Eleventh Call for Proposals

For Joint R&D Projects – 2013

Submission by 02/05/2013

Within the activities foreseen by the framework Agreement on industrial, scientific and technological research and development cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called “Agreement”) the Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Italian Party, and MATIMOP – The Israeli Industry Centre for R&D for the Israeli Party on behalf of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) of the Ministry of Industry Trade and Labour, are starting the procedures for the selection of projects eligible for financial support as in Article 4 of the Agreement.

1. Program scope

Joint Italian-Israeli R&D projects can be presented in the following areas, as listed in Article 2 of the Agreement:

- medicine, public health and hospital organization;
- biotechnology;
- agriculture and food science;
- new energy sources, oil alternatives, and use of natural resources;
- applications of informatics to education and scientific research;
- environment;
- water treatment;
- communication;
- innovation production processes;
- space;
- information technologies, data communication, software;
- any other area of mutual interest.

The projects approved by the Italian and Israeli Authorities, which will be selected in the framework of the
present Call, will be financed by both the contracting Parties of the Agreement. The support will be given to each partner by its own Authorities in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

2. Qualifications

The criteria to be followed in order to apply to the present Call are:

- The **Israeli partner** must be an industrial entity (company) which may be technologically and scientifically assisted by a non-industrial entity (university, research institute, etc.) as a subcontractor.

- The **Italian partner** can be an industrial entity (company) or a non-industrial entity (university, research institute, etc.). In the case of a non-industrial entity, it must be assisted by an industrial entity.

- The Italian and Israeli partners must express their willingness to cooperate, on a balanced basis, towards the development of a new product, industrial process or service.

- The product, process or service must be innovative and there must be a technological risk involved.

- The project must be equally significant for participants from both countries.

- Funded participants are required to sign a partnership agreement on the commercialization of the product, process or service once the phase of research and development has been completed and the ownership and use of know-how and IPR is settled (“Partnership Agreement”).

In relation to the additional requirements which Italian partners must fulfill, and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the proponents are asked to refer to the "norme integrate per la partecipazione italiana al bando per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l’anno 2013 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - legge 154/2002", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present call.

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

The Italian partners interested in finding an Israeli partner may also contact Uri Fishelson at the Enterprise Europe Network – Israel at uri@iserd.org.il or browse the online MATIMOP database at http://www.matimop.org.il/database.aspx

3. Submission of the project proposals

The project application must be sent simultaneously to the Italian Authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs) and Israeli Authorities (Ministry of Industry Trade and Labour – Office of the Chief Scientist – OCS, through MATIMOP, the Israeli Industry Centre for R&D) by means of the attached application form in the English language. The application must be completed in all its parts and signed by the persons responsible for the project: Legal representative and Principal Investigator.

**Final submission must be received by May 2, 2013 both in Italy and in Israel.**
In Israel, the applicants should be ready to submit a funding request electronically to the OCS, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour, according to the rules and regulations of the OCS, by no later than 02/06/2013

4. Evaluation and selection of the projects

The Authorities (as in Article 8 of the Agreement) will carry out an evaluation process of the received project applications and will select the projects to be financially supported in accordance with their national laws and regulations. The Italian - Israeli Joint Commission will receive the selected projects from the two national authorities, to be endorsed as projects supported under the bi-national agreement.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will sign, with the Italian partner selected for the financial support, a contract containing the details of the terms and conditions of the financial support that will be granted as well as the rules for eligibility of costs and procedures for technical and financial reporting. The Israeli Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) will sign a similar document with the Israeli partner. In addition, in order to receive funding, partners of approved projects will sign a Partnership Agreement.

The criteria of evaluation are:

1. Novelty of the proposal and possible impact on the industrial activities – technological innovation.
2. Qualifications of the applicants in performing the specific tasks and the added value of the cooperation between project partners.
3. Expected economic results from the realization of the project.
4. Relevance of the proposal to the main strategic objectives in industrial R&D of the respective Italian and Israeli Governments.

The capability of the partners (R&D personnel, infrastructure, finance, marketing, etc.) will also be taken into consideration.

The Joint Committee will draw a list of winning projects and of those eligible, but which can be funded only in case of withdrawal by one of the winners.

5. Modalities for the financial support of the projects

Projects in the frame of this Call will be financed by the respective national and/or regional authorities in Italy & Israel, in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations & procedures in effect. Each project that is selected can be financed up to 50% of the documented and eligible costs of research and development. When the project is successful, repayment of royalties may apply according to applicable rules and procedures. No repayment is due if the project does not reach the stage of the commercialization.

In Israel:

The Israeli industrial partner will have to comply with the procedures, rules and regulations of the OCS/MOITAL (the Law for the Encouragement of Industrial R&D), which can be found on the OCS website http://www.moital.gov.il/NR/exeres/C4A8C9EC-7BDF-431D-AEC5-5CBB57D839FC.htm.
In Italy:
Support for the successful Italian applicants will be given at the end of the project, with no advance payment, upon presentation of a financial report of eligible expenses.

6. Notification of the results

Project partners whose projects have been selected by the joint committee will be informed of the results by means of letter. In Italy, the list of selected projects will be published on the Website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Israel, for the Israeli party, MATIMOP, on behalf of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), will inform the Israeli companies by means of a letter.

For further information:

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