

**1st Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects
Poland (The National Centre for Research and Development)–Korea (Korea
Institute
of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning)
Deadline for Submission – 7 September 2023**

Call Text

Scope

The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) and Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning (KETEP) are honoured to announce the first Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects, focusing on the development of innovative products and applications **in the field of nuclear energy**.

NCBR and KETEP will support joint R&D projects involving parties from both countries. The programme is managed within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between NCBR and KETEP on bilateral cooperation in field of energy technologies.

Projects selected for funding will receive access to the relevant national public funding schemes provided respectively by NCBR and KETEP.

Qualifications

The project consortia should include at least one Polish and one Korean R&D partner.

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 NCBR and KETEP.

- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, etc.).
- The project should demonstrate a balanced technological contribution by the participants from both countries (minimum 30% of project costs per each country) and must be equally significant to all participants.

Every partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the above-mentioned criteria may apply in the present call in accordance with the National Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

Financing

Project partners will be funded by the funding institutions of the respective partner countries (Republic of Poland and Republic of Korea). The projects will be supported with domestic grants in accordance with the respective national funding regulations. The final selection shall be based upon joint decision made by NCBR and KETEP. The applicable funding institution will base its decision upon the national evaluation procedure and within the scope of the budget available.

The following costs are eligible in the call:

- personnel,
- equipment,
- consumables,
- travel,
- subcontracting,
- other costs.

The detailed information about the cost categories is included in the national regulations.

- **In Republic of Poland - NCBR:**

Budget and intensity of support:

- the total maximum number of projects receiving funding under Poland (NCBR) – Korea (KETEP) joint call is one.
- Amount of support: 930,000 EUR per Call.
- Following entities are eligible to apply:
 - 1) Research organisations¹ (research and knowledge-dissemination organisations),
 - 2) Enterprises²: Micro, Small, Medium (SMEs) and Large,
 - 3) Group of entities consisted of entities referred in abovementioned points 1-2 (in any configuration); group of entities may consist of a maximum 3 Polish partners.
- Entity must be registered in Poland.
- Application form (appendix nr 1 to Polish Application form – required by NCBR) has to be signed by Polish and Korean partners.

- **Funding:**
 - For research organisations:**
 - up to 100% of eligible costs
 - For SMEs - state aid intensity:**
 - small/micro - up to 80% for industrial research and up to 60% for experimental development

¹defined in art. 2 subparagraph 83 Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (herein after referred to as : “Regulation (EU) No 651/2014”).

²defined in art. 1 of attachment no 1 to Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

- Medium-sized – up to 75% for industrial research and up to 50% for experimental development
- Large – up to 65% for industrial research and up to 40% for experimental development
- Only Industrial/Applied Research and Experimental Development will be funded. Other type of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) is not eligible for funding as separate research tasks in the project schedule.
- The project should consist of a maximum of 5 work packages (tasks).
- Projects jointly selected for funding will receive the decision of the NCBR Director.
- Before signing a grant agreement with NCBR, it is required to submit the consortium agreement concluded with foreign country.
- Grant agreements sets out responsibilities and rights of the project leader/team.
- Annual reports are required after each year of project implementation.
- It is required to submit final report after project is completed. The project duration shall be minimum 24 and maximum 36 months.

- In Republic of Korea - KETEP:

Budget and intensity of support

- The total maximum number of projects receiving funding under Korean-Poland joint call is one.
- Funding will be awarded approximately 1.2 bil KRW (appx. 10 bil USD) per project for the entire duration of the project.
- The subsidy is provided on a grant basis and royalty collection will be followed after the project is successfully completed.
- Should the project be found to be disqualified from the interim evaluations, KETEP may retrieve the unused government funding.
- Eligible project costs include direct cost (labor, facilities, equipment, materials) and indirect cost.

Funding:

- Support intensity per each project participant follows the Common Operational Regulation for Industrial Technology Innovation Program of MOTIE Korea.

Project duration

- The project must begin in the period of 1st December 2023 to 31st December 2023
- KETEP will award funding from 1st December following the conclusion of an agreement on the provision of funding with the lead applicant.
- Government contribution is available for max. 36 months.

Eligibility

Poland:

- Partners eligible for funding in a project consortium are as follows:
 1. Research organisations³(research and knowledge-dissemination organisations);
 2. Enterprises⁴: Micro, Small, Medium(SMEs) and Large;
 3. Group of entities consisted of entities referred in abovementioned points 1-2 (in any configuration); group of entities may consist of a maximum 3 Polish partners. Both a company or a research organization may lead the consortium.
- The project should be carried out according to the project contract, consortium agreement and in line with the information provided in the Application form.
- Maximum project funding levels are stated in the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development (Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020).

Republic of Korea:

- Partners eligible for funding in a project consortium are as follows: Companies, universities, research institutes, research associations, business associations, medical institutions. ⁵ The linked and partner enterprises are allowed to participate. ⁶Any of the organizations mentioned above may lead the consortium, however at least one company must participate the consortium.
- The project should be carried out according to the project contract, consortium agreement and in line with the information provided in the Application form.

