

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for proposals for joint industrial Research and Development (R&D) projects between Germany and Canada**

Deadline for proposal submissions: 24 November 2017

### **1. Scope**

Germany and Canada are pleased to announce a call for proposals for **joint industrial R&D projects** focusing on developing innovative products, processes, or technology-based services in all technological and application areas which have strong market potential.

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) will provide access to public funding for joint projects through the BMWi's ZIM program (Central Innovation Program for SMEs) in Germany, and through the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) in Canada.

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

### **2. Application process**

Project partners are required to jointly present an industrial R&D project application, according to the following procedures:

#### **2.1 Dates**

Launched: 1 September 2017

Deadline to apply: 24 November 2017

Expected decisions: Invitation to apply for National funding expected 2-3 weeks after submission

#### **2.2 Financing**

Eligible project participants from Germany and Canada will finance their costs from the national funding schemes (in Germany ZIM, in Canada by NRC-IRAP) and complementarily from their own resources. Funding proposals for ZIM and NRC-IRAP will follow the review and acceptance of the joint project application.

#### **2.3 Requirements**

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and / or technical services. Projects must comply with the following requirements:

- The consortium has to include at least two independent enterprises, one from Canada and one from Germany which contribute considerably to the project. Participation of research institutes and other companies are welcome as additional participants or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two jurisdictions (e.g. increased innovation capability, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- Project duration should not exceed 2 years. An extension of 1 year could be accepted by both countries if sufficiently justified.

Any partner whose cooperative industrial R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid requirements can apply to the present call for proposals in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect, including the European [Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation](#). (2014/C 198/01)

## 2.4 Submission guidelines

***IMPORTANT: Each interested partner must contact their local funding agency as soon as possible, before submitting the joint project application.***

By the call for proposals deadline project participants must submit the following:

1. The **Proposal Application Form, prepared jointly** in English (legally signed by all partners participating in the project).
  - The joint common proposal form is available for download at:
    - <http://www.zim-bmwi.de/internationale-fue-kooperationen/ausschreibungen>
    - [http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/about/global/proposals\\_index.html](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/about/global/proposals_index.html)
2. A draft **Cooperation Agreement** (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners also in English and all German partners have to hand in a **project sketch** to ZIMs project management agency AiF Projekt GmbH.

The minimum requirements for the Cooperation Agreement are:

- Naming all project partners
- Description of the project aims and the differentiation of subprojects by each partner including brief work plans with effort estimated in person-months (Proposal Application Form annexed)
- Identifying and naming any 3rd party contractors required in the project

- Regulation of intellectual property rights (background and arising)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- If research organizations from either country are involved the publishing rights of each party must be agreed to by the parties

*Upon request, an International Consortium Agreement Template can be provided as a guideline for preparation of the Cooperation Agreement. The above two documents are to be submitted by the deadline electronically to both [international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de](mailto:international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de) and [timothy.jackson@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](mailto:timothy.jackson@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca).*

- 3. For the German partners, a ZIM project sketch to be filed in the three page document available on: [http://www.zim-bmwi.de/kooperationsprojekte/zim-koop-download-dateien/projektskizze-formular\\_web.pdf/at\\_download/file](http://www.zim-bmwi.de/kooperationsprojekte/zim-koop-download-dateien/projektskizze-formular_web.pdf/at_download/file) (submission instructions provided).
- OR
- 3. For the Canadian partners, a completed 2-page IRAP Project Outline available for download here ([link](#)) and submitted to [timothy.jackson@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](mailto:timothy.jackson@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca).

#### **2.4.1 Funding Submissions for Canadian Companies**

Canadian SMEs may receive up to 50% of their part of eligible project costs through NRC-IRAP.

##### **2.4.1.1 Canadian eligibility criteria:**

- Be incorporated, profit-oriented small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), with 500 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, registered in Canada;
- Be ready to collaborate with the German partner on an industrial R&D project;
- Be intended to grow and generate profits through the development and commercialization of innovative, technology-driven, new or improved products, services, or processes.

##### **2.4.1.2 Canadian application process:**

Canadian SMEs must contact their NRC-IRAP Industrial Technology Advisor (ITA). If not already an NRC-IRAP client, contact the NRC-IRAP office in your region (1-877-994-4727) to discuss eligibility. NRC-IRAP project proposal form, common guidelines and other required documents can be requested from [Tim Jackson](#). The documents will be sent via email.

#### **2.4.2 Funding Submissions for German Companies**

Every German project partner files one individual ZIM application in paper form to AiF Projekt GmbH. All German SMEs, following the guidelines of the European Union definition 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](#). The application has to be in line with the ZIM regulations, e.g. it has to be in German language.

**Timeline to each project proposal application:**

- Get in touch with your local funding agency at NRC or ZIM (AiF Projekt GmbH) before starting to fill an application
- ZIM: File a project sketch with all German partners, describe the project in the document provided and submit that for further consultation
- NRC: Discuss the project with your local ITA from NRC and define the scope and potential feasibility of the project
- After a positive pre-evaluation from NRC and ZIM file all documents need
- Within three month of a submission you will receive an evaluation of the project and information whether the project is ready for funding in both national programs

**Contacts**

	
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