

Terms of Reference For Taiwanese-Czech Bilateral Co-funding R&D Projects

1. Scope

A Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and is hereby announced. Joint R&D projects will be focused on specific outcomes in the field of applied research, i.e. they will lead to attaining new findings and skills for development of new or significantly improved products, processes or services, and new product, process or service. Beneficiaries are expected to develop applied results.

NOTE: This Joint Call for Proposals, written in the English language, serves to provide the common understanding of the program structure and to brief the requirements in general terms. Participants are subject to additional rules and regulations. Lead Organizations (Principal Applicants) on both sides, Czech and Taiwanese, have the responsibility to understand the respective national laws, rules and regulations, and abide accordingly.

2. Program Structure

The TA CR follows the following conceptions of applied research, experimental development and innovations¹. The Research and Development activity must contain the following features:

- novelty
- creativity
- uncertainty
- systematic nature

¹ According to the Frascati manual, applied research is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective. Experimental development is systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes. By the European Union standardised notion, innovation is defined as a new or significantly improved product (good or service) introduced to the market, or the introduction within an enterprise of a new or significantly improved process.

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- transferability and/or reproducibility

The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the respective countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial needs, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is compliant with the aforesaid criteria may apply to the present open call announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

The program invites technology related organizations from both countries to participate in joint R&D projects. Please refer to Section 2.2 Applicant Eligibility for more information. Joint R&D Project Proposals shall be submitted according to the following procedures.

2.1 Areas of R&D Projects

All areas of research projects are welcome. However, the following areas will be considered favourably.

1. Green Energy
2. Artificial intelligence applications
3. Health Care and Biomedicine
4. Cyber Security
5. New Agriculture
6. Applied research responding to the COVID-19 outbreak (except for drug research and clinical trials)

2.2 Applicant Eligibility

Applicants shall take the form of consortiums consisting of R&D participants based in the Czech Republic making up one side of the partnership, and R&D participants based in Taiwan making up the other side of the partnership.

Taiwanese

Eligible Taiwanese applicants, to collaborate with Czech partners for DELTA 2 program, must have been appointed by one of the institutes below, and be in accordance with the

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Guidelines of Bilateral Add-on Grants for Joint
Research Projects (available in Chinese only):

<https://www.most.gov.tw/most/attachments/b2500df9-95aa-48ac-a557-c64db711be44>

- 1) Universities
- 2) National Applied Research Laboratories (NARLabs)
- 3) Research Institutes recognized to apply for MOST funding

An eligible proposal must include at least one research institute into the work plans.

Czech

A company, regardless of the size, must be the lead organization on the Czech side. Universities or research organizations may apply for the DELTA 2 program funding only provided that the consortium constitutes at least one Czech company.²

All Czech and Taiwanese applicants are subjected to initial screening which examines the institution's capability to carry out the project. Examination criteria include, but are not limited to, bankruptcy history, disposition for tax delinquency, default history of the head of the company, debt ratio, review of the recent financial statement in terms of capital erosion, etc. Failure in any of the criteria will disqualify the applicant and the respective proposal will not proceed to the next step of proposal evaluation.

2.3 Program Procedure and Schedule

1. Promotion period and launch of the call
9 March - 13 May 2020
2. Application period
14 May - 15 July 2020
3. Evaluation period (incl. eligibility check)
16 July - 12 November 2020
4. Exchange of results

² In case that an applicant on the Czech side and its foreign partner are in such relation that would fulfill the definition of the partner or joined enterprise in terms of the Appendix No. 1 of the Commission Regulation (EU No. 641/2014), then at least one of the other applicants on the Czech side must be an entity that does not fulfill the definition mentioned above.

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13 November - 29 November

5. Final results announcement (latest deadline)
TA CR by 30 November 2020
MoST by 18 December 2020
6. Project Kick off & Start of Funding
January 2021

2.4 Project Duration and Funding

- The TA CR and MOST will fund the respective nationals in the selected consortia in accordance with their national funding rules. Supplementary funding may come from participant's own resources should the total project cost exceed the government funding.
- Matching fund is the basis of the funding scheme but flexibility in the funding ratio may be allowed depending on the roles each participant undertakes.
- Information about the Czech funding scheme "DELTA 2" is available here: <https://www.tacr.cz/en/delta-2-programme/>
- Information about MOST call details would be available on the website: <https://www.most.gov.tw/>

Taiwanese

MOST will award a three-year funding starting from January 2021. This award will be an add-on funding specially for bilateral cooperation with Czech researchers to an on-going research project of the applicant. The total funding for an approved project is expected to be around EUR 100,000 per year, up to 3 years.

