GST InvoiceNow Timeline and New Grants: A 2026 Singapore Business Guide

Description

The short answer: Singaporeâ??s GST InvoiceNow requirement is already under way, but most existing GST-registered businesses enter in stages from 1 April 2028 to 1 April 2031. A separate support programme opened for applications on 1 July 2026. Businesses should identify their phase, confirm whether their accounting system is InvoiceNow-ready and preserve the records used to establish annual supplies instead of waiting for a deadline notice.

Information in this guide was checked against IRAS and IMDA pages on 15 July 2026. Eligibility and implementation details can change, so verify them on the linked agency pages before committing money.

GST InvoiceNow timeline at a glance

The requirement asks affected GST-registered businesses to use an InvoiceNow-ready solution and transmit prescribed invoice data to IRAS through the InvoiceNow network. It is not simply a rule about emailing a PDF invoice. InvoiceNow carries structured invoice data through an access point provider, and an affected business must be properly connected, including having a Peppol ID.

Start date	Businesses brought into the requirement
1 November 2025	Companies incorporated within six months that apply for voluntary GST registration.
1 April 2026	All businesses applying for voluntary GST registration, regardless of incorporation date or business form.
1 April 2028	New compulsory GST registrants and existing GST registrants with annual supplies of S$200,000 or less.
1 April 2029	Existing GST registrants with annual supplies of more than S$200,000 and up to S$1 million.
1 April 2030	Existing GST registrants with annual supplies of more than S$1 million and up to S$4 million.

Start date	Businesses brought into the requirement
1 April 2031	Existing GST registrants with annual supplies above S$4 million.

This table condenses the current IRAS GST InvoiceNow requirement. For existing registrants, IRAS uses annual supplies reported in Box 4 of GST returns for prescribed accounting periods ending in calendar year 2025. That figure includes standard-rated, zero-rated and exempt supplies. It is not necessarily the same as accounting revenue or the turnover number used in every grant scheme.

IRAS says overseas entities and businesses registered wholly because of reverse-charge rules are excluded from the requirement. Other edge cases deserve a direct check with IRAS or a qualified adviser; a group structure, divisional registration or a changed accounting period can make a simple timeline graphic inadequate.

What support opened on 1 July 2026?

The government support is tiered. The current IRAS support summary and IMDA grant page say applications opened on 1 July 2026.

- Businesses with annual supplies of S$4 million or less may qualify for a S$1,000 grant.
- Businesses with annual supplies above S$4 million may qualify for a S$5,000 grant.
- Businesses with annual turnover above S$4 million may qualify for a S$25,000 QueenBee-enabled support package.
- Some larger businesses may be eligible for both the S$5,000 and S$25,000 forms of support if they meet the respective conditions.

Do not select a tier from the headline amount alone. â??Annual suppliesâ?• and â??annual turnoverâ?• are different measures, and each programme has conditions, claim steps and qualifying activities. IMDA also lists free-of-charge InvoiceNow solution packages for eligible small and medium-sized enterprises through March 2031. Check the live terms before signing a vendor contract or assuming a cost will be reimbursed.

A five-step preparation plan

1. **Establish the relevant business population.** List every GST registration, UEN and entity in the group. Record whether each registration is voluntary, compulsory or wholly attributable to reverse charge.
2. **Reconcile the phase input.** Extract Box 4 for prescribed accounting periods ending in 2025 and retain the calculation. If amendments are pending, document the effect and seek clarification.
3. **Map invoice flows.** Identify sales invoices, purchase invoices, credit notes, self-billed documents, foreign-currency items and transactions generated outside the core accounting system. The difficult work is often at these edges.
4. **Test the technology chain.** Confirm that the solution is InvoiceNow-ready, the access point provider can support the required IRAS submission, the Peppol ID is correct and failure alerts have an accountable owner.
5. **Evaluate support before buying.** Compare qualifying costs, application timing and free packages. Keep the grant decision separate from vendor suitability and data-security review.

For broader context, LBRDâ??s Singapore business coverage tracks operating changes, while the grants section collects support programmes. The earlier Budget 2026 guide for SMEs and start-ups can help finance teams place this support alongside other schemes without treating them as interchangeable.

Common mistakes to avoid

First, do not confuse a phase date with the deadline for every technical task. Connection, master-data clean-up and staff testing should finish early enough to expose errors. Second, do not assume that sending an invoice over the network removes the need to file a GST return. The statutory return remains a separate obligation. Third, do not rely on a sales demonstration as proof of regulatory readiness: request the productâ??s InvoiceNow-ready status, access point arrangements, data fields, exception handling and export capability in writing.

A useful management record is a one-page readiness sheet with five fields: legal entity, GST registration number, calculated annual supplies, applicable phase and accountable owner. Attach the underlying Box 4 reconciliation and vendor evidence. That gives directors a traceable basis for the implementation date and makes later changes easier to explain.

Questions to put to a solution provider

Ask the provider to demonstrate a complete sales invoice, purchase invoice and credit-note journey using test data that resembles the businessâ??s real transactions. Request a list of data fields sent to IRAS, the treatment of rejected or duplicate records, the time taken to alert users, and the way corrections are linked to the original document. Confirm where data is stored, which subcontractors can access it, how users are authenticated and how records can be exported if the contract ends. Finally, separate one-off implementation fees from access point, transaction, support and upgrade charges. A written response makes competing proposals easier to compare and gives the project owner testable acceptance criteria.

Bottom line

The GST InvoiceNow timeline gives many existing businesses time, but the newest grant window makes 2026 a sensible year to assess systems. Calculate the phase from the correct data, read the grant criteria rather than the headline, and test the complete invoice path. A grant can reduce transition cost; it cannot substitute for a sound tax process.

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