

**BNM's Fund for SMEs**  
**High Tech Facility - National Investment Aspirations**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

| High Tech Facility-National Investment Aspirations (HTF-NIA) |   |   |
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| No.  | Question  | Answer  |
| 1.   | What is High Tech Facility - National Investment Aspirations (HTF-NIA)? | HTF-NIA is a financing facility established by BNM to support affected high tech and innovation-driven SMEs that are best aligned to strategic long-term development goals embedded in the National Investment Aspirations (NIAs) <sup>1</sup> . This is critical to strengthen Malaysia's competitive positioning in the global value chains, preserve the supply chain ecosystem and safeguard high-skilled jobs  |
| 2.   | Who is eligible to apply for HTF-NIA? <sup>4</sup>                      | <p>Viable Malaysian SMEs<sup>2</sup> in the following subsectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within manufacturing and services subsectors with high National Investment Aspirations (NIAs) scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Electrical and Electronics (E&amp;E);</li> <li>➤ Chemicals (including pharmaceuticals and refined petroleum);</li> <li>➤ Optical Scientific Equipment and Medical Equipment;</li> <li>➤ Machinery &amp; Equipment (including Robotics, Drones, and Industry 4.0 technologies);</li> <li>➤ Transport equipment covering aerospace, vehicle and parts manufacturers involved in global supply chains or transitioning towards future mobility and green technology;</li> <li>➤ Information and Communication Technology (ICT); and</li> <li>➤ Research and Development (R&amp;D) services</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>[Please refer to Appendix 1 for HTF-NIA scope of coverage]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SME project participants and high-tech start-ups in key Government programmes that are involved in innovation and commercialisation for range of critical technologies such as IR4.0-related technology, green technology, digital and biotechnology under national blueprints. These includes participants of the programmes led by the following agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ MDEC's Global Acceleration and Innovation Network (GAIN);</li> <li>➤ MOSTI's National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS) and Research and Development Fund;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> The National Investment Aspirations (NIAs) refer to overarching strategic developmental objectives to increase economic complexity, create high-value jobs, extend domestic industry linkages, and develop new and existing clusters. Further details on the NIAs can be referred to in "Securing Future Growth through Quality Investments" in the BNM Economic Monetary Review Report 2019 publication (pages 41-42), accessible at [https://www.bnm.gov.my/documents/20124/2722983/emr2019\\_en\\_box1.pdf](https://www.bnm.gov.my/documents/20124/2722983/emr2019_en_box1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Based on the definition of SME as approved by the National Entrepreneur and SME Development Council (NESDC) with at least 51% shareholding held by Malaysians

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|           |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ MARii’s technology partners involved in the design and development of solutions related to IR4.0 technologies;</li> <li>➤ MIDA’s Domestic Investment Strategic Fund recipients engaged in R&amp;D activities or licensing/purchasing of new technologies; and</li> <li>➤ MIDA’s i-services provider list comprising of SMEs involved in R&amp;D, engineering, green technology services, system integration and ICT service</li> <li>➤ Malaysia Green Technology Corporation (MGTC) - Manufacturing and services firms that have obtained green certification, including eligible applicants of Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS) 1.0 and 2.0</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would also include late-stage tech start-ups<sup>3</sup> and SMEs under Government programmes that are developing critical technologies and commercially ready to graduate to bank-based financing under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Participants of Cradle Investment &amp; Grant Programme (Limited to companies that meet the debt financing requirements)</li> <li>➤ Participants of MAVCAP Programmes (Limited to companies that meet the debt financing requirements)</li> <li>➤ Participants of MaGIC Programmes (Limited to companies that meet the debt financing requirements)</li> <li>➤ Participants under Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) Programmes (Limited to companies that meet the debt financing requirements and involved in technology creation)</li> <li>➤ Bionexus Status companies and Bioeconomy Transformation Programme under Bioeconomy Corporation</li> <li>➤ Recipients of CREST R&amp;D Open, Targeted and Prototype Development grants as well Cluster Program participants</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Programmes deemed eligible by BNM will be updated periodically at <a href="http://www.bnm.gov.my/covid19">www.bnm.gov.my/covid19</a></p> <p><b>Note: Recipients of Special Relief Facility (SRF), PENJANA SME Financing (PSF), PENJANA Tourism Financing (PTF) and Targeted Relief and Recovery Facility (TRRF) are eligible for the HTF-NIA, for the purpose of financing capital expenditure (CAPEX) only</b></p> <p><b>All programme participants are encouraged to obtain a letter from their respective agencies to ease the verification process by banks</b></p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p>What is the maximum financing amount and tenure for SMEs under the HTF-NIA?</p> | <p>Eligible SMEs will be able to obtain financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to RM1 million per SME for working capital; or</li> <li>• Up to RM5 million per SME for CAPEX or a combination of working capital and CAPEX</li> </ul> <p>Tenure of financing is up to 7 years</p>   |

