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

 **A bilateral framework providing financial support for collaborative industrial R&D Projects between Israeli & Chinese Companies from Guangdong Province**

***6th Call for Proposal***

**1st phase Deadline: August 4th , 2019**

The government of the Guangdong Province of The People's Republic of China, and the government of the State of Israel signed a bilateral agreement in 2013 to form the Guangdong -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) projects, involving at least one Guangdong and one Israeli company.

The bi-lateral framework is jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (GDST) in the Guangdong province and Israel Innovation Authority (Previously: Office of the Chief Scientist & MATIMOP) in Israel.

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

1. **COMMON REQUIREMENTS & CRITERIA**

The criteria to be followed in order to apply to the program call are:

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;
**Note**: academic/research entities are eligible to join as sub-contractors only.
3. The project should be **highly innovative and R&D-intensive**, 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. Funding support for [**'Product Adaptation'**](http://www.matimop.org.il/product_adaptation.html) is also available (i.e. - projects focused on the adaptation and customization of product to the target market).
5. The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialisation strategy of the product or process.

**Note: For the submission phase, only an LOI (Letter of Intent), a preliminary agreement is required, however the final agreement has to be presented to the funding authorities（on Guangdong side, the final agreement with legal force should be submitted before the applicant signs the project contract with GDST, or its funding qualification will be cancelled）.**

1. The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries
2. The project must be balanced between participants and significant to both partners.

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

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

**In Guangdong**

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

**In Israel**

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

1. **SIZE OF INVESTMENTS AND MATCHING FUNDS**
2. Funding support will be given to each partner by its own Implementing Organisation (GDST in Guangdong province and Israel Innovation Authority in Israel) in accordance with the National Laws, Rules, Regulations and procedures in effect.
3. The total funding from the Government of Guangdong under the Guangdong-Israel Industrial R&D program financial support will be given to subsidize the R&D expenditure of the projects and will not exceed 50% of the total eligible and approved costs of the R&D, in accordance with the national laws and regulations.
4. Starting date for funding distribution by the funding given by the Government of Guangdong under the Guangdong-Israel Industrial R&D program: **around March to April in 2020**

1. The total funding from the Government of Israel via the Israel Innovation Authority, under the Guangdong-Israel R&D program financial support, will not exceed 50% of the eligible and approved costs of the R&D, in accordance with the national laws and regulations.
2. **THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

A two stage application process will be followed;

**Phase 1: Bilateral Cooperation Form + Letter of Intent (LOI)**

The first phase Bilateral Cooperation Form (BCF) provides a summary of the proposed joint project with enough detail for the reviewers to make an initial assessment of the merits of the project.

The form should be filled out by both applicants together, and identical copies should be submitted to the program managers in Guangdong and Israel by the mutually agreed deadline to be eligible for further consideration.

The BCF must be signed by both Chinese and Israeli partners, and must be submitted together with a Letter of Intent (LOI), an MOU or a preliminary agreement - detailing IP plans for the project.

Incomplete BCG form or applications submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

In Israel, the filled out BCF & LOI must be sent in softcopy via email to the Program Manager in Israel (Rachelibo@innovationisrael.org.il).

**Submission of the BCF is mandatory, and is the first required document that companies must submit.**

The BCF would then be referred for basic technical review to confirm that all the documents required are provided and that companies are considered eligible by both sides. Upon approval, the companies will receive notification as to whether or not they can continue to Step 2 in the application process. If approved, Israeli companies will be requested to submit a full project proposal (national format) to the Israel Innovation Authority in Israel; Guangdong companies will follow further instruction online with individual support from Guangdong Science & Technology Exchange Centre.

**Phase 2: Full Project Proposal (FPP) – National Format**

Partners meeting all eligibility criteria and whose BCFs are approved will be invited to submit the Full Project Proposal (FPP), according to the procedures and rules that apply in Guangdong and Israel respectively.

**The Israeli partner** is required to submit the National Application form in accordance with the Israel Innovation Authority's regulations, through an online system together with the signed BCF that was submitted on first phase.

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

**The Chinese partner** will be required to submit the National Application Form in accordance with Guangdong Science and Technology Department (GDST) regulations, through an online system upon further notice by GDST.

<http://pro.gdstc.gov.cn/egrantweb/>

1. **EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF THE PROJECTS**

The Guangdong Science and Technology Department in Guangdong province 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 National Laws and Regulations. The successful projects will be jointly selected by the two implementing organizations based on the project criteria and requirements specified in the application form.

1. **REPAYMENTS**

**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 Israel Innovation 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 Aurhority 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.
4. For more information on funding conditions, applicants should visit the website of the Israel Innovation Authority: <https://innovationisrael.org.il/>

**In Guangdong**

The total funding from the Government of Guangdong under the Guangdong-Israel Industrial R&D program financial support will be given to subsidize the R&D expenditure of the projects and will not exceed 50% of the total eligible and approved costs of the R&D, in accordance with the national laws and regulations.

1. **TIMEFRAME AND DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION**

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| **Item** | **Date/Deadline** | **Details** |
| Launching | **July 7th** |  |
| BAF Deadline (Closing o6th  CFP) | **August 4th, 2019** | Interested Companies must submit BCF application by the stated date |
| Deadline of Full Project Proposal (FPP) – National Forms | **October 3 2019** | Deadline for Submitting FPP |
| Evaluation Period | **October - December 2019** |   |
| Joint Committee | **End of December 2019** | \*\*Estimated Date, subject to change |

1. **CONTACTS**

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| **Guangdong (China)**  | **Israel** |
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| The Department of Science and TechnologyGuangdong Province P.R.C [www.gdstc.gov.cn](http://www.gdstc.gov.cn) | Asia-Pacific DepartmentInternational Collaboration DivisionIsrael Innovation Authority www.innovationisrael.org.il |
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