ELIGIBILITY AND GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. **Can startups apply for this grant?**
   Startups are eligible if they meet the minimum operational requirement of 3 years and have a clear R&D focus.

2. **Does the grant cover only R&D, or can it include operational scaling?**
   The grant primarily supports R&D activities. However, scaling costs tied to technology adoption and commercialisation can be partially covered.

3. **Can foreign-owned companies apply for the grant?**
   No, only companies with a minimum of 50% Malaysian ownership are eligible.

4. **Is there a limit to how many projects a company can submit?**
   A company can submit multiple projects, but only one project may be approved within the grant period.

PROJECT FOCUS AND SCOPE

5. **Can automation tools for service delivery apply under the "Professional Services" category?**
   Yes, provided the tools demonstrate innovation and potential productivity gains for professional services like legal, consulting, or architectural firms.

6. **Can the grant be used for purchasing pre-existing software?**
   Yes, but only if the software purchase directly enhances the productivity of the R&D project and aligns with the grant's objectives.

7. **Are collaborative projects between two companies eligible?**
   Collaborative projects are eligible if one company is the primary applicant, and the project demonstrates shared benefits and responsibilities.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET QUERIES

8. **What percentage of the grant can be allocated to external consultancy?**
   Up to 10% of the total approved grant can be allocated for external consultancy fees related to technical expertise.

9. **Can the grant be used to cover project management software costs?**
   Yes, if the software directly contributes to the management and efficiency of the R&D project.

10. **Can non-claimable items, like overheads, be included in the budget?**
    Non-claimable items must not be listed under the grant's budget but can be funded through the company's matching contribution.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

11. **What is the deadline for submitting applications?**
    Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the specified deadline. Late submissions will not be considered.

12. Are there word or page limits for each section of the application?
While there are no specific limits, applicants must be concise and ensure clarity in their responses.

13. What kind of diagrams or visualizations are acceptable?
Applicants can include flowcharts, Gantt charts, architecture diagrams, or other visuals that clarify the methodology or innovation.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

14. How are applications evaluated?
Applications are evaluated based on the evaluation rubric specified in the application form, which focuses on the problem statement, market size, innovation, methodology, commercialization plan, financial feasibility, and customer impact. The form details the weightage for each section.

15. Will feedback be provided if an application is rejected?
Minimal feedback may be provided upon request, but detailed evaluations will not be disclosed. All decisions are final.

16. What happens after an application is shortlisted?
Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a pitching session where they can present their projects to the evaluation panel.