**Zhejiang-Israel R&D Cooperation Program**

 **Call for Proposals**

**A bilateral framework providing financial support for collaborative industrial R&D and Pilot Projects between Israeli & Chinese companies**

1. **About the Program**

Zhejiang province, The People's Republic of China, and the government of the State of Israel signed a bilateral agreement to form the Zhejiang-Israel program for Industrial R&D with the primary aim of supporting joint industrial R&D projects aimed at the development of products or processes leading to commercialization in the global market.

Within the context of the bilateral framework, funding mechanisms have been created, through which industry may seek support for joint bilateral research and development (R&D) and pilot projects, involving at least one Chinese company and one Israeli company.

The bilateral framework is jointly implemented by Zhejiang Provincial Department of Science and Technology (ZSTD) and the Israel Innovation Authority (the Authority) in Israel.

**This call is open to joint projects from all technology sectors** based on merit that include science and technology (S&T) development leading to commercial success, social good and benefits to both countries.

1. **Common Requirements & Criteria**

In order to apply to the current call for proposals, companies and projects must meet the following criteria:

1. At least two science and technology companies from the respective countries should express a desire to cooperate in the research and development of a new product or a new process.
2. The project may involve more than one company from each side;
**academic/research entities are eligible to join as sub-contractors only**.
3. The product should be highly innovative with significant commercial potential. The joint industrial R&D project should aim at the development of products/processes leading to commercialisation in the global market.
4. The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialisation strategy of the product or process\*\*\*.
5. The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries
6. The project must be balanced between participants and significant to both partners.

**\*\*\*Note:** For the submission phase, only an LOI (Letter of Intent), a preliminary agreement or draft MoU is required, however the final agreement must be presented to the funding authorities after receiving a formal funding approval.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the criteria can apply to the present Call for Proposals in accordance with the national Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

1. **Eligibility**

**In Zhejiang**

Eligible applicants will be R&D performing companies registered and operating in Zhejiang.

**In Israel**

Eligible applicants will be R&D performing Israeli registered companies operating in Israel.

1. **Funding Support**

Funding support will be provided to each partner through its own implementing & funding organisation in accordance with the National Laws, Rules, Regulations and procedures in effect.

**In Zhejiang**

* 1. ZSTD will entrust Zhejiang Companies selected under the Call for Proposals to carry out the projects.
	2. The total funding to a project from ZSTD shall not exceed 20% of the total approved R&D expenses of a project, up to 1.5 million yuan.
	3. For more information on funding conditions, applicants should visit the ZSTD [website](http://kjt.zj.gov.cn/).

**In Israel**

* 1. Funding will be provided in the form of a conditional grant to the projects selected under the Call for Proposals.
	2. The total funding from the Government of Israel via the Authority will not exceed 50% of the eligible and approved costs of the R&D, in accordance with the national laws and regulations.
	3. When a project results in sales of a product, service or process, the financial support must be repaid to the Israel Innovation Authority according to its regulations (in general, royalties are paid at rates beginning at 3% of sales, depending on various criteria. Royalties are payable

until 100% of the amount of the grant has been repaid with interest as provided in the applicable regulations). If the project does not result in sales, no repayment is required.

* 1. For more information on funding conditions, applicants should visit the website of Israel Innovation Authority:

<https://innovationisrael.org.il/>

1. **The Application Process**

To ensure the effective delivery of the project proposals and reinforce the principles of bilateral partnership, ZSTD and the Israel Innovation Authority employ a joint application process for each Call for Proposals.

Applicants are required to follow the local requirements and use the provided application format and instructions to **submit their proposal by September 19, 2022 in Israel and to ZSTD before the deadline announced on ZSTD website**. Proposals that are not in the approved format will not be accepted.

In addition to the local application, an LOI/MOU and a Bilateral Application Form (BAF) must be submitted to both entities. The BAF provides a summary of the proposed project with enough detail for the reviewers to make an initial assessment of the merits of the project.

**The BAF and Letter of Intent (LOI) / MOU must be filled and signed by both Chinese and Israeli partners and must include a detailing IP plan for the project.**

**In Zhejiang**

The Zhejiang partner is required to submit a ZSTD Bilateral Industrial R&D Cooperation Application Form in accordance with the ZSTD regulations, through an [online system](http://kjt.zj.gov.cn/). A copy of the Feasibility Report is required to be uploaded as well. After online verification, the application in the prescribed format bearing the applicant’s official seal, along with the LOI/Draft MOU co-signed by the applicant and its Israeli partner should be submitted to ZSTD.

**In Israel**

The Israeli partneris required to submit the full application, in accordance with Israel Innovation Authority regulations, through an [online system](https://my.innovationisrael.org.il/company) following the instructions on the relevant incentive program on the  [website](https://innovationisrael.org.il/international/rnd). In addition to the local application, an LOI/MOU and a Bilateral Application Form (BAF) must be submitted.

1. **Evaluation and Selection**

ZSTD and the Israel Innovation Authority will carry out an independent evaluation of the joint R&D application and will select the eligible project to be financially supported in accordance with their criteria, national laws, and regulations.

The successful projects will be jointly selected by the two funding organizations at a Joint Committee meeting. Companies whose projects have been selected will be informed of the result and the amount of funding for the successful projects by their respective implementing organization in a timely manner.

1. **Timeline & Deadlines (Plan)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Israel** | **China** |
| **Application Opening Date** | **May 26, 2022** | **June-July,2022** |
| **Application Submission Deadline** | **September 19, 2022** | **around August,2022** |
| **Joint Committee & Companies Notification** | **November - December 2022** | **November- December,2022** |

1. **Contacts:**

For further information please contact program managers:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Zhejiang** | **Israel** |
| **Zhejiang Provincial S&T Cooperation Center** [www.zstcc.com](http://www.zstec.com.cn)**Ms. Chen Shengying** - Program CoordinatorEmail: chensy@zjinfo.gov.cn  Tel: + 86-571-8797 8953 | **For Israeli Companies:**Growth DivisionIsrael Innovation Authority1st Agudat Sport Hapoel Rd.JerusalemEmail: APAC@innovationisrael.org.il**For Foreign Companies:**International Collaborations DivisionEmail: internationalcollaborations@innovationisrael.org.il |