



**THE BARD FOOD SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR GUIDEBOOK**

December 2025

The Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) is proud to present this official set of guidelines and instructions for applicants to the new BARD Food Security Technology Accelerator.

For over four decades, BARD has successfully advanced U.S.-Israel agricultural cooperation by stimulating, promoting, and supporting innovative R&D in agricultural areas of mutual benefit. Over this time, we have supported hundreds of joint research projects that have led to significant scientific breakthroughs, innovative technologies, and lasting impact on food production and sustainability.

Building on this strong foundation, the new Accelerator Program marks the next stage in BARD's mission: to bridge research and industry, shorten the path from discovery to application, and foster innovation that will strengthen food security for both nations and beyond. The entry of these innovative ventures into the market will be accelerated through the formation of binational consortia that integrate academia and industry from early project stages.

Considerable time and resources have been invested to develop a unique structure that supports at least four partners—two companies and two research institutions, one of each from the U.S. and Israel—who will collaborate to fast-track critical innovations. This model is designed to harness the full spectrum of binational expertise: bridging cutting-edge academic research with agile, market-ready corporate execution.

This Guidebook outlines the program's terms, submission requirements, and reporting guidelines to ensure applicants provide all necessary information for the evaluation of proposed consortia according to BARD's standards of excellence and collaboration.

We understand that coordinating four distinct entities requires clear guidance. Therefore, we have made every effort to ensure these instructions are exceptionally straightforward, transparent, and easy to follow. This is your essential compass for navigating the application, execution, and reporting phases, enabling your consortium to focus its energy on the vital work of innovation.

The projects supported through this track are expected to demonstrate profound technological innovation with the potential for high commercial and societal impact. Your collaborative success will not only strengthen the U.S.-Israeli partnership but will also contribute directly to a more resilient, sustainable global food system.

We encourage you to engage with the BARD team early in your process, and we look forward to supporting your groundbreaking efforts.

Wishing your consortium every success,

Prof. Yoram Kapulnik

BARD Executive Director

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## 1. Awards - The BARD Accelerator Model

This Guidebook is intended to provide prospective applicants with all the necessary information for applying to the BARD Food Security Technology Accelerator (hereinafter, "BARD Accelerator").

### Overview

The objective of BARD Accelerator is to expedite the implementation and application of projects in early stages of R&D that aim to enhance food security and nutrition in the two participating countries: Israel and the United States. Accelerating the entry of these innovative ventures into the market will be achieved through the formation of binational consortia that integrate academia and industry from early project stages.

To apply to BARD Accelerator, interested Israeli and American parties must form project-specific binational consortia that include at least one academic/research partner from each country, and at least one commercial/industry partner from each country. A typical consortium consists of at least four parties.

The Consortium partners must have the combined capability and infrastructure to define an applicable target that matches the BARD Accelerator objectives, conduct research and development, and hopefully, manufacture, sell and support an innovative product or service (hereinafter, "the Product"). A key criterion is that the partners have knowledge and understanding of the target objective and have complementing capabilities that cover everything needed to reach a successful implementation outcome.

- **"Academic/Research Partner"** — Public or private non-profit research institutions. These include institutions of higher education accredited by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) and/or funded by the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) in Israel, or the equivalent U.S. bodies. These may be a research institution (other than higher education), non-profit organization, or any other registered entity that demonstrates R&D capabilities, proper financial accounting, and regulatory compliance with national authorities (such as the USA National Laboratories). **Hereinafter, "Academic Partner"**.
- **"Commercial/Industry Partner"** — For the purposes of this program, this is defined as an organization actively engaged in industry and/or commercial activities and possessing the capability to commercialize technologies. Eligible entities may include cooperatives, farmers' associations, startups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), established corporations, or other commercial organizations legally registered in Israel or the United States. Industry Partners are expected to contribute practical expertise, resources, and market access, and to play a central role in advancing the consortium's innovation toward market readiness. **Hereinafter, "Industry Partner"**.

For the purposes of this document, both the Academic Partner and Industry Partner may be collectively referred to as "Partner/s", "Consortium Partner/s."

Each Consortium must appoint a Principal Investigator (PI), who will serve as the representative of the Consortium, and its professional and financial manager. All proposals for accelerator projects will be submitted jointly by the PI on behalf of the Consortium.

BARD Accelerator will contribute up to \$1 million (USD) toward the project's development costs over a period of up to two years. This funding constitutes the Grant (or "Conditional Grant" for Industry Partners) and is part of the overall project budget, which may total up to \$1.6 million when combined with contributions from Industry Partners. If the project achieves commercialization, the Conditional Grant may be converted into a loan under favorable terms for repayment by Industry Partners.

The accelerator Grant will **fully** fund the expenses of the Academic Partners and **partially** cover the expenses of the Industry Partners. In addition to R&D activities, the Grant will fund exposure and dissemination of project outcomes to relevant stakeholders.

