Enterprise Development Grant: Apply Before You Start

Description

An EDG project must be new and not commenced when the application is made. Starting work, paying a project vendor or signing the relevant contract before application can make the project retrospective; approval and reimbursement still depend on the issued Letter of Offer and verified outcomes.

This guide is for a Singapore SME preparing a consultancy, software, equipment or market project. It resolves one practical task: decide whether the project is still eligible to apply and preserve evidence through reimbursement. Start with the branch that matches the real facts, then retain the cited record that controls the outcome.

Find the branch that matches

Situation	Practical next step
No work, payment or relevant contract yet	Prepare the proposal and apply through the Business Grants Portal
Vendor contract already signed	Treat commencement as a red flag and obtain EnterpriseSG clarification before assuming eligibility
Letter of Offer received	Use its scope, qualifying period, costs and deliverables as the control document
Project completed	Submit the verified final claim within six months of the qualifying period end unless the letter states otherwise

What the evidence can and cannot decide

Enterprise Singapore EDG page controls the core rule used here: eligibility, support scope, non-commencement rule, documents, assessment time and claim steps. Enterprise Singapore EDG FAQ supplies the second check: support levels, project pillars, typical duration, application information and rejection of commenced work. Read both against the current facts rather than lifting one number or sentence out of its conditions.

For a Singapore SME preparing a consultancy, software, equipment or market project, those sources can organise the decision and show which evidence is missing. They cannot approve an application, interpret an individual contract, guarantee availability, diagnose a condition, value an asset or replace an authorityâ??s issued result. The useful outcome is a dated file that makes decide whether the project is still eligible to apply and preserve evidence through reimbursement and records why the selected branch applies.

Pass the company eligibility screen

The applicant must be registered and operating in Singapore, have at least 30% local equity at ultimate individual ownership level, and be financially ready to start and finish the project. EnterpriseSG assesses scope, outcomes and provider competency; meeting the three entry conditions is not an approval. Enterprise Singapore EDG page.

Do not start the project early

EnterpriseSG treats work started, payment made to an application vendor or a relevant third-party contract signed before application as commencement. Keep procurement discussion separate from commitment. A board approval can authorise submission while expressly withholding contract execution and payment until the appropriate decision. Enterprise Singapore EDG page.

Build a decision-ready proposal

Describe the business problem, current baseline, proposed change, measurable outcomes, timeline, internal owner, vendor scope and cost by qualifying item. Attach a recent ACRA search and the required financial statements or management accounts. Promotional promises such as â??digital transformationâ?• need operational measures behind them. Enterprise Singapore EDG page.

Plan for processing and cash flow

EnterpriseSG states complete applications take about eight to 12 weeks. Support is reimbursement-based and the grant percentage applies only to approved eligible costs. Model the firmâ??s full cash requirement, GST or non-qualifying items and a delay buffer without assuming the maximum grant will be awarded. Enterprise Singapore EDG page.

Make the claim traceable

After completion within the qualifying period, assemble the project summary, achieved deliverables, invoices, bank statements, employment evidence and auditor verification where required. Final claims must generally reach EnterpriseSG no later than six months after the qualifying-period end. The issued Letter of Offer controls the actual deadline. Enterprise Singapore EDG page.

Worked example or route

An SME wants a S$100,000 eligible project and models a possible 50% support level. It still budgets S$100,000 plus any non-qualifying cash timing because approval, eligible cost and disbursement are not guaranteed. It applies before signing the vendor contract, then maps each invoice to a Letter-of-Offer deliverable.

Build the action file

1. Test registration, local equity and financial readiness
2. Freeze work, payment and contract commencement
3. Define baseline and measurable outcomes
4. Prepare recent ACRA and financial documents
5. Model full project cash flow
6. Map invoices and deliverables to the Letter of Offer
7. Submit the final claim by the issued deadline

The two reusable decision tools are **a three-trigger commencement gate** and **a proposal-to-claim evidence map and cash-flow model**. Both are editorial working methods; an issued notice, contract, live timetable, clinical instruction or authority decision prevails.

Limits and costly missteps

- Paying a deposit before application
- Treating eligibility as approval
- Assuming maximum support for every cost
- Changing scope without an approved process
- Waiting until after the claim deadline

Pause when the controlling date, eligibility fact, payment destination, safety condition, product term or live availability is unclear. Open the linked source again and save the acknowledgement or result that applies to the actual case.

Continue with the adjacent check

After this task, it may help to map the companyâ??s annual-return deadline. A second useful step is to audit written employment terms. These links move to different reader tasks rather than repeating this page.

Common questions

Can a vendor apply for the company?

EnterpriseSG says third parties cannot apply or manage the grant on the applicantâ??s behalf. Enterprise Singapore EDG page.

How long can assessment take?

The EDG page states about eight to 12 weeks for a complete application. Enterprise Singapore EDG FAQ.

When is the final claim due?

Generally within six months after the qualifying period, subject to the Letter of Offer. Enterprise Singapore EDG page.

Checked against the cited sources for this publication run. Rules, schedules and service details can change; verify the live official page before acting on a consequential decision.

Date Created
30/07/2026
Author
rachelng