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# Sichuan-Israel R&D Cooperation Program

## A bilateral framework providing financial support for collaborative technological Innovation Projects between Chinese and Israeli companies

## 3rd Call for Proposals – April 2020

### About the Program

The government of the Sichuan province of The People's Republic of China and the government of the State of Israel signed a bilateral agreement in 2016 to form the Sichuan-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.

The bi-lateral framework is jointly implemented by the Sichuan Science and Technology Department province and The Israel Innovation Authority (IIA).

These guidelines and information are specific to the Sichuan-Israel joint program, for projects submitted under the current Call for Proposals (CFP).

Sichuan Science and Technology Department and IIA invite Chinese and Israeli companies to submit proposals for funding for bilateral technological Innovation projects, involving at least one company from each country, which includes science and technology (S&T) development leading to commercial success, social good and benefit to both countries.

**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.

This Call for Proposals is also providing support for **pilot projects** for companies who wish to **pilot, validate, scale-up** and **adapt** their new **innovative technologies** and solutions to the Chinese market and entities’ specific needs.

**We welcome proposals of projects concerned with confronting COVID-19 virus.**

### 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, fulfilling the company eligibility criteria mentioned below, 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 Technological Innovation project should aim at the development of products/processes leading to commercialization in the global market.
4. Companies and projects from the technology fields including new energy, energy conservation, smart community, environment and resource conservation, robot technology, machinery systems technology, electronics,　Information　and　Telecommunications,　materials　and　nanotechnology, biotechnology, agricultural machinery, medical devices and water treatment.
5. The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialization strategy of the product or process.\*

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

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.
3. The maximum project period is 3 years.

Any partner whose cooperative Technological Innovation 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.

### Eligibility

**Sichuan Applicants**

Eligible applicants will be companies in Sichuan, China, which have R&D activities in Sichuan, China.

**Israeli Applicants**

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

### Funding Support

Funding support will be provided to each partner through its own implementing & funding organisation (both Sichuan Science and Technology Department in Sichuan, China, or IIA in Israel) in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

**In Sichuan, China**

* Sichuan Science and Technology Department will entrust Chinese Companies selected under the Call for Proposals to carry out the projects.
* The total funding to a project from Sichuan Science and Technology Department shall not exceed the total approved R&D expenses of a project.

**In Israel**

* Funding will be provided in the form of a conditional grant to the projects selected under the Call for Proposals.
* The total funding from the Government of Israel via the IIA will not exceed 50% of the eligible and approved costs of the R&D, in accordance with the national laws and regulations.
* 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.
* For more information on funding conditions, applicants should visit the website of the Israel Innovation Authority.

### The Application Process

Applicants are required to follow the local requirements and use the provided application format with instructions and **submit their proposal by September 2020 in Sichuan and by December 20th, 2020, in Israel**. Proposals that are not in the approved format will not be accepted.

In addition to the local application, an LOI/MOU must be submitted to both entities. A Bilateral Application Form (BAF) must be submitted by Israeli companies to the IIA. 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 plans for the project.**

In Sichuan, China

The Chinese partneris required to submit the full project proposal to Sichuan Science and Technology Department by posting or delivery by hand to the following [place of submission](http://kjt.sc.gov.cn/). In addition to the local application, an LOI/MOU must be submitted.

In Israel

The Israeli partneris required to submit the full IIA application, in accordance with Israel Innovation Authority regulations, through an [online system](https://my.innovationisrael.org.il/company) following the instructions of the relevant incentive program on the [IIA’s website](https://innovationisrael.org.il/node/2763/maslulim). In addition to the local application, an LOI/MOU and a Bilateral Application Form (BAF) must be submitted by Israeli companies.

### Evaluation and Selection

Sichuan Science and Technology Department in Sichuan, China, and IIA in Israel will carry out an independent evaluation of the joint Technological Innovation application and will select the eligible project to be financially supported in accordance with their State Laws and Regulations.

The successful projects will be jointly selected by the two funding organizations at a “Joint Committee Meeting” based on the project criteria and requirements specified in the application form. Companies who receive joint approval will be notified by their local implementing or funding agency.

Parties 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, by **March 2020**.

### Timeline & Deadlines

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|  | **Sichuan** | **Israel** |
| **Launch** | **06/07/2020** | |
| **Application Submission Deadline** | **September 2020** | **20/12/2020** |
| **Joint Committee** | **March 2021** | |

### Contacts

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