)?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Does your company intend to apply for or extend any government projects in 2025?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Has your company experienced any contract breaches or failures to complete a government project in the past five years			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Contact Person	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Mobile: _____		
Mailing Address			

Signature: _____

Date: _____

6. Final Review Evaluation Criteria

No.	Item		Criteria	%	
1	Achievements in the Past Three Years (2022-2024)		Including (but not limited to): (1) Number of startups mentored/investment raised/number of funded startups (2) Revenue scale/growth overview/total number of employees hired/growth overview of mentored startups (3) Total amount invested by the accelerator in startups/number of startups invested (4) Exit/acquisition amount/number of companies/total valuation of mentored startups (please list high-valuation cases) (5) Achievements in introducing overseas startups to Taiwan or facilitating their access to international markets and industry connections	40%	
2	Key Items	Mentorship and Fundraising	(1) The proposal must commit to mentoring at least 10 startups (teams) focusing on smart industry applications, including Taiwanese, international, and academic startups. Proposals mentoring more than 15 startups will receive additional points. (Refer to Appendix 1B: Definitions and Criteria for Academic Startup) (2) If the startup was the TTA Alumni startup, the number of alumni startups must not exceed 15% of the total number of startups committed to be recruited in 2025. (Refer to Appendix 1C: Definitions and Criteria for Alumni Startup)	20%	45%
			(1) Applicants must commit to annually increasing the investment amount by no less than NT\$ 200 million (with a breakdown of "direct investment" and "other investment" proportions; applicants newly joining in 2025 must achieve at least NT\$150 million). (2) Other investments must provide details of assistances or mentoring activities facilitated by the accelerator.	20%	
		Connect with the key global startup ecosystem	Establish a dual-directional collaboration mechanism with key accelerators, investors, or startup service organizations within the startup ecosystem. (focused on the U.S., Europe, Japan, Israel, and Singapore startup ecosystem)	5%	
3	Featured Items		Provide a detailed explanation of strategies and unique resources for mentoring early-stage tech startups to strengthen their business foundations and secure necessary funding. Complement this with services that integrate international startup ecosystems and market linkages, accelerating the realization of tangible economic and social value through innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g., revenue growth, job creation, international market entry, and industrial innovation and transformation applications). Additionally, outline corresponding expected outcomes and specific, measurable performance indicators.	15%	
Total				100%	

7. Rights of the selected applicants

- (1) Project Commission: NSTC will commission collaborative projects based on the annual budget and the results of committee reviews. The decision will consider the accelerator's proposal, expected benefits, and alignment with policy objectives.
 - a. In line with the policy direction to gradually enhance the accelerator's operational independence, the total subsidy for accelerators will generally decrease year by year. (However, accelerators carrying out additional projects related to significant government initiatives in a given year may be exempt from this reduction with prior approval from the NSTC.)
 - b. If the total amount of subsidy for the applicant has been reduced by more than 50% compared with the previous year's (2024) subsidy, a renewed proposal can be submitted to NSTC for KPIs negotiation.
- (2) TTA Ecosystem Partnership: Selected applicants (and their portfolio startups) may participate in all events, matching and referral programs organized by TTA.

8. Obligations of the Selected Applicant

- (1) Selected Applicants are required, in compliance with the government's policy on openness in resource allocation, to publicly disclose information on every cohort of startup recruitment and results on their website and social media.
- (2) Submit a detailed annual plan report, outlining startup residency, work items (including a minimum of 3 months of mentoring courses), expected results, total resources invested, and self-fundraising plans, to the TTA operation team upon signing the contract.
- (3) In compliance with TTA regulations, provide information such as startup mentoring reports, fundraising supporting documents, valuation information, monthly progress reports, interim results, annual results reports, new proposals for the upcoming year, and other relevant information requested by NSTC.
- (4) Complying with TTA regulations, the selected applicant must display the TTA logo in TTA program-related activities for identification purposes; the selected applicant's logo shall be fully licensed to TTA for TTA activities, external promotion, and necessary use.
- (5) Domestic and international marketing: Collaborate with NSTC in organizing various enterprise linkages, marketing roadshows, TTA alumni research studies, and tracking.
- (6) Status Report: Collaborate with TTA to continuously track the latest status of

