

Announcement of The National Innovation Agency (Public Organization)

Subject: Certification of Qualification for the special temporary residence visa
(Smart Visa)

Pursuant to the Announcement of the Office of the Board of Investment No. Por. 5/2568 regarding Qualification, Criteria, and Conditions for the special temporary residence visa (Smart Visa) dated February 18, 2025, which determines the guidelines for the certification of qualification for alien persons who are Startup entrepreneurs and have established businesses in targeted industries in Thailand; and whereas the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization) has been designated as a key government agency for the certification of qualification for Smart Visa

By virtue of the provisions in Section 28 (3) of the Royal Decree on the Establishment of the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization) B.E. 2552 (2009), the Executive Director of the National Innovation Agency hereby issues the following announcement:

Article 1: Definitions

In this announcement:

"Agency" means the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization)

"Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the National Innovation Agency

"Working Committee" means the Working Committee for Consideration and Certification of Qualification for the special temporary residence visa (Smart Visa) and Targeted company operating in an industry with government support (Capital Gains Tax)

"Smart Visa" means the special temporary residence visa for alien persons who are Startup entrepreneurs and have established businesses in targeted

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industries in Thailand, as authorized by the Cabinet for The Board of Investment of Thailand to issue qualification criteria

"Targeted Industry" means the targeted industries pursuant to the Announcement of the Office of the Board of Investment No. Por. 5/2566 dated March 16, B.E. 2566 (2023), regarding the amendment of criteria and conditions for Smart Visa, as follows

- (1) Automotive Industry
- (2) Electronics Industry
- (3) Affluent Tourism Industry
- (4) Agriculture, Food and Biotechnology Industry
- (5) Automation and Robotics Industry
- (6) Transportation and Logistics Industry
- (7) Petrochemical and Chemical Industry
- (8) Digital Industry
- (9) Medical Industry
- (10) National Defense Industry
- (11) Industries that facilitate the Circular Economy directly and significantly
- (12) Aviation and Aerospace Industry
- (13) Human Resource Development in Science and Technology
- (14) Environmental Management and Renewable Energy
- (15) Technology Innovation and Startup Ecosystem Management
- (16) Targeted Technology Development
- (17) International Business Center-IBC
- (18) Alternative Dispute Resolution Service

"Applicant" means an alien person who is a startup entrepreneur within the designated targeted industries

Article 2: Qualifications

The applicant who wishes to apply for the certification of qualification of by the Agency must meet the qualifications specified in the Announcement of the Office of the

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Board of Investment No. Por. 5/2568 Subject: Qualification, Criteria, and Conditions for Smart Visa and must possess the following Startup entrepreneurs' qualifications:

- (1) Have a valid legal entity registration under Thai law.
- (2) Operate a business in the target industries designated in Article 1
- (3) Operate as a Startup entrepreneur with the following conditions:
 - (3.1) Possess a management team or founders with high potential and relevant expertise
 - The team consists of personnel with knowledge, expertise, and experience in relevant fields, capable of effectively driving the business to achieve its goals
 - (3.2) Conduct as a technology or innovation-based business,
 - Focusing on developing innovative products, services, or processes that are different from existing market offerings
 - Utilize technology and innovation in business operations, either through proprietary technology development or the application of existing technology to enhance efficiency
 - (3.3) Maintain a business model with High Growth Potential, which is Scalable and Repeatable
 - The business possesses the capability for rapid market expansion and scaling, both domestically and internationally
 - (3.4) Have a clear business plan or business model
 - Demonstrating long-term growth and revenue generation
 - (3.5) Capable for fundraising to expand the business
 - Demonstrate the potential to attract investors both private sector and financial institutions or have already received fundraising

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Article 3: Application Submission and Procedure

Pursuant to the Announcement of the Office of the Board of Investment No. Por. 6/2568 regarding Application Procedure for Qualification Endorsement for Alien Persons Seeking Smart Visa:

(1) Application Submission: The application shall be submitted to the Office of the Board of Investment at the One Stop Service Center for Visa and Work Permit (OSS) or a Royal Thai Embassy or Thai Consulate in foreign countries and such agency shall forward the application to the One Stop Service Center for Visa and Work Permit.

(2) Application Procedure: The One Stop Service Center for Visa and Work Permit shall submit the application to the relevant agencies. The National Innovation Agency (Public Organization) (NIA) is responsible for certifying the targeted industry and the startup entrepreneur within the designated targeted industries, then notifying the results back to the OSS

Announced on 4 June 2026



(Miss Krithpaka Boonfueng)

Executive Director of the National Innovation Agency