



Israel-Italy Joint Innovation Program for Industrial,  
Scientific and Technological Cooperation in R&D



## **Twelfth Call for Proposals For Joint R&D Projects – 2014** **(“TECHNOLOGICAL TRACK”)**

**Submission by Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Within the activities foreseen by the framework Agreement on industrial, scientific and technological research and development cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called “Agreement”) *the Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* for the Italian Party, and *ISERD – the Israel-Europe R&D Directorate* for the Israeli Party on behalf of the *Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) of the Ministry of Economy*, are starting the procedures for the selection of projects eligible for financial support as in Article 4 of the Agreement.

### **1. Program scope**

Joint Italian-Israeli R&D projects can be presented in the following areas, as listed in Article 2 of the Agreement:

- medicine, biotechnology, public health and hospital organization;
- agriculture and food science;
- application of information technology to education and scientific research;
- environment, water treatment;
- new energy sources, oil alternatives and exploitation of natural resources;
- innovation in production processes;
- information technology, data communications, software, cyber security;
- space and earth observation;
- any other area of mutual interest.

The projects approved by the Italian and Israeli Authorities, which will be selected in the framework of the present Call, will be financed by both the contracting Parties of the Agreement. The support will be given to each partner by its own Authorities in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

## 2. Qualifications

The criteria to be followed in order to apply to the present Call are:

- The Israeli partner must be an industrial entity (company) which may be technologically and scientifically assisted by a non-industrial entity (university, research institute, etc.) as a subcontractor. The Italian partner must be an industrial entity (company) which may be technologically and scientifically assisted by a non-industrial entity (university, research institute, etc.) or by an industrial entity (company) as a subcontractor.
- The Italian and Israeli partners must express their willingness to cooperate, on a balanced basis, towards the development of a new product, industrial process or service.
- The product, process or service must be innovative and there must be a technological risk involved.
- The project's content and budget should be reasonably balanced between the Italian partner and the Israeli partner;
- Cost estimates must be congruous with the planned activities.
- The intellectual property regarding the output of the financed projects must be regulated in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement finalized by the winners of the approved projects.

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 2014 e per la rendicontazione dei progetti - legge 154/2002", which are to be taken as part and parcel of the present call.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present Call in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

## 3. Submission of the project proposals

The Italian partner and the Israeli partner must send identical copies of the projects' applications, by means of the attached application form in English (see email addresses at the end of this document). The application must be completed in all its parts and signed by the persons responsible for the project: in Italy by the Legal Representative and the Scientific Project Leader; in Israel by the CEO of the Main Israeli Partner.

The Italian partner must send the project application to the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs*, whereas the Israeli Partner must send it to the *Ministry of Economy, Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)*, through *ISERD – the Israel-Europe R&D Directorate*.

**In Israel, final submission must be sent by email and in PDF format and received by Thursday May 15th 2014 (at 10pm CET).**

**In Israel, the applicants should be ready to submit a funding request electronically to the OCS, Ministry of Economy, according to the rules and regulations of the OCS, by no later than Thursday**

**June 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 (at 11pm Israel time).**

In Italy projects must be sent by Thursday May 15th 2014 (at 10pm CET) exclusively by certified electronic mail to the following address: [DGAP.08@cert.esteri.it](mailto:DGAP.08@cert.esteri.it).

Projects sent by a different means will not be accepted.

If the applications are not received by both the Italian and the Israeli Authorities, through the procedures and by the dates indicated above, the projects will not be accepted.

#### **4. Evaluation and selection of the projects**

The National Authorities (as in Article 8 of the Agreement) will carry out a preliminary evaluation of the received applications and will select the projects to be financially supported in accordance with their national laws and regulations. The Italian - Israeli Joint Committee will receive the pre-selected projects from the two national Authorities, to be jointly endorsed as projects supported under the bi-national agreement.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will sign, with the Italian partner selected for the financial support, a contract containing the details of the terms and conditions of the financial support that will be granted as well as the rules for eligibility of costs and procedures for technical and financial reporting. The Israeli Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) will sign a similar document with the Israeli partner.

In addition, before signing the contract, the partners of the approved projects are required to enter into a "Partnership Agreement" on the commercialization of the product, process or service once the phase of research has been completed.

The criteria of evaluation are as follows:

1. Novelty of the proposal and possible impact on the industrial activities – technological innovation.
2. Qualifications of the applicants in performing the specific tasks and the added value of the cooperation between project partners.
3. Expected economic results from the realization of the project.
4. Relevance of the proposal to the main strategic objectives in industrial R&D of the respective Italian and Israeli Governments.
5. Congruity of cost estimates for the financial support with the proposed project and with the expected results.

The capability of the partners (R&D personnel, infrastructure, finance, marketing, etc.) will also be taken into consideration.

The Joint Committee will draw up a list of winning projects.

#### **5. Modalities for the financial support of the projects**

Projects in the frame of this Call will be financed by the respective national and/or regional authorities in Italy & Israel, in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations & procedures in effect. Each project that is selected can be financed **up to 50%** of the documented and eligible costs of research and development. In Italy the financial support will be granted only after the final financial report has been

received and the project has been positively evaluated.

If the project is successful, the winning Partner will have to gradually repay the grant to the Authorities, in compliance with each country's rules and regulations. Repayment of contribution must be made, through royalties, according to applicable rules and procedures, as in Article 5 of the Agreement. No repayment is due if the project does not reach the stage of the commercialization.

In Israel:

The Israeli industrial partner will have to comply with the procedures, rules and regulations of the OCS / Ministry of Economy (the Law for the Encouragement of Industrial R&D), which can be found on the OCS website: <http://www.moital.gov.il/NR/exeres/3C96E1CF-EDFA-4F16-BACE-216773805124.htm>

In Italy:

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, according to the cost estimate of the proposed project.

**6. Notification of the results**

For the Italian party, the winners selected by the Joint Committee will be informed of the results by certified electronic mail. In Italy, the list of selected projects will be published also on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Israel, for the Israeli party, ISERD, on behalf of the *Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)*, will inform the Israeli companies by email.

**For further information:**

**Italy**

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