



ITALY – CHINA

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION.

CALL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS

CLOSING DATE: 15/12/2015, 5:00 p.m.

OBJECTIVES

In the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed in Rome on June 9th, 1998, the Directorate General for Country Promotion (Economy, Culture and Science) – Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Department of International Cooperation of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, initiate herewith the procedures for the drafting of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2016-2018.

To this end, the Parties issue the present call for the submission of joint proposals for projects of “Particular Relevance”.

Proposals shall concern activities which exhibit strong bilateral impact either by strengthening existing or creating new Joint Laboratories, aiming at concrete industrial impacts or targeting relevant scientific objectives.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

FUNDING SCHEMES

With regard to the present call, the following funding schemes is available:

Projects of “Particular Relevance”, namely joint research projects where research activities are co-funded by both Parties. In this scheme a significant funding contribution by the applying proponent is mandatory.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

Projects shall be submitted in one of the following priority research areas:

Biotechnology and Medicine (proteomics and genomics, cancer research, neurodegenerative and cardiovascular pathologies, regenerative medicine);
Environment (soil remediation, water purification and pollution detection);
Nanosciences and Advanced Materials;
Physics (high energy physics);
Aerospace (deep-space exploration, remote sensing);
Sustainable urbanization (smart city, internet of things, ICT).

Projects submitted in other research areas will not be considered for evaluation.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Each proposal shall be submitted, by the Italian and Chinese Principal Investigators, to their respective Parties. Proposals submitted to only one Party, will not be considered for evaluation.

At least one of the two proposing teams shall be a University or Research Institute. In principle, if there is an enterprise being involved in the project, the enterprise should fund the project at least as much as from the government. We will give priority to the projects in which enterprises are involved.

For the Italian Party, the call is open to:

- a. Public or private Research Organizations;
- b. Enterprises (preferably SMEs) that can carry out scientific or industrial research activities;
- c. Principal Investigators who have Italian or any other EU nationality, provided he/she is legally resident in Italy;

- d. Principal Investigators, who comply with c. and have a permanent working contract with one of the entities described in a. and b.

For the Chinese Party, the call is open to the legal entities based in China, including universities, research institutes, and enterprises (preferably SMEs).

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Projects shall be drafted in English.

Projects shall have the same duration of the Executive Programme

A full proposal shall consist at least of:

- a description of the working teams;
- a description of the research activities that the teams intend to carry out within the project timeframe;
- a detailed description of costs involved.

For the Chinese Party, projects shall be drafted in Chinese, and submitted with a brief summary of the proposals in English.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

PROJECTS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE

The Italian Principal Investigator shall submit the project proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/sviluppo>

Any inquire concerning the present call can be sent to: DGSP.UST2@esteri.it

The Chinese Principal Investigator shall submit the project proposal exclusively through the dedicated online platform: <http://program.most.gov.cn>

Any inquire concerning the present call can be sent to: hzs_ozc@most.cn

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

At the closure of the call, all proposals received will be checked for eligibility. Eligible proposals will undergo to a two-step evaluation process.

STEP 1. Projects will first be evaluated at the national level according to the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance;
- Methodology and documentation;
- Qualification of the applicants;
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
- Added value in addressing industrial/societal challenges;
- Exploitation and dissemination of results;
- Budget adequacy.

Beside that, preference will be given to:

- Projects involving more than one national public/private research organization;
- Initiatives having a potential industrial impacts and/or involving industrial partners;
- Structured mobility programmes, with staying periods of up to 3 months, to the benefit of existing sino-italian Joint Laboratories.

STEP 2. In the work of the Joint Commission, defined in Article 4 of the aforementioned Agreement, the Parties will reach consensus on a short list of projects eligible for funding. Selected projects will be included in Executive Programme and will be eligible for funding.

REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Lack of eligibility conditions;
- Submission of more than one proposal by the same Italian Principal Investigator;
- Incomplete application (see section: Project Requirements).

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be posted on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the following address:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/ProgrammiEsecutivi/ElencoProgrammiEsecutivi.htm. The contact person of the selected projects will be directly informed.

For the Chinese Party, the contact persons of the selected projects will be directly informed.

FINANCING OF PROPOSALS

Financing will be granted within the limits of the available annual resources of each Party.

For the Italian Party, according to the Italian law Nr.401/90, at the beginning of each year of activity, the principal investigators of projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding, in accordance with the specific call issued by the Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Call details will be available, in due time, at the following link:

http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/avvisiincaricobandi.html

The contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to bilateral projects of “Particular Relevance” is intended as a **co-funding** and therefore **a significant funding participation by the coordinating Italian Institution and/or other public/private Italian or Chinese Institutions is mandatory.**

The Chinese Party will also consider granting financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial resources to these projects.