

INDIA – ISRAEL Initiative for Industrial R&D (i⁴RD)

A bilateral framework providing financial support for collaborative industrial R&D ventures between Indian and Israeli companies

Call for Proposals for Joint Industrial R&D projects - June 2009

India and Israel have signed a bilateral agreement on May, 2005, to form India – Israel Initiative for Industrial R&D (i⁴RD) with a primary aim to support joint industrial R&D projects aimed at development of products or processes leading to commercialization in the global market. This cooperation agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor State of Israel.

Within the context of the i⁴RD bilateral framework, funding mechanisms have been created, through which industry, may seek support for joint bilateral research and development (R&D) projects, involving at least one Indian and one Israeli company.

The bi-lateral framework is jointly implemented by **Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA)**, an initiative Department of Science & Technology of the Ministry of Science & Technology in India (**DST**), and Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**) on behalf of Department of Science & Technology, in India and **MATIMOP**, Israeli Industry Centre for R&D, on behalf of the Office of the Chief Scientist (**OCS**) in Israel.

This call is open to all projects based on merit that include science and technology (S&T) development leading to commercial success, social good and benefit to both countries. There is however a specific emphasis on following technology areas:

- Nanoscience / Nanotechnology
- Water Management
- Non-Conventional Energy Resources (particularly solar)
- Biotechnology
- Space Science and technology

1. Common Requirements

The criteria to be followed in order to apply to the i⁴RD call are:

a) At least two science and technology companies from the respective countries should express a desire to cooperate in the research and development of a new product or a new process.

- b) The project may involve more than one company from each side; academic /research entities are eligible to join as sub-contractors.
- c) The product should be highly innovative with significant commercial potential. The joint industrial R&D project should aim at development of products / processes leading to commercialisation in the global market
- d) The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialisation strategy of the product or process.
Note: For the submission phase, only a preliminary agreement or MoU is required, however the final agreement has to be presented to the funding authorities.
- e) The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries
- f) The project must be balanced between participants and significant to both partners.

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

2. Eligibility

In India

Eligible applicants will be researchers and managers representing Indian companies (minimum 51% Indian ownership), which operate and are headquartered in India and registered under Indian Companies Act. Subsidiaries of firms headquartered and owned outside India are not eligible for support. Sole proprietorship or partnership firms are not eligible for funding support.

The Indian industry partner must have an R&D Center, which has valid recognition of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India; if not registered, the firm should undertake to get the R&D center DSIR recognised within 12 months application under i⁴RD. Failing which, unless and otherwise extended the period, the firm may be asked to return the loan amount.

In Israel

Eligible applicants will be R&D performing Israeli registered companies operates in Israel. .

3. Size of Investments and Matching Funds

1. Funding support will be given to each partner by its own Implementing Organisations (DST/GITA in India and MATIMOP/OCS in Israel) in accordance with the National Laws, Rules, Regulations and procedures in effect.
2. i⁴RD financial support may be provided in the form of returnable soft loan /royalty to the selected projects under the call and limited up to an amount equivalent to US\$ 500,000 per project, split between the Indian and Israeli partners.
3. The total funding from the Government of India will not exceed 50% of the Indian component of the total project cost.

4. The total funding from the Government of Israel via the OCS, under the i⁴RD financial support, will not exceed 50% of the eligible and approved costs of the R&D, in accordance with the national laws and regulations.

4. Submission of the project proposals

A two stage application process will be followed; first the Common Application Format (CAF). Only those applications meeting all basic criteria of the Call for Proposals will be invited to submit full project proposals in the i⁴RD National Format. Common Application Format (CAF) must be submitted to both the Implementing Organisation simultaneously within the deadline of the particular call period. For approved applications, full project proposal in the i⁴RD National Format should be submitted to the respective Implementing Organisations.

The present Call is launched on June 30, 2009 and invites applications in Common Application Format till September 30, 2009. The eligibility of each application will be analysed by DST/GITA and MATIMOP. Acknowledgement and the results of project consideration will be notified to all the applicants by respective Implementing Organisations latest by October 15, 2009.

Partners meeting all eligibility criteria of will be invited to submit the **i⁴RD National Format** using the procedures and according to the national rules that apply in Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and OCS respectively no later than October 31, 2009.

Applications submitted after the deadline of call period would be considered eligible for the next call period.

The complete joint project application (Common Application Format) must be sent in softcopy simultaneously to GITA in India and MATIMOP in Israel in an appropriate official language (preferably in English) before the deadline of each call. Additional hard copy (2 copies only) is required only by GITA.

The proposal (Common Application Format) must be signed by both Indian and Israeli partners. Please refer to **Guidelines for Application** for more details on the application preparation.

The Israeli partner is required to submit the National Application form in accordance with the OCS regulations, through an online system www.moital.gov.il/madan/tfasim following these [guidelines](#) .

A signed copy of the Common Application Format is required to be uploaded as well. The application in the prescribed format should be submitted to MATIMOP as well at the coordinates provided at the end of the document.

The Indian partner is required to submit 10 hard copies and an electronic version on a CD of the completed and signed proposal in the prescribed format to GITA at the coordinates provided at the end of the document.

[i⁴RD Common Application Format](#)

[i⁴RD Application Guidelines & National Format - India](#)

[i⁴RD Application Guidelines & National Format - Israel](#)

5. Evaluation and selection of the projects

GITA in India and OCS/MATIMOP in Israel will carry out an independent evaluation of the joint R&D application and will select the eligible project to be financially supported in accordance with their National Laws and Regulations. The successful projects will be jointly selected by the two implementing organizations based on the project criteria and requirements specified in the application form.

6. Repayments

When a project results in sales of a product, service or process, the financial support must be repaid to the respective organisations/agencies from where funding has been availed as per their individual regulations.

An agreement is required to be signed between DST/GITA and the Indian industry partner for the jointly approved project for financial support under i⁴RD.

i⁴RD Agreement of DST

7. Publication of the Results

The Israeli and Indian partners whose projects have been selected will be informed of the result and the amount of funding for the successful projects by their respective implementing organization possibly by January 31, 2010. The list of sanctioned projects would also be uploaded on the DST/GITA and MATIMOP websites.

8. Pre-Implementation Requirements

After the award of the project, project leaders on both the sides would be advised by their respective Implementation Organizations to complete necessary administrative and legal instruments before the fund release.

For further information contact:

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