

## Announcement

### **9<sup>th</sup> Call for proposals for joint industrial research and development (R&D) projects between Germany and France**

Project applications and national funding applications  
will be accepted until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

#### **1. Scope**

Bpifrance, the French investment bank, and the BMWi, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, intend to support joint German-French research and development projects (R&D projects) in order to develop innovative products, processes or technical services from all technology and application areas. Funding will be available for R&D projects in which new products, services or processes with high market potential are developed and subsequently transformed into marketable products.

In Germany, funding is provided through the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM). In France, funding is provided through the programme ADI (Aide pour le développement de l'innovation).

Bpifrance and AiF Project GmbH (ZIM project management agency on behalf of the BMWi) support the applicants in the phase of submission of project proposals, in the evaluation and in the implementation phase. The evaluation may take up to four months.

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

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for R&D projects until **31 January 2021** according to the following procedures.

##### **2.1 Financing**

Eligible project participants from Germany and France will finance their costs from national funding schemes and complementarily from their own resources. Provision of funding from one national scheme will neither indicate that funding from the other national scheme will be provided, nor bind the other national scheme in its provision of funds to the eligible project participants.

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

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

- The partners must include at least one French and one German commercial company (research institutes/universities are welcome to participate as additional partners or as subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations).
- Companies and/or research organisations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation follows financing rules including procedures and the funding regulations of these partners' countries of origin.
- The project should focus on the development of new products, services or processes of industrial application leading to commercialisation in the domestic and/or global markets.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial lead, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- The maximum duration of the project should not exceed 3 years.
- The project should demonstrate a balanced technological contribution by the participants from both countries, and must be equally significant to all participants.
  - In a project with two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute more than 70% of total person months in the project.
  - In a project with more than two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute more than 50% of total person months.
  - All research organizations involved in the consortium may altogether not contribute more than 50% of total person months.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria may apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

### **3. Submission**

Between the opening of the call on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and the call deadline on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, all participants file one short common proposal in English language, legally signed by all organisations participating in the project and a draft Consortium Agreement (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners (also in English).

The common proposal form is available on: [www.zim.de/France](http://www.zim.de/France) (Germany) or [www.bpifrance.fr/Partenariats-en-innovation](http://www.bpifrance.fr/Partenariats-en-innovation) (France).

The completed common proposal must be sent electronically to Bpifrance ([international.innoproject@bpifrance.fr](mailto:international.innoproject@bpifrance.fr)) and AiF Projekt GmbH ([zim-international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de](mailto:zim-international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de))

**In addition to the common proposal, project partners who want to apply for funding within this call must submit a national application according to the respective rules (see below).**

### **3.1 France**

ADI (Aide pour le développement de l'innovation) requirements:

- Partnerships: Two or more industrial partners (a Foreign company and a French company)
- No country or partner representing more than 70% of the total budget of the project.
- Eligible Beneficiaries: French companies up to 2000 fulltime equivalents (FTE)
- Eligible costs: Industrial research and experimental development (industrialization and commercialization costs are not eligible)
- Funding amount: from €50,000 up to €3 million (submitted to financial analysis of the company and financial conditions)
- Duration: maximum of 3 years
- Funding: zero interest rate reimbursable loan in case of technical success, up to 65% of the eligible costs for an SME and up to 50% for midcap companies.

**Any payment is subject to a signed consortium agreement.**

### **3.2 Germany**

Each German project partner submits an individual ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH. Every German SME, in accordance with the relevant EU regulations, as well as medium-sized companies with less than 500 employees (full-time equivalents), which carry out R&D for the development of innovative products, processes or technical services, are eligible to apply. Other medium-sized companies with less than 1,000 employees are eligible to apply for funding if they cooperate with at least one SME in accordance with EU regulations and whose project is being funded. Research and technology organisations are eligible to apply as cooperation partners of eligible companies.

Detailed criteria for submitting applications and the ZIM application form can be found on the ZIM website ([www.zim.de](http://www.zim.de)); you may also contact AiF Projekt GmbH directly as described below. The application must be written in German and comply with the regulations of the ZIM guideline..

### **Timeline**

Launch of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021
Deadline for joint application	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022

## Contact



### Germany

#### Questions on ZIM funding

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### France

#### Questions on Bpifrance funding

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