

4th MOROCCAN-SPANISH JOINT CALL FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION 2024

JOINT IRESEN-CDTI CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE MOROCCAN- SPANISH INNOVATION PROGRAMME ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES (INNO-ESPAMAROC ENERGY)

On October the 11th 2018, a Joint Programme for Cooperation was established by the Research Institute for Solar Energy and New Energies (IRESEN) and the CDTI, 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 IRESEN agreed to launch joint calls for proposals. Given the success of the first calls, IRESEN and CDTI jointly agreed to renew their partnership in 2021 to continue launching calls and support bilateral cooperation in the field of green technologies.

This call for proposals aims to launch ambitious joint R&D and innovation projects of a high international standard between Moroccan and Spanish organizations. High potential projects will be funded by IRESEN in Morocco and CDTI in Spain.

CALL GUIDELINES:

1) NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Research Institute for Solar Energy and New Energies (IRESEN), Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Government of Morocco and the CDTI, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Government of Spain, are the nodal implementing agencies from the Moroccan and Spanish sides, respectively.

The Research Institute for Solar Energy and New Energies (IRESEN) was created in 2011 under the initiative of the Ministry in charge of Energy as well as the national, public and private actors of the energy sector in order to support the national energy 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 renewable energies and new energies.

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

2) THEMATIC AREAS

This Call for proposals is a generic call open to collaborative R&D and innovation projects in all areas related to Energy, but the priority sectors will be to:

- Green Hydrogen and decarbonization
- Energy storage (new sources of energy storage, new storage materials adapted to extreme weather conditions, new forms of energy storage, new methods of reducing the storage cost),
- Nexus: Water / Renewable Energies / Agriculture / Agri PV
- Digitalization
- Green and efficient industries and mines

3) TYPE OF PROPOSALS

Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D and innovation projects, joint technological cooperation projects between industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) and Universities or Research Centers in Morocco and private 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 subject of the project must be part of the themes of the call for projects. The technology readiness level of the proposed project must be greater than 3 (TRL > 3) and lower than 7 (TRL < 7).

4) TIMETABLE

Phase I

- Launch of Call for Proposals: 2nd September 2024
- Deadline for Submission of completed applications: 4th December 2024
- Eligibility feedback to applicants: January 2025
- Label concession (estimated): July 2025

Phase II

- National funding procedure for each applicant, starting in the end of January 2025

5). WHO CAN APPLY?

Minimum eligibility criteria:

- one Moroccan University or Research Center,
- and one Moroccan industrial partner,
- and one Spanish private company.

Consortium partners cannot subcontract each other throughout the R&D and innovation project framework.

The involvement of all partners must be justified by the adequacy of their activities with the tasks assigned to them under the project. Besides, it must justify its knowledge and know-how as well as its involvement in the Work Packages of the project.

Joint actions between the Moroccan and Spanish partners are highly recommended while designing innovation activities and deliverables.

Eligible Spanish Applicants

Spanish consortia should include at least one company. Participation of research institutes/universities and other organizations is welcome as self-funded participants or subcontractors.

Eligible Moroccan Applicants

The Moroccan consortium must include a Moroccan academic partner (university, research institute ...) and a Moroccan business partner (company, SME, startup...). The roles and responsibilities of the project partners must be materialized in the Consortium Agreement that must be attached to the Application Form. The consortium must have at least 5 indexed international publications in the last 5 years, in relation to the project themes. The involvement of academic partners must be justified by the adequacy of their CVs with the tasks assigned to them in the proposed project. PMP certificate or equivalent is strongly recommended.

The involvement of business 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 the Work Packages of the project.

6). HOW TO APPLY?

First stage – Common International phase:

- **Joint R&D&I proposals must be submitted in English to CDTI and IRESEN, by the 4th of December 2024** in order to consider the eligibility. Unilaterally submitted proposals shall not be considered.
- In Morocco, the participants will have to submit a formal application via the IRESEN application platform (<https://iresen-aap.org/>).
- In Spain, the participants will have to submit a formal R&D international project application through CDTI's website (<https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>).

Documents:

- **Moroccan and Spanish co-applicants must elaborate a single project proposal application (Annex 1 – INNO-ESPAMAROC ENERGY Application Form)**. The Bilateral Cooperation 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.

Please note that this INNO-ESPAMAROC ENERGY 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 forward intellectual property generated during the cooperation, to be submitted to CDTI and IRESEN. The Consortium Agreement needs to be sealed and signed by all co-applicants.
 - **Additional specific documents required by IRESEN:** They will be requested in the 2nd Phase according to the IRESEN Procedure.
 - **Additional specific documents required by CDTI:** They will be requested in the 2nd Phase according to the CDTI procedure.

Second Stage – National level

Only the proposals respecting eligibility criteria set by CDTI and IRESEN will be able to submit the individual R&D&I proposal in their own language as established by each agency.

- **Moroccan applicants** shall submit the common application and all the required above-mentioned documents following IRESEN's normal guidelines and using IRESEN's electronic services at <https://iresen-aap.org/> Moroccan applicants are requested to download the submission platform's user guide from the submission website: <https://iresen-aap.org/>. Application must be submitted within 20 working days after receiving the notification of eligibility.
- **Spanish applicants** shall submit the funding proposal and other required documents, through the electronic services at <https://sede.cdti.gob.es/> Application must be submitted within 20 working days after receiving the notification of eligibility.

