

12th Polish-Taiwanese/Taiwanese-Polish Joint Research Call

Call Text

I. Objectives of the call

The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland and the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) have established a joint research call with the purpose of developing and strengthening mutual scientific cooperation between Polish and Taiwanese research teams from laboratories and centres supported by the NCBR and the NSTC as well as private enterprises that meet the call criteria.

The aims of the cooperation are as follows:

- Enhancing Polish-Taiwanese communication and cooperation;
- Increasing and developing high quality research networking between researchers;
- Developing new partnerships and strengthening existing ones;
- Exchanging existing knowledge and creating new knowledge;
- Enhancing level of science and technology in both countries;
- Increasing impact of Polish and Taiwanese research activities;
- Strengthen the participation between academia and private business actors in Poland and Taiwan
- Increase the chances of successful commercialisation of research results,
- Improve the competitive position of Polish and Taiwanese enterprises on world markets

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 and higher education institutions.

Potential applicants are advised that the 2024 Call will be run in two separate paths. Path 1 is aimed at research institutions and consortia thereof and Path 2 is aimed at enterprises and teams comprised of enterprises and research institutions. The two paths will be subjected to different sets of rules and criteria, as described below.

Path 2 Taiwan: Consortium consisting of one of the below listed research institutes and private enterprises is invited.

1. Universities
2. National Applied Research Laboratories (NARLabs)
3. Research Institutes recognized to apply for NSTC funding

The call is open to the following research areas.

For Path 1 and Path 2:

1. Neuroscience
2. Energy efficiency technologies, including air-conditioning, refrigeration, thermal energy technologies
3. Materials science and engineering
4. Smart Vehicles (including AI and electromobility)
5. Quantum technology and Cybersecurity
6. Aviation and Space Research
7. Semiconductors

III. Funding

Project partners will be funded by the funding institutions of the respective partner countries (Poland and Taiwan). 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.

For Path 1: Each project may be supported with a maximum amount of 30.000 EUR per year for a period of up to 3 years, by each of the funding institutions.

For Path 2: Each project may be supported with a maximum amount of 100.000 EUR per year for a period of up to 3 years, by each of the funding institutions.

The eligible cost in the call are the following:

- personnel,
- equipment,
- consumables (for Polish enterprises included in overheads),
- travel (for Polish enterprises included in overheads),

- subcontracting,
- other costs (for Polish enterprises other direct costs included in overheads).

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 Taiwan).

For Path 1: possible applicants include research institutions on the Polish side, and research institutions on the Taiwanese side.

For Path 2: possible applicants include obligatorily small and medium enterprises and optionally research institutions on the Polish side, and obligatory research institutions and optionally enterprises on the Taiwanese side.

Necessary precondition for eligibility is involvement of Polish and Taiwanese entities. The level of contribution to the overall project costs should not be less than 25% for each country.

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 the 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 Taiwan in order to prepare joint project proposals as well as new partnerships between Polish and Taiwanese researchers and entrepreneurs.

Projects have to involve at least one Polish and one Taiwanese partner. The application has to present researchers involved in the project as well as clear division of responsibilities among the consortium members. An Principal Investigator may participate in only one project proposal within each NSTC-NCBR call.

V. Submission of applications

For each proposal, project partners have to choose from among themselves one Taiwanese 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 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.

A grant application must be submitted by Polish Project Leader to the following email address in NCBR: taiwan@ncbr.gov.pl and by a Taiwanese Project Leader through the NSTC electronic system **no later than 17th June 2024**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be processed.

Submitted applications have to be identical and filled in English.

The timeline for the call:

Application procedure	Launch of the call/ invitation for proposals	April 8 th 2024
	Deadline for submitting of proposals	June 17 th 2024
	Deadline for evaluation of proposals	October 31 st 2024
	Selection/ranking of projects for funding	November 2024
	Deadline for national funding decisions	December 31 st 2024
Project	Earliest start of projects	January 1 st 2025

VI. Evaluation procedure

The 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 the Principal Investigators,
- eligibility of other project partners,
- participation of researchers from both Poland and Taiwan,

- eligibility of required funding,
- accordance between national application forms submitted by the Taiwanese partners to the NSTC 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

Independent scientific experts will carry out the anonymous peer review of the eligible project proposals according to evaluation criteria. Each proposal will be evaluated by three Taiwanese and three Polish peer 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. For Path 1: potential impact and contribution to the scientific community, expected exploitation of the results:
 - intended short-term outcomes,
 - intended long-term impacts.For Path 2: Potential commercialisation prospects; expected commercial exploitation of 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.
- F. Justification of the planned costs (including compliance of the planned research with research categories - industrial research and experimental development).

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

3. Council

A council consisting of experts appointed by the NCBR and the NSTC will discuss the results of the peer review process, review problematic cases and make a final ranking list of the projects to be funded.

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:

Ms. Paulina Puchalska

tel.: +48 571 226 613

e-mail: paulina.puchalska@ncbr.gov.pl

Contact NSTC:

Ms. Jennifer Hu

Tel +886-2-2737-7560

e-mail: jenhu@nstc.gov.tw

Contact NSTC Division in Prague:

Ms. Kristina Burdasová

Tel : +420 235 312 716

E-mail : czech@nstc.gov.tw