

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

FFG VIA ECALL: OCTOBER 12TH, 12:00 CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME (C.E.S.T.)

JSTD: OCTOBER 12TH, 17:30 CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME (C.E.S.T.)

VERSION 1.0, VIENNA, 22.06.2022

**TECXPOR T BILATERAL COOPERATION CALL AUSTRIA /
JIANGSU (PEOPLES' S REPUBLIC OF CHINA)
CALL GUIDELINE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of tables	3
1 Key Facts at a glance	4
2 Motivation	6
2.1 Objectives of the call.....	6
2.2 Sustainability.....	7
3 Call topics.....	8
3.1 Cities & Regions	8
3.2 Digitization.....	8
3.3 Technologies	8
4 Requirements	9
4.1 General requirements for the Chinese-Austrian consortium	9
4.2 Further requirements for the Austrian partner	9
4.3 Specific provisions for transnational cooperation projects	10
4.4 Selection criteria.....	11
5 Call documents	15
6 Legal Basis	16
7 Additional Information	16
7.1 FFG Project Database	16
7.2 Service BMK Open4Innovation	17
7.3 Open Access Publications	17
7.4 Handling project data – data management plan	17
7.5 Further Funding Options.....	18

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Overview.....	4
Table 2: Call Timeline	5
Table 3: Criterion „Quality of the project“	11
Table 4: Criterion „Suitability of project participants“	13
Table 5: Criterion „Benefit and exploitation“	13
Table 6: Criterion „Relevance to the Call“	14
Table 7: Call documents	15

1 KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

The present Call Guideline provides information about the international call in the topic “Mobility” organised by Austria and Jiangsu (People’s Republic of China). A total of EUR 1.200.000 in funding is available for Austrian partners. The call is carried out jointly by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and Jiangsu Science and Technology Department (JSTD).

Table 1: Overview

	FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency)	JSTD (Jiangsu Science and Technology Department)
Instrument	Cooperative R&D project	Cooperative R&D project
Research category	Industrial research or experimental development	Industrial research or experimental development
Topics	Cities & Regions Digitalisation Technology	Cities & Regions Digitalisation Technology
Funding amount	Min. EUR 100,000 to Max. EUR 600,000	Max. 1.5 million RMB per approved project
Funding rate	Max. 85 % (see Instrument guideline)	will not exceed 50 % of the total eligible and approved budget of the R&D costs
Duration	Min. 6 months Max. 24 months	Min. 6 months Max. 24 months
Cooperation required	Yes – see present guidelines	Yes
Funding provider	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)	Jiangsu Science and Technology Department (JSTD)
Submission deadlines national and transnational	National and joined proposal via FFG eCall: 12th Oct. 2022, 12:00 C.E.S.T.	National proposal to JSTD: 12th Oct. 2022, 17:30 C.E.S.T.
Language	FFG eCall national proposal: English or German FFG transnational proposal: English	See information from JSTD
Contact	Mr Michael Zimmermann T: +43 (0)57755-4905 E: michael.zimmermann@ffg.at	Ms HUANG Cen T: +86 25 85485890 E: Prisca_huang@163.com

	FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency)	JSTD (Jiangsu Science and Technology Department)
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Information im Web	Ausschreibungswebseite	Ausschreibungswebseite
Zum Einreichportal	https://ecall.ffg.at	http://kxjst.jiangsu.gov.cn

The present **Call Guideline** applies to the Austrian partners. It summarises information about the bilateral cooperation call Austria/Jiangsu and refers to the related call documents (in particular Cost Guideline, application forms).

The call documents can be found on the [Call website](#).

The full set of application documents must be submitted via FFG [eCall](#) by the submission deadline.

Table 2: Call Timeline

Selection procedure	Schedule
Submission deadline Austria	12.10.2022, 12:00:00 C.E.S.T.
Formal check	October 2022
Evaluation	November 2022
Funding decision	December 2022

2 MOTIVATION

The aim of the call for cooperative R&D projects (later referred to as projects) is to support the jointly identified topics based on the existing cooperation agreement between the Jiangsu Science and Technology Department (JSTD) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

2.1 Objectives of the call

R&D funding for bilateral cooperation in the thematic field of "climate-friendly mobility" should enable the funded Austrian institutions, especially companies, to network with companies in the Jiangsu area and to establish sustainable cooperation with potential for commercial exploitation.

The goals of this call are to:

1. Strengthen the innovation potential of internationally competitive and resilient companies
2. Begin or extend business collaborations with Chinese partners beyond the project
3. Build up research competences in at least one of the relevant topics stated in the section „[call topics](#)“ of the document
4. Improve the access for Austrian R&D and Innovation players to national and international markets
5. Support companies and R&D Institutions to network with relevant decision-makers in the target market
6. Strengthen the business and technology base in Austria and its value creation through targeted support for the marketing of Austrian technology innovations abroad

In terms of **content**, this call is dedicated to the four mission fields of the [RDI Strategy Mobility 2040](#):

1. **Cities:** promoting climate-neutral urban mobility
2. **Regions:** mobilising and connecting rural areas in a sustainable way
3. **Digitalisation:** efficient and climate-friendly operation of infrastructure, mobility and logistic services
4. **Technology:** developing environmentally friendly transport technologies

2.2 Sustainability

Future-oriented research and development seeks to achieve the current global, European, national and regional goals that are designed to put us on a path to a sustainable future. The integration of sustainability aspects in research and development projects generates new knowledge which is essential for supporting ecological, social and economic transformation processes. Responsible research funding therefore supports social adaptation, learning and decision-making processes that are of relevance for industry and science and promote their sustainable development.

