

**Project 23/2004 – Towards developing an engineering strategy to reduce
tire-pavement noise**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' advice in funding the captioned application for ECF made by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Background

2. The funding requested by this project is \$403,650.00 for the staff cost of employing one Research Assistant for 18 months (\$270,000.00), the equipment cost for the noise measuring trailer (\$50,000.00), the cost for converting a vehicle to tow the trailer (\$24,000.00), the local transport cost for the study (\$5,000.00), the refreshment cost for organizing workshop (\$1,000.00), the printing cost for 1,000 leaflet (\$1,000.00), and the overhead administrative cost (\$52,650.00). The project is expected to last for 18 months.

3. The project was discussed at the meeting of the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee (RPVSC) on 25.5.2005. In response to the enquiries by the Members, the principal investigator (PI) provided further details on the methodology of the trailer-based device to measure the tire-pavement noise, the details on the ISO standard for the trailer construction, and the details of the work to be carried out at stage 3 of the workplan. The PI's reply is given at Annex.

4. The proposal has been examined by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Highways Department (HyD). EPD supported the proposal as it may provide a better method to measure the tire-pavement noise which helps develop a strategy to reduce the traffic noise. In respect of the application of the research result, HyD advised that they would make use of the result from the captioned project by applying the proposed Close Proximity Method to measure the tire-pavement noise in some road sections to assess the noise reduction performance of various types of existing surfacing materials and new low noise surfacing material. The data from the on-road tire-pavement noise surveys by the PI would be useful in formulating the way forward and strategy on the use of low noise surfacing material.

5. Regarding the budget, the “Guide to Application for the Fund” stipulated that funding for general administrative costs incurred by the applicant organization in undertaking the project will not normally be given. Accordingly, the proposed overhead administrative cost of \$52,650.00 should not be supported.

Advice sought

6. Members are invited to advise whether the application for ECF should be supported as detailed in paragraphs 2 to 3 above and if supported, the exact amount of fund to be recommended to the ECF Committee for approval.

Secretariat, ECF Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee
August 2005