## 2. Eligibility

- Joint projects with at least two Academic/Research Partners (one from each country) and two Commercial/Industry Partners (one from each country). In certain cases, subsidiaries of the same parent company operating in both Israel and the United States may be considered as two distinct Industry Partners.
- Projects must be at TRL 3–6 (see APPENDIX A – TRL Definitions).
- Projects addressing the specific field of the Call for Proposals.

## 3. Grant Financial Structure

Industry Partners are eligible to receive Grant funding, provided that the Academic Partners **collectively receive no less than fifty percent (50%) of the total accelerator Grant**.

### 3.1 TRL-Based Industry Contribution:

Each project shall be assigned a **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** between **3 and 6**, as defined in Appendix A – TRL Definitions. The **required financial participation of the Industry Partners** is determined in accordance with the project's TRL level and reflects the degree of technological maturity and commercialization potential.

### 3.2 Fixed Contribution Requirement (P):

- Industry Partners are required to contribute a **minimum participation level** ranging from **ten percent (10%) to thirty percent (30%)** of the **total Grant amount (G)**, corresponding to the TRL level.
- The fixed contribution percentage (P) shall be calculated as:

$$P = (n - 2) \times p - (n - 3) \times (p/3)$$

where  $p = 10\%$ , resulting in a range of  $10\% < P < 30\%$ .

- This fixed contribution applies to the total Grant and is incorporated into the overall **Total Project Budget (T)**.

### 3.3 Industry Partner Grant Portion and Matching Requirement (Q):

- In cases where an Industry Partner also receives a portion of the Grant funds ( $\Sigma C$ ), that partner shall be required to **co-fund its allocated portion** at an internal matching rate of  $q = 15\%$ .
- The cumulative co-funding obligation (Q) increases proportionally with TRL and is determined as:

$$Q = (n - 2) \times q$$

resulting in a range of  $15\% < Q < 45\%$ .

### 3.4 Summary of Grant Calculation:

- A **minimum participation level of 10–30% of the total Grant** is mandatory for all Industry Partners, depending on the TRL level.
- In addition, **each Industry Partner must contribute matching funds** corresponding to any Grant fund they receive, in accordance with their assigned TRL and internal co-funding rate.
- Industry Partners can cover up to 70% of their participating project budget through in-kind services, such as donated staff time, use of facilities or equipment, or professional services.
- As a result, **total project budgets** typically range from approximately **\$1.1 million (TRL 3)** to **\$1.6 million (TRL 6)**.
- See table for example in Appendix B

The two Industry Partners, separately and together, are obligated to repay BARD Accelerator the **total** Conditional Grant received by the Consortium, referred to as "the Repayment". See further details under "The Conditional Grant" section.

## 4. The Product

The jointly developed Product must have significant technological innovation. One of the Consortium Partners must own the intellectual property rights to the technology being developed. The Product should target a high profitability and growing market that is not necessarily geographic specific (i.e. not necessarily/only in Israel or USA) but is familiar to and can be serviced by at least one of the Industry Partners.

## 5. The Project

The Project is defined as the scope and duration of the development program undertaken jointly by the Consortium Partners, at the end of which the Product should be market-ready or with a clear and well-defined path to commercialization. All activities required for subsequent commercial manufacturing, specification, and market introduction should be detailed in the Project proposal, including beta-site testing, regulatory approvals, and test marketing.

Because of the wide range of projects and partnerships that may qualify for BARD Accelerator support, there are no hard and fast rules for the nature of the collaboration between the Partners. They must follow their own judgment regarding the division of activities that will most cost-effectively accomplish the Project's technical and commercial goals.

The **Proposed Start Date** may be as early as 90 days prior to signing the contract with BARD, which is called Cooperation and Project Funding Agreement (CPFA). The Project duration is two years. However, please note that 10% of the Grant will be held for one year after the Project and will be allocated at the end of the third year upon demonstrating satisfactory efforts and outcomes of the implementation plan. See more details under "Proposal Preparation Guidelines".

### 5.1 The Consortium

The U.S. Industry Partner, the U.S. Academic Partner, the Israeli Industry Partner and the Israeli Academic Partner are collectively referred to as "the Consortium". All Consortium Partners should have the majority of the necessary R&D resources required for the Project in their respective countries. The Consortium Partners should have the combined proven capability and infrastructure to define, develop, manufacture, sell and support the Product defined by the Project.

All Consortium Partners should contribute and share their technological expertise and intellectual property in the execution of the joint development program, but their respective contributions do not have to be identical. R&D responsibilities of the Product can be divided between all Partners as they see fit.

Manufacturing responsibilities can be divided between the Industry Partners as they see fit and can be performed by subcontractors. Marketing and sales support can be divided between all Partners. Preferably, at least one Industry Partner should have relevant market presence, as well as a proven track record in marketing, sales and support to successfully market the Product once it achieves commercialization readiness.

