



Announcement

9th German-Finnish Call for Proposals for joint SME R&D projects

Deadline for proposal submissions: February 15th, 2019

1. Scope

Germany and Finland are announcing a Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects, focusing on developing innovative products and applications in all technological and application areas. In addition to the broad bottom-up approach, Business Finland would like to encourage SMEs coming from the manufacturing sector in Finland to submit their applications.

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

Business Finland and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) will provide access to public funding for joint projects (provided for Germany by BMWi's Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM)).

Business Finland and AiF Projekt GmbH (Project management agency for BMWi) will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phase.

2. Call Structure

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for technological R&D projects until February 15th, 2019 according to the following procedures:

2.1. Financing

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

2.2. 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 consortium has to include at least two independent enterprises (SMEs), one from Finland and one from Germany, which contribute considerably to the project. Participation of research institutes and other companies is welcome as additional participants (in Germany) or subcontractors (in Finland) according to each country's funding regulations.
- Companies and/ or research organisations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation is not funded by Business Finland or ZIM.
- 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, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- The project must demonstrate equal contribution of the participants from both sides, and the project must be equally significant to all participants. In a project with two cooperating partners, one partner is not allowed to hold more than 70 percent of the person months of the project. In projects with more than two partners no partner may contribute more than 50 percent of the work. In case one or more research organisations are involved in the consortium, they are altogether not allowed to hold more than 50 percent of the person months.
- Project duration should not exceed 3 years.

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

Before the call deadline on February 15th, 2019 all participants file one short common proposal in English, legally signed by all partners participating in the project and a draft cooperation agreement (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners (also in English).

The minimum requirements for the agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners

- Description of the project aims and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their working plans with person months (for this the common application proposals can be declared as part of the agreement)
- Naming of orders to third parties or a passage that in case of orders to third parties the other partners will be informed
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (new and old)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- If research organisations from Germany 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 proposal form is available on www.zim.de/internationale-ausschreibungen

The common proposal and the draft consortium agreement have to be sent electronically to Business Finland via www.businessfinland.fi/asiointi and to c.fichtner@aif-projekt-gmbh.de.

Simultaneously, all applicants must file a national application according to the respective rules (see below).

Finland

Development projects of companies based in Finland are eligible for Business Finland funding (www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/in-brief/). The funding can cover part of the project's costs. The company must always prove that it has the capacity to cover its own funding share of the project. Research organizations participate in these market oriented projects as subcontractors. The funding application is available on Business Finland web pages www.businessfinland.fi/asiointi. For further information about financing of Finnish participants read www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/in-brief/ or contact Business Finland directly.

Germany

Every German partner files one ZIM application in paper form to AiF Projekt GmbH. 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 the ZIM website (www.zim.de/Kooperationsprojekte – in German only). The application has to be in line with the ZIM regulations, e.g. it has to be in German language.

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

Contacts

Germany

Mr. Christian Fichtner
AiF Projekt GmbH
Tschaikowskistraße 49, 13156 Berlin
Phone: +49 30 48163-590
Email: c.fichtner@aif-projekt-gmbh.de
www.zim.de/international

Finland

Ms. Kirsi Vähä-Pietilä
Business Finland
Porkkalankatu 1, 00180 Helsinki
Phone : + 358 50 5577 730
Email: kirsi.vaha-pietila@businessfinland.fi
www.businessfinland.fi