

CALL FOR JOINT PROPOSALS

Call Fiche for the 2nd Call

Cooperative R&D Projects between Austria, FFG and China, Zhejiang

This Austrian-Chinese Cooperative Research Initiative is jointly supported with funding from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and the Zhejiang Science and Technology Department (ZSTD) of the Government of Zhejiang Province of the People's Republic of China.

Deadline for submission to FFG via eCall and to Zhejiang:

FFG: July 15th 2021, 12:00 Central European Summer Time (C.E.S.T.)

Zhejiang: End of July 2021, please refer to the notice on ZSTD official website

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1. Aim of the funding measure

The aim of this initiative 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 (ZSTD) of the Government of Zhejiang Province and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). With this second call for Cooperative R&D projects, it is intended to foster the connections 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 will contribute to intensify scientific and applied research cooperations between Austrian and Chinese companies and research organisations in order to trigger new impulses for excellent research between the two countries.

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 cooperative R&D projects. The participation of female scientists is particularly welcome.

2. Subject of funding

- This call shall bring together research capacities from **one or more companies from the province of Zhejiang and one or more Austrian companies** thus creating excellence with international standing and attractiveness to researchers in a key area of research. The **consortium can also involve research organisations** in addition to the obligatory company partners.
- The overall topic of this call is **Decarbonisation**, hence the thematic focus of the Cooperative R&D Project has to refer to at least one of the following topics:
 1. **ICT for smart cities**
 2. **Green and sustainable buildings**
 3. **Smart energy systems**
 4. **Smart mobility**

- Researchers of both countries should contribute equally to the competence of the partnership. In the partnership researchers of the participating organisations work on a defined research project which is divided into coordinated work packages designed to reach a common research goal. The Joint Proposal provides sufficient level of skill, equipment and manpower capabilities necessary to work on the defined research project.
- The project shall be managed jointly by an Austrian and a Zhejiang applicant. These two leading scientists shall be announced as the spokespersons (individual national coordinator) responsible for the joint external representation of the project.
- The results of the research shall be shared by the participating Austrian and Chinese researchers. All Austrian and Chinese partners involved in the project have to conclude a consortium agreement on issues such as intellectual property rights, liability and confidentiality. This consortium agreement has to be provided to FFG via eCall and to ZSTD before the respective national funding contract is signed.

3. Scope of funding

- FFG is prepared to provide each selected Cooperative R&D Project with financial support for a maximum of 3 years.

The total call budget for the Austrian project partners is 1 million EUR (equivalent to around 7.7 million CNY). Funding applied for an individual project has to lie between 100,000 EUR and 0.5 Million EUR for Austrian partners within the joint project.

The budget provided by FFG can only be used to cover costs linked to the implementation of the project parts executed by the Austrian project partners. Rules for funding of the Austrian project partners are laid down in the respective call documents¹.

- ZSTD is prepared to provide each selected Cooperative R&D Project with an annual support, for a total of 3 years.

Each selected project is financially supported by ZSTD. Average funding for each project is 1.5million CNY (equivalent to around 200,000 EUR). Up to 20% of the project overall budget of the Chinese project partners can be funded by ZSTD.

¹ The call documents include the call fiche, national call announcements, Austrian-Zhejiang Joint Proposal template and further national submission documents.

The Zhejiang primary applicant must be a for-profit enterprise.

Eligible and ineligible funding expenses should be in compliance with the Measures for the Administration of the Special fund for Science and Technology Development in Zhejiang Province.

Rules for funding of the Chinese partners are communicated by ZSTD.

- A minimum of 10% and a maximum of 80% of the eligible total project costs have to be carried by research organisations (no matter if Austrian and/or Chinese research organisations). Companies share is a minimum of 20% and a maximum of 90%.
- Individual enterprises account for a maximum of 70% of the eligible project costs with shares of affiliated companies counting as one enterprise.
- The Austrian and Zhejiang research organisations must have the right to publish the results of their work that has been conducted in the course of the project.

4. Conditions for funding

- For each project a joint proposal in English language has to be submitted to FFG and the Headquarters of ZSTD. A Chinese version of the joint proposal has to be submitted to ZSTD. The proposal must indicate all Austrian and all Chinese project partners and must clearly lay down the division of work between the partners as laid down in the call documents. The submitted versions of the Joint Proposal have to be identical. Non identical versions are not eligible.
- The Austrian project partners have to submit an Austrian Annex and a cost plan in addition to the Joint Proposal via FFG eCall in due time.
- Zhejiang project partners have to submit in parallel an additional application form in Chinese language to ZSTD (see also below, "Submission of applications").
- 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.
- The joint proposals must meet the following goals and criteria.

The goals of this call are to:

- Strengthen the innovation potential of national real assets manufacturing by improving the industry's access to research competences at universities and research organisations
- Build up research competences in at least one of the relevant topics in the thematic area of advanced materials stated in section 2 of this document
- Increase European and international collaborations and networks and foster cooperations to solve interdisciplinary challenges in research
- Build up close collaboration between Zhejiang and Austrian partners, leading to commercialization opportunities that will enhance international relations and trade.

