

Polish-Chinese/Chinese-Polish 3rd Joint Research Call

Call Text

I. Objectives of the call

The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China have established a joint research call with the purpose of enhancing cooperation between Polish and Chinese research teams.

The call is announced based on the Letter of Intent for Cooperation in Joint Research and Development signed on 21 June 2016 between China and Poland.

The aims of the cooperation are as follows:

- Enhancing Polish-Chinese cooperation;
- Increasing and developing high quality research networking between researchers;
- Exchanging existing and creating new knowledge;
- Enhancing level of science and technology in both countries;
- Increasing impact of Polish and Chinese research activities;
- Strengthening the participation between academia and private business actors in Poland and China.

II. Eligibility

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/ private research institutions, higher education institutions and small and medium enterprises performing R&D activities.

The call is open to the following research areas:

1. ICT;
2. Energy technology, including new energy development, clean coal utilization, sustainable energy use;
3. Environmental technology, including environmental engineering, water resources management, pollution and deforestation prevention and treatment;
4. Material science, including biomaterials, nanomaterials, inorganic non-metallic materials.

III. Funding

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

Each project may be supported with a maximum amount of 500.000 EUR for a period of 3 years by each of the funding institutions. The total funding on the Polish side is 3 million euros, and 24million RMB on the Chinese side, and the finally funded projects will not exceed 6.

The eligible cost in the call are the following:

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

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

IV. Composition of consortia

Participation is open to applicants from the funding countries (Poland and China), including research institutions, small and medium enterprises and consortia consisting of both types of entities. Precondition for eligibility is involvement of Polish and Chinese entities.

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

The call targets existing research contacts between Poland and China in order to prepare joint project proposals as well as new partnerships between Polish and Chinese researchers.

Projects have to involve at least one Polish and one Chinese partner. The application has to present researchers involved in the project as well as clear division of responsibilities among the consortium members.

V. Submission of applications

Submission of applications is divided into two stages – preselection and full-proposals evaluation. Only those applicants who will successfully accomplish preselection in China and Poland will be invited to submit full proposals for final evaluation. Each proposal shall comprise a project description and further formal and financial information according to the required form.

Poland: A grant application must be submitted by email address in NCBR: china@ncbr.gov.pl

China: A grant application must be submitted to: National Science and Technology Information System, Public Service Platform.

Application for both China and Poland must be submitted **no later than 30 June 2022**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be processed.

VI. Evaluation procedure

The preproposals and full proposals will be evaluated according to the national regulations of the funding institutions. The final decisions on what projects to support 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 project partners,

participation of researchers from both Poland and China,

eligibility of required funding,

accordance between national application forms submitted by the Polish and Chinese partners to the MOST and the Polish partners to the NCBR.

2. pre-proposals: peer review

Independent scientific experts will carry out the anonymous peer review of the eligible project proposals according to evaluation criteria. Each proposal will be evaluated separately by Polish reviewers, and by Chinese reviewers only if the number of submitted proposals is 4 times the number of finally funded.

The evaluation is done based on the following criteria:

- A. Coherence with the call topic;
- B. Scientific excellence and originality of the proposal;
- C. Bilateral cooperation and transnational added value.

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

3. full proposals: peer review

Independent scientific experts will carry out the anonymous peer review of the eligible project proposals according to evaluation criteria. Each proposal will be evaluated separately by Chinese 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),
- 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 call topic it will be rejected from further evaluation.

4. Ranking list

Following national evaluation, a ranking list of projects to be funded will be drafted through consultations between the MOST and the NCBR and approved by both funding institutions.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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 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).

IX. Contact points

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

The respective contact points are:

Contact NCBR:

Izabela Rzepczyńska

tel.: +48 515-061-529

e-mail: izabela.rzepczynska@ncbr.gov.pl

Contact MoST:

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