

**National Research Fund Act  
(CHAPTER 201A)**

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**NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND ACT**

**(CHAPTER 201A)**

(Original Enactment: Act 17 of 2006)

REVISED EDITION 2007

(31st October 2007)

An Act to establish a National Research Fund and to provide for its proper administration.

[22nd August 2006]

**PART I**

**PRELIMINARY**

**Short title**

- 1.** This Act may be cited as the National Research Fund Act.

## Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Board” means the National Research Foundation Board established under section 9;

“Council” means the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council established under section 10;

“Fund” means the National Research Fund established under section 4;

“invest” includes entering into a transaction or an arrangement for the protection of investments;

“knowledge” means any knowledge or other information, whether or not the possessor of the knowledge or information has any legally enforceable rights in relation to it;

“property” means any legal or equitable estate or interest (whether present or future and whether vested or contingent) in real or personal property of any description;

“public authority” means any board or authority established by or under any written law to perform or discharge any public function;

“securities” includes shares, inscribed stock, debentures, bonds, debenture stock, notes or any other document creating evidencing or acknowledging indebtedness.

## Meaning of “research and development activities”

3.—(1) In this Act, “research and development activities” means —

(a) systematic, investigative or experimental activities that involve innovation and are carried on either wholly or partly within Singapore for the purpose of —

(i) increasing or acquiring new knowledge (whether or not that knowledge will have specific practical application); or

(ii) creating new or improved materials, products, devices, processes or services; or

(b) other activities that are carried on either wholly or partly within Singapore for a purpose related to the carrying on of activities of the kind referred to in paragraph (a) or incidental or conducive to the attainment or furtherance

of the purposes referred to in that paragraph, including —

- (i) scientific and technical information services (such as data collection) to support activities of the kind referred to in paragraph (a);
- (ii) building expenditure incurred in the acquisition or construction of a building, or of an extension, alteration or improvement to, or of maintenance of a building used or to be used for in activities of the kind referred to in paragraph (a);
- (iii) training and management of manpower for activities of the kind referred to in paragraph (a);
- (iv) feasibility studies with a view to establishing the strategic direction of any specific research and development activity; and
- (v) any other work or services (including patenting, licensing and other activities) necessary to support activities of the kind referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following activities shall not be taken to be systematic, investigative or experimental activities:

- (a) market research, market testing or market development, and sale promotion (including consumer survey);
- (b) testing and standardisation;
- (c) prospecting, exploring or drilling for minerals, petroleum or natural gas for the purpose of discovering deposits, determining more precisely the location of deposits or determining the size or quality of deposits;
- (d) the making of cosmetic modifications or stylistic changes to products, processes or production methods;
- (e) pre-production activities such as demonstration of commercial viability, tooling-up and trial runs;
- (f) routine collection of information, except as part of the research and development process;
- (g) preparation for teaching;
- (h) routine software development;
- (i) legal and administrative aspects of patenting, licensing and other activities,

unless referred to in subsection (1)(b)(v);

- (j) activities associated with complying with statutory requirements or standards;
- (k) any activity related to the reproduction of a commercial product or process by a physical examination of an existing system or plan, blueprints, detailed specifications or publicly available information.

## PART II

### NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND

#### **Establishment of National Research Fund**

4.—(1) There shall be established a fund to be called the National Research Fund which shall be held, managed and administered as a Government fund.

(2) There shall be paid into the Fund —

- (a) all moneys from time to time appropriated from the Consolidated Fund and authorised to be paid into the Fund by this Act or any other written law;
- (b) all other revenues of Singapore allocated by any written law to the Fund;
- (c) all gifts and donations paid by any person or organisation to the Government for the purposes of the Fund generally;
- (d) amounts received by the Board or Government —
  - (i) from the sale of any property paid for with money from the Fund;
  - (ii) from the sale of any property produced, or from dealing with patents or other intellectual property rights in respect of inventions made, in the course of any research and development activity paid for with money from the Fund; or
  - (iii) in respect of any work paid for with money from the Fund;
- (e) all investments out of moneys in the Fund authorised to be made by this Act or any other written law and the proceeds of any such investment, including the net income from such investments; and
- (f) all sums received by way of repayment of any loan or advance from the Fund and any interest from any such loan or advance.