## 5.2 Project Budget

The Project Budget, which includes both the grant and the matching funds provided by the Industry Partner/s, is prepared by the Consortium and is submitted as part of the Project proposal in the grant application process. Each partner is required to submit their individual budget into the BARD Accelerator's online submission site. Additionally, the PI must submit the aggregated Project Budget, compiled from each partner's submitted budget, into the same site. It must include all direct development expenses to be incurred during the Project, including, but not limited to, direct labor plus fringe benefits, materials, subcontractors, consultants, travel, depreciation on new or used equipment employed, and marketing expenses related to the development effort. Direct expenses fall into four categories, as follows:

- **Personnel / Salaries:** For Academic Partners, this includes postdoctoral fellows, PhD students, graduate students, etc. Support personnel who are not tenured employees at the recipient institution can receive salaries and social benefits proportional to the scope of their work devoted to the research, up to 50% of their salary. However, Principal Investigators (PIs), Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) and Collaborating Investigators are not entitled to receive salaries from the BARD Accelerator Grant. For Industry Partners, coverage includes up to 100% of the salaries of employees directly involved in the Project. The maximum annual salary (including social benefits) for a full-time position is capped at \$125,000 for an Israeli partner and \$175,000 for a U.S. partner.
- **Equipment:** BARD allows the purchase of specific equipment items (also referred to as Capital Expenditure) essential for the research project. Equipment costs may represent 10–30% of the total direct Project costs, depending on each partner's TRL-based funding share (for example, if a partner's contribution at TRL 3 equals 10% of the total Grant, the equipment budget for that partner may not exceed 10% of the Grant amount). Such equipment must be justified and its use in the Project quantified (percentage of time/project use). For each piece of equipment requested, the Consortium must provide at least two competitive quotes from qualified suppliers to ensure cost efficiency and transparency. If only a single supplier is available, the Consortium must contact BARD's administration to request an exemption from submitting two price quotations. Individual equipment items exceeding \$10,000 must be listed separately, with justification. Capital expenditures above \$15,000 must be purchased and received up to four months before the end date of the Project.
- **Operating Expenses** include computer services specific to the Project, lab materials and supplies (glassware, chemicals, animal costs), equipment leasing, equipment depreciation, outside contractors, local travel, and project-specific publication costs. Registration of intellectual property rights is limited to \$30,000 per project. Items costing over \$2,000 must be itemized, while smaller costs may be grouped by category. For any item over \$50,000, the Consortium must provide a thorough breakdown and details.
- **Foreign Travel:** BARD allows one trip per partner per project. Each trip abroad should not exceed 30 days. The amount requested for foreign travel may include airfare (round-trip/coach), lodging, ground transportation, travel insurance, data plan for cell phone, and per diem expenses. Total travel budget should not exceed \$40,000 per project. If one partner does not utilize their allocated travel budget, another partner may request permission from BARD Accelerator to use the unused funds for additional trips.

**Budget Changes:** Changes up to a total of \$20,000 per budget item during the Project can be made without prior approval from BARD, **except for foreign travel**. Changes exceeding \$20,000 require an advance written request justifying the changes. Changes will be approved without delay, if justified and within the framework of the approved budget and reported expenditures. Advance requests for budget changes must be submitted no later than three months prior to the end date of the Project.

**Pre-Contract Expenditures:** Only long-lead budgeted items, as specifically identified and justified in the approved proposal, may be eligible for expenditure and reimbursement as early as the 90 days prior to contract signing (the CPFA) with BARD. All other budgeted items and project-related expenses shall be eligible for approval and reimbursement only from the Proposed Start Date onward.

### Please note:

- Overhead shall not exceed 20% of direct expenses.
- Budget totals should be rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

## 6. The Conditional Grant

BARD Accelerator will cost-share in the joint development by extending to the Consortium a Conditional Grant of \$1 million. Each Consortium Partner is allocated funding in accordance with their submitted budget, provided that the total Project budget does not exceed \$1.6 million, of which \$1 million is distributed as Grant funding.

The Grant is allocated in installments corresponding to milestones provided by the Consortium and disbursed to each Consortium Partner according to their budgeted portion for each milestone.

### 6.1 Schedule of Payments

- **Initial Payment**

Ten percent (10%) of the approved Grant amount will be disbursed as a down-payment **14 days after** the signed Cooperation and Project Funding Agreement (CPFA) but not earlier than the Effective Date and will be deducted from the first milestone payment.

- **Interim Payments**

The disbursement of the remaining Grant funds (excluding the first and final 10%, see section 6.1 and 5) will follow the milestone schedule specified in the Milestone Task Tracking Form submitted by the Consortium, based on **both** the following:

1. Achievement of predefined technical or commercial milestones.
2. Submission and approval of fiscal reports.

If a milestone is achieved earlier than the scheduled due date specified, the Consortium may submit a formal request for early disbursement, which may be approved.