This call requires applicants to address the key sustainability goals to which the proposed project makes a concrete positive contribution. The planned sustainability effects must be described in the application and taken into account in the research design.

3 CALL TOPICS

The project must have its key focus on one of the call topics listed below but may also address more than one of these areas. The instrument for all call topics is “Cooperative R&D project”.

3.1 Cities & Regions

This topic includes R&D and Innovation projects addressing novel and climate-friendly solutions for intermodal and resource-efficient mobility & logistics in/between urban and rural areas

- e.g. People Mover, personal rapid transit (PRT)/bus rapid transit (BRT) systems, micro-mobility and micro-delivery, hubs and means of transport for interurban mobility and logistics, urban access management, integrated planning/transport management concepts, etc.

3.2 Digitization

This topic includes R&D and Innovation-projects addressing the potential of privacy-respecting digital technologies for efficient and climate-friendly operation of infrastructure, mobility and logistic services

- e.g. integration of automated and connected mobility, transport models and intermodal transport information, digital construction of transport infrastructure (Building Information Modelling – BIM) over the entire life cycle, integration of environmentally friendly modes of transport into mobility and logistic chains, etc.

3.3 Technologies

This topic includes R&D and Innovation-projects addressing the optimization of batteries & automated, connected and autonomous driving in the context of climate-friendly mobility

- e.g. new battery technologies (solid state, 4th gen battery design, processes & strategies for recycling (3rd and 4th generation batteries)), optimization of battery management and diagnostics, thermal management, technological solutions for predictive data management, linking hardware and software solutions as well as optimization of human-machine-interactions for automated, connected and autonomous driving, etc.

4 REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General requirements for the Chinese-Austrian consortium

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

- The consortium shall consist of at least one company from Austria and one company from Jiangsu as lead organisations. Both organisations must be independent from each other.
- Individual enterprises account for a maximum of 70 % of the eligible project costs with shares of affiliated companies counting as one enterprise.
- Academic/research entities and additional companies are welcomed as additional cooperation partners.
- The research institution(s) bear(s) a maximum of 50 % of the eligible costs (relates to the total share of Austrian research institutions and Chinese research institutions). This applies to the entire bilateral consortium in deviation from the Austrian Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects at a Transnational Level.
- In addition to that, a collaboration with other non-commercial institutions is possible. In this case, the requirements to the consortium still have to be fulfilled.
- The duration of submitted projects should be 6-24 month.
- Any other commercial and/or export restrictions currently in place must be observed.
- The Joint Proposal submitted to FFG and JSTD must be identical. In the event of deviations, FFG reserves the right to reject the proposal for formal reasons.

4.2 Further requirements for the Austrian partner

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

- The call is addressed to Austrian technology providers. The target group are manufacturing companies and commercial service providers as well as application-oriented research institutions that have appropriate technology offers or technology-related services and are internationally oriented.

- Applicants must specifically outline how the project will support positioning in China as well as provide specific exploitation strategies
- International orientation of the supported companies and corresponding capacity for (subsequent) technology export activities are important.
- The **Joint Proposal** (Bilateral Cooperation Form) must be uploaded via FFG eCall. In addition the national application must be filled out online via FFG eCall.
- The provisions of the **Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects at Transnational Level** ([download](#)) have to be met.

4.3 Specific provisions for transnational cooperation projects

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

- The amount of funding requested by the Austrian partners must be between EUR 100,000 and EUR 600,000.
- The consortium must include at least one small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) or an institution for research and knowledge dissemination (research institution). This requirement relates to the **entire consortium** (Austrian and Chinese partner).
- Austrian research institutions may not account for more than 50 % of the total cost of the Austrian partners in the consortium.
- 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 call. Organisations from outside Austria or Jiangsu may be involved as sub-contractors.
- Third-party costs should not exceed 50 % of the total project costs per partner without any exceptions.

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.

4.4 Selection criteria

Applications for funding are **evaluated** according to **4 criteria**:

- 1 Quality of the project
- 2 Suitability of project participants
- 3 Benefit and exploitation
- 4 Relevance to the call

The tables below show the relevant sub-criteria. 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 4th criteria "Relevance to the Call" the project will be rejected as well.