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| 4. | When will the Facility be made available?  | Application for financing the HTF-NIA will be open from 15 December 2020 until 30 June 2022 or full utilisation (whichever is earlier)   |
| 5. | Which banks can SMEs apply for financing under HTF-NIA?                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMEs may contact and apply for HTF-NIA financing from 19 participating financial institutions (PFIs):               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Affin Bank Berhad / Affin Islamic Bank Berhad</li> <li>2) Alliance Bank Malaysia Berhad / Alliance Islamic Bank Berhad</li> <li>3) AmBank (M) Berhad / AmBank Islamic Berhad</li> <li>4) Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad (Bank Rakyat)</li> <li>5) Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad</li> <li>6) Bank of China (Malaysia) Berhad</li> <li>7) Bank Pertanian Malaysia Berhad (Agrobank)</li> <li>8) CIMB Bank Berhad / CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad</li> <li>9) Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Berhad (EXIM Bank)</li> <li>10) HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad / HSBC Amanah Malaysia Berhad</li> <li>11) Hong Leong Bank Berhad / Hong Leong Islamic Bank Berhad</li> <li>12) Malayan Banking Berhad / Maybank Islamic Berhad</li> <li>13) MBSB Bank Berhad</li> <li>14) OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad / OCBC Al-Amin Bank Berhad</li> <li>15) Public Bank Berhad / Public Islamic Bank Berhad</li> <li>16) RHB Bank Berhad / RHB Islamic Bank Berhad</li> <li>17) Small Medium Enterprise Development Bank Berhad (SME Bank)</li> <li>18) Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad</li> <li>19) United Overseas Bank (Malaysia) Berhad</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |
| 6. | How can SMEs know that they are eligible to apply for financing under the HTF-NIA? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible SMEs are advised to contact the PFIs to ascertain their eligibility under the HTF-NIA. All applications for financing will be subjected to assessments by the PFIs</li> </ul>  |
| 7. | Is HTF-NIA open to existing customers of the PFIs only?                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No, HTF-NIA is open to new and existing SME customers of the PFIs as long as they are Malaysian SMEs that fulfil the eligibility criteria set out by BNM and meet the PFIs' credit assessments</li> </ul>   |
| 8. | Can SMEs obtain the HTF-NIA to re-finance existing loans?                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. The HTF-NIA is not to be used for re-financing of existing credit/financing facilities</li> </ul>   |
| 9. | Do SMEs need to provide collateral to obtain financing under the HTF-NIA?          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. Collateral is NOT required under the HTF-NIA</li> </ul>   |

<sup>3</sup> These firms have established revenue streams and commercialised products with ready paying customers.

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| 10. | How much is the guarantee fee charged on financing under the HTF-NIA?                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement for guarantee on financing under the HTF-NIA will be based on the assessment by the PFIs. The guarantee coverage, if any, can be provided by Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia (CGC). However, where applicable, this guarantee fee would already be included in the financing rate charged to the customers i.e. up to 5.0% per annum</li> </ul>  |
| 11. | If my business is not eligible for the HTF-NIA, what other support is available to me?                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMEs who are facing difficulty with loan/financing repayment are advised to engage their respective financial institutions for rescheduling and restructuring (R&amp;R) of their existing loans/financing facilities, to help alleviate their cash flow problems</li> <li>SMEs that are not eligible for the HTF-NIA may apply for financing from other facilities under BNM's fund for SMEs (e.g. All Economic Sector Facility, Agrofood Facility, Micro Enterprise Facility, PENJANA Tourism Financing or SME Automation and Digitalisation Facility), or other financing products for SMEs offered by the financial institutions. SMEs can also apply via the imSME<sup>4</sup> platform. Approval for financing under the above schemes are subject to the specific scheme's eligibility criteria and assessment by the PFIs</li> <li>Additionally, they could obtain financing advisory services through MyKNP (Khidmat Nasihat Pembiayaan) that provides advisory assistance and tips to improve eligibility for future financing and alternative sources of finance (<a href="http://www.myknp.com.my">www.myknp.com.my</a>)</li> </ul> |
| 12. | What can an SME do if its application for financing under any of the facilities is rejected by the PFI? | <p>If an application is rejected, the SME is advised to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain clarification from the PFI on the reason(s) of rejection;</li> <li>Consider re-submitting the application via the ImSME platform, if the SME has not done so earlier;</li> <li>Obtain financing advisory services through MyKNP (Khidmat Nasihat Pembiayaan) that provides advisory assistance and tips to improve eligibility for future financing and alternative sources of finance (<a href="http://www.myknp.com.my">www.myknp.com.my</a>); or</li> <li>Channel enquiries or complaint to BNM via BNMTELELINK:<br/><br/><u>Customer Contact Centre (BNMTELELINK)</u><br/>Bank Negara Malaysia<br/>P.O. Box 10922<br/>50929 Kuala Lumpur<br/>Tel: 1-300-88-5465</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Web form: <a href="https://telelink.bnm.gov.my/">eLINK (https://telelink.bnm.gov.my/)</a></li> </ul>  |