Application procedure

For each proposal, project partners have to choose from among themselves one Korean and one Polish Project Leader - an entity formally responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of all project partners. The responsibilities of the Project Leaders are to keep the other

³defined in art. 2 subparagraph 83 Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (herein after referred to as: "Regulation (EU) No 651/2014").

⁴ defined in art. 1 of attachment no 1 to Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

⁵Based on Article 2 Paragraph 3 of National Research and Development Innovation Act and Article 2 Paragraph 1 of the Enforcement Decree of the same Act, Article 12 Paragraph 1 of the Energy Act and Article 8-2 of the Enforcement Decree of the same Act, Article 11 Paragraph 2 of the Industrial Technology Innovation Promotion Act and Enforcement Decree of the same Act Article 11, Paragraphs 1-3, Paragraphs 4 and 4-2, 9-3 through 9-5.

⁶ Affiliate companies are companies which two or more companies belong to the same business group. Companies are considered to belong to the same business group if they are substantially controlled by the same person who holds at least 30% of the total number of shares issued by the companies in that group. The detailed criteria can be found in by the Presidential Decree on subparagraph 2 of Article 2 of the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act.

project partners updated on the submission process, to ensure the internal management and coordination of the project.

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.

The timeline for the call:

Application procedure	Launch of the call/ invitation for submitting proposals	7 June 2023
	Deadline for submitting of proposals	7 September 2023
	Deadline for evaluation of proposals	10 October 2023
	Selection/ranking of proposals	31 October 2023
	Deadline for national funding decisions	30 November 2023
Project	Earliest start of projects	1 December 2023

In addition to the Application form, project partners who intend to apply for funding within this call shall submit a national applications to their respective funding institutions.

- In Poland:

Polish partners should submit a national application form in Polish language to NCBR (template available on the NCBR website) and additional documents indicated in the call for proposals.

- An application form shall be submitted by Polish Project Leader via email to the following NCBR address: korea@ncbr.gov.pl via ePUAP to the following address: /NCBiR/SkrytkaESP.

The Application Form (appendix nr 1 to Polish Application Form - required by NCBR) must be completed and signed by both Polish and Korean partners. Submitted Applications must be identical and compatible and written in English.

All documents and templates are available at:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr>

Submission to NCBR: 7 September 2023

Submissions received after the deadline will not be processed.

- In Republic of Korea:

Korean partners should submit a national application form in Korean language to KETEP (template available on the KETEP website) and additional documents indicated in the call for proposals. All documents and templates are available at: www.ketep.re.kr

Submission to KETEP: 7 September 2023

Entities should contact NCBR and KETEP respectively before submission in order to receive the submission guidelines (see contact information at the bottom).

Evaluation of project proposals

The proposals will be evaluated according to the national regulations of the funding institutions. The final decision on the proposals to be funded will be made by the funding institutions based on evaluations from the external experts, national priorities and funding criteria. The evaluation process includes three steps:

1. Eligibility check

The following general eligibility criteria will be checked:

- appropriate length of the proposal,
- inclusion of all necessary information,
- eligibility of all project partners,
- eligibility of required funding,
- minimum 30% of project costs per each country,
- eligible thematic focus,
- accordance between national application forms submitted by the Korean partners to the KETEP and the Polish partners to the NCBR. In case of any discrepancy between the two, the partners will be called to present an explanation.

2. Peer review

External experts will carry out the anonymous peer review of the eligible project proposals according to evaluation criteria. Each proposal will be evaluated by Korean and Polish reviewers.

The evaluation is done based on the following criteria:

- A. Coherence with the call topic;
- B. Scientific excellence and originality of the proposal:
 - originality of project idea,
 - innovative potential,
 - quality (sound concept, appropriate methods, quality of objectives).
- C. Feasibility, quality and efficiency of the project plan:
 - effectiveness of the methodology,
 - feasibility (governance, adequate budget, resources, time schedule),
 - investigators' knowledge and experience in the field of research: scientific track-record, publications in scientific journals,
 - relevance and strengths of partners (including resources and infrastructure),
 - standing of the organisation the applicants belong to.
- D. Potential impact and contribution to the scientific community, expected exploitation of the results:
 - intended short-term outcomes,
 - intended long-term impacts.
- E. Bilateral cooperation and transnational added value:
 - cohesion of the proposed research,
 - level of the collaborative interaction between project partners,
 - sustainability of the expected collaboration.

All proposals are assessed whether they fit the description of the thematic research priorities. If a proposal is not coherent with the programme theme it will be rejected from further evaluation.

3. Ranking list

The NCBR and the KETEP will discuss the results of the peer review process, review problematic cases and make a final ranking list of the projects to be funded.

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.

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 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 funding institutions. A consortium agreement shall 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).

Contact

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