

2nd JORDAN-SPANISH JOINT CALL FOR R&D&I PROJECTS 2019

HCST-CDTI CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE JORDAN-SPANISH INNOVATION PROGRAMME (JORDESP)

On 3rd December 2017, a Joint Programme for Cooperation was established by the Higher Council for Science & Technology (HCST) through The Industrial R & D Fund and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, E.P.E. (CDTI) to promote and fund market - driven research and technology development as well as to encourage partnerships and business-led R&D&I collaborative projects between entities from both countries. Within this Programme, CDTI and HCST agreed to launch joint calls for proposals.

This joint call for proposals aims to launch ambitious joint R&D projects of a high international standard between Jordanian and Spanish organizations. Potential projects will be funded by HCST in Jordan and CDTI in Spain.

CALL GUIDELINES:

1) NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Higher Council for Science & Technology (HCST), public independent institution, Government of Jordan and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, E.P.E. (CDTI), Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Government of Spain, are the nodal implementing agencies from the Jordanian and Spanish sides, respectively.

The Higher Council for Science & Technology (HCST) was established in 1987 under Law Number (30) as a public independent institution in order to support the national strategy through applied research and innovation. The aim is to ensure fast-track technology transfer and translation of research results into innovative products in the fields of science and technology (S&T).

The CDTI is a Public Entity under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Government of Spain, which fosters the technological development and innovation of Spanish Companies.

2) THEMATIC AREAS

This Call for proposals is open to collaborative R&D projects in all areas related to science and technology, but the priority sectors will be:

- Technology-Trend Areas: Renewable Energies, Energy Efficiency, Energy Storage, Nanotechnology, ICT Applications, Smart Grids, Agriculture & Water, Agriculture & Sustainable Food Production, Sustainable Water Management, Environment Sector, Infrastructures and Industrial Manufacturing (Developing new products, improving the quality of products, enhancing the efficiency of industrial processes, technology adaptation).

3) TYPE OF PROPOSALS

Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects, joint technological cooperation projects between industrial partners (SMEs and large companies) and Universities or Research Centers in Jordan and companies in Spain consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services will be considered.

Duration of projects: from 1 year up to 3 years.

The technology readiness level of the proposed project must be greater higher than 3 (TRL > 3) and lower than TRL7.

4) TIMETABLE

Phase I

- Launch of Call for Proposals: February 1st, 2019
- Deadline for Submission of completed applications: 30th April, 2019
- Evaluation of the project at the international framework: July 2019
- Communication of international eligible projects: September 2019

Phase II

- National funding procedure for each applicant, since October 2019

5) WHO CAN APPLY?

Minimum eligibility criteria: one Jordanian University or Research Center, one Jordanian industrial partner and one Spanish company. Consortium partners cannot subcontract each other throughout the R&D project framework.

Eligible Spanish Applicants

Applicants shall be companies or Economic Interest Groupings (EIG) or consortia made up of at least two independent companies. Eligible companies shall be operating and registered in Spain and holding a valid Spanish company tax code (NIF).

As per CDTI procedure, entities such as research centers, technological centers, universities, hospitals and other R&D-performing organizations may participate in the project only as subcontractors of the companies present in the consortia.

Eligible Jordanian Applicants

HCST Eligibility criteria for Jordanian Universities or Research Centers and industrial partners:

- SMEs and established industries are eligible to apply along with a University and/or Research Center.
- Other requirements to accomplish are:
 - 1) The industrial firm should be registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.
 - 2) The industrial company should be well established (Startups and newly established companies cannot benefit from IRDF grants).
 - 3) The project should be implemented in cooperation with a university / research center.
 - 4) The university / research center should submit a diagnostic report on the problem to be solved and a proposal for the solution.

The roles and responsibilities of the project partners must be materialized in the Consortium Agreement that must be attached to the Application Form. The involvement of academic partners must be justified by the adequacy of their CVs with the tasks assigned to them in the proposed project. The involvement of industrial partners must be justified by the adequacy of their activities with the tasks assigned to them under the project, It should specify its role and strategy for the industrialization and commercialization of the new product, service and/or processes that will be reflected in the project in question and must be involved in the project from the beginning, through the tasks entrusted, Besides, it must justify its knowledge and know-how as well as its involvement in his Work Packages.

6) HOW TO APPLY?

- **Joint RDI proposals must be submitted to CDTI and HCST, starting the February 1st, 2019 to the April 30th, 2019.** Unilaterally submitted proposals shall not be considered.
- **Jordanian and Spanish co-applicants must elaborate a single project proposal application (Annex 1 – JORDESP Application Form) two copies one to be submitted to IRDF and the other to CDTI.** The Bilateral Co-

operation Form must emphasize how the proposed collaboration adds value, main technology highlights and innovations, activities to be developed by the Parties involved underlining the collaborative work being carried out on each side, their expertise, etc. This document template will be posted in HCST and CDTI websites available for applicants in order to be completed for applying.