- TTA alumni startup companies (e.g., company operations, fundraising deals, major highlights, etc.) and provide a status report of the startup company's development.
- (7) Progress review: Selected Applicants should comply with mid-term and final progress reviews to report in TTA review meetings. TTA will call for a review meeting upon any abnormal activities from Selected Applicants.
 - (8) TTA has the right to suspend the subsidy agreement with selected applicants if obligations are not fulfilled or requirements are not met. If discrepancies between the results and criteria are identified, NSTC reserves the right to either reduce subsidies or terminate the contract in instances of significant disparities.
 - (9) The applicant's core operating team shall be stationed in the TTA and rent at least 8 seats. Propose the number of seats requested and the respective budget in the year 2025 while submitting the proposal. Sign a leasing contract and pay for the rental and administration fees to the TTA Space Management Team, and comply with the lease contract and space management regulations (refer to Appendix 2 for 2025 TTA Facility Rental Rates).
 - (10) All applicant's portfolio teams of this TTA program must sign a "Mentoring Agreement" with the applicant, and the relevant supporting information, such as the "Mentoring Agreement" and the "Business Linkage," must follow Appendix 1 Definition and Recognition Criteria.

9. Others

- (1) NSTC reserves the right to change, interpret, and terminate the regulations of the Program at any time.
- (2) NSTC will provide the format of documents required for subsidy payment installments, including startup one-pager, event record tracking, and other relevant documents. The documents will be described in detail in the Subsidy Agreement between the TTA Program Office and each of the Selected Applicants.
- (3) NSTC reserves the right to conduct audits of the Program, including but not limited to the actual expense and proof of execution.
- (4) The terms and conditions of this contract are written in both English and Chinese. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the Chinese and English versions, the Chinese version shall prevail.

Appendix 1

Definition and Recognition Criteria

A. Definition of "Startup" and Recognition Criteria

- (1) New startup companies are acknowledged based on the principle that the company has been established domestically or overseas.
- (2) A startup company must be a legal entity established within eight years of its founding (founded after January 1, 2017) for recognition.
- (3) New startups do not include companies that have undergone an IPO (Emerging Stocks, Listed on the OTC, or Listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange), or companies that have been merged or acquired in the market.
- (4) "Taiwan startups" must provide the company's official website and Tax ID.
- (5) "Foreign Startups" must provide a company's official website and at least one social website.
- (6) Both Taiwan Startups and Foreign Startups must sign a Mentoring Agreement with the Accelerator, and Foreign Startups must have a track record of "business linkage" or have established a company in Taiwan.
- (7) New startup companies (or teams) that have received mentoring from other government programs or training from sponsored accelerator programs during the year shall not be recognized as achievements of this program.
- (8) Accelerators holding voting shares or contributing capital exceeding half of the total number of outstanding voting shares or total capitalization of the startup company shall not be recognized as achievements of the program.

B. Definition of "Academic Startup" and Recognition Criteria

- (1) "Academic Startup" is restricted to companies (or teams) originating from projects of NSTC (Germination Program, FITI Program, Applied Research Incubation Projects), MOEA (Tree Program, Value Creation Program 2.0), and other central government programs, etc., or entrepreneurial teams led by or involving professors and students.
- (2) In addition to not providing the company's official website and Tax ID, the other requirements for the recognition of "Academic Startup" are to sign a "Mentoring Agreement" with the accelerator, similar to that of a general startup company.

C. Definition of "Alumni Startup" and Recognition Criteria

- (1) An "Alumni Startup" is a startup company (or team) that has received mentorship from a TTA accelerator in the past.

- (2) Alumni startup mentoring must be at least one year apart from the previous mentoring, and can only be recognized once by the same accelerator or twice by different accelerators for alumni startups (including the first-time mentoring), with a total of no more than three times. The one-year interval may be waived if there are substantial business achievements, such as the completion of a new fundraising or purchase order during the year.
- (3) The number of alumni startups must not exceed 15% of the total number of startups committed to be recruited in 2025, rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- (4) Alumni startups that have been established for more than eight years may still be eligible for mentoring or fundraising. However, startups that are listed on the emerging stock market (including Pioneer Stock Board), the Taiwan Innovation Board, or publicly traded domestically or internationally cannot be counted as mentoring teams. (Fundraising from the emerging stock market (including Pioneer Stock Board), the Taiwan Innovation Board, and public offerings cannot be counted as part of the fundraising results.)
- (5) Alumni startups must still sign a mentoring agreement with the accelerator in 2025. If this startup has been mentored by the same accelerator in the past, the accelerator can provide supporting evidence that it is an open-ended or lifelong mentoring agreement. Approval by the NSTC is required, and the startup must explain the following significant differences from the content of the previous mentoring to be recognized:
 - a. Build business linkages in new territories or with new collaboration partners that differ from those in the previous mentoring phase;
 - b. Complete a direct investment or assist in the completion of new fundraising in 2025;
 - c. Business linkages (MOU, NDA, NRE, orders, joint development agreements, etc.) with Taiwanese companies or investors;
 - d. Significant difference from the previous mentoring.
- (6) Startups (or teams) that received mentoring from other government programs or accelerator training sponsored by those government programs during the year shall not be recognized.