<sup>4</sup> Online SME financing/loan referral platform managed by Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Berhad (CGC). Accessible at <https://imsme.com.my/portal/en/>

## APPENDIX 1

## High Tech Facility-National Investment Aspirations (HTF-NIA) scope of coverage

| Principal Industry  | Sub-sectors coverage and scope   |
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| Electrical & Electronics                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacture of electronic components and boards (e.g. semiconductors, LEDs)</li> <li>• Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment (e.g. computer servers)</li> <li>• Manufacture of communication equipment</li> <li>• Manufacture of consumer electronics (only manufacturers involved in R&amp;D or design and development of the product, or with Industry 4.0 technologies embedded in the manufacture or features of the product)</li> <li>• Manufacture of other electric equipments</li> </ul> <p>Stylised examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Manufacture of battery chargers and solid state</li> <li>– Carbon and graphite product manufacturing</li> <li>– Manufacture of uninterruptible power supplies</li> <li>– Manufacture of ultrasonic cleaning machines</li> </ul>   |
| Chemicals (including pharmaceuticals and refined petroleum) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacture of basic chemicals, fertilisers &amp; nitrogen compounds, plastics &amp; synthetic rubber in primary forms</li> <li>• Manufacture of other chemicals</li> </ul> <p>Stylised Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Manufacture of photographic plates, films, sensitised paper, and other sensitised unexposed materials</li> <li>– Chemicals for additive materials</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmaceuticals (manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations)</li> </ul> <p>Stylised examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Manufacture of medicinal active substances/ active pharmaceutical ingredients to be used for their pharmacological properties in the manufacture of medicaments</li> <li>– Biotech pharmaceutical products</li> <li>– Manufacture of medical diagnostic kits</li> <li>– Manufacture of medicaments</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refined petroleum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Manufacture of refined petroleum</li> <li>– Manufacture of biodiesel</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Optical and scientific equipment and medical equipment      | <p>Optical scientific equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacture of measuring, testing, navigating &amp; control equipment, watches &amp; clocks</li> <li>• Manufacture of optical instruments and photographic equipment</li> </ul>   |
|   | <p>Medical equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacture of irradiation, electro medical and electrotherapeutic equipment</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <p>Stylised examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manufacture of equipment such as X-ray equipment, CT scanner, PET scanner, MRI equipment, medical laser equipment, medical endoscopic and medical ultrasound equipment</li> <li>- Manufacture of electrocardiograph</li> <li>- Manufacture of pacemakers</li> <li>- Manufacture of hearing aids</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Machinery and Equipment (including robotics, drones and IR4.0 related technologies)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacture of general-purpose machinery<br/>Stylised examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manufacture of engines, turbines, and power transmission</li> <li>- Manufacture of lifting and handling equipment</li> <li>- Manufacture of office machinery and equipment (except computers and peripherals equipment)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Manufacture of special-purpose machinery<br/>Stylised examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manufacture of machinery for mining, quarrying and construction</li> <li>- Manufacture of agriculture and forestry machinery</li> <li>- Manufacture of metal-forming machinery and machine tools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Repair of fabricated metal products, machinery, and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repair and maintenance of transport equipment (including aerospace), machinery, electrical equipment, electronic and optical equipment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>These also include Robotics, Drones, and Industry-related 4.0 technologies being embedded within machineries and equipment</i></p> |
| <p>Transport Equipment</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerospace (manufacture of air and space craft)</li> <li>• Manufacture of motor vehicles (only manufacturers involved in global supply chains or transitioning towards future mobility and green technology)</li> <li>• Manufacture of parts and accessories of motor vehicles (only manufacturers involved in global supply chains or transitioning towards future mobility and green technology)</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Information and Communications Technology (ICT)</p>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommunication</li> <li>• Programming, broadcasting activities and media content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of media content related to Computer Generated Imagery (CGI)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Computer programming, consultancy, and related activities</li> <li>• Information services activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Digital and online software publishing activity:<br/>Stylised Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publishing of ready-made (non-customised) software, computer games for all platforms and operating systems</li> <li>- Digital publishing of books, periodicals, and newspapers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

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| R&D services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research and experimental development (R&amp;D) by firms</li></ul> <p>Stylised examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– R&amp;D on natural sciences engineering, engineering and technology, medical sciences, biotechnology, agricultural sciences, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and other natural science and engineering</li><li>– Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• R&amp;D intensive education institutions focused on industry 4.0, digital, biotechnology and green technologies</li></ul> |
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