

Announcement

4th Call for Proposals for Joint Research and Development Projects between German and Singaporean Companies

Submission of proposals is possible until 7th of December 2021

– Evaluation of projects will be done on a rolling basis –

1. Scope

Germany and Singapore are announcing a call for proposals for joint research and development (“R&D”) projects, focused on the development of innovative products and solutions in all technological and application areas.

Applicants are expected to develop ready-to-market solutions for products, technology-based services, or processes with strong market potential.

Enterprise Singapore and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) will provide financial support for joint projects (that fulfil the necessary criteria) through Enterprise Singapore’s Enterprise Development Grant (“EDG”) and BMWi’s Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (“ZIM”).

Enterprise Singapore and BMWi’s coordinator AiF Projekt GmbH intend to provide support to project partners during the project proposal, evaluation, and monitoring phases.

Enterprise Singapore and AiF Projekt GmbH will evaluate submitted proposals and work towards communicating the results within 4 to 5 months after the final proposal submission.

2. Call Structure

This call invites German and Singaporean enterprises to present joint proposals for technological R&D projects, according to the following procedures.

2.1 Financing

Eligible project participants from Germany and Singapore will finance their costs from national funding schemes and complementarily from their own resources. Provision of funding from one national scheme will neither indicate that funding from the other national scheme will be provided, nor bind the other national scheme in its provision of funds to the eligible project participants.

2.2 Minimum requirements

The project partners must meet the following qualifications:

- The consortium must involve at least one Singaporean¹ and one German small and medium-sized Enterprise (SME), independent² from each other.
- Research institutes and additional companies are welcomed as additional cooperation partners or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.
- Companies and/or research organisations from other countries may also participate. However, Enterprise Singapore or BMWi will not fund these partners in this call.

The project proposals must comply with the following guidelines:

- The project should focus on the development of new products, services or processes of industrial application leading to commercialisation in the domestic and/or global markets.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial needs, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- The maximum duration of the project should ideally not exceed 2 years.
- The project should demonstrate a balanced technological contribution by the participants from both countries and must be equally significant to all participants.
 - In a project with **two cooperating partners**, no partner may contribute more than 70% of total person months in the project.
 - In a project with **more than two cooperating partners**, no partner may contribute more than 50% of the person months.
 - In the scenario where **one or more research organisations are involved** in the consortium, they may not contribute more than 50% of total person months combined.

Any partners whose joint 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.

¹ Definition of Singapore SME:

(1) Group annual sales turnover no more than S\$100 million, or (2) Employment size less than 200
Definition in ZIM (Germany): Please refer to ZIM guidelines page 3 paragraph 3.

² For definition of an autonomous enterprise, please refer to [this link](#).

3. Submission Guidelines

Participants must submit (1) **a completed common proposal**, legally signed by all organisations participating in the project, and (2) **a draft consortium agreement** (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners. Both documents must be completed in English language.

The minimum requirements for the consortium agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners
- Description of the project aims and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their work plans using person months (for this purpose the common application proposal can be declared as part of the agreement)
- Identifying and naming of any 3rd party contractors required in the project
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (background and arising)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialisation and apportioning of benefits. If research organizations from Germany or Singapore are involved in the project, a passage has to be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

The completed common proposal and draft consortium agreement must be sent electronically to Enterprise Singapore (Germany_Singapore_SME_Funding@enterprisesg.gov.sg) and AiF Projekt GmbH (zim-international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de), by 7th December 2021, 23:59 CEST.

In addition to the common proposal and draft consortium agreement, project partners that want to apply for funding within this call must submit a national application according to the respective rules (see below).

3.1. German Companies

Each German project partner submits an individual ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH. Every German SME, in accordance with the relevant EU regulations, as well as medium-sized companies with less than 500 employees (full-time equivalents), which carry out R&D for the development of innovative products, processes or technical services, are eligible to apply. Other medium-sized companies with less than 1,000 employees are eligible to apply for funding if they cooperate with at least one SME (in accordance with EU regulations) whose project is funded. Research and technology organizations are eligible to apply as cooperation partners of eligible companies.

Detailed criteria for submitting applications and the ZIM application form can be found on the ZIM website (www.zim.de); you may also contact AiF Projekt GmbH directly as described below. The application must be written in German and comply with the regulations of the ZIM guideline.

3.2. Singaporean Companies

Under this programme, Enterprise Singapore will support up to 70% of the Singaporean company's total qualifying project costs. To be eligible for support, the applicant must fulfil ALL of the following:

- a) Be a business entity that is registered and physically present in Singapore;
- b) \geq 30% local equity held directly or indirectly by Singaporean(s) / Singapore PR(s), determined by the ultimate individual ownership;
- c) Group annual sales turnover of no more than S\$100 million or employment size of less than 200, and;
- d) Be financially able to see a project through to completion.

Interested Singaporean companies should initiate early consultations with Enterprise Singapore to discuss their project scope and eligibility, by emailing

Germany_Singapore_SME_Funding@enterprisesg.gov.sg.

Singaporean partners must submit a preliminary assessment form on <https://go.gov.sg/germany-singapore-sme-funding-programme>.

Early stage consultations with the national funding organisations (Enterprise Singapore in Singapore, AiF Projekt GmbH in Germany) are highly recommended.

Contact



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