

Announcement

1st Call for Proposals for Joint Research and Development Projects between German and Singaporean Companies

UPDATE: Submission of proposals is possible at any time

1. Scope

Germany and Singapore are announcing a call for proposals for joint research and development (“R&D”) projects, focused on the development of innovative products and applications in all technological and application areas. In particular, applications from the Medical Technology, Clean Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing sectors are highly welcomed.

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

SPRING Singapore and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) will provide financial support for joint projects (that fulfil the necessary criteria) through SPRING Singapore's Capability Development Grant (“CDG”) and the BMWi's ZIM programme (Central Innovation Programme for SMEs).

SPRING Singapore and BMWi (Coordinator: AiF Projekt GmbH) intend to provide assistance to project partners during the project proposal, evaluation, and monitoring phases.

SPRING Singapore and AiF Projekt GmbH will evaluate submitted proposals and work towards communicating the results within 3 months after the call deadline.

2. Call Structure

This call invites German and Singaporean enterprises to present joint proposals for technological R&D projects, according to the following procedures.

2.1 Financing

Eligible project participants from Germany and Singapore 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 technical services. The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

- a. The proposal for cooperation must involve at least one Singapore and one German Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME), which contribute considerably to the project, for the development of new products, services and processes of industrial application leading to commercialisation in the domestic and / or global markets;
- b. Research institutes and additional companies are welcomed as additional cooperation partners or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations;
- c. Companies and / or research organisations from other countries may also participate. However, these partners will not be funded by SPRING Singapore or BMWi;
- d. The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial needs, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.); and
- e. The duration of the project should not exceed 2 years.

Any partners whose joint 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.

3. Submission Guidelines

All participants should submit a common proposal in the English language, legally signed by all organisations participating in the project, and a draft consortium agreement (not yet signed) in the English language that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners.

The minimum requirements for the consortium agreement are:

- a. Naming of all project partners;
- b. Description of the project's objectives and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners (contribution by each partner) including their working plans with person month/man days (for this the common application proposals can be declared as part of the agreement);
- c. A clause that provides for both partners to be informed if third parties are involved in the project;
- d. Regulation of intellectual property rights;
- e. Regulation of joint commercialisation and apportionment of benefits; and
- f. If research organisations from Germany are involved, a clause must be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

The common proposal form is available at www.zim-bmwi.de/internationale-fue-kooperationen

The common proposal and the draft consortium agreement should be sent electronically to international@spring.gov.sg and c.fichtner@aif-projekt-gmbh.de.

Besides the common proposal and draft consortium agreement, project partners that want to apply for funding within this call must submit a national application according to the respective rules (see below).

3.1. German Companies

Every German partner files one ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH. All German SMEs following the EU-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 www.zim-bmwi.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.

3.2. Singaporean Companies

Singaporean partners must meet the criteria for the CDG, and file an application for the CDG through the SPRING Grant Portal. The CDG can defray up to 70 per cent of qualifying project costs.

More details on the criteria and application can be found at <http://www.spring.gov.sg/Growing-Business/Grant/Pages/capability-development-grant.aspx>.

Early stage consultations with the national funding organisations (SPRING Singapore in Singapore, AiF Projekt GmbH in Germany) are highly recommended.

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