

**Second Call for Proposals on Scientific
and Technological Cooperation
2013**

Submission by 04/07/2013

A. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Within the framework of the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Research and Development Cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called the "Agreement") and in particular under **the Sub-Committee for Scientific Cooperation**, the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology and Space (referred to hereafter as "MOST") and the Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Italian side are providing financial support for joint Italian-Israeli research projects carried out by scientists from both countries. Italian-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint research proposals in the following areas:

- 1. Novel approaches to fight treatment-resistant pathogens;**
- 2. Multifunctional advanced materials;**
- 3. Water and food security (including related hazards).**

B. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation may take the form of:

- joint research activities where interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in the Italian and the Israeli laboratories;
- complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
- joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists;
- joint planning of research;
- submission of joint research projects by researchers of both countries is requested with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological co-operation between Italy and Israel. Each researcher may submit one project only. Financing will be granted exclusively for projects of researchers holding Italian (or EU nationality and legally resident in Italy) and Israel nationality.

C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

The total maximum funding for each individual project is around € 40,000 for each side for the entire two-year project period. It is the intention of the two ministries to support **up to a number of 10** joint projects. However, the final number of projects to be funded as well as the final budget approved for each project will be determined based both on budgetary and scientific considerations. Research projects can span on a maximum of **two year basis**. Contracts will be signed accordingly.

In Italy, each project that is selected can be financed **up to 50%** of the documented and eligible costs of research. When the project is successful, repayment of royalties may apply according to applicable rules and procedures. No repayment is due if the project does not reach the stage of the commercialization.

In Israel, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space will cover 100% of the documented and eligible costs of the research, in accordance with the project proposal.

The two Governments will grant the approved projects with financial contribution, within the limits of the their available financial resources and subject to the approval of the State budgets

D. ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Israeli and Italian scientific research teams;
2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator from each country;
3. The Principal Investigator of each side must be member of an Academic or Research institution;
 - In Israel it must be an accredited institution of higher learning, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, or with a public research institute with experience in the relevant fields.
 - In Italy it must be a public or private University, a public or private Research Institute/University

For the purposes of this Call a "Research Institute" means a Research Institute/University, whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment and which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals and who present their research at international symposia.

Industrial partners are encouraged to participate in research teams headed by Principal Investigators from an Academic or Research Institution.

In relation to the additional requirements which Italian partners must fulfill, and to the rules applicable to their dealings with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the proponents are asked to refer to the "*norme integrative per la partecipazione italiana al bando per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2013 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - legge 154/2002*", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present call.

4. Each Principal Investigator and affiliated Institution is responsible to MOST or to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, respectively, for the execution of the project.
5. Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Committee for Experimentations on Animals **in Israel** before the project starts. In Italy they will refer to the relevant Italian and EU laws.
6. Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human beings, must submit the approval of the relevant Helsinki Committee in **Israel** before the project can commence. **In Italy** they will refer to the relevant Italian and EU law.

E. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

The **Israeli** and **Italian** research teams and their Institutions shall enter in specific agreements regarding Intellectual Property rights upon signature of the respective contracts.

In Italy this will be done before signing the contract with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

F. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The project proposal must be submitted by the Italian and the Israeli Principal Investigator using the application form in English in Annex A, to the addresses of the Italian and Israeli Party reported below. Projects submitted will be evaluated by both Parties.

The projects must be drafted in English and signed by the Italian and the Israeli project Principal Investigators.

To this end, the **Italian** Principal Investigator will send the application form of the project to the Israeli Principal Investigator who will sign and return it to the Italian Principal Investigator either by email or fax.

For Israeli research teams:

Israeli Principal Investigators should submit proposals by e-mail in English using the attached Application Forms to the following Email address: italy@most.gov.il (in "pdf" or "doc" format) and **in 6 hard copies** by post to the following postal address of MOST:

Mr. Avi ANATI

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

Ministry of Science, Technology and Space

Call for Proposals for Israel –Italy 2013

Clermont Ganneau, Kiryat Begin, Building 3, 3rd floor, room 309

P.O. Box 49100

Jerusalem 91490

Tel: 02-5411170/173/805

Fax: 02-5823030

E-mail: avi@most.gov.il

For Italian research teams:

Italy's Principal Investigators should submit proposals to:

Dr. Ilaria Di Francesco

Italian Principal Investigators shall submit proposals by **e-mail** using the attached Application Forms to the following email address: accordo.italiaisraele@esteri.it and lucilla.alagna@esteri.it (in "pdf") **and** by **hard copy** (Raccomandata A/R, to be posted by the deadline) to the following postal address:

c.a. dott.ssa Ilaria di Francesco
DGAP – Direzione Generale Affari Politici e di Sicurezza
Ufficio VIII
Ministero degli Affari Esteri
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
00135 – Roma

A valid project application consists of all the required application materials from each side of a joint research team, being submitted, respectively, to the relevant Party to this Call. In other words, in order for an application to be considered valid, the Israeli research team in a joint project must submit all the electronic and hard copy applications, including all relevant materials and attachments, **to MOST AND** the Italian research team in that joint project must submit all such applications, materials and attachments to the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

All applications, whether electronic or hard copy, including all relevant materials and attachments, must reach MOST by **Thursday, 4th July 2013 at 15:00** (Israeli local time). In Italy they can be posted by the deadline.