The criteria of this call for Austrian proposals are:

Table 1: Call Criterion „Quality of the project“

1 Quality of the project (threshold = 18 points)	Max. points 30
1.1 How well are the state of the art (level of knowledge/technology) and/or the commercially available products and services described and how plausible is the assessment?	6
1.2 What is the level of innovation beyond the state of the art and/or existing products and services and how high is the associated risk?	13,5
1.3 What is the quality of planning based on the following criteria? – Transparent structure of work packages – Transparent presentation of costs – Transparent description of work packages according to the scope of work – Adequate relationship between costs and work plan – Adequate scope of project management – Provisions for risk management – Realistic implementation of plan (duration, deadlines, milestones, results) – Clarity and coherence of cooperative relationships – Efficient distribution of tasks among the consortium partners	6

1 Quality of the project (threshold = 18 points)	Max. points 30
<p>1.4 If the project relates to people:</p> <p>To what extent have gender-specific topics been taken into account in project planning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality of the analysis of gender-specific topics – Integration in the methodical approach of the project <p>Information: If a person or a group of persons are subject of a research project or if the results of a research project affect people, an according research design is necessary. In case the justifiable conclusion of analysis of gender relevance results in no gender relevance in its content, full points have to be given.</p>	4,5

Table 2: Criterion „Suitability of the applicant / project partners“

2. Suitability of the applicant / project partners (threshold = 12 points)	Max. points 20
2.1 Does the consortium have the scientific, technical, economic and management skills required to achieve the project goals?	8,5
2.2 To what extent do the consortium partners have the required qualifications and resources to ensure successful implementation of the cooperative project?	8
2.3 Does the composition of the project team reflect the aim to improve the gender balance in the sector?	3,5

Table 3: Criterion „Benefit and exploitation“

3. Benefit and exploitation (threshold = 18 points)	Max. points 30
<p>3.1 What is the benefit for those applying the project results and the exploitation potential? Different dimensions are relevant depending on the research category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For all research categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – communication of benefits to the relevant target group has been documented in a transparent manner – Benefits, advantages or USPs have been described quantitatively and qualitatively and are plausible – For projects of industrial research (IR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Knowledge increase in the relevant scientific-technical target group – For projects of experimental development (ED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Users, markets and market segments have been specified and substantiated by turnover figures – Turnover potential of the innovation or added value of market growth in relation to the planned project costs – Resources required to bring the results to the market 	11
<p>3.2 What is the impact or strategic significance of the project results for the organisations involved? For example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – increasing R&D capacities on a long-term basis – securing or extending their R&D position – expanding existing R&D activities to include new fields of application – development of R&D platforms – opening up new business fields etc. 	9
<p>3.3 How complete and transparent is the exploitation strategy based on the following criteria?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality of exploitation and dissemination strategy for the scientific results – Quality of exploitation strategy for the economically relevant results – If people are affected by the exploitation of the project results: Consideration of gender-specific issues in exploiting the economic potential – Adequate protection strategy or strategy for ensuring a competitive edge – Exploitation skills – either in house or via existing contacts and collaborations in relation to – dissemination and exploitation of project results (IR) 	10

Table 4: Criterion „Relevance to the Call“

4. Relevance to the Call (threshold = 12 points)	Max. points 20
4.1 To what extent does the project address the call topics?	8
4.2 To what extent does the project contribute to achieving the goals of the call?	8
4.3 To what extent does the funding influence the project positively in one or more of the following dimensions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implementation: the funding enables the project to be implemented in the first place – Acceleration: the funding accelerates implementation – Scope: the funding increases the scope of the project – Range: the funding makes the project more ambitious through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a more radical innovation approach – higher risk – new or extended collaborations – long-term strategic orientation 	4

- A consortium agreement between all involved Austrian and Zhejiang partners has to be provided to FFG via eCall and to ZSTD before the respective national funding contract is signed.
- Funding contracts will be concluded between FFG and Austrian project partners for the Austrian side and by ZSTD and the Zhejiang Institutions/companies for the Chinese side.

5. Submission of Joint Proposal applications

- **Application in Austria at FFG:**
Joint Proposal Template - Austrian-Chinese Cooperative R&D Projects must be submitted electronically via FFG eCall (<https://eCall.ffg.at>)

Submission Deadline: July 15th 2021, 12:00 Central European Summer Time (C.E.S.T.)

- **Application in China at Zhejiang Science and Technology Department (ZSTD):**
Joint proposal and supporting documents must be submitted electronically to ZSTD via <https://pm.zjsti.gov.cn>

- For details for the Call in Chinese see the website of ZSTD: <http://kjt.zj.gov.cn/>

Submission Deadline: End of July 2021, please refer to the notice on ZSTD official website

- The Joint Proposal must be written in English language. In addition, a version of the joint proposal in Chinese language has to be submitted to ZSTD.
- In addition applications must fulfil all the respective national and/or general formal conditions for funding in order to be admitted to the evaluation procedure (amendments are not possible).
- The final decision of the selected proposals will be announced in October 2021, please refer to the notice on ZSTD official website.

6. Contact Information

- **Austria – FFG:**

FFG website related to the call:

www.ffg.at/2-call-zhejiang

eCall submission of application:

<https://ecall.ffg.at>

FFG contact persons:

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- **China – ZSTD:**

ZSTD website:

<http://kjt.zj.gov.cn/>

ZSTD contact person:

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