ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

"Photonics, microelectronics and quantum technologies as key enabling technologies for the digital transformation, energy transition, smart mobility and life sciences"

POLAND – BERLIN-BRANDENBURG

(5th Call)

1. Funding purpose

The National Centre for Research and Development, Poland (NCBR), the Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises, Berlin (SenWiEnBe) and the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Energy, Brandenburg (MWAE) aim to pursue their support for trilateral research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects in the field of photonics.

The funding will be focused on topics falling into the scope of this call area, that are of major interest to the participating sides. In addition to this, the scientific and business oriented cooperation between the participating countries/regions will serve to strengthen the European Research Area.

2. Type of funding and legal basis

Project partners will be funded by the funding institutions of the respective partner countries/regions (Poland, Berlin and Brandenburg). The projects will be supported by grants from the national/regional budget in accordance with the respective national/regional funding regulations. The final selection shall be based upon the mutual decision by the funding institutions. The applicable awarding institution will base its decision on the national/regional evaluation procedure of proposals and within the scope of the available budget.

3. Object of funding

The main focus of the funding is on R&D&I projects that:

- make a contribution to the improvement of collaboration between the partner countries/regions in the field of photonics;
- correspond to the funding purpose described;
- create added value to national/regional R&D activities in the fields of photonics, microelectronics or quantum technologies by planned transnational cooperation.

4. Priority topic of common interest

Potential R&D&I projects shall originate from the following subject area:

"Photonics, microelectronics and quantum technologies as key enabling technologies for the digital transformation, energy transition, smart mobility and life sciences"

Examples for potential application fields are: digital health, environmental monitoring, autonomous driving, new space, agri- and foodtech, smart textiles and wearables, power electronics, robotics, civil security and communications. The projects should focus on topics of specific interest for both countries/regions. The aim of the cooperation is to contribute to the progress of photonics, microelectronics or quantum technology based technologies.

The duration of the projects cannot exceed 36 months.

5. Legal status of applicants

Proposals may be submitted by public and/or private entities that are eligible to participate in the call according to the respective funding regulations of the funding institutions. These can be public research institutions, private research institutions, higher education institutions, SMEs and/or industries.

6. Composition of consortia

Participation is open to applicants from the funding countries/regions (Poland, Berlin and Brandenburg). Precondition for eligibility is involvement of Polish and German entities according to the format specified below. The level of contribution to the overall project costs should not be less than 25% for each country/region.

Possible composition of consortia:

- The Polish part of the consortium shall comprise at least one SME or/and non-SME and one research entity, both based in Poland.
- The German part of the consortium shall comprise at least one SME based in Berlin or Brandenburg. The participation of a research entity, based in Berlin or Brandenburg, in the German part of a consortium is not essential but desirable. A non-SME can also participate in the German part of the consortium, if at least one SME and/or a research entity, both based in the region Berlin-Brandenburg, will participate in the German part of the consortium.

A simple clustering of only national projects is not sufficient.

The funding institutions expect that the Polish-German cooperation in the fields of R&D&I, covered by the scope of this cooperative funding, will deliver significant synergy effects within the framework of the R&D&I projects to be funded. Proposals must therefore make clear why they should be developed cooperatively between the participating countries/regions and what the added value will be created through this collaboration. Projects that do not indicate why this cooperation is necessary cannot be considered.

7. Application procedure

There is a one-level procedure for submission of proposals. Each proposal shall comprise a project description and further formal and financial information according to the required form in the national language. In addition, each proposal must contain a joint project description (English part) - identical text in both countries.

The joint project description should be prepared in Arial 11, single-spaced, maximum 15 pages and shall consist of the following:

1. Name of the institution submitting the application, the coordinator and names of all participating institutions.

2. Short description of the Polish and German partner institutions who are involved in the project (key competencies, infrastructure, projects implemented so far etc.).

3. Objectives and task definition, based on the state of the art in terms of technology and knowledge. Short description of a topic which shall be developed, description of the beneficiary and user of the project results.

4. Short description of how the content relates to the theme of photonic research and especially the topics of this call; central focus of the work and relation to the cluster strategy.

5. Description of the expected outcomes, quantification of the economic effects of the proposal, patents, foreseen commercialization of the project results.