D. Definition of "Fundraising" and Recognition Criteria

- (1) Fundraising must occur in 2025 and after the startup company joins the accelerator mentoring program or is an "Alumni Startup" of the accelerator.
- (2) Supporting documents for "Direct Investment": Documents that prove the Accelerator has directly invested in the startups or alumni startups, such as a Term Sheet, Investment Contract, Convertible Note, SAFE, or other documents recognized by the NSTC. All the above supporting documents must be signed

and with official seals by both parties (signatures alone are sufficient for international organizations). For agreements that have not yet been implemented, TTA may request the accelerator to submit relevant proof of implementation in the future.

- (3) Supporting documents for "Other Investment": Proof that the "Startup" or "Alumni startup" mentored by the Accelerator has been invested in by other investors, including public information such as newsletters/websites that must mention the name of the Accelerator, a statement of supporting information from the Accelerator or startup, or any other documents approved by the NSTC. The supporting documents must contain a description of the accelerator's assistance in fundraising and the signatures of both parties. The above supporting documents must fully disclose relevant information about the investor. The recognition of the alumni startup's other investments must include a description of the fact that the accelerator assisted the startup in 2025. Fundraising from the emerging stock market (including Pioneer Stock Board), the Taiwan Innovation Board, and public offerings cannot be counted as part of the fundraising results.

E. Definition of "Mentoring Agreement " and Recognition Criteria

- (1) The mentoring agreement must include the phrase "TTA 2025 International Startup Supporting Program," along with the official seals and signatures of both parties. The mentoring period should extend beyond three months, encompassing details of the mentoring, etc., and the conclusion date of the mentoring period must fall within the 2025 timeframe.
- (2) In the case of a domestic startup company, both the accelerator and the startup company must utilize official seals and signatures.
- (3) In the case of a foreign startup company, the accelerator must use an official seal, and the startup company may use a signature.
- (4) For an academic startup (or team), if the startup company has already been established, both the accelerator and the startup company are required to use both official seals and signatures, and they must provide supporting information about the academic startup. If the company has not yet been established, the person in charge of the team must sign and use the personal seal, providing relevant supporting information for the academic startup.
- (5) For overseas accelerators, both the accelerator and the startup company can use signatures.

F. Definition of "Business Linkage" and Criteria for Recognition

- (1) For a "foreign startup" to meet the business linkage criteria, it must achieve at least one of the following during the year:
 - a. Establish specific business connections with legal entities, unincorporated organizations, or natural persons in Taiwan, such as signing MOU, NDA, NRE, purchase orders, investment contracts, or letters of intent.
 - b. If a foreign startup completes the registration of its establishment in Taiwan during the year (proof of Tax ID required) or has already established a company and directly employs local employees during the year, the business linkage results will be recognized. However, the hiring of employees by the accelerator or other third parties will not be recognized.
- (2) Accelerators are obligated to fully disclose the identities or legal names of both parties involved in the business linkage. Depending on the specifics of the case, confidentiality or limited disclosure methods may be required (e.g., disclosure only to TTA for verification, followed by redaction, etc.)

G. "Connect with key global startup ecosystem and establish a dual-directional collaboration mechanism," any recognition based on organizing "Key Event" must meet the following criteria

- (1) The key event should be held at TTA. If an external venue is necessary, approval from NSTC must be obtained before the event.
- (2) The number of participants should exceed 50, and a group photo of the participants must be submitted.
- (3) There should be at least one international representative (online or in person) related to the event theme attending as a VIP or speaker.
- (4) Routine accelerator events, such as startup recruitment, demo days, etc., will not be recognized.

APPENDIX 2

2025 TTA Facility Rental Rates

Item	Standard Price (NTD)	Subsidy Price (NTD)
Hot Desk	6,000	4,800
Main Area-Dedicated	7,000	5,600
East Area-Dedicated	6,000	4,800
Meeting Room / 1hr		
4 people	300	150
6 people	400	200
8 people	600	300
12 people	800	400
East Area-16 people	1,000	300
Event Venue / 4hrs		
Room 301	3,000	2,400
Room 411	6,000	4,800
3F Staircase	16,000	11,800
3F Kitchen	3,000	2,400
Presentation Room (East Area)	6,000	4,800

Accelerators stationed in TTA and startups coached by them are eligible for basic membership services during their stay. Charges for resources and services beyond this offering will be billed to the respective unit by the program's Executive Office (or its delegate).