Table 3: Criterion „Quality of the project“

1. Quality of the project (threshold = 18 points)	max. points 30
1.1 To what extent does the innovation content of the project exceed the state of the art, existing products, services, processes or existing knowledge?	10
1.2 Have the project goals been clearly defined and can they be realistically achieved? Are the approaches suitable for achieving the goals of the individual work packages? Have the risks in the work packages been adequately addressed and corresponding measures provided?	5

1. Quality of the project (threshold = 18 points)	max. points 30
<p>1.3 Quality of planning: Is the structure of the work packages and the associated division of work adequate for the goals of the project?</p> <p>Is the overall planning adequate for achieving the project goals?</p>	5
<p>1.4 If the content of the project and the research results affect people: To what extent have gender-specific topics been taken into account in the planning process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality of the analysis of the gender-specific topics – Consideration in the methodological approach of the project <p>(more information can be found here)</p> <p>Projects in which content and focus have no gender relevance according to this analysis will score full points in this subcategory.</p>	5
<p>1.5 To what extent does the project take into account sustainability goals (ecological, social, economic), in particular in terms of climate neutrality?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is sustainability, in particular climate neutrality, taken into account in the planning and implementation of the project and is the methodological approach chosen adequate? <p>(more information can be found here)</p>	5

Table 4: Criterion „Suitability of project participants“

2. Suitability of project participants (threshold = 12 points)	max. points 20
2.1 Does the consortium have the necessary subject-specific and management skills and qualifications and the skills required to achieve the sustainability goals?	8
2.2 Does the project plan provide sufficient and appropriate resources for the planned implementation?	8
2.3 Does the composition of the project team reflect the aim to improve the gender balance in the sector?	4

Table 5: Criterion „Benefit and exploitation“

3. Benefit and exploitation (threshold = 18 points)	max. points 30
3.1 What is the benefit of the project for the target group(s) (e.g. users, customers, contracting authorities ...) and what are the impacts and effects (positive and negative) of the project in terms of sustainability (social, ecological, economic), in particular in terms of climate neutrality?	12
3.2 What is the benefit of the project for the project participants (e.g. in terms of expanding R&D capacities, opening up new fields of business etc.)? How concrete, transparent and complete are the exploitation strategy and the exploitation potential ?	18

Table 6: Criterion „Relevance to the Call“

4. Relevance to the call (threshold = 12 points)	max. points 20
4.1 How relevant/important is the project in terms of achieving the call objectives ? Does the project sufficiently and adequately address the call topic ?	15
4.2 What is the incentive effect of the funding? To what extent will the funding help to implement the project at all and/or within a shorter timeframe, and/or with higher ambition, and/or in a larger scope?	5

The assessment or evaluation of the projects is carried out by externally appointed jury members. The Management Board of FFG makes the funding decision on the basis of the funding recommendation of the evaluation panel for the Austrian projects. JSTD makes the funding decision for the Chinese projects. The final decision will be made after consultation between FFG and JSTD.

5 CALL DOCUMENTS

Submit the project electronically via FFG [eCall](#) only!

The submission includes the following **online** elements to be entered in eCall under the following menu items:

- **Content Description** includes the presentation of the project content.
- **Work plan** includes the presentation of the work packages and elements of project management such as time management plan (GANTT diagram), tasks, milestones, and deliverables.
- **Consortium** describes the expertise of each consortium member (**Attention:** Chinese partners are not to be included in eCall!)
- **Cost and Funding** describes all cost categories per consortium member. Totals per work package are automatically displayed in the online work plan.

Please upload the joint proposal as an attachment to the electronic application!

All relevant documents for the call for proposals can be found online

Table 7: Call documents

Call documents	Documents in detail
National documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Call guideline (present document) – Technical Guideline for Cooperative R&D Projects at Transnational Level (Leitfaden für kooperative F&E Projekte – transnationale Ausschreibungen) – Declaration of SME Status – Cost guideline (eligibility of costs in FFG projects)
Transnational documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Call Fiche (Joint Call guidelines FFG and JSTD) – Joint proposal (FFG-Jiangsu Bilateral Cooperation Form 2022 - Application)
Download	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibung/TecxportJiangsu-2022

Notice: 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.

6 LEGAL BASIS

The **final funding decision** is made by the Management Board of FFG on the basis of the funding recommendations of the evaluation panel.

Legal Basis for this call are the Guidelines for the Austrian Research Promotion Agency to promote research, technology, development and innovation to deal with social challenges ([FFG missions guidelines](#)).

For a definition of SME – small and medium sized enterprises – see the applicable SME definition under EU competition law. Further information is available on the [SME-webpage of FFG](#).

All EU regulations are to be applied as amended.

7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

7.1 FFG 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 Service 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, success stories, etc.).

7.3 Open Access Publications

The research results obtained with public funding are to be exploited in the best possible way for science, industry and society. In this sense, open access should be strived for as far as possible in peer-reviewed publications that are created with the support of the funding awarded by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). The principle of "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" also applies to European funding.

Publication costs are included in the eligible project costs.

7.4 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., 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.

7.5 Further Funding Options

Are you interested in other FFG funding opportunities?

The **Funding Service** is the central point of contact for your inquiries about FFG funding and consulting services. Contact us, we will be happy to advise you!

Contact: FFG Funding Service, T: +43 (0) 57755-0, E: foederservice@ffg.at

Web: <https://www.ffg.at/foederservice>

Further FFG funding opportunities can be found [here](#).