

**CITIES OF TOMORROW (CoT) R&D PROGRAMME**

**GRANT CALL 3**

FOR VERTICAL 5: CITY IN NATURE

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

**CALL TOPIC 7: PHYSICAL & PSYCHO-ACOUSTIC STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL FOR VEGETATION TO MITIGATE TRAFFIC NOISE IN HIGH RISE RESIDENTIAL ESTATES**

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Please note that the FAQs will be updated periodically. Please refer to the [CoT V5 3<sup>rd</sup> Grant Call website](#) and [IGMS website](#) for the latest version of the FAQs.

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**T7. CALL TOPIC 7**

**T7.1 Are there any prescribed control sites (synthetic noise barrier) and study sites for the proposal? What is the number of control and study sites required for the proposal? (10 May 2024)**

Applicants have the liberty to propose their control and study sites, including the number of sites, that are suited to their proposal's methodology. The control sites should be on the ground (at-grade), while the study sites of relevance are Category 1 Roads (Expressway) and Category 2 Roads (main arterial roads).

**T7.2 Are there any specific requirements for the proposed research approach and methodology? (10 May 2024)**

Applicants have the liberty to propose a research approach and methodology that best suits the objectives of the Call Topic.

**T7.3 What are the areas of interests for HDB and LTA for this Call Topic? (10 May 2024)**

Both HDB and LTA are interested in the effects of urban vegetation and landscapes on traffic noise level abatement and its perception in the context of precinct development.

**T7.4 What is the level of support that the project team can expect from agencies during the project implementation? (10 May 2024)**

Agencies will facilitate the administrative requirements (e.g., application of permits at agency-managed sites) and provide technical expertise (e.g., identification of plant species) for the project. However, the project team will be responsible for conducting the research activities (e.g., data collection).

Please also refer to Questions 1.6. and 1.9. of the General Administration FAQs for related queries on the support that can be provided by agencies for CoT V5 projects.

**T7.5 Will NParks be willing to share the following in-house resources with the project team to support the project implementation? (10 May 2024)**

- Riegl Vz400i terrestrial laser scanner for analysis of tree parameters
- Database of vegetation for the proposed study sites

NParks is open to the possibility of providing the project team with access to use the terrestrial laser scanner for the research work under their project. However, the project team will need to have their own skilled personnel(s) to operate this scanner.

On the other hand, the database of vegetation is limited to Bishan Ang Mo Kio Park only and does not cover islandwide. Therefore, it will likely not align with the study sites of relevance (i.e., Category 1 Roads (Expressway) and Category 2 Roads (main arterial roads)) for the Call Topic. Nonetheless, the researcher can reach out to NParks to discuss if there is a need to access this dataset, which will be assessed on a case by case basis.

**T7.6 Are there any specific psycho-acoustic parameters that are of interest to agencies, and should be included as part of the proposed study's assessment of the psycho-acoustic effectiveness/performance of urban vegetation and landscapes? (27 May 2024)**

Noise annoyance is a specific parameter of interest to agencies. Applicants have the liberty to propose additional parameters as relevant for their study design.

**T7.7 Are human participants required for validation of the study parameters? If so, what is the recommended sample size? (27 May 2024)**

Human participants will be required for validating the study parameters; the sample size can be proposed for agencies' assessment based on the proposed methodology, representativeness of the target population and available budget.

**T7.8 Will NParks provide support for the procurement and on-site planting of vegetation, if required for the proposal? (27 May 2024)**

Applicants should clearly articulate how they wish to augment the sites (if necessary for the proposed study), and be prepared to conduct the works by themselves under NParks' supervision. Any required procurement of materials, services, etc., must be budgeted within the submitted proposal.

Should applicants wish to request specific areas of support from agencies, they may indicate so within the Full Proposal Template (Form A) during proposal submission. The support that can be provided by agencies will be assessed accordingly during the proposal evaluation process, based on the merits and needs of the proposed study.

Please also refer to Question T7.4., as well as Questions 1.6. and 1.9. of the General Administration FAQs for related queries on the support that can be provided by agencies for the project.

**T7.9 What is the degree of granularity of the vegetation analysis (e.g., detailed leaf analysis, or analysis of vegetation cover as a whole) required for the proposed study? (27 May 2024)**

As the ultimate interest is to inform guidelines for agencies and developers on greenery provision at the scale of individual developments, greenery volume or vertical/horizontal area coverage will be more aligned with agencies' interest. However, if the project team assesses that detailed analysis of differences between leaf and stem structure are relevant for noise mitigation, agencies are open for this to be studied.