Department of Science & Technology  
(International Bilateral Co-operation Division)  

India-Serbia Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation  

Call for Joint Project Proposals – 2020  

The Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India invites to participate against ‘Joint Call for Proposals - 2020’ under the India-Serbia Scientific and Technological Cooperation Program between the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD) of the Republic of Serbia. The call will be open from **February 24, 2020** to **May 31, 2020** to invite joint proposals from both the sides.

**Objectives:**

- To strengthen and expand relations between scientific communities, making possible exchanges between Indian and Serbian research groups, in the framework of joint scientific and technological projects, selected by the parties.
- Promote the implementation of joint projects able to bind R&D centres with enterprises from both countries.

**Who are Eligible and Subject Areas?**

1. Scientists/Faculty Members working in a regular capacity in recognized universities/deemed universities, academic institutes and national research & development laboratories/ institutes can apply as Principal Investigator (PI). One CO-PI is mandatory to be part of the Indian team from the proposed project. However, the number of CO-PI may be more than one as per the rationale of project objectives and desired expertise.
2. The Indian PI should not be retired during the proposed duration of the project.
3. The proposal should include research partners as PI and CO-PI from Serbian research institutes/ universities with clear demarcation of objectives to be carried out by both research teams.
4. The Indian scientists who are involved in any capacity in the implementation of two or more ongoing projects (not expected to be completed by December 2020), is supported by the international division of DST are not eligible to be a member of the research team.
5. In order to qualify for such funding, investigators are required to have a concrete and sound research proposal targeting the interest of both the nations on any of the following areas:

The priority areas for this Call mutually agreed are as given below:

- New Materials and Nanