

**2024 Pre-Budget Document Proposals by
The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry on:**

R&I

1. Fiscal Incentives:
 - a) **Increase the 150% tax deduction of R&I expenditure** to companies to **200%**.
 - b) **Tax incentives to increase angel investing and encourage more support from venture capital firms**, particularly to retain talent upon completion of the research and prototype phases as well as to proceed to commercialisation.
 - c) **Supplement the funding for the post-doc fellowship** (leveraging on the experience acquired in 2023) to ensure that the programme becomes increasingly relevant and attractive to a broader range of researchers, and to stimulate more R&I with commercialisation potential.
 - d) Financial assistance to mitigate the **high legal and registration costs particularly of Intellectual Property Rights**.
2. Culture Change Incentives:
 - a) **Simplify incentive obligations to increase project uptake and free up time for research itself**. Certain incentive obligations are very rigid and discourage the pursuit of exploratory research, particularly among small businesses whose resources are very tight.
 - b) **One-to-one awareness outreach sessions with potential beneficiaries** to provide more specific advice and explain the returns that can be derived from prioritising more R&I in parallel with the day-to-day operational functions.
 - c) **A fully digital business infrastructure** (including company founding, banking, digital contracts, and taxation) to streamline processes for firms, reduce excessive administrative burdens, alleviate bureaucratic hurdles to ultimately improve accessibility to essential services and enhance efficiency in operations.
3. Human Resource incentives:
 - a) **Short placements for secondary school students in manufacturing and tech-based companies**, to cultivate a STEM mindset as well as to expose them to the real-world application of STEM and effective communication principles. This will help cultivate a pool of young people who are inclined to pursue careers in research and innovation.
 - b) Inquisitive **minds within our academic institutions**, industry, and broader society need to be promoted and encouraged to **develop new technologies and participate in European projects with a high commercialisation potential**. A pathway for commercialisation should be found for new eco-solutions.