6. Task schedule and milestones.

7. Estimation and overview of time and cost scope (funding required and own resources).

8. Added value of bilateral cooperation.

For formal and financial national regulations, please see the guidelines:

- for Polish applicants: https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/platforma-konkursowa

- for German applicants from Berlin[1]: http://www.ibb.de/wachsen/Pro-FIT.aspx
  respectively from Brandenburg[2]:
  https://www.ilb.de/de/wirtschaft/zuschuesse/profit_brandenburg/index.html

  (http://bravors.brandenburg.de/br2/sixcms/media.php/76/Amtsblatt%2011_18.pdf und
  https://bravors.brandenburg.de/br2/sixcms/media.php/76/Amtsblatt%2022_18.pdf)

The timeline for the call:

Application procedure	**Launch of the call**	**March 15th, 2021**	
	Deadline for submitting of proposals	**June 21th, 2021**	**All applicants**
	Deadline for evaluation of proposals	**September 10th, 2021**	**Funding institutions**
	Selection/ranking of projects for funding	**September 2021**	**Funding institutions**
	Submission of business information (e.g. balance of accounts for the last three years, income statement)	**September/October 2021**	**All applicants**
	Deadline for submitting of business information	**October 8th, 2021**	**All applicants**
	Deadline for national/ regional funding decisions	**December 15th, 2021**	**Funding institutions**
Project	**Earliest start of projects**	**January 2022**	**Beneficiaries**

Potential applicants are advised to contact the national contact points before writing proposals to carefully check the specific national application and funding conditions.

[1] In the framework of the 5th Poland - Berlin-Brandenburg Call "Photonics, microelectronics and quantum technologies as key enabling technologies for the digital transformation, energy transition, smart mobility and life sciences", section 5.1.1 of the ProFIT Guidelines applies. Accordingly, projects approved under this call can also be funded with grants in the innovation phase of experimental development.

[2] In the framework of the 5th Poland - Berlin-Brandenburg Call "Photonics, microelectronics and quantum technologies as key enabling technologies for the digital transformation, energy transition, smart mobility and life sciences", section 5.1.1 of the ProFIT Guidelines applies. Accordingly, projects approved under this call can also be funded with grants in the innovation phase of experimental development.

The respective contact points are:

- in Poland:
  National Centre for Research and Development
  Nowogrodzka Str. 47a
  00-695 Warsaw

  Ms. Jolanta Drożdż
  Tel.: +48 22 39 07 106
  Email: jolanta.drozdz@ncbr.gov.pl

- in Germany, both regions Berlin and Brandenburg:

For questions in the context of the photonics cluster:

Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH
Fasanenstraße 85
10623 Berlin

Mr. Gerrit Rössler
Clustermanager Optik und Photonik
Tel. +49 (0) 30 46302 - 456
Email: Gerrit.Roessler@berlin-partner.de

- in Berlin:

For questions about the funding:

Investitionsbank Berlin
Kundenberatung Wirtschaftsförderung
Bundesallee 210
10719 Berlin

Mr. Konstantin Hanssen
Key Account Manager Energietechnik/Optik
Tel.: +49 (0) 30 2125 - 4625
Email: Konstantin.Hanssen@ibb.de

- in Brandenburg:

For questions about the funding:

ILB Investitionsbank des Landes Brandenburg
Referat Innovationen
Babelsberger Straße 21
14473 Potsdam

Mr. Nabegh El Shorafa
Tel.: +49 (0)331 660 - 1634
Email: nabegh.el_shorafa@ilb.de

Questions concerning technical evaluation of R&D project proposals

WFBB Wirtschaftsförderung Land Brandenburg GmbH
Babelsberger Straße 21
14473 Potsdam

Dr. Jens Unruh
Tel: +49 (0)331 730 61 - 331
Email: jens.unruh@wfbb.de

8. Evaluation of project proposals

Evaluation procedure

The proposals will be evaluated according to the national/regional regulations of the funding institutions. The final decisions on which projects receive support will be made by the funding institutions based on evaluations from the external experts, national/regional priorities and funding criteria.

Selection/Evaluation criteria

- Coherence with the call topic (relevance in relation to the objectives and areas of the call)
- Scientific and/or technical excellence (innovativeness of idea + appropriateness of approach)
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management (competence and expertise of applicant team + feasibility and efficiency of project plan)
- Outcome and impact of the project (contribution to capacity and competence building + intended short-term outcomes + intended long-term application of outcomes)
- Added value of bilateral cooperation

9. Communication of project evaluation decisions

The outcome of the evaluation of the proposals will be communicated to applicants in accordance with the respective communication procedures of the funding institutions.

10. Decision process and the start of projects

The formal funding decisions will be taken jointly by the funding institutions after the proposals have been evaluated by the external experts. Each country/region will fund its own project partners.
When final decisions have been conveyed to project participants, successful applicants must enter into individual contractual agreements with their national/regional funding institutions. A consortium agreement must be concluded between the project partners and has to regulate, inter alia, duties and responsibilities, use of project results and intellectual property rights (IPR) issues. The consortium agreement and the above mentioned individual contractual agreements are prerequisites for the first payments made to the project partners from the national funding institutions. The involved funding institutions will monitor and supervise the funded projects (reporting).