

## Announcement

### **3<sup>rd</sup> German-Japanese Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)**

Deadline for proposal submissions: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### **1. Scope**

Germany and Japan are announcing a Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects.

Applicants are expected to develop ready-to-market solutions for products, technology-based services or processes which have strong market potential.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) will provide access to public funding for joint projects provided by the Co-funding Program New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) and by the BMWi's Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM).

NEDO and BMWi (Coordinator: AiF Projekt GmbH) will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phase.

NEDO and AiF Projekt GmbH will evaluate the submitted proposals and communicate the results within about 3 months after the call deadline.

#### **2. Call Structure**

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for industrial R&D projects until **March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, according to the following procedures.

##### **2.1. Financing**

Eligible project participants from Germany and Japan will finance their costs from the national funding schemes and complementarily from their own resources.

##### **2.2. Minimum requirements**

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/or technical services. The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

- The partners should include at least one Japanese company and one German SME (small and medium-sized enterprise). Participation of further research organisations and companies

is welcome as additional participants or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.

- The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries on an equal base in a balanced partnership, and the project must be equally significant to all participants.
- Companies and/or research organisations from other countries may also participate. However, these partners will not be funded by NEDO or BMWi.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial needs, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application etc.).
- Project duration should be within 2 years. An extension of 1 year could be accepted by both countries if sufficiently justified.
- Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

### **2.3. Submission**

Between the opening of the Call and the Call deadline on **March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019** all participants file one short common proposal in English language, legally signed by all organisations participating in the project (the form is available on [www.zim.de/internationale-ausschreibungen](http://www.zim.de/internationale-ausschreibungen)) and a draft consortium agreement (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners in English language.

The minimum requirements for the consortium agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners
- Title of the project and description of the project aims
- Differentiation of the subprojects of the partners
- Complete working plan of all partners with person months and terms (for this the common application proposals can be declared as part of the agreement)
- Treatment of intellectual property rights
- Basic rule of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- A clause that provides for all partners to be informed if third parties are involved
- Joint final reporting is to be done according to the regulations set by ZIM

- If German research organisations are involved, a passage has to be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

The common proposal and the draft consortium agreement have to be sent electronically to [kozawator@nedo.go.jp](mailto:kozawator@nedo.go.jp) and [international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de](mailto:international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de).

**At the same time project partners who want to apply for funding within this call file a national application according to the respective rules (see below).**

## **Germany**

All German SMEs which perform R&D to develop an innovative product, process or technological service – also in cooperation with research organisations – have the right to apply. More detailed criteria can be found on [www.zim.de/kooperationsprojekte](http://www.zim.de/kooperationsprojekte). The application has to be in line with the ZIM regulations, e.g. it has to be in German language. Please be aware that there is the possibility that elements of the German ZIM evaluation criteria may differ from the Japanese regulations.

## **Japan**

All Japanese partners which perform R&D to develop an innovative product, process or technological service – also in cooperation with research organisations – have the right to apply. More detailed criteria can be found on [www.nedo.go.jp](http://www.nedo.go.jp). The application has to be in line with NEDO regulations, e.g. it has to be in Japanese language.

Funding will be provided in the form of a conditional grant to the projects selected under the Call for Proposals. The total funding from NEDO will not exceed 50% (66.6% for a small or medium size company) of the eligible and approved costs of the R&D. When a project results in sales of a product, service or process, all or part of the financial support must be repaid to NEDO for 5 years after the completion of the joint R&D, in accordance with the applicable regulations. If the project does not result in sales, no repayment is required.

## **2.4 Decision and project start up**

The applicants will receive the decision regarding grant funding by their national funding organization in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July 2019 at the latest. If funding is granted, the project is to be started in July 2019.

It is highly recommended to consult with the national funding organisations (NEDO in Japan, AiF Projekt GmbH in Germany) at an early stage.

## Contact



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