



Announcement

Bilateral Call between Argentina and Germany for Funding Business Technological Research and Development Projects

Deadline for submission of phase I projects: 15 December 2023

Germany and Argentina announce the launch of a call for proposals for joint research and development (R&D) projects focused on the development of innovative technology-based products, processes or services with strong market potential.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCYT) in Argentina and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) will provide access to public funding for joint projects under the ZIM Programme (Central Innovation Programme for SMEs) of the BMWK in Germany and through the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Agencia I+D+i - FONTAR) in Argentina.

SUBMISSION PROCESS (see Timetable at point 11)

Phase I: Submission of the proposal application form (PAF), prepared jointly in English, together with a Gantt chart stated in US dollars listing the activities to be performed jointly by the project partners and a consortium agreement by the partners involved in the project.

In addition to the above documents, participants in Argentina must also submit an estimated budget for each of the participating Argentine companies (in Argentine pesos).

In addition to the above documents, participants in Germany must file a complete ZIM application via the electronic upload portal to AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of BMWK, in German language.

These documents will be evaluated by experts from both countries, and projects considered eligible by both agencies will proceed to the next phase.

Phase II: The proposals that have a positive evaluation in Phase I may apply for funding to participate in the project to the respective national funding agency in Argentina, MINCYT through its National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Agencia I+D+i - FONTAR).

1. Types and characteristics of the projects to be submitted:

- Development of innovative technology at pilot and/or prototype scale.
- Production of knowledge applicable to a technological solution, the development of which may reach laboratory scale or equivalent.
- Technological development that, starting from an industrial research activity, results in an innovative product, process or service with market prospects (on a pilot or prototype scale).
- The maximum duration of projects will be 18 months and exceptionally 24 months.
- The project proposals should involve actual collaboration in Technological Research and/or Development between companies from both countries.

The proposal must be balanced between the project partners, both in terms of participation in the project R&D activities and in budgetary terms; and the results must be beneficial to all participants. A proposal is considered to be balanced when the budget of a company or the sum of the budgets of the participating companies of either country does not exceed 70% of the total project budget.

In Argentina: The call is open to any type of projects, with priority being given to the strategic line listed in point 4.

2. Common Requirements:

- Participants must include, at least, one Argentine SME and one German SME, partnering under a collaboration agreement, the minimum content of which is described in section 5.1 of this call. Participation in the project by partners from business groups or linked companies in both countries shall not be considered as international cooperation.
- Optionally, companies may apply in collaboration with other research organizations, such as universities or technology centres, under a subcontracting scheme.
- The solution developed must be innovative, an improvement on the state of the art of the technology used and show significant potential for commercial application.

3. Submission Timeline:

For Phase I: From the date of publication to 15 December 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Buenos Aires time / 6:00 p.m. Berlin time. Applications submitted after the above deadline will not be accepted, and applications not including the requested documents will be considered to have been withdrawn. AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of BMWK, and MINCyT through the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in Argentina (Agencia I+D+i - FONTAR) will evaluate the proposals submitted in Phase I and will decide which projects will be invited to apply for funding in PHASE II.

For Phase II: Argentina only: The period for submission for selected proposals will run from 7 February 2024 to 20 March 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Buenos Aires time/ 6:00 p. m. Berlin time. German applicants do not have to submit any additional document under Phase II.

4. Sectors or areas (in Argentina only):

The call is open to any type of projects, with priority being given to the following strategic lines in Argentina:

- Cleaner production
- Energy transition
- Higher quality and added value foods
- New resources for Industry 4.0

For companies in the ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) sector, projects are expected to focus on the following topics:

- Digital transformation technologies/Industry 4.0 (Artificial Intelligence, Virtual and Augmented Reality (RX), the Internet of Things, Big Data, sensing and internet of things, 3D and 4D printing, simulation, among others) applied to production lines and services, involving local developments and integration, for innovation in already existing processes and products or the technological development of new processes and products in any sector of the economic activity.
- Development of hardware and embedded software for the adaptation of pre-existing machinery in information capture and processing and integration or interaction with other devices or systems, machines, robots, collaborative robots, drones, etc.
- Integration of existing and locally developed technologies, such as embedded systems or smart devices linked to:
 - Monitoring, traceability, automation, management systems for energy efficiency, early warning, predictive maintenance, etc., that involve data acquisition, processing and analysis using artificial intelligence or machine learning.
 - Solutions that implement blockchain structure or technologies for computer security (cybersecurity).
 - Simulation processes by designing digital twins.
 - Solutions that promote the digitalization process adding value in fields such as home automation, smart buildings, smart cities, industry 4.0, agritech, renewable energy, logistics, telemedicine, wearables, etc.