G. FUNDED EXPENSES

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.

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of the collaboration vectors and of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration.

For Israeli research teams, funding can be provided by **MOST** for:

- (1) Stipend or salary for PhD students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians and/or laboratory workers (i.e. a temporary position up to 2 years) retained specifically for the purpose of the project;
- (2) Consumables;

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- (3) Incidental equipment;
- (4) Travel and visiting costs;
- (5) Joint seminars and workshops; and
- (6) Overhead expenses up to 15% of the total amount of the research project inclusive of the funds provided on the basis of this Call.

For Italian research teams please refer to "*norme integrative per la partecipazione italiana al bando per la raccolta di progetti congiunti di ricerca per l'anno 2013 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - legge 154/2002*", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present call.

Italian Principal Investigator will provide budget details as detailed in Annex B

All budget items and expenditures must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant.

H. MUTUAL VISITS

Participating researchers are encouraged to spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts' institutions. So long as the visits are an integral part of the research collaboration, international travel and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists should be included in the project's budget. International travel costs and in-country living expenses should be included in the project's budget. The visits must take place in Italy or in Israel only. Visits to third countries will not be financed by project funds.

I. PROPOSAL REVIEW

The projects will be initially evaluated at national level. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Sub Joint Committee of the two Parties in order to select the projects admitted for funding.

The projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

1. Conformity with the definition of program research topics of this Call;
2. Scientific Qualification of Principal Investigators (one for each country per research project): The Principal Investigator should have experience, appropriate expertise and ability to manage the collaboration and carry out the project goals within the two-year project period;
3. Significance of the problem being addressed, and the potential impact of the proposed approach on solving it. (Proposals should address these issues explicitly and provide as much evidence as possible.);
4. Scientific merit, with emphasis upon the originality and novelty of the proposed research;
5. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives, presentation of research methodology and detailed program of work;
6. Feasibility of the research project;
7. Practical applicability of expected research results;

8. Added value of the bilateral scientific cooperation; extent of genuine collaboration between the Italian and Israeli research teams;
9. Relevance as a strategic research including technology transfer;
10. The level of involvement of young researchers;
11. The level of creating new contacts and scientific cooperation;
12. Possibility of continuing the scientific cooperation within the European Framework Program.
13. Justification of the requested project budget;
14. possibility that the research will improve also living conditions of disadvantaged populations of third countries;

J. Notification of the results

Project partners whose projects have been selected by the sub joint committee will be informed of the results in Israel by means of letters. In Italy, the list of selected projects will be published on the Website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

K. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is October/November 2013.

2. Contracts:

2.1. Upon approval of a particular project, **separate contracts** will be signed **in Italy and Israel** respectively, between the relevant Party to this call and the institution of the Principal Investigator.

2.2. With regard to Israeli research teams: An application for the continuation of research funding for the second year must be submitted by the institution of Israeli Principal Investigator to MOST on the appropriate forms at least two months prior to the end of the first year of the project together with the annual scientific report.

3. Payments

Payments will be made by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by MOST to the institution of each Principal Investigator, respectively, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

4. Reports

Reporting requirements for each national research team are set out in the research contract between each team's affiliated research institution and the relevant Party to this Call. These include a final scientific and financial report covering the work carried out during the entire two-year project period, which must be submitted **in Italy** within 45 days

of the conclusion of the project as well as interim scientific reports in accordance with the contract's requirements.

The Principal Investigators will submit a joint summary of the final report to MOST and the MAE in English.

Note: The Israeli PI must submit a scientific report to the Ministry of Science Technology and Space two months prior to the end of the first year of the research contract, together with the application for continuation of research funding

L. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI APPLICANT

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST Procedures Regarding International Collaborative Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST and to the MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (both documents referred to hereinafter as "the standard terms").

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the standard terms before filing an application under this Call; filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the provisions thereof.

In the event of any inconsistency between the terms of this Call and the standard terms, the terms of this Call shall prevail

M. INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following:

ISRAEL:

On administrative matters:

Mr. Avi Anati

Deputy Director-General for Planning & Control

Tel: 02-5411170/173/805

Fax: 02-5823030

E-mail: avi@most.gov.il

Mrs. Claire Levaton

Division for International Relations

Tel: 02-5411061

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On scientific matters:

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Director, Biotechnological Research

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Senior Division Director, Environment and Agriculture

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P.O. Box 49100

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Italy:

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