3rd S. Korea – Switzerland Call for Joint R&D Projects

Deadline for Submission – 19 June 2017

1. Purpose of Funding **2**

2. Scope **2**

3. Call Structure and Submission **3**

4. Qualifications and Eligibility **4**

5. Evaluation **5**

6. Funding **6**

7. Contacts for Details and Partner Search Requests **7**

8. Annexes **8**

8.1 Funding Regulations – South Korea 8

8.2 Funding regulations – Switzerland 9

1. Purpose of Funding

S. Korea and Switzerland are announcing a bilateral call for joint R&D projects aiming to support innovative propositions in all scientific areas. The Call is open for all topics, but focuses on the development of products and services in the field of (1) biotechnology, (2) medical technology and (3) information and communication technology (ICT). Projects shall originate from applied research areas. Hence applicants are expected to develop ready to market solutions for products, technology based services or methods, which have a significant market potential for S. Korea and Switzerland.

- The call is announced within the framework of the Declaration of Intent on Call for Proposals among the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology, KIAT, and the Commission for Technology and Innovation, CTI.
- KIAT and CTI will provide access to public funding for joint projects. They will also provide all necessary assistance to project partners during project proposal and the project monitoring phase.

The aim is to strengthen the activity of the business and research community of both countries. The first two calls showed a high interest of scientific and technology exchange. The third call shall give the opportunity to further deepen and enlarge these collaborations.

2. Scope

Partners participating in the present call are welcome to apply in any scientific field for innovation. The Call therefore is open for all topics, but focuses on the development of products and services within (1) biotechnology, (2) medical technology and (3) information and communication technology (ICT).

Project goals

The project partners should demonstrate:

- Complementary technological excellence and qualifications,
- Strong base of partnership and aim for continuing collaboration even beyond the project duration,
- Management ability to successfully carry out the project and implement the results,
- Mutual advancement of R&D through the transfer of knowledge and expertise.

All applicants should consider and address any dual use issues associated with their proposals. Research where downstream application is for national defence or security purposes, as well as research which poses a threat to public health will not be supported.

Innovation Content

The innovation aspect of a project must go beyond the international state of the art. The innovation project should be science-based, targeting to achieve advances in technology or service aspects. The main objectives in terms of performance of the product, process or service and cost issues (with regard to competitively) shall be presented in a comprehensive way.

Market

The project is targeting to establish a new, or to integrate into an existing value chain. A market and implementation idea must exist for the planned product, process or service.

3. Call Structure and Submission

The call is structured as single-step submission procedure. The partners are invited to present one joint **full** proposal of an innovative idea based on an applied R&D project. The necessary documents related to the call are available on the webpages of both countries, S. Korea and Switzerland. The listed regulations and qualifications apply to all applicants.

In addition, there are separate national regulations of the funding organisations of each country. Applicants of each country must refer and comply with the applicable regulations of the national funding organisations (see Annex I for S. Korea and Annex II for Switzerland).

Following documents are required for getting the formal submission approved:

- Korean Partners fill in their project scope using the KIAT application form in Korean including its English version
- Swiss Partners fill in their project scope in English using the English CTI application form (PDF-template – issued 2 February 2017 - ; or on-line application form)

In addition the project partners submit a common short overview of the project idea on a joint special form (called KR-CH_Call 2017_joint application form) written in English language. This form can be downloaded from the webpages of KIAT and CTI.
All duly completed project forms must be submitted to KIAT for Korean partners and to CTI for Swiss partners as explained below.

- In Korea, the participants will have to submit a formal KIAT application through Project Management System (http://www.pms.re.kr).
- In Switzerland, the participants will have to submit the application forms as described on the CTI webpage.

The call is launched on **8 March 2017** by KIAT and CTI. It is open until **19 June 2017, 17:00 local time**.

Links to the application forms in:
S. Korea: http://www.pms.re.kr
Switzerland: www.kti.admin.ch/southcoreacall

Indicative Timetable

Launch of call	08 March 2017
Deadline for submission	19 June 2017
Evaluation of proposals	June-September 2017
Consensus Meeting	mid-September 2017
Communication of the results	Beginning of Oktober 2017
Start of projects for: - KIAT - CTI	 November 2017 after submission of all requested documents and signing of contract between CTI and Swiss project partners; tentatively 1 January 2018.

Supportive Measures

KIAT and CTI as well as the Swiss Embassy in Korea will facilitate the **identification of project partners** within academia as well as among industry partners. They are cooperating with Enterprise Europe Network, with national clusters and other national experts and points of contact.

4. Qualifications and Eligibility

All proposals must meet following eligibility criteria to be qualified for evaluation:

- The partners (project consortia) must include at least one commercial company from each country and one research institute from Switzerland.
- The participation of further research organizations and further commercial companies from both countries according to each country's funding regulations is welcome.
- The research organizations and commercial companies must comply with the regulations of their respective country.
- The project partners shall name a designated main-coordinator.
- The project duration cannot be more than three years.
- The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries on an equal base, and the project must be equally significant to all participants. One country cannot represent more than 70% of the overall project budget.
- With the proposal, the consortium shall present a draft agreement on the Intellectual Property Rights IPR (can be part of the consortium agreement).

