



Responsible Business Fund RBF, Myanmar



DENMARK

Fourth Call for Proposals – Open from 1st July to 22nd July, 2019

As a part of the Danish Development Assistance to Myanmar, Denmark has established the **MMK 18 billion RBF** to function as a ‘Challenge Fund’ to “increase the competitiveness and responsible behavior of Myanmar enterprises” by providing partial grants to SMEs for the implementation of innovative projects in the following **7 Eligible Areas**:

1. *Energy Efficiency;*
2. *Water use Efficiency;*
3. *Waste treatment and Recycling;*
4. *Occupational Safety & Health (OSH);*
5. *Food Safety;*
6. *Managerial & Supervisory Skills;*
7. *Practical & Technical Skills.*

Hence if your enterprise has been facing financial constraints that prevent you from undertaking projects in the above-mentioned areas, potentially making your business more responsible/competitive, RBF can through **Grant support (50% of the Project cost - up to MMK 50 million for Areas 1,2,3; and MMK 40 million for Areas 4,5,6,7)** provide an incentive for you to demonstrate such best practices to the rest of the Myanmar business community.

RBF is an instrument to absorb some of the financial risk of being an early-mover to adapt responsible business practices. The emphasis of RBF is therefore on creating as many demonstration projects in the abovementioned areas, with a wide geographic spread all over Myanmar, across all the sectors vital for growth of SMEs and the inclusive benefits they provide such as employment and development of small household producers as sub-suppliers. Hence it is important that your Project Idea/Company (or) Business qualifies on the following **8 Eligibility Criteria**:

- Proposed project has the potential to demonstrate the ‘business case’ for a responsible investment/practice in one of the abovementioned 7 eligible areas.
- Proposed project is located outside Yangon Region. However, in case SME is proposing a project within Area 3 - Waste Treatment and Recycling, all are welcome to apply even if they are located in the Yangon Region.
- SME is well prepared for the proposed project in terms of: identification of technology; shortlisting of suppliers; and raising finances required for SME’s contribution etc., in order to complete project procurement before June 2020.
- Proposed technology/capacity building solutions have not already been implemented by competing businesses in your locality/district. (Not applicable to Areas 6 & 7). If RBF has already approved grant support for a similar project in your locality/district/township, RBF Board will not approve grant support.
- Your company (or) business is registered in Myanmar and is an **SME** with 600 or less permanent staff or has less than 1 billion Kyat in paid-up capital.
- Your company (or) business has been operational for a minimum of two years and can show externally audited accounts for the most recent year.
- Your company (or) business is not operating in excluded sectors (hard liquor, gambling, tobacco, weapons, internationally recognized exclusion list)

- For Area 6 and 7, SME must have a minimum of 20 staff, an established management structure, a clear long-term business strategy that needs the proposed training activities. The proposed training shouldn't be exceeding 4 training weeks over a period of 6 months

In case you have a project idea that fits into the above requirements, the first step to seek assistance from RBF is to fill-in the attached Concept Note (minimum of 2 pages and a maximum of 4 pages). As the selection of projects for grant support is based on a competitive call for proposals, they will be ranked using the following **4 Evaluation Criteria**.

No.	Criteria	Method of Rating Higher preference for:	Weightage
1.	Demonstration potential within Myanmar / Region / State / District / Township	<i>Projects that have a national level demonstration value</i>	45%
2.	Commercial viability measured in terms of pay-back period	<i>Projects that have longer pay-back periods</i>	30%
3.	Service Provider / Equipment Supplier's track-record	<i>Service Providers/Equipment Suppliers that have a proven track-record of delivering on the proposed technology/initiative</i>	15%
4.	Non-financial / Non-quantifiable benefits To Employees, Local Community and Environment	<i>Projects with higher potential to create benefits that extend beyond the costs/profits of the SME</i>	10%
Total			100%

Timeline for the 4th Call for the evaluation of Concept Notes/Project Proposals and the later steps to be taken by applicant SMEs are presented below:

Date	Activity
1 st July to 21 st July 2019	Opening of RBF 4 th Call for Proposals
22 nd July 2019 (12pm)	Last day for submission of Concept Notes
23 rd July to 8 th August 2019	Screening by RBF Secretariat issues for Concept Notes
9 th August 2019	RBF invites Shortlisted SMEs to submit Full Project Proposals
12 th September 2019 (12pm)	Deadline for the submission of Full Proposals
25 th October 2019	RBF Secretariat submits Appraisal Notes to Board of RBF
25 th October to 8 th November 2019	Assessment by Board of RBF and approval of Grant Support to selected SMEs
15 th November 2019 onwards	Award letters (e-mails) sent to selected SMEs along with draft Grant Agreements
22 nd November to 30 th December 2019	Grant Agreements signed between RBF Secretariat and selected SMEs
30 th June 2020	Last date for disbursement by RBF to Grantees or Suppliers

Concept Notes must be submitted to: applications@rbfmyanmar.com by 22nd July 2019 (12: 00 pm)

Any queries regarding RBF support can be addressed to: info@rbfmyanmar.com or mobile phone numbers: 0943128563 or 09402642579 or 09779763382 or 09252395253

Thanking you for the interest in responding to the challenges of finding responsible and sustainable business solutions to make Myanmar competitive.