The complete details of the Call are available on IRESEN's and CDTI's websites: <http://www.iresen.org/> and <http://www.cdti.es>

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

Moroccan side (IRESEN)

R&D and Innovation Programs
Department
IRESEN

Spanish side (CDTI)

Unit of Foreign Technological Action
CDTI
Address: Alfonso XI, 6 – 28014 Madrid,
Spain

16, rue Amir Sidi Mohamed Souissi –
Rabat, Morocco
Tel: +212 (0) 537 68 22 36
Website: <http://www.iresen.org/>

Mr Samir RACHIDI
General Manager
mail: rachidi@iresen.org

Ms. Asmae Lakhlifi
Financial R&D and Innovation Programs
Manager
Email: lakhlifi@iresen.org
Phone: +212 631991259

Ms. Soukaina Boudoudouh
R&D and Innovation Programs Technical
Manager
Email: boudoudouh@iresen.org
Phone: +212 663781060

Phone: +34 91 581 56 07

Website: <https://www.cdti.es/>

Mr. Francisco Sánchez
Programme Manager
Unit of Foreign Technological Action
Email: francisco.sanchez@cdti.es
Phone: +34 915810489

Mr. José Manuel Durán
Delegate North Africa and Middle East
Address: Av. Chellah 78 – Rabat,
Morocco
Phone: +212 666 17 21 51
E-mail: josemanuel.duran@cdti.es

5) ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

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

The funding conditions from IRESEN are set in Moroccan MAD Dirhams 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 (2nd September 2024).

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 CDTI's website. CDTI can only provide funding to Spanish companies subject to budget availability.

IRESEN funding conditions are explained in IRESEN Financial Guide. IRESEN can only provide funding to the Moroccan consortia of researchers and specialized industrialists who have already initiated research and development with references of at least five (5) international indexed publications, in the thematic fields proposed in the last ten years.

The maximum financial contribution by IRESEN for all funded collaborative R&D projects is 3 million dirhams. The funds provided are given in the form of a grant in accordance with the project specifications. Each partner of the consortium can be supported as follows:

- Eligible expenses of Moroccan universities and research institutes can be funded up to 100%,
- For Moroccan companies, the maximum financial contribution of IRESEN can represent 50% of the total amount of eligible expenses. The beneficiary must provide proof of the planned co-financing. This co-financing may be provided in the form of own financial resources, financial transfers from third parties, in kind and/or in human resources.

The project team must produce at least one international indexed publication per researcher per year throughout the project duration. Candidates must include a detailed dissemination plan during the project submission phase. This plan should specify the types and numbers of publications planned, as well as the dissemination schedule. At the end of the project, beneficiaries must submit a publication report detailing the articles, conferences, and defended theses. This report will be evaluated as part of the final project assessment.

The last year of the project must be dedicated to the innovation part of the project: tests, demonstration, installation of the demonstrator, establishment of the business plan, risk analysis and in-depth market study.

As per the IP, the project team should share a background IP analysis relatively to the proposal, and precise how their innovation activities shall improve or increase the IP state-of-the-art at the end of the project. In addition, the proposal shall include an exploitation plan describing how the IP, if any, will be commercially or scientifically exploited and shared among project consortium members. Projects with a high potential for patent filing will be prioritized in the selection process.

Regarding Moroccan applicants, a percentage of the revenues generated by the filed patents will be shared among the research teams, following the IP exploitation plan, that could reach up to 60%. Finally, success bonuses may be attributed to project team members, depending on deliverables and milestones' quality and deadlines, as well as innovation and publication impact and track record during the project. The foreground intellectual property, developed in the framework of the project (including copyrights, patents, trademarks and know-how, etc.) will be the joint property of IRESEN (up to 40%) with the project partners.

Regarding Moroccan applicants, the recruitment of a maximum of two postdoctoral researcher, PhD students and/or engineers per project for a maximum duration of 36 months each (proposals for the recruitment of doctoral students and/or engineers must be justified by work programs and tasks assigned under the project as well as the expected results). The recruitment of 4 "PFE" trainees maximum per project, up to 16 months total. Funding for participation in up to three international conferences abroad per project, with an active participation (panel, speaker...). Funding of up to 2 months of internships abroad, in total per project. The project teams must provide all the necessary technical prescriptions as well as the provisional specifications, in connection with the equipment purchase, so that IRESEN can launch the necessary consultations.

6) REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION

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

7) EVALUATION CRITERIA

The joint projects must meet the general requirements of the funding organisations. 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 cooperation
 - 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
 - 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

8) FUNDING DECISIONS

IRESEN 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 IRESEN will inform the beneficiaries about the funding decisions according to their normal practice.

9) REPORTING AND PROJECT OUTPUT

Funding granted by IRESEN 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.



If required, each participant should submit financial and technical reports to their national funding organisations, according to national regulations. The progress and final results of each individual contract/letter of grant will be monitored by the respective national funding organisations.