

ZHEJIANG/CHINA – AUSTRIA

Bilateral Research Initiative

Call Guideline for Austrian Applicants

2nd Call for Transnational Cooperative R&D Projects

Deadline:

Austria, FFG: September 2nd 2021, 12:00 Central European Summer Time (C.E.S.T.)

Zhejiang/China, ZSTD: August 31st 2021, please refer to the notice on ZSTD official website

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1 Key facts at a glance

The call promotes the bilateral collaboration in application oriented research and development projects. A total of 1 million EUR in funding is available for Austrian project partners. The call is carried out jointly by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and the Zhejiang Science and Technology Department (ZSTD).

Table 1 Call overview

Key facts	FFG	ZSTD
Funding instrument	Cooperative R&D project	Cooperative R&D project
Research category	Industrial research or experimental development	Industrial research or experimental development
Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICT for smart cities 2. Green and sustainable buildings 3. Smart energy systems 4. Smart mobility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICT for smart cities 2. Green and sustainable buildings 3. Smart energy systems 4. Smart mobility
Funding amount	min. 100,000 EUR to max 500,000 EUR for total project duration	Average funding for each project is 1.5 million CNY (equivalent to around 200,000 EUR)
Funding rate	max. 85%, dependent on organisation (see Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects at transnational level)	Up to 20%
Duration	max. 36 months	min. 24 / max. 36 months
Cooperation	Yes, required	Yes, required
Total call budget	1,000,000 EUR	According to ZSTD decision
Funding provider	BMK	ZSTD
Submission deadline	Joint Proposal and National Annex via FFG eCall: September 2nd 2021, 12:00 C.E.S.T	August 31st 2021 , please refer to the notice on ZSTD official website
Language	Joint Proposal: English Austrian Annex: English	Joint Proposal: English Chinese Annex: Chinese
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Key facts	FFG	ZSTD
Information on the Web	www.ffg.at/2-call-zhejiang	浙江省科学技术厅 关于组织申报 2022 年度“尖兵”“领雁”研发攻关计划科技合作领域项目的通知 (zj.gov.cn)

The present Call Guideline applies to the Austrian partners.

The full set of application documents must be submitted via eCall (<https://ecall.ffg.at>) by the submission deadline.

Table 2 Timeline

Selection procedure Austria	Schedule
Submission deadline	02.09.2021, 12:00:00 C.E.S.T.
Formal check	September 2021
Evaluation	October 2021
Funding decision	from November 2021

Please note:

If the application does not meet the formal requirements for project submissions in accordance with the conditions and criteria of the respective funding instrument, and if the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the application will be excluded from the further procedure and will be formally rejected without exception in accordance with the principle of equal treatment of applications. The FFG's eCall system provides support in this respect, but the ultimate responsibility for compliance with the formal requirements still rests with the applicants. A detailed check list specifying the conditions and criteria of the relevant funding instrument and the call can be found at the beginning of the relevant application forms (Project Description).

2 Motivation

The aim of the call for cooperative R&D projects (later referred to as projects) is to support the jointly identified research topics with mutual interests and scientific excellence based on the existing cooperation agreement between the Zhejiang Science and Technology Department of the Government of Zhejiang Province (ZSTD) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). It is purposed that this call will foster the joint research cooperation between Austria and the Province of Zhejiang and improve the visibility of the successful collaboration between the two parties.

Projects funded in the framework of this call are intended to intensify scientific and applied research cooperation between Austrian and Chinese research organisations and companies in order to set new impulses for excellent research between the two countries. Moreover, research partners shall create a base for possible further commercial collaboration.

The special focus of the projects lies in the expected scientific and applied research achievements, know-how transfer, as well as in the promotion of excellent young scientists, post-docs and PhD students in the framework of the projects. The participation of female scientists is particularly welcome.

The goals of this call are to:

1. Strengthen the **innovation potential of national companies** by improving the industry's access to research competences at universities and research organisations
2. **Begin or extend business collaborations** with Zhejiang partners beyond the project
3. **Build up research competences** in at least one of the relevant topics stated in section 3 of this document
4. Increase European and **international collaborations and networks** and foster cooperations to solve **interdisciplinary challenges** in research
5. Build up close **collaboration between Chinese and Austrian partners**, leading to **commercialization opportunities** that will enhance international relations and trade.

