



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR COUNTRY PROMOTION
ITALIAN REPUBLIC**



**GLOBAL
INNOVATION &
TECHNOLOGY
ALLIANCE**



**Department of
Science & Technology
Government of India**

ITALY - INDIA Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Program 2017 CALL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS

Closing date October 31st 2017 - h. 17.00 C.E.T.

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Italian Republic, signed in New Delhi, on 28th November 2003 and entered into force on 3rd November 2009, the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, of the Italian Republic, have created a funding mechanisms through which companies may seek support for joint India-Italy research and development (R&D) projects and other activities intended to generate new or expanded research and technology-based partnerships between the two countries. This India-Italy program aims to foster and support the development of collaborative R&D projects that bring together companies, research organizations, academics and other collaborators from both countries for the joint development of innovative products or processes. It aims to stimulate innovative R&D projects that address a specific market need or challenge; demonstrates high industrial relevance and commercial potential; and aims to deliver benefit to all participants, and more broadly, to both nations. These projects help participants to become more competitive by developing global research-based alliances with the potential to foster increased or expanded international R&D collaboration.

FUNDING SCHEME

In India the project lead and other project partners such as R&D Organisations and Academia are eligible for funding support.

On behalf of the Department of Science & Technology (DST, Government of India, the Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) will provide funding and other services to Indian project partners. *(Please refer to Annex 2 for more details)*

In Italy the project lead only, will receive the financial support from Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Other project partners such as R&D Organisations and Academia must be paid as sub-contractors by the project lead.

Funding and other services to Italian project partners will be provided by the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation (DGSP, Unit IX) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), of the Italian Republic.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

Department of Science & Technology (DST, Government of India) and Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation (DGSP) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, invite the submission of proposals in collaborative industrial research and development projects in following areas:

- Advanced Materials
- Smart Manufacturing
- Technologies for Cultural Heritage
- Water Technologies (including Drinking Water, Water Purification, Water Desalination, Irrigation Technologies, Waste Water Treatment & Management)

Projects submitted in other research areas will not be considered for evaluation.

KEY DATES

If you are intending to submit an application to this RFP, please make a note of the key dates below.

The deadlines below are absolute and final. Please note the submission deadlines. Any applications after this time will not be accepted.

Opening of the Request for Proposals	June 24, 2017
Closing of the Request for Proposals	October 31, 2017
Evaluation Process Completion (Country Specific & Joint)	By mid of December 2017
Anticipated release date of Request For Proposal results	By end of February 2018
Anticipated start date of projects	By March/April 2018

Important Note:

Please do not leave your submission at the last minute.

If any technical difficulties arise or if you identify any errors in your submission, we will not be able to grant an extension to the above deadlines.

It is your responsibility to ensure you follow the competition guidance rules and in doing so allow sufficient time to complete all of the competition requirements described in this document.

ELEGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- Each proposal must include:
 1. An **Indian** Project Lead (**IPL**), responsible for the Indian application submission, leading the Indian part of the project and communicating with the Italian Project Lead.
 2. An **Italian** Project Lead (**ITPL**), responsible for the Italy application submission, leading the Italian side of the project and communicating with the Indian Project Lead.
- Collaborations must be business-led in both sides
- The Indian partner must be a commercial company that operates in and is headquartered (HQ) in India. Academic institutions, research hospitals, other R&D institutes (including not-for-profit research institutes recognised by DST/GITA) having the HQ and operating in India are encouraged to participate in the projects as co-investigators/partners. *(please refer to Annex 2 for more details)*
- The Italian partner can be an industrial entity (company) running activities of R&D. In the case of an industrial entity without a mandate in R&D, it must collaborate as partner in the research activities with a non-industrial entity (university, research center, etc.). SMEs that apply in collaboration with a research partner as stated above, innovative start-up companies and certified incubators (as defined by art. 25 of Italian DL 179/2012) or innovative SMEs (as defined by art. 4 of Italian DL 3/2015) have priority in the selection assessment. *(please refer to Annex 2 for more details)*
- The Italian and Indian partners must express their willingness to cooperate, on a balanced basis, towards the development of a new product, industrial process or service.
- Applicants are required to submit an identical common application form, plus country-specific information to GITA (in India) and MAECI (in Italy) to request funding for the proposed R&D project. GITA and MAECI will implement an integrated, merit-based project evaluation and selection process.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The project content and budget should be well balanced between the Italian and the Indian partners.

Cost estimates must be congruous with the planned activities.

Please provide a detailed list of the background intellectual property (IP) brought into the project by all participants. The proposal must describe, to the best extent possible, the new IP which is expected to result from the project and must address the proposed treatment of all the intellectual property. This includes the ownership of new IP and sharing of the new IP between the participants. Any IP agreement between the participants must respect the IP laws of each country along with the IP policies of the academic and other research institutions involved in the project. A signed Consortium MoU/Agreement including IP terms between the lead participants from the respective countries in the project is required to be submitted before **Step I** (i.e. National level Evaluation).