If a milestone is delayed beyond its scheduled due date specified, the Consortium must submit a formal request to extend the milestone deadline, including a detailed explanation of the reasons for the delay. The proposed new due date will be subject to review and approval by the BARD Accelerator team within 30 days of request.

If a milestone is not met but all related tasks, plans, and expenditures have been duly carried out and the allocated budget has been fully used, Consortium partners – if they choose to continue with the Grant program – may advance to the next milestone and access its designated budget only after submitting an updated project plan to the BARD Accelerator Management team and receiving approval.

- **Budget Allocation**

The Consortium may allocate the budget across milestones at its discretion, provided that all funds (except the final 10%) are used within the two-year development stage.

- **Final Payment (Retention)**

Ten percent (10%) of the total Grant will be withheld and disbursed only upon completion of the third year (implementation year).

### 6.2 Final Statement of Payments and Expenditures

BARD issues a Final Statement of Payments and Expenditures, signed by the BARD Controller, for each funded Partner within the Consortium. The Final Statement is presented to the Partner together with the final payment. The Partner should review this final statement, sign and return the original to BARD. Whether or not the statement is returned with the authorizing institutional signature, BARD will consider it binding three months after the date of issue.

Final fiscal and scientific reports must be received no later than three months after the Project's ending date. If reports are not submitted by this deadline, BARD reserves the right to terminate funding and withhold any remaining payments.

### 6.3 Project Extension

Projects seeking a no-cost extension beyond the original end date as stated in the Research Grant Agreement may submit a request by email to [finance@bard-isus.com](mailto:finance@bard-isus.com) no later than three months before the end of the Project. The request must be submitted by the PI and justify the request. The Consortium Partners' affiliated institutions or entities are also required to approve the request. Remaining funds at the time of expiration of the Grant is not justification for a no-cost extension. Requests will be carefully examined. If granted, the maximum extension is nine months. Please note, extensions are not granted automatically. All extension requests must be submitted in advance. Retroactive extensions will not be granted.

## 7. Grant Repayment Policy

BARD Accelerator funding is provided as a Conditional Grant that converts into a loan under favorable conditions if the Project results in commercialization. The loan is indexed to inflation but carries no interest. Repayment applies to Industry Partners only for the full grant amount provided to the Consortium.

### 7.1 General Repayment Principle

Repayments begin upon commercialization of the product, i.e., upon first actual gross sales (invoice) of the product. Gross sales from the product—or subsequent products derived from the Project's technology—forms the basis for repayment.

### 7.2 Repayment Rate

A minimum of **5% of annual reported gross sales** from the product or related products must be repaid until the full Grant amount (indexed to inflation) is reimbursed, or **until the expiry of 10 fiscal years subsequent to the first year of gross sales**, whichever occurs earlier.

### 7.3 Additional Repayment Events

Outright sale of the technology or product: Up to 50% of the transaction value is repaid to BARD Accelerator.

Breach of agreement by a Partner: The party in breach must repay the full Grant.

Change of control: Repayment obligations will be defined in line with the terms agreed by the Consortium and the acquiring party.

### 7.4 Unsuccessful Projects

If commercialization does not occur and no sales are generated (due to technological or market failure), BARD Accelerator will not seek repayment of the Conditional Grant, thereby sharing the risk of unsuccessful product development.

### 7.5 Repayment Track

#### 7.5.1 Standard Repayment Track

Apply to all consortia unless a partner qualifies for the Small Industry Partner Track. Repayment is made as outlined in the general repayment principle: **minimum of 5% of annual reported gross sales** must be repaid until the full Grant amount (indexed to inflation) is reimbursed, or until the expiry of 10 fiscal years subsequent to the first year of gross sales, whichever occurs earlier.

#### 7.5.2 Small Industry Partner Track (Optional)

Available to Industry Partners who have annual revenue of less than \$2 million in the last fiscal year prior to the submission of the Full Proposal and confirmed by BARD as such. Repayment in this track is a **minimum of 3% of annual reported gross sales**, must be repaid until the full Grant amount (indexed to inflation) is reimbursed, or until the expiry of 10 fiscal years subsequent to the first year of gross sales, whichever occurs earlier.

#### 7.5.3 Mixed Consortia Repayment Model

When one partner qualifies for the Small Industry Partner Track and the other does not, each partner repays according to its applicable track.

"Full Repayment" for the Consortium is based on the more favorable (lower) obligation.

In the case of repayment events (see 7.3) clearly linked to one Industry partner (e.g., change of control, breach of contract), the relevant repayment definitions apply to that partner only.