3 Call Topics

The overall topic of this call is **Decarbonisation with a focus on urban areas**, hence the thematic focus of the cooperative R&D projects has to refer to one of the topics listed below but may also address more than one of these areas:

1. ICT for smart cities

Examples for topics are:

- Research on smart devices and smart sensors
- Developing Internet of Things (IoT)-applications for smart infrastructure
- Urban data management
- Ambient assistant living

2. Green and sustainable buildings

Examples for topics are:

- Innovative technologies and services for buildings to ensure their modernisation and adaptation to climate change
- Energy flexible buildings, which contribute to energy resilience by managing their energy demand and generation according to local climate conditions, user needs and grid requirements
- Digital building design, construction and management
- Resource efficient building materials and multifunctional roof, wall and facade systems

3. Smart energy systems

Examples for topics are:

- New or improved technologies for renewable energy generation (photovoltaic and wind energy systems, biomass and biogas applications etc.)
- Transformation of energy systems and integration of individual technologies for power, heat and mobility
- Energy storage technologies and management systems to secure urban energy supply

4. Smart mobility

Examples for topics are:

- New services and technologies for innovative urban mobility to address the needs of citizens and to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- Electric mobility and applications
- Infrastructure and energy storage for zero-emission mobility applications

4 Requirements

4.1 General requirements for the Zhejiang-Austrian consortium

Only bilateral cooperative research and development projects between Austria and China falling into the research categories 'Industrial Research' or 'Experimental Development' may be submitted under this call.

The requirements and procedures described in the transnational call document ('Call Fiche') apply to the consortium. The following criteria must be met:

- The consortium shall consist of at least one partner from Zhejiang and at least one Austrian partner.
- The Zhejiang primary applicant must be a for-profit enterprise.
- Individual enterprises account for a maximum of 70% of the eligible project costs with shares of affiliated companies counting as one enterprise.
- The consortium can also involve research organisations in addition to the obligatory company partners.
- The following requirements shall apply to the entire Austrian-Zhejiang consortium **in deviation** of the requirements specified in Chapter 2.2 of the **Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects at Transnational Level**:
 - The consortium shall include at least one Austrian industrial partner.
 - The research institution(s) bear(s) at least 10% and a maximum of 80% of the eligible costs (relates to the total share of Austrian and Zhejiang research institutions).
 - Companies share is a minimum of 20% and a maximum of 90%.
 - The research institution(s) shall be entitled to publish the results of the research carried out by the respective institution(s).
- A Consortium Agreement signed by all partners must be forwarded to FFG via eCall prior to the preparation of the national funding agreement.
- Research institutions shall be entitled to publish the results of the research carried out by the respective institution(s).
- The applicant must ensure that the bilateral projects submitted are not aimed at developing weapons or violence-promoting products. This provision must be

specifically included in the Consortium Agreement. The payment of funding depends on compliance with this requirement.

- The applicant must ensure that the bilateral projects submitted are not aimed at gambling of any kind (i.e. games in which the outcome is determined exclusively or predominantly by chance). This provision must be specifically included in the Consortium Agreement. The payment of funding depends on compliance with this requirement.
- Any other commercial and/or export restrictions currently in place must be observed.
- For each project a letter of intent for collaboration, indicating all Austrian and Chinese project partners, has to be submitted to FFG and ZSTD by the deadline.
- A Consortium Agreement signed by all partners must be forwarded to FFG via eCall and to Zhejiang prior to the preparation of the national funding agreement.
- The Joint Proposal must be submitted via [FFG eCall](#) by the deadline.
- The Joint Proposal submitted to FFG and Zhejiang must be identical. In the event of deviations, FFG reserves the right to reject the proposal for formal reasons.

4.2 National requirements for submission of proposals

The following requirements shall apply to submissions by Austrian participants **in addition to** the general requirements specified in Chapter 4.1 above:

- Austrian applicants must demonstrate how the cooperative R&D project builds either a gateway to the Zhejiang market for them or a basis for further business activities in Zhejiang. This has to be addressed in the national annex (Austrian Annex) in chapter 1.1 Relevance.
- Furthermore Austrian applicants must show the contribution the project will make to increasing the added value in Austria. This has to be addressed in the national annex (Austrian Annex) in chapter 1.1 Relevance
- The provisions of the [Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects at Transnational Level](#) have to be met.
- In addition to the Joint Proposal the Austrian National Annex must be submitted via [FFG eCall](#) by the deadline.

The following provisions apply in deviation from the Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects at Transnational Level:

- In the course of the assessment, points will be assigned to each criterion. Projects not reaching the stated threshold value for a certain criterion will be rejected. Reaching zero points in one of the sub criteria of the criteria “Relevance to the Call” the project will be rejected as well.
- The amount of funding requested by the Austrian partners must be between 100,000 EUR to max 500,000 EUR.
- The requirements specified in Chapter 2.2 of the Technical Guidelines shall be replaced by the requirement that at least one Austrian company must participate in the Austrian-Zhejiang consortium (details s. above).
- Companies are eligible to apply if they have a permanent establishment or branch (according to Council Directive 2011/96/EU of 30 November 2011, in conjunction with Art. 11 (5) a GBER, No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014) in Austria at the time of submission of the application and payment of funding.
 - Art. 2 (b): ‘Permanent establishment’ means a fixed place of business situated in a Member State through which the business of a company of another Member State is wholly or partly carried on in so far as the profits of that place of business are subject to tax in the Member State in which it is situated by virtue of the relevant bilateral tax treaty or, in the absence of such a treaty, by virtue of national law;
 - Art. 3 (1) Definition of parent company and subsidiary.
- The EUR-CNY conversion rate of the European Central Bank ECB at the date of submission shall apply. This can either be the reference date specified in the Joint Proposal or the conversion rate provided by the ECB on a monthly basis. The rate must be specified in the Joint Proposal. The conversion rate shall apply for the duration of the project and for all reports related thereto.
- The participation and financing of additional international partners in the consortium shall be excluded in this bilateral call in deviation from the provisions of the Technical Guidelines.

