

Five research proposals get grants worth \$50m

THE National Research Foundation (NRF) is awarding \$50 million worth of grants under its Competitive Research Programme (CRP) Funding Scheme to five research proposals.

A total of 68 preliminary proposals on the theme Sustainable Urban Systems were submitted by Singapore-based researchers from the local universities, polytechnics, public research entities as well as private companies. NRF's International Evaluation Panel (IEP) eventually selected five proposals.

The five proposals are: New Biotechnology for Processing Metropolitan Organic Wastes into Value-Added Products; Engineering Biology for Valuable Fuels; Sustainable Urban Waste Management for 2020; Underwater Infrastructure and Underwater City of the Future; and Towards Efficient Sunlight Harvesting.

Four of the five principal investigators are from Nanyang Technological University and one is from the National University of Singapore.

"The CRP grants awarded over the past two-and-a-half years have built up a sizeable pool of

researchers working on cutting-edge use-inspired research in Singapore. Early results have been promising – we look forward to significant research breakthroughs that will result in major economic or societal benefit," said Dr Francis Yeoh, CEO of NRF.

Awardee Dr Zhao Yang, principal investigator on a

project involving efficient sunlight harvesting, said: "We hope our programme on designing artificial systems capable of harvesting sunlight with high efficiency will greatly benefit various sectors of the clean energy industry in Singapore and beyond."

The CRP Funding Scheme offers funding sup-

port of up to \$10 million per proposal over 3-5 years.

With this fifth grant award and a total of \$250 million channelled to 25 projects to date, NRF will initiate a review of the scheme to assess its effectiveness before any further grant calls, it said yesterday.