Czech

The total max. budget of 2nd call for proposals under DELTA 2 programme is 300 mil CZK (cca 17,2 mil USD)*.

The subsidy is provided on a grant basis.

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The project funding limitation is derived from the Regulation 641³.

- Should the project be found to be disqualified from the interim evaluations, the TA CR may retrieve the unused government funding.
- Funding will be awarded with an average funding intensity of 74 %. Funding intensity per each project participant follows the EU rules .
- Eligible project costs include personal costs, subcontracting costs, other direct costs, stipendia.

*may vary depending on the exchange rate in effect at the time of launching the call

Project duration

- The project must begin in the period of 1st January 2021 to 30th June 2021.
- The TA CR will award funding from January 2021 following the conclusion of agreement on the provision of funding with the lead applicant.
- Government contribution is available for 36 months maximum.

2.5 Proposal Submission

By the Call Deadline on 15 July 2020, the lead organizations from both countries shall file to the respective organization the documents as follows:

- A common proposal (attached), written in the English language.
The proposal shall be signed by all participants.
- Funding documents as required by the respective organization pursuant to the rules set forth within.

Taiwanese

- Taiwanese participants must submit an add-on proposal through the MOST online system before deadline following the instructions announced by MOST.

³ Commission Regulation (EU) No 641/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty – Official Journal of the European Union L 187 of 26 June 2014 (hereinafter the “Regulation”), in particular, Articles 25, 28 and 29, as amended by Commission Regulation No. 2017/1084 of 14 July 2017.

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- Consultation with Science and technology division of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Prague at an early stage is highly recommended.
- Application has to include: division of roles, expenditure plan
- More information is available at MOST <http://www.most.gov.tw>.

Czech

- Czech participants shall upload a complete funding application at the time of the proposal submission.
- More information is available at: <https://www.tacr.cz/soutez/program-delta-2/druha-verejna-soutez-8/>
- Consultation at an early stage (before the call is launched/opened on 13 May 2020) is highly recommended. After 13 May 2020 only consultations via official TA CR online helpdesk (<https://tacr.cz/hesk/>) is available in order to secure the same access to information to all applicants.

2.6 Proposal Evaluation

The TA CR and MOST will independently evaluate the submitted proposals in accordance with the respective national rules and regulations. Evaluation results for the top candidates will be shared and discussed between two organizations. Finally, the TA CR and Taiwan will jointly select the final consortia within approximately 5 months after the call deadline.

Czech

Main project evaluation criteria

1. usefulness of project and its contribution to fulfilling the goals of DELTA 2 programme
2. expected benefits of project and expected quality of project results
3. project feasibility and realisation procedure

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Main project evaluation criteria may be found here:

<https://www.most.gov.tw/most/attachments/b2500df9-95aa-48ac-a557-c64db711be44>

The MOST and the TA CR will independently evaluate the submitted proposals in accordance with the respective national rules and regulations. Evaluation results for the top candidates will be shared and discussed between two organizations. Finally, the MOST and the TA CR will jointly select the final consortia within approximately 5 months after the call deadline.

2.7 Annual Evaluation / Progress InspectionTaiwanese

First year of running project the report of progress should be submitted to MOST, upon which funds for second year will be allocated. In case the report of progress would be found insufficient, compared with project goals, the MOST may refuse to provide funding for second year. In case the project is disqualified by the Czech side only, the case will be subjected to further evaluation to decide whether to continue funding the project on Taiwanese side.

Czech

The TA CR performs regular inspections of the supported projects, once at least during its lifetime. Also, the TA CR may demand project reports for review and ad hoc inspections may be executed when a problem is indicated. In case the project is found to have failed its obligations, the Board of the TA CR may retrieve the TA CR funding, of which the final amount to be retrieved is calculated in accordance with the national rules and regulations in effect at the time. Should the project be disqualified by the MOST side only, the case will be subject to further decision by the Board of the TA CR whether to retrieve the remaining government funding.

3. Contacts

MOST
www.most.gov.tw

STD Prague
www.czech.most.gov.tw

TA CR
www.tacr.cz

Hwey-Ying Lee 李蕙瑩

Mgr. Klara Netikova

Ms. Radana Dítová

E-mail:
vvlee@most.gov.tw
Tel.: +886-2-2737-7150
Fax: +886-2-2737-7607

E-mail:
czech@most.gov.tw
assist01@std-taiwan.cz
Tel.: +420 235 312 716

E-mail:
radana.ditova@tacr.cz
Tel.: +420 234 611 637

Address:
106, Sec. 2, Heping East
Road, Taipei 10622,
Taiwan

Address:
Evropská 2590/33C
160 00 Praha 6
Czech Republic

Address:
Evropská 1692/37
160 00 Prague 6
Czech Republic