5. Documents:

5.1 The following documents are to be submitted in PHASE I:

In Germany:

- The Proposal Application Form (PAF), prepared jointly in English (legally signed by all partners participating in the project). The project profile must be signed by all participants and be sent by post. The proposal form is available for download: www.zim.de/argentinien
- Collaboration agreement (draft version, not yet signed) by all business partners participating in the project. The following is the basic information to be included in the collaboration agreement: description of participating partners, brief project description, apportioning of ownership on project results, exploitation of ownership on results and forms of potential conflict settlement, with international arbitration being prioritized.
- Full ZIM application form from all German partners in the project via the electronic upload portal to AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of BMWK, including all document asked in the application form and legally signed.

In Argentina:

- The Proposal Application Form, prepared jointly (in two identical versions, one in Spanish and one in English) legally signed by all participants.
- Gantt chart (two identical versions one in Spanish and one in English) stated in US dollars listing the activities to be carried out by all project partners.
- Agreement for collaboration and result exploitation signed by all business partners participating in the project. The following is the basic information to be included in the collaboration agreement: description of participating partners, brief project description, apportioning of ownership on project results, exploitation of ownership on results and forms of potential conflict settlement, with international arbitration being prioritized. In two identical versions, one in Spanish and one in English (not yet signed).
- IP budget (draft in two identical versions, one in Spanish and one in English).

5.2 The following documents are to be submitted in Phase II:

To become eligible for Phase II submission, the project must have been previously approved by the MINCYT through its National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in Argentina (Agencia I+D+i - FONTAR) and the ZIM (AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of BMWK) in Phase I.

In the case of MINCYT: Applicants shall submit their projects in accordance with the terms and conditions of international ANR (non reimbursable contributions) instruments.

FONTAR: www.agencia.mincyt.gob.ar/frontend/agencia/instrumento/5

6. Submission:

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Each interested party must get in touch with their local authority as soon as possible, before submitting the joint project application.

In Germany: Every German partner submits an individual ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of BMWK, via the electronic upload portal. Every German SME that carries out R&D for the development of innovative technological products, processes or services are eligible to apply, including SMEs that conduct this in cooperation with a research organization. Detailed criteria can be found on the ZIM website www.zim.de/international. The application must comply with ZIM regulations; e. g. it must be written in German.

En Argentina: Argentine companies must submit their international cooperation R&D project application to the MINCYT by email sent to convocatoriasexportarconocimiento@mincyt.gob.ar; this email address is available to applicants for handling documents and, once documents are submitted, for enquiring about the status of the project. The above application must enclose the common documents listed in 5.1. The templates for these documents are available for download at www.agencia.mincyt.gob.ar/frontend/agencia/instrumento/5

7. Phase I Evaluation Criteria

The MINCYT, through its National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in Argentina (Agencia I+D+i - FONTAR), and AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of BMWK, will conduct the international evaluation in a coordinated and independent way, by analysing the following: Goals and Technology, Market and commercial capacity, Work Plan, Consortium Agreement. National funding guidelines always prevail.

8. Phase II Evaluation Criteria:

The evaluation criteria will be those established by the management agency AiF Projekt GmbH and MINCYT through its National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in Argentina (Agencia I+D+i - FONTAR) always in line with the national funding guidelines available online.

9. Funding:

Eligible project participants from Germany and Argentina will fund their costs through their respective national funding schemes (ZIM in Germany and Agencia I+D+i in Argentina) and complementarily with their own resources. Funding proposals to ZIM and Agencia I+D+i will be made after the joint project application is reviewed and accepted. In the case of Argentina, approved projects will be funded according to the terms and conditions of international ANR instruments in FONTAR.

10. Publication of Results

At the end of each phase both entities – MINCyT through its National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in Argentina (Agencia I+D+i - FONTAR), and AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of BMWK – will communicate the phase results in accordance with their usual practice.

11. Timetable

	Opening date	Closing date
Phase I		
Call	04-07-2023	15-12-2023
Phase I Evaluation	19-12-2023	31-01-2024
Publication of eligible projects	From 07 February 2023	
Phase II		
Submission of applications	07-02-2024	20-03-2024
Project Evaluation	27-03-2024	17-06-2024
Publication/Communication of Approved Projects (Funding/Iberoeka Certification)	From 18 June 2024	

12. Managing Funded Projects:

Funding granted by the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation and AiF Projekt GmbH, ZIM project management agency for BMWK, shall be respectively governed by the terms and conditions of each organization. Both parties will conduct international monitoring until the completion of the projects.

Contact



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