Please note that this JORDESP Application Form must be sealed and signed by all co-applicants at the end of the document, expressly indicating name and designation of the authorized signatory in the organisation. Any other relevant information not expressly mentioned on the form and that the applicants consider relevant may be included as Annexes.

- In addition to the Application Form, co-applicants have to submit the following documents as relevant appendices:
 - **Consortium Agreement in English** whereby the co-applicants should agree upon the ownership, access rights and exploitation of intellectual property generated during the co-operation, to be submitted to CDTI and HCST. The Consortium Agreement needs to be sealed and signed by all co-applicants. This document template will be posted in HCST and CDTI websites available for applicants in order to be completed for applying.
 - **Additional specific documents required by HCST:** Documents related to the applicants regarding registration and agreement among partners regarding roles, distribution of duties, and intellectual property exploitation rights, a copy of the company financial statements for the last 3 years, CV(s) for the researcher(s). Companies should submit the registration certificate.
 - **Additional specific documents required by CDTI:** In the case of Spanish applicants, for certain specific types of financing it will be necessary to present the documents specified in the regulations applicable to the requested aid.

Spanish applicants shall submit the common application and all the required documents mentioned above following CDTI's normal guidelines and using CDTI's electronic services at <https://sede.cdti.gob.es/AreaPublica/home.aspx>

Jordanian applicants shall submit the common application and all the required documents mentioned above following HCST's normal guidelines and using HCST's electronic services at <http://hcst.gov.jo>

The complete details of the Call are available on HCST's and CDTI's websites: <http://www.hcst.gov.jo> and <http://www.cdti.es>

Further information on HCST funding is available in English. For further details visit HCST's website <http://www.hcst.gov.jo>

Further information on CDTI funding is available in Spanish. For further details visit CDTI's website <http://www.cdti.es>.

Applicants are recommended to contact the nodal representatives at their national funding organizations whose contact details are given below:

Jordanian side (HCST)

Ms. Rasha Smadi
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Spanish side (CDTI)

Mr. Germán Rodríguez Somolinos
Unit of Foreign Technological Action
CDTI, E.P.E.
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North Africa and Middle East Delegate
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Rabat, Morocco
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E-mail: josemanuel.duran@cdti.es

7) ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

The project must clearly specify the costs of each and all the activities pertaining to the project and delineate the costs to be respectively borne by the Spanish and Jordanian partners. The cost of the Jordanian and Spanish partners must be eligible under the laws that may be applicable in each country and under internal regulations of HCST and CDTI, respectively.

The funding conditions from IRDF/HCST are set in Jordan JOD Dinar and the ones from CDTI in €. Budgets must be expressed in the local currency of each applicant. All figures and budgetary conditions in this Call refer to the value of both currencies on the date of the launch of the Call (February 1st, 2019).

None of the countries' budget (namely the budget of its entities participating in the proposal) can have more than 70% of the global budget.

The Spanish company will be funded according to the International Technological Cooperation Projects' conditions identified on the CDTI's website. CDTI can only provide funding to Spanish companies subject to budget availability.

HCST funding conditions are explained in HCST Financial Guide. HCST financial Guide exists already at IRDF.

IRDF/HCST can only provide funding to research institutions and industry private subject to the amounts indicated in Industrial Scientific Research and Development Fund financial Guidelines

8) REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION

All applications will be treated as strictly confidential. All received proposals are peer reviewed and processed independently by both sides. After having received the recommendations of the respective evaluation panels, HCST and CDTI will jointly arrive at mutual understanding on the projects to be funded.

9) EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria are the following:

- Crucial Criteria
 - Financial capacity of Partner
 - Formal Agreement between Partners
- Basic Assessment Criteria
 - Partnership and Partners
 - Well balanced partnership
 - Added Value through co-operation (among partners from different countries and between Jordanian partners (through technology transfer))
 - Technology Capacity of all Partners
 - Managerial Capacity of all Partners
 - Project Structure
 - Methodology and Planning Approach
 - Milestones and deliverables
 - Cost and financing structure
 - Financing commitment of each Partner
- Technology and Innovation
 - Technological Advance
 - Degree of technological maturity and risk
 - Technological Achievements
 - Consistency with the national Jordanian priorities
 - Innovation
 - Degree of innovation
 - Geographical / sector impact
- Market and Competitiveness
 - Market and profitability
 - Market size
 - Market access and risk

- Return on investment
- Competitive advantages
 - Strategic importance of the project
 - Enhanced capabilities and visibility
 - Potential to increase exports
 - Potential to expand the industry and increase employment

10) FUNDING DECISIONS

HCST and CDTI will, after having formed their mutual understanding on the projects to be funded, make their funding decisions according to their normal procedures and rules and on a non-exchange of funds basis. CDTI and HCST will inform the grantees about the funding decisions according to their normal practice.

11) ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUNDED PROJECTS

Funding granted by IRDF/HCST and CDTI will be governed by the general terms and conditions of each funding organisation, respectively. Both parties will carry out an international follow-up until the completion of the projects and inform the counterpart about the success or failure of the international cooperation at the end of the project.