#### **Key Repayment Features:**

**Sales-Based Trigger**: Repayment begins **only once sales commence**. If no sales are generated, repayment is not required.

**Rate & Duration**: Minimum of 3% or 5% (depending on repayment track) of annual reported gross sales, continuing until the full Grant is repaid or until the expiry of 10 fiscal years subsequent to the first year of gross sales, whichever occurs earlier.

**Reporting Obligation**: Partners must submit annual commercialization progress reports for seven years post-Project. If no sales occur within **seven years** of Project completion, the Grant will be considered non-repayable.

**Flexibility**: Repayment may be postponed for up to one year after commercialization begins, upon formal request.

- **Please note: The repayment model/track must be specified in the CPFA.**

## 8. The Partnership Agreements

Once a Project is approved by BARD's Board of Directors, a **Cooperation and Project Funding Agreement** (CPFA) is signed by all the Partners (the "Consortium") and BARD. The CPFA describes the work plan, project budget, payment schedule, repayments tracks and schedule, reporting requirements, etc. It is the Consortium, (see earlier definition), separately and jointly, that actually receives the funds

according to the CPFA, and it is the Consortium's responsibility to repay BARD under the conditions defined in the CPFA.

The CPFA is prepared by BARD, based on the information in the \*approved\* project proposal, and may be reviewed by the Consortium prior to signing.

**Please note:** Prior to signing the CPFA with BARD, all Partners in a Consortium must sign a contract between them, formalizing the Consortium. This is called the **Consortium Agreement**. BARD Accelerator is **not** a party to this agreement and does **not** participate in its negotiation or formulation. However, the agreement must be submitted to BARD Accelerator for review prior to signing **and** before the signing of the CPFA.

#### 8.1 What the Consortium Agreement should include:

- The Consortium Agreement must address key issues relating to joint development, ownership of intellectual property, manufacturing rights, marketing responsibilities, commercialization benefits, reporting obligations, dispute resolution, and each party's share of repayments to BARD Accelerator.
- It must clearly define the risk, gross sales and profit-sharing nature of the collaboration, classifying it as a business partnership rather than a subcontracting arrangement.
- The arrangement between the Consortium Partners regarding joint repayment of the Conditional Grant to BARD, and the offsetting arrangement in the event that one Industry Partner repays BARD Accelerator more than its relative share in the Grant received.
- The arrangement between the Consortium Partners regarding preparation and timely submission of the periodic fiscal and technical reports to BARD Accelerator throughout the development stage of the Project.

#### 8.2 Timeline and Approval Process:

- The Consortium Agreement may be submitted and signed together with the full proposal. However, if it is not submitted at that time, it must be signed and submitted no later than 60 days from the Effective Date.
- If an extension is needed, the Consortium may request up to **30 additional days** by submitting a written request for approval to BARD's administration **prior to the original deadline**.
- BARD Accelerator must review the **final draft** of the Consortium Agreement before it is signed. This review can be done at the time of submitting the full proposal, but in any case, must occur before the Consortium Agreement is signed.
- BARD Accelerator will distribute the CPFA for signatures only after receiving the signed Consortium Agreement.
- If the signed agreement is not submitted within the required timeframe (including any approved extension), BARD Accelerator reserves the right to allocate the Grant funds to other applicants.

### 9. Projects Selection & Approval: BARD's Process

#### Decision-Making Entities:

- Accelerator Management – A three-person senior BARD team comprised of the accelerator manager, BARD's scientific director, and chief finance officer or their representatives. The management is in charge of overseeing administration and communication, conducting preliminary proposal screening.
- Technical Committee – Comprising academic representatives relevant for the full proposal applications.
- Evaluation Committee – Comprising academic and industry representatives from both countries..
- High-Level Committee (stakeholder forum) – Includes government representatives and members of BARD's Board of Directors.
- BARD's Board of Directors.

#### Selection Process:

##### 9.1 Calls for Proposals

BARD Accelerator will issue Calls for Proposals twice a year. The evaluation and selection process for each call is designed to span no more than six months.

##### 9.2 Preliminary Screening (pre-proposal)

Pre-proposals will be submitted by e-mail to [accelerator@bard-isus.com](mailto:accelerator@bard-isus.com), alongside the Consortium Partners MOU agreement. The Accelerator Manager will conduct an administrative review to ensure proposals meet the baseline requirements:

- Adhere to call track theme
- Submitted Pre-Proposal Form
- Include an MOU of Consortium Partners Agreement

Preliminary proposals that meet all basic criteria will be forwarded to selected members of the Evaluation Committee for further consideration.

### 9.3 Evaluation Committee Discussions

The Evaluation Committee will be comprised of at least four academic/ government/ industry evaluators, with two representing each participating country.