A collaboration proposing an R&D project that meets the requirements in this section is eligible to apply for this Call for Proposals and does so in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures of their jurisdiction or country.

Any team proposing an R&D project that addresses the requirements detailed below is eligible to apply for this Call for Proposals:

- An Indian registered company Project Lead (**IPL**), responsible for the Indian application submission, leading the Indian part of the project and communicating with the Italian Project Lead and,
- An Italian small or medium-size registered company Project Lead (**ITPL**), responsible for the Italy application submission, leading the Italian side of the project and communicating with the Indian Project Lead.
- A minimum of 50% of the total project costs must be incurred by the business partners (Italy and India).
- The duration of the Project must be between 18 and 24 months.
- Projects must be innovative and market-driven, leading to the proposed development of a new product or process or new/improved services, leading to ultimate commercialisation.
- Proposals must demonstrate the joint India-Italy project team's capacity to manage the project in their respective countries.
- Projects must achieve clear commercial goals with associated commercialisation strategies; Building on the principles of a true bilateral partnership, all projects should demonstrate equivalence in effort from the Indian and Italian partners.
- Applicants already possess basic infrastructures/test beds, prototype and developed basic Proof of Concept (PoC).
- Projects shall be drafted in English.

Although it is not mandatory, projects that engage an end-user/first customer are strongly encouraged in either side of the consortium.

If successful, project consortia will be expected to demonstrate that all partners contributing to the R&D project have agreed on IP Rights and the commercialisation plan as part of the final grant agreement process.

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.

For projects involving living organisms and humans, it is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that all facets of animal care and use meet the requirements of the International Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. This includes a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of animals used. Institutional ethics committee approval and informed consent are obligatory parts in all interventional studies (human or animal).

PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

A full proposal shall consist of:

- a description of the working teams;
- a description of the research activities that the teams intend to carry out within the project timeframe;
- a detailed description of the costs of the project.

For Italian Applicants:

The Italian partner will have to provide the annexed application form , signed by the legal representative of the Company and a copy of the signed Consortium MoU/Agreement including IP terms between the lead participants from the respective countries by email to the following address: dgsp09.pec@cert.esteri.it

Any inquire about the call can be sent to: dgsp-09bandi1@esteri.it

For Indian Applicants:

- The Indian Project Lead visit GITA website under the **India-Italy Collaborative Industrial R&D Program 2017**.
- Applicants will be able to access and download the RFP forms and common guidelines and other requisite documents from above mentioned link.
- Refer to a subsequent section on “Key Dates” for submission of the requisite application/RFP forms.
- Please ensure your Italian counterpart has also submitted the common & identical Application Form to MAECI, as per MAECI process.
- The application must reflect a combined effort from both the ITPL and IPL, be written in English, and using the prescribed process by the stated application submission.

(Please also refer to Annex – 4 for more details)

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Evaluators of both countries will review the common application form and appendices (where required) along with associated supporting documentation (where appropriate).

Eligible proposals will undergo to a two-step evaluation process.

STEP 1.

Projects will first be evaluated at the national level according to the following criteria:

1. Novelty of the proposal and possible impact on the industrial activities – technological innovation. Qualifications of the applicants in performing the specific tasks, and the added value of the cooperation between project partners.
2. Expected economic results from the accomplishment of the project.
3. Congruity of cost estimates for the support with the proposed project and with the expected results.
4. Capability of the partners (R&D personnel, infrastructure, finance, marketing, etc.).

(Please also refer to Annex – 5 for more details)

STEP 2.

Following completion of the independent assessment processes described above in India and Italy, a joint review committee will be held, comprising representatives from the Indian and Italian funding agencies. Final decisions on joint approvals will be made at that time. DST//GITA and DGSP IX/MAECI will then together identify the final list of successful applicants. The selected projects will be included in the Executive Programme and are eligible for funding.

Ineligible/Rejected Applications:

- Applications that do not meet the stated Request for Proposal eligibility criteria, as set out in this document
- Project proposals that are not written in the prescribed template e.g. Hand-written or email submissions.
- Applications submitted to the incorrect organisation or use the incorrect application form for the Request for Proposal.
- Registration and Application submissions that are not compliant with the on-line template
- Applications in which only one side (i.e. one country) has contributed its part of the proposal/application.

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

Italy: The list of the selected proposals and the funding procedures will be published exclusively on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the following address:

http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html

Only the contact person of the selected projects will be directly informed.

India: GITA will communicate the final decision in writing (via e–mail/letter) to all the IPL applicants. The list of the selected proposals and the funding procedures will be published on the website of GITA: www.gita.org.in

CONTACT INFORMATION

Italy

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