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**Announcement**

**Vietnam – Cezch Joint Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects**

**The 3rd Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between the State Agency for Technology Innovation (SATI), Ministry of Science and Technology and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) is hereby announced. Joint R&D projects focus on developing innovative products and applications. Applicants are expected to develop ready-to-market solutions for products, technology based services or methods which have strong market potential.**

### About the 3rd Call

The State Agency for Technology Innovation (SATI), an agency of Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) have signed a cooperation agreement between the two sides. The cooperation is expected to support and promote joint projects of applied research and experimental development in enterprises and institutions between Vietnam and Czech. In the Joint Call, SATI is assigned to represent MOST.

This is the 3rd Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between SATI and TA CR is hereby announced within the context of the continuing the success of 1st Call and 2nd Call for Joint R&D Projects in the framework of DELTA Programme, the two sides have created funding mechanisms through which companies may seek support funding for joint Vietnamese-Czech projects of applied research and experimental development and other activities intended to generate new or expanded research and technology-based partnerships and business between the two countries.

### Scope and Structure

Joint R&D projects focus on developing innovative products and applications. Applicants are expected to develop ready-to-market solutions for products, technology based services or methods which have strong market potential.

In a Joint R&D Project, each participating company identifies their preferred financier. The financiers identified will make independent funding decisions. All the jointly approved Joint Project Plans, for which all participating companies receive a positive funding decision, are funded.

Joint R&D Project results shall contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/or technical services. The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two organizing institutions (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial needs, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

The 3rd Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects invites technology related organizations from both countries to participate in joint R&D projects. Refer to Section 2.3 Applicant Eligibility for more information. Joint R&D Project Proposals shall be submitted according to the following procedures.

* 1. **Areas of Joint R&D Projects**
* Nanotechnology and advanced materials;
* Biotechnology and pharmaceuticals;
* Agriculture and fisheries technology;
* Information and communication technologies;
* Other sectors according to the actual needs of both sides.

###  Procedure and Schedule

* Launch of the joint call for joint project proposals

6th June 2018

* The joint call opened for joint project proposals

7th June - 7th August 2018

* Evaluation of joint project proposals

8th August - 22nd November 2018

* Announcement of the joint call results

30th November 2018

* Conclusion of contracts on the provision of funding

December 2018 - January 2019

* Start of funding and start of joint projects

January 2019

* 1. **Applicant Eligibility**

Applicants shall take the form of a consortium consisting of R&D participants based in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and R&D participants based in the Czech Republic.

Vietnamese

A company, regardless of the size, must be the lead organization and have the ability to mobilize resources to carry out international R&D projects in Vietnam. Universities or research organizations may apply for National Technology Innovation Program funding only provided that the consortium constitutes at least one Vietnamese company.

Czech

A company, regardless of the size, must be the lead organization on the Czech side. Universities or research organizations may apply for the DELTA program funding only provided that the consortium constitutes at least one Czech company.

* 1. **Project Duration and Funding**
* Government contribution is available for three years maximum.

* SATI and TA CR will fund the respective nationals in the selected consortia in accordance with their national funding rules. Supplementary funding may come from participant’s own resources should the total project cost exceed the government funding.
* Matching fund is the basis of the funding scheme, but flexibility in the funding ratio may be allowed depending on the roles each participant undertakes.

Vietnamese

SATI will assist Vietnamese participants to approach with National Technology Innovation Program and engage other entities, as needed, to facility support funding of any of Joint R&D projects.

SATI will support funding its first year funding in January 2018 following the conclusion of agreement of National Technology Innovation Program and other entities on the provision of funding with the lead applicant.

 SATI to Vietnamese participants:

 VND 11 billion/ project maximum, up to 3 years\*,

 (appx USD 500,000/ project maximum, up to 3 years\*).

\* Project duration and funding may vary depending on the terms and conditions of National Technology Innovation Program and other entities.

Czech

TA CR will award funding in January 2019 following the conclusion of agreement on the provision of funding with the lead applicant.

