



BUILDING RESILIENT
INNOVATION FOR DIGITAL
& GREEN ENTERPRISES



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE BUILDING RESILIENT INNOVATION FOR DIGITAL & GREEN ENTERPRISES (BRIDGE) GRANTS PROGRAMME

This document provides additional clarifications regarding the official BRIDGE Grants Programme FAQs. These questions address common concerns raised by applicants and highlight areas that may not have been covered in detail.

Q1: When is the deadline for Applications?

A1: The deadline for Applications is November 9, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (Barbados time). The deadline is stated on the Guidelines and Procedures for (BRIDGE) Grant and the Application Form.

Q2: How long is the evaluation process?

A2: The duration of the evaluation process is thirty (30) working days commencing the next working day after the deadline of the Call for Proposal (November 9, 2025). All applications submitted under this Call will be evaluated by members of a committee comprising independent evaluators. Refer to Section 4 of the Guidelines and Procedures of the Building Resilient Innovation for Digital & Green Enterprises (BRIDGE) Grants Programme for further details.

Q3: Can goods (e.g. equipment, tools etc.) and services (e.g. consultant, etc.) be purchased from Non-African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP), European Union (EU) member countries, the USA and Canada?

A3: Yes, you can buy goods and services from anywhere in the world, and the Rules of Origin don't apply. Please note that the European Union's contribution is subject to a limitation: no more than 20% of its contribution to the total project cost may be allocated to the purchase of Capital Goods.

Q4: Does the (BRIDGE) Grant advance funds for projects?

A4: Yes, funds are disbursed to the beneficiaries of a grant in three tranches, after the grant contract is signed by both parties. The first two tranches are advanced payments, whilst the final tranche is done on a reimbursable basis.

- First Tranche Disbursement - 40%
- Second Tranche Disbursement – 40%



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- Final Tranche Disbursement - 20% ***(the final tranche is disbursed on a reimbursement basis)***

Q5: Does the grant cover activities that have already been undertaken?

A5: No, there is no retroactivity; activities undertaken or costs incurred before the applicant is awarded a grant are not eligible for disbursement.

Q6: Are Start-ups eligible to apply?

A6: No, Start-ups are not eligible to apply. Start-ups are defined as firms that have been in operation less than two (2) years.

Q7: Does the one year or 15-month implementation period occur at any time during the year following funding, or must commence immediately upon receiving a grant?

A7: The implementation period takes effect on January 2, 2026.

Q8: I started this professional service 3 years ago, but was focusing on the developmental aspects and was only legally registered as a firm 6 months ago. How will my application be handled?

A8: The (BRIDGE) Grant requires your business to be legally registered in one of the following countries: Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. As long as your business is legally registered in one of these countries you will satisfy this criterion. Additionally, all applicants must submit 2 years' financial statements (income statements and balance sheets). Therefore, your company must be operating for at least 2 years, which can be confirmed by the requisite financial statements.

Q9: If I am purchasing a piece of equipment that is EURO €20,000, and the supplier requires 50% down payment, how do I pay for this if I am receiving money from Caribbean Export in tranches?

A9: Applicants must provide counterpart funding for all project expenses. If you're buying equipment, we encourage you to arrange with your vendor so that the payment terms fit our tranche disbursement schedule. Please note that the European Union's contribution is subject to a limitation: no more than 20% of its contribution to the total project cost may be allocated to the purchase of Capital Goods.



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Q10: Are taxes (e.g. VAT, GCT, customs duties, tariffs, etc.) paid by the (BRIDGE) Grant?

A10: No. Taxes and other government-imposed fees are not eligible project costs.

Q11: Can a group of companies or a parent company submit financial statements for a subsidiary?

A11: No, the subsidiary must submit their financial statements.

Q12: Should the Applicant Declaration be certified by a Justice of the Peace?

A12: No. Notarisation is not required for the Applicant Declaration Form. However, supporting documents such as the *Certificate of Incorporation or Registration* should be notarised and Bank Statements should be stamped and certified by the applicant's bank.

Q13: My business name was changed in 2024. Would it be ok to send a certificate of the change of name or do you need the original registration certificate and the change of name certificate?

A13: You will be required to submit the current certificate of registration or incorporation and the original certificate showing the name that was changed.

Q14: Should quotations or proforma invoices for any equipment or services to be procured be attached to the application?

A14: No, quotations or proforma invoices are not required at the application stage.

Q15: Is the procurement of packaging materials such as bottles and labels eligible?

A15: No. the purchase of raw materials and consumables such as packaging materials is not an eligible expense. Refer to Section 2.4 Ineligible Project Expenses of the Guidelines & Procedures of the BRIDGE Grant.



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Q16: Do applicants have to complete the Diagnostic Assessment Tool?

A16: No, applicants are no longer required to complete the online SME Diagnostic Assessment. However, applicants for the BRIDGE Digital Transformation Grant must submit a [Digital Check-Up Tool Results & Recommendation Report](#), at the application stage.

Q17: If my project combines both digital and green elements, which grant should I apply for?

A17: Applicants must select the facility that represents the primary focus of the project. For example, if the project is mainly about reducing energy costs through solar, apply under Green. If it's about ERP systems with a minor efficiency gain, apply under Digital.

Q18: Are joint applications or consortiums allowed?

A18: Yes, but the lead applicant must meet eligibility criteria, and roles of partners must be clearly defined.

Q19: What happens if my project finishes under budget?

A19: Only the actual eligible costs incurred will be reimbursed. Unused grant funds cannot be reallocated.

Q20: What level of detail is expected in the financial capacity section?

A20: Applicants must demonstrate sufficient liquidity or financing ability to meet co-financing. Bank statements and recent financial statements must confirm this.

Q21: How strict are the “innovation” requirements for Digital projects?

A21: Projects must show transformative impact (e.g., AI, automation, digital integration). Generic tools like standalone e-commerce websites or social media ads will not be considered innovative and are therefore in-eligible project areas.

Q22: Can grant funds be used for pilot projects or prototypes?

A22: Yes, provided the pilot/prototype is directly tied to the company's operations and demonstrates clear potential for scaling and competitiveness.



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Q23: How will sustainability be assessed for Green projects?

A23: Evaluators will look for measurable outcomes such as kWh saved, emissions reduced, or water conserved, not just intentions.

Q24: What if my business is seasonal or export-dependent — how should I plan project timelines?

A24: Applicants should structure project activities with realistic timelines, factoring in seasonality, procurement delays, and cash flow for co-financing.