Only proposals meeting all eligibility criteria will be considered for evaluation. There will be no opportunity to correct errors in the proposals after the application deadline.

Please note that the inclusion of an ineligible partner in a proposal will result in the rejection of the entire proposal without further review. For the definition of eligible partners, see the national regulations and contact your national contact person.

5. Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated according to:

- project goals described under para. 2
- national funding criteria.

The evaluation will be assessed individually by the reviewers of KIAT and CTI for their national scope of participation. At the end of the evaluation the reviewers shall attribute an overall statement based on an ABC-System for the proposal according to the scale as shown in Table 1.

Overall score	**A**	**B**	**C**
Assessment of Funding Agency	**Fund**	**Fund if available budget and national regulations allow**	**Do not fund**
According reviewer recommendation	**High Priority:** very innovative, high potential for market penetration	**Medium Priority:** Innovative, reasonable market potential	**Low Priority / not competitive:** rather low innovation, rather weak market implementation

Table 1: Scale of ratings for proposal evaluation by remote reviewers (A is highest).

In a joint consensus meeting (common final assessment) KIAT and the CTI will decide in due consideration of the available budget of each country. The applicants will be notified of the results of the common assessment at the beginning of October 2017.

6. Funding

Financing Rules

- The applications have to be in line with the rules of KIAT and CTI explained below. On request partners will be instructed in detail by the contact persons of the two agencies how to apply for funding (please refer to para. 8).
- Each country will fund its eligible participants according to their national procedure and funding rules. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary between S. Korea and Switzerland. The main aspects of funding criteria are explained below (for further details see annex 8.1 and annex 8.2) and in chapter 2 “Project goals”.
- The project partners must submit a common consortium agreement (incl. IPR agreement) to KIAT and the CTI prior to start of the project.

Switzerland

CTI funding:

CTI is responsible for encouraging science-based innovation in Switzerland. One of its main task is to help the innovation of products and services onto the market to the benefit of the Swiss economy. CTI funding is approved to Swiss project partners as follows:

- Swiss academic partner and Swiss company share costs of the project 50:50; CTI may fund the share of the Swiss academic partner, i.e. up to 50% of eligible project costs;
- The industry partner has to cover at least 50% of the project costs from the total project work of the Swiss partners. The industry partner(s) must also provide a cash contribution to its academic partner in the amount of 10% of the requested CTI funding.
- Swiss Companies get a non-exclusive right to exploit the project results in their specific business area.

S. Korea

KIAT funding:

The Korean dedicated budget provided by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) and managed by KIAT is open to all type of applications from Korean companies with registered R&D laboratories, Korean research institutes and universities.

Project funding consists of government contributions and civilian dues (cash and in-kind). The amount of government contributions will vary depending on the type of executing organizations and project in accordance with Article 24 (Funding criteria) and Article 25 (Civilian dues) of the Common Operational Regulations for the Industrial Technology Innovation Programs.

7. Contacts for Details and Partner Search Requests

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8. Annexes

8.1 Funding Regulations – South Korea according to para. 6 of the call document

A party that participates in a project shall carry out its project using the government contributions allocated to it, and for-profit organizations shall individually bear the cash portion of civilian dues.

Classification	Share of government contributions in executing organization's project budget		Share of cash in executing organization's civilian dues	
	Original technology	Innovative product	Original technology	Innovative product
Large company	50% or less	33% or less	60% or more	
Mid-tier company	70% or less	50% or less	50% or more	
SME	75% or less	67% or less	40% or more	
Other	100% or less	100% or less	To be borne if necessary	

8.2 Funding regulations – Switzerland according to para. 6 of the call document

The usual CTI funding rules and application forms will apply for this call:

- At least one Swiss company and one Swiss 'not-for-profit' research institution or university research centre (university, Federal Institute of Technology, University of Applied Sciences) recognised by the CTI must be involved in a CTI funded R&D project.
- If the main coordinator of the consortium is the Swiss partner, it must be the Main Research Partner.
- The industry partner has to cover at least 50% of the project costs from the total project work of the Swiss partners. The industry partner(s) must also provide a cash contribution to its academic partner in the amount of 10% of the requested CTI funding.
- There is no federal funding allowed to companies (implementation partner).
- The project focuses on innovation. In general, no funding will be given to projects which propose marginal improvements of existing products, nor for projects with a purely basic research content.
- The criteria for proposal assessment are: degree of innovation with its economic impact, and scientific excellence, commercial potential, contribution to sustainable development, clear work programme and a transparent budget.
- The project must have quantified, measurable goals and a coherent and structured schedule with verifiable progress milestones. It must be based on a thorough appraisal of the current state of the relevant technology and on an evaluation of the corresponding data base and patent rights.
- The project partners must submit a common consortium agreement (incl. IPR agreement) to KIAT and the CTI prior to start of the project.

During granted projects:

- Regular reviews by CTI experts help the partners to adhere to the project contents and time schedule where necessary by asking for timely corrections.
- At the end of the project, a plan must be presented showing how the results will be implemented.

For more details, please refer to the CTI webpage with following link:

https://www.kti.admin.ch/kti/en/home/unsere-foerderangebote/fuer-forschende/f-e-projekte.html