TA CR to Czech participants:

CZK 25 million/ project maximum, one time lump sum

(appx USD 1 158,625 \* one time lump sum)

\*may vary depending on the exchange rate in effect at the time of tender

###  Proposal Submission

By **the Call Deadline on 7th August 2018**, the organizations from both countries shall file to the respective organization the documents as follows:

A common proposal, written in both the English and Vietnameses language *(Please complete the information according to a form attached)*. The proposal shall be signed by all participants.

Funding documents as required by the respective organization pursuant to the rules set forth within.

*For Vietnamese applicants:*

* Vietnamese participants shall submit proposals, written in Vietnamese language, according to the terms and conditions of National Technology Innovation Program at the time of the proposal submission through SATI.
* SATI will assist Vietnamese participants in seeking and matchmaking with potential partners of the Czech Republic when the Call for Joint R&D projects is opened on **7th June 2018**.
* Vietnamese participants must submit their joint project proposals by the **7th August 2018** the latest, if they fail to do so, their project proposals will not be accepted into the call.

*For Czech applicants:*

* Czech participants shall upload a complete funding application at the time of the proposal submission.
* More information is available at:

https://tacr.cz/index.php/cz/programy/program-delta.html

* Consultation at an early stage (before the call is launched/opened on **7th June 2018**) is highly recommended. After **7th June 2018** only consultations via official TA CR online helpdesk (https://tacr.cz/hesk/) is available in order to secure the same access to information to all applicants.

###  Proposal Evaluation

All Czech and Vietnamese applicants are subject to initial screening which examines the institution’s capability to carry out the project. Examination criteria include, but are not limited to, bankruptcy history, disposition for tax delinquency, default history of the head of the company, debt ratio, review of the recent financial statement in terms of capital erosion, etc. Failure in any of the criteria will disqualify the applicant and the respective proposal will not proceed to the next step of proposal evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The project proposal is for a project of applied research and experimental development.

2. The subject of the project proposal or parts thereof has not been addressed in another project, grant project or research project.

3. The project proposal is in line with the objectives of the programme.

4. The project proposal clearly defines the objective(s) of the priority areas (priorities), areas and sub-areas of the national priorities of targeted research, experimental development and innovation, specified by the provider in the tender documentation for the relevant public tender.

5. The project proposal is submitted in a field of applied research and experimental development which was identified by TA CR and the partner agency as being suitable for collaboration.

6. Assumptions of the project participants for achieving the stated objectives of the project.

7. Type of project results and their use in practice.

8. Benefits of the project.

9. Distribution of activities between partners - balance of activities of project participants.

10. Suitability of the project for international collaboration.

SATI and TA CR will independently evaluate the submitted proposals in accordance with the respective national rules and regulations. Evaluation results for the top candidates will be shared and discussed between two organizations. Finally, SATI and TA CR will jointly select the final consortia within approximately 4 months after the call deadline.

###  Annual Evaluation / Progress Inspection

Vietnamese

SATI performs regular inspections of the supported projects, at least once during its solution. Also, SATI may demand project reports for review and ad hoc inspections may be executed when a problem is spotted. In case the project is found to have failed its obligations, SATI may retrieve Vietnamese government funding, of which the final amount to be retrieved is calculated in accordance with Vietnamese government rules and regulations in effect at the time. In case the project is disqualified by the Czech side only, the case will be subject to further evaluation by SATI to decide whether to retrieve the remaining government funding.

Czech

TA CR performs regular inspections of the supported projects, at least once during its solution. Also, TA CR may demand project reports for review and ad hoc inspections may be executed when a problem is spotted. In case the project is found to have failed its obligations, the Board of TA CR may retrieve the TA CR funding, of which the final amount to be retrieved is calculated in accordance with the national rules and regulations in effect at the time. In case the project is disqualified by the Vietnamese side only, the case will be subject to further evaluation by the Board of TA CR to decide whether to retrieve the remaining government funding.

### Contacts

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