Austrian partners and Zhejiang partners may cover their costs by own funds and/or grants provided by Austria or Zhejiang. Partners from other countries shall be excluded from participating in the consortium. Organisations from outside Austria or Zhejiang may be involved as sub-contractors of Austrian partners.

FFG will check whether the Austrian project part is properly allocated to the research category of ‘Industrial Research’ or ‘Experimental Development’ based on the Joint Proposal. This may involve a reduction in the funding rate.

BMK will take the funding decision for the Austrian project partners. Zhejiang Science and Technology Department of the Government of Zhejiang Province is responsible for the funding decision for the Chinese partners.

5 Call Documents

5.1 Joint call documents Austria – Zhejiang

The following table shows the relevant documents for the transnational call on transnational level:

Table 3 Overview of transnational call documents

Joint transnational documents	Documents in detail
Transnational Call Document	Call Fiche Joint Call Guidelines for FFG and ZSTD
Application form	Joint proposal Project description for Austrian and Zhejiang partners
Download	www.ffg.at/2-call-zhejiang

5.2 National call documents for Austrian partners

Table 4 Overview of national call documents

Additional documents for Austrian participants	Documents in detail
National Call Documents	Call Guideline for Austrian Applicants (present document, Version 1.0) Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects at Transnational Level
Application form	Project description – Austrian Annex Declaration on SME status (if required) ¹
General Cost regulations	Cost Guideline 2.1 (eligibility of costs in FFG projects)
Download	www.ffg.at/2-call-zhejiang

¹ If there is no information available in the Austrian Business Compass (e.g. for associations and start-ups), a Declaration of SME Status must be provided upon submission of the proposal. In the template provided by the FFG, applicants must (as far as possible) categorise their business for the last three years according to the SME definition.

The **Joint Proposal** and **the Austrian Annex** must be uploaded via eCall as part of the electronic application.

The cost plan must show the project costs broken down to **work package level**. This also applies to accounts rendered as part of the reporting process.

Applicants are requested to use the specific templates provided for the submission of their projects. The funding conditions, application procedure and funding criteria are described in the corresponding Technical Guidelines and in the transnational call documents.

6 Legal Basis

This Call is based on the RTI Guideline for the Promotion of Industrial/Technical Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTI – Guideline 2015) Thematic RTI Guideline. The Thematic RTI Guideline was extended to December 31, 2021 on the basis of the extended state aid basis of the European Commission (extension regulation, VO (EU) 2020/972 of July 2, 2020).

The company size shall be established in accordance with the corresponding SME definition specified in EU competition law. For more information visit the [SME website of FFG](#).

All EU provisions shall be applicable as amended. Research and development services shall be subject to the exemption provision of Sec 9 (12) of the Public Procurement Act (BVerG 2018).

7 Additional Information

This section contains information about services which you may find useful in connection with funding applications or funded projects.

7.1 Project Database

- The public access [FFG Project Database](#) provides the opportunity to publish brief information about funded projects and an overview of the project partners involved. This enables you to present your project and your project partners to the interested public. The database can also be used to search for cooperation partners.
- Once funding is granted, the applicants are informed via eCall that they can publish brief defined information about their project in the FFG Project Database. The information will only be published if active consent is given in the eCall system.
- For more information see the [FAQs to the Project Database](#).

7.2 BMK Open4Innovation

The [open4innovation platform](#) of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) offers an additional knowledge base for companies and researchers (community support, detailed information and success stories).

7.3 Handling project data –data management plan

A data management plan (DMP) is a tool that supports the efficient and systematic management of all data generated throughout the duration of a project.

DMPs can be created, e.g. by using the free tool [DMP Online](#). The [Guidelines on FAIR Data Management](#) of the European Commission also provide assistance in this respect.

A data management plan describes

- which data are collected, processed or generated within a project
- how these data are handled within the project
- what methods and standards are applied-how the data are stored and updated over the long term and
- whether it is planned to make datasets available to third parties for reuse (i.e., open access to research data)

In the event of publication, the data should be "findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable". Storing data in established and internationally recognised repositories (see the [re3data website](#)) is recommended to ensure broad access.

8 Further Funding Options

FFG offers a broad range of funding options and support for the participation in international programmes.

The following overview shows further international funding options related to this call. For further information please contact the FFG experts indicated below.

European Programme:

HORIZON EUROPE – the next EU Framework Programme (2021-2027);

Initial Information at <https://www.ffg.at/Europa/Horizon-Europe>

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