The Evaluation Committee will conduct an initial review, based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technological innovation
- Commercial and application potential
- Consortium collaboration
- Implementation plan feasibility
- Impact on the Call for Proposal theme
- Social and environmental impact potential

### 9.4 Notification

Projects successfully passing the Pre-Proposal Evaluation Committee will be notified **within seven working days** and invited to submit a full proposal within **60 working days**.

### 9.5 Accelerator Management Review (Full proposal)

The Accelerator Management will review the full proposals and forward these to the Evaluation Committee within 14 days of submission.

### 9.6 Technical Committee Review Process

The Technical Committee will review the applications' innovative and feasibility merits and will grade each application separately. The top-rated applications will pass on for review by the Evaluation Committee.

### 9.7 Evaluation Committee Review Process (Full Proposal)

The Evaluation Committee will carry out a comprehensive business and technical assessment of all submitted proposals. As part of this process, project representatives will be invited to a virtual interview and deliver a presentation, followed by Committee members' questions.

The Evaluation Committee will assess the following **criteria**:

- Scientific and Technological Innovation (25%):
  - The degree of innovation and advancement demonstrated in the project's scientific and technological approach.
- Commercial and Application Potential (20%):
  - The project's target market size and likelihood of success in the market and its practical applicability.
- Consortium Collaboration (20%):
  - The strength and effectiveness of collaboration among Consortium Partners.
- Implementation Plan Feasibility (15%):
  - The feasibility of the implementation plan will be carefully assessed.
- Impact on the Call for Proposal Theme (15%):
  - The project's alignment with and contribution to the central theme outlined in the Call for Proposal.
- Social and Environmental Impact (5%):
  - The potential positive effects of the project on society and the environment.

The results of this assessment will be passed on to the High-Level Committee.

### 9.8 High-Level Committee:

The High-Level Committee comprises different stakeholders, including government representatives and members of BARD's Board of Directors. The Committee provides oversight and supervisory review of the Evaluation Committee's recommendations to ensure transparency, procedural integrity, and alignment with the program's strategic objectives, prior to their submission to the Board of Directors for final approval.

### 9.9 BARD Board of Directors:

The final decision confirming funding of the selected projects will be made by BARD's Board of Directors.

BARD's administration will notify the awarded grantees of their selection within three days of the Board's decision.

#### BARD Accelerator Grant Approval Process Timeline\* (Total ≤ 6 months per call)

Call for Proposals	BARD issues a Call for Proposals, inviting applicants to submit pre-proposals within <b>20 days</b> .
Pre-proposals	Applicants submit a pre-proposal. Projects passing the Pre-Proposal Evaluation Committee will be notified within <b>7 working</b> days and invited to submit a full proposal.
Full Proposals	Applicants submit a full proposals within <b>60 days</b> of notification.
Accelerator Management Review	The Accelerator Management will review the full proposals within <b>14 days</b> of submission and pass them on to the Evaluation Committee.
Technical & Evaluation Committees Review	The Technical & Evaluation Committees conduct a comprehensive business and technical assessments of the proposals. Applicants will be invited to a virtual interview and deliver a presentation before the Evaluation Committee. This stage takes <b>~40 days</b> . The Committee passes its recommendations to the High-Level Committee.
High-Level Committee	The High-Level Committee conducts a supervisory review of the recommendations prior to submission to the Board of Directors for final approval. This stage takes <b>~14 days</b> .
BARD's Board of Directors	The Board of Directors convenes and confirms the projects selected for funding. BARD's administration notifies the awarded grantees within <b>3 days</b> of decision.
CPFA	BARD prepares the Cooperation and Project Funding Agreement (CPFA) for signing between the Consortium and BARD.
Finalization and Funding	Upon finalizing the CPFA and signing by all parties, the first grant payment may commence.

\*The timeline for each stage may fluctuate based on business days and public holidays. For the most up-to-date schedule, please consult the BARD website, where specific dates will be published.

## 10. Submission Process: A Guide for Applicants

### 10.1 Stage 1: Pre-Proposal Submission

1. Call for Proposals Issued
  - BARD publishes a call for proposals on its various channels: website, social media, newsletter, etc.
2. Prepare Pre-Proposal
  - Please refer to the official [BARD Accelerator Pre-Proposal Application Guidelines](#) to assist you throughout the application process.
  - Include all required details according to the template.
3. Consortium Agreement (MOU)
  - Draft and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all Consortium Partners (non-binding at this stage).
  - Please document the roles, responsibilities, and commitments to the best of your knowledge in the MOU. Full details and complete agreement are not expected at this stage.

4. Submission
  - Send the pre-proposal and MOU to [accelerator@bard-isus.com](mailto:accelerator@bard-isus.com).

## 10.2 Stage 2: Full Proposal Submission

1. Notification of Approval
  - If the pre-proposal is accepted, BARD invites the Consortium to submit a full proposal within 60 days.
2. Prepare Full Proposal
  - Please refer to the official [BARD Accelerator Full Proposal Application Guidelines](#) to assist you throughout the application process.
  - Ensure all sections are consistent and aligned with project goals.
  - Submit financial reports, Certificate of Good Standing/W9 and Certificate of Incorporation for each Industry Partner.
  - Please note for Academic Partner/s, the academic institute will be notified by e-mail after application submission and requested to sign and approve the respective budget in BARD's online submission site.
3. Consortium Agreement
  - Preferably, this should be finalized and signed at this stage. However, if an extension has been granted (see 8.2), a final draft is accepted pending completion.

**Please adhere to the deadlines!** The online submission site will be closed to applications on the deadline specified on BARD's website. The proposal and all accompanying required information and documentation need to be submitted prior to the specified deadline. Furthermore, failing to comply with all the instructions and requirements set forth for the preparation of the proposal will result in the rejection of the proposal. In such cases, projects may be resubmitted following the next Call for Proposal if they address the same theme.

## 10.3 Stage 3: Project Presentation to Evaluation Committee

As part of the evaluation process, the Consortium will participate in an online meeting with the Evaluation Committee. During this session, the Consortium Partners will provide a presentation of their project, adhering to the template provided by BARD. Following the presentation, the Consortium will address questions posed by the Committee, offering clarification and additional details as requested. This interaction is intended to help the Evaluation Committee gain a clearer understanding of the project and assess its alignment with the program's goals.

## 10.4 Stage 4: Financial Analysis

BARD's administration will conduct a short financial analysis of the Industry Partners to determine the following:

1. Current tangible financial resources are available to the company.
2. Financial ability of the company to cover the expenses associated with its overall operation (and not only the expenses stemming from the BARD-supported project) for a future period at least as long as the duration of the BARD Accelerator Project.

The financial analysis is based on financial reports submitted by the Industry Partners along with the proposal. At this stage, BARD Accelerator may require detailed discussion with either or both Partners to further clarify their financial situation.

## 10.5 Stage 5: Funding Decision and signing of Cooperation and Project Funding Agreement

If the full proposal is approved, BARD issues a Cooperation and Project Funding Agreement (CPFA), which is signed between the Consortium and BARD.

BARD Accelerator prepares the CPFA, based on the information appearing in the \*approved\* full proposal, including the Approved Project Budget and Payment of Conditional Grant scheduling under Annex B. Preparation of the CPFA commences after the Project is approved by BARD's Board of Directors, but we recommend that the legal departments/advisors of all Consortium Partners be made aware of this agreement as early in the process as possible. Although it is a standard-form agreement, it is customized to any specific project based on information provided in the approved project proposal. Prior to signing, the Consortium may review the CPFA, which will be available for download from BARD's website under Funding Opportunities > Application Resources.

After the CPFA is finalized, BARD Accelerator will distribute a digital copy to all Partners for countersignature. The document will first be digitally signed by the Consortium Partners, and then by BARD's Executive Director. Once fully executed, each Partner will receive a signed digital copy. Completion of the CPFA by all parties is a prerequisite for the disbursement of the initial Grant payment from BARD Accelerator to all Partners.

## **Compliance**

The Consortium agrees to do the work set out in the Full Proposal in accordance with good professional standards and that the work shall be

conducted with the highest ethical standards and all laws and regulations applicable and in such a manner as to minimize detrimental effects on humans, animals, plants and the environment.

The Consortium accepts and acknowledges that the U.S. Federal Government or other governmental authority may change guidelines for eligibility for being an awardee of a grant funded by U.S. governmental authorities and in such instance, BARD shall be entitled to stop funding the Project.

## APPENDIX A – TRL Definitions

Relative Level of Technology Development	Technology Readiness Level	TRL Definition	Description
System Operations	TRL 9	Actual system operated over the full range of expected mission conditions.	The technology is in its final form and operated under the full range of operating mission conditions. Examples include using the actual system with the full range of wastes in hot operations.
System Commissioning	TRL 8	Actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstration.	The technology has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions. In almost all cases, this TRL represents the end of true system development. Examples include developmental testing and evaluation of the system with actual waste in hot commissioning. Supporting information includes operational procedures that are virtually complete. An Operational Readiness Review (ORR) has been successfully completed prior to the start of hot testing.
	TRL 7	Full-scale, similar (prototypical) system demonstrated in relevant environment	This represents a major step up from TRL 6, requiring demonstration of an actual system prototype in a relevant environment. Examples include testing full-scale prototypes in the field with a range of simulants in cold commissioning <sup>1</sup> . Supporting information includes results from the full-scale testing and analysis of the differences between the test environment, and analysis of what the experimental results mean for the eventual operating system/environment. Final design is virtually complete.
Technology Demonstration	TRL 6	Engineering/pi lot-scale, similar (prototypical) system validation in relevant environment	Engineering-scale models or prototypes are tested in a relevant environment. This represents a major step up in technology's demonstrated readiness. Examples include testing an engineering scale prototypical system with a range of simulants. <sup>1</sup> Supporting information includes results from the engineering scale testing and analysis of the differences between the engineering scale, prototypical system/environment, and analysis of what the experimental results mean for the eventual operating system/environment. TRL 6 begins true engineering development of the technology as an operational system. The major difference between TRL 5 and 6 is the step up from laboratory scale to engineering scale and the determination of scaling factors that will enable design of the operating system. The prototype should be capable of performing all the functions that will be required of the operational system. The operating environment for the testing should closely represent the actual operating environment.
Technology Development	TRL 5	Laboratory scale, similar system validation in relevant environment	The basic technological components are integrated so that the system configuration is similar to (matches) the final application in almost all respects. Examples include testing a high-fidelity, laboratory scale system in a simulated environment with a range of simulants <sup>1</sup> and actual waste <sup>2</sup> . Supporting information includes results from the laboratory scale testing, analysis of the differences between the laboratory and eventual operating system/environment, and analysis of what the experimental results mean for the eventual operating system/environment. The major difference between TRL 4 and 5 is the increase in the fidelity of the system and environment to the actual application. The system tested is almost prototypical.

	TRL 4	Component and/or system validation in laboratory environment	The basic technological components are integrated to establish that the pieces will work together. This is relatively "low fidelity" compared with the eventual system. Examples include integration of ad hoc hardware in a laboratory and testing with a range of simulants and small-scale tests on actual waste <sup>2</sup> . Supporting information includes the results of the integrated experiments and estimates of how the experimental components and experimental test results differ from the expected system performance goals. TRL 4-6 represent the bridge from scientific research to engineering. TRL 4 is the first step in determining whether the individual components will work together as a system. The laboratory system will probably be a mix of on-hand equipment and a few special purpose components that may require special handling, calibration, or alignment to get them to function.
Research to Prove Feasibility / Basic Technology Research	TRL 3	Analytical and experimental function characteristic proof of concept	Active research and development (R&D) is initiated. This includes analytical studies and laboratory-scale studies to physically validate the analytical predictions of separate elements of the technology. Examples include components that are not yet integrated or representative tested with simulants. <sup>1</sup> Supporting information includes results of laboratory tests performed to measure parameters of interest and comparison to analytical predictions for critical subsystems. At TRL 3 the work has moved beyond the paper phase to experimental work that verifies that the concept works as expected on simulants. Components of the technology are validated, but there is no attempt to integrate the components into a complete system. Modeling and simulation may be used to complement physical experiments.
	TRL 2	Technology and/or application formulated	Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. Applications are speculative, and there may be no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumptions. Examples are still limited to analytic studies. Supporting information includes publications or other references that outline the application being considered and that provide analysis to support the concept. The step up from TRL 1 to TRL 2 moves the ideas from pure to applied research. Most of the work is analytical or paper studies with the emphasis on understanding the science better. Experimental work is designed to corroborate the basic scientific observations made during TRL 1 work.
Basic Technology Research	TRL 1	Basic principles observed and reported	This is the lowest level of technology readiness. Scientific research begins to be translated into applied R&D. Examples might include paper studies of a technology's basic properties or experimental work that consists mainly of observations of the physical world. Supporting Information includes published research or other references that identify the principles that underlie the technology.

Source: <https://www2.lbl.gov/dir/assets/docs/TRL%20guide.pdf>

**APPENDIX B- TRL Contribution Calculation Table**

Please use link to [Excel format of table](#)

Grant to Academic partners	Grant to Industry Partner	Total Grant	TRL	Fixed Industry Partner contribution per TRL	Industry Partner Contribution per TRL USD	Industry Partner contribution %	Industry Partner contribution to their grant	Industry Partner Contribution to their grant %	Total Project Budget
A [\$]	ΣC[\$]	G=A+ΣC [\$]	n	P [%] P=(n-2)*p -(n-3)*(p/3)		q [%]	Q [%] Q=(n-2)*q	Q*ΣC	T[ \$] T=G*(1+P) +Q*ΣC
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	0	1,100,000
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	4	17%	166,667	15%	30%	0	1,166,667
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	5	23%	233,333	15%	45%	0	1,233,333
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	6	30%	300,000	15%	60%	0	1,300,000
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	30,000	1,130,000
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	4	17%	166,667	15%	30%	60,000	1,224,667
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	5	23%	233,333	15%	45%	90,000	1,323,333
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	6	30%	300,000	15%	60%	120,000	1,420,000
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	75,000	1,175,000
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	4	17%	166,667	15%	30%	150,000	1,316,667
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	5	23%	233,333	15%	45%	225,000	1,458,333
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	6	30%	300,000	15%	60%	300,000	1,600,000