



## **Thirteenth Call for Proposals For Joint R&D Projects – 2015** **(“TECHNOLOGICAL TRACK”)**

**Submission by Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Within the activities foreseen by the framework Agreement on industrial, scientific and technological research and development cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called “the Agreement”), *the Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation* for the Italian Party, and *ISERD – the Israel-Europe R&D Directorate* for the Israeli Party on behalf of the *Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) of the Ministry of Economy* (hereinafter called “the Parties”), are starting the procedures for the selection of projects eligible for financial support as in Article 4 of the Agreement.

### **1. Program scope**

Joint Italian-Israeli R&D projects can be presented in the following areas, as listed in Article 2 of the Agreement:

- medicine, biotechnology, public health and hospital organization;
- agriculture and food science;
- application of information technology to education and scientific research;
- environment, water treatment;
- new energy sources, oil alternatives and exploitation of natural resources;
- innovation in production processes;
- information technology, data communications, software, cyber security;
- space and earth observation;
- any other area of mutual interest.

The projects approved by the Italian and Israeli Authorities, which will be selected in the framework of the present Call, will be financed by both the contracting Parties of the Agreement. The support will be given to each partner by its own Party in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

## 2. Qualifications

The criteria to be followed in order to apply to the present Call are:

- The Israeli partner must be an R&D performing company, which will incur revenue from selling the product/service developed during the project. The Israeli partner may be technologically and scientifically assisted by a non-industrial entity (university, research center, etc.) as a subcontractor. The Italian partner can be an industrial entity (company) or a non-industrial entity (university, research center, etc.). In the case of a non-industrial entity, it must be assisted by an industrial entity as a subcontractor.
- The Italian and Israeli partners must express their willingness to cooperate, on a balanced basis, towards the development of a new product, industrial process or service.
- The product, process or service must be innovative.
- The project's content and budget should be well balanced between the Italian and Israeli partners.
- Cost estimates must be congruous with the planned activities.
- The intellectual property regarding the output of the financed projects must be regulated in accordance with the Partnership Agreement finalized by the winners of the approved projects.

In relation to the additional requirements which Italian partners must fulfil, and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the applicants are asked to refer to the "Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico e al Bando Industriale per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2015 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present Call.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present Call in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

## 3. Submission of the project proposals

The Italian partner and the Israeli partner must send the Project Applications, by means of the attached Application Form, called Annex 1, to the email addresses detailed below. The Application must be completed in all its parts and signed by the persons responsible for the project: in Italy by the Legal Representative and the Scientific Project Leader; in Israel by the CEO of the Main Israeli Partner.

The Italian partner must send the project Application to the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation – Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs*, whereas the Israeli Partner must send it to the *Ministry of Economy, Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)*, through *ISERD – the Israel-Europe R&D Directorate*.

**In Israel, submission of Annex 1 must be done by email and in PDF format to [ran@iserd.org.il](mailto:ran@iserd.org.il) and received by Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 (at 10pm CET).**

**In Israel, the applicants should also be ready to submit a full OCS funding request in Hebrew, electronically to the OCS, Ministry of Economy, by no later than Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 (at 11pm Israel time). The Israeli applicants should follow the rules and regulations of the OCS; in particular, when filling the budget spreadsheet, the applicants should stick to eligible items only (more details on eligibility can be found in the spreadsheet template itself).**

**In Italy projects must be submitted by Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 (at 10pm CET) exclusively by certified electronic mail to the following address: [DGAP.08@cert.esteri.it](mailto:DGAP.08@cert.esteri.it)**  
Projects sent by different means will not be accepted.

**The Italian applicants must send exclusively the documents as laid down in the “Norme Integrative per la partecipazione Italiana al Bando Scientifico e al Bando Industriale per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l’anno 2015 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - Legge n. 154/2002”, according to the “Check List” (Annex A). If one of the necessary documents is not attached, the applicant will not be able to participate in the Call.**

If the Applications are not received by both the Italian and the Israeli Authorities, through the procedures and by the dates indicated above, the projects will not be accepted.

#### **4. Evaluation and selection of the projects**

The National Authorities (as in Article 8 of the Agreement) will carry out an evaluation of the received Applications and will select the projects to be financially supported in accordance with their national laws and regulations. The Italian-Israeli Joint Committee will receive the pre-selected projects from the two national Authorities, to be jointly endorsed as projects supported under the bi-national agreement.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will sign, with the Italian partner selected for the financial support, a contract containing the details of the terms and conditions of the financial support that will be granted, as well as the rules for eligibility of costs and procedures for technical and financial reporting. The Israeli Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) will sign a similar document with the Israeli partner.

In addition, before signing the contract, the partners of the approved projects are required to enter into a Partnership Agreement on the commercialization of the product, process or service once the phase of research has been completed.

The criteria of evaluation are as follows:

1. Novelty of the proposal and possible impact on the industrial activities – technological innovation.
2. Qualifications of the applicants in performing the specific tasks, and the added value of the cooperation between project partners.
3. Expected economic results from the accomplishment of the project.
4. Relevance of the proposal to the main strategic objectives in industrial R&D of the respective Italian and Israeli Governments.
5. Congruity of cost estimates for the support with the proposed project and with the expected results.

The capability of the partners (R&D personnel, infrastructure, finance, marketing, etc.) will also be taken

into consideration.

The Parties encourage the applicants to include, in the project proposal, a high-quality exchange of experts (engineers/researchers) between the two partners, for a period of up to two months. This project component will allow adding to the budget the following relevant eligible expenses: lodging, per-diem allowance, transportation expenses (such as car rental), and insurance (note that flights are currently already considered an eligible expense). The inclusion of an expert exchange component in the project proposal will be considered a plus in the evaluation.

The Italian-Israeli Joint Committee will draw up a list of winning projects.

## **5. Modalities for the financial support of the projects**

Projects in the frame of this Call will be financed by the respective national and/or regional Authorities in Italy and Israel, in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations & procedures in effect. Each project that is selected can be financed **up to 50%** of the documented and eligible costs of research and development. In Italy the financial support will be granted only after the final financial report has been received and the project has been positively evaluated.

If the project is successful, the winning partner will have to gradually repay the grant to the Authorities, in compliance with each country's rules and regulations. Repayment of funds must be made, through royalties, according to applicable rules and procedures, as in Article 5 of the Agreement. No repayment is due if the project does not reach the stage of the commercialization.

### In Israel:

The Israeli industrial partner will have to comply with the procedures, rules and regulations of the OCS (the Law for the Encouragement of Industrial R&D), which can be found on the OCS website.

### In Italy:

Support for the successful Italian applicants will be given at the end of the project, with no advance payment, upon presentation of a financial report of eligible expenses, according to the cost estimate of the proposed project.

## **6. Notification of the results**

For the Italian party, the winners selected by the Italian-Israeli Joint Committee will be informed of the results by certified electronic mail. In Italy, the list of selected projects will be published also on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In Israel, for the Israeli party, the *Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)*, will inform the Israeli companies by email.

**For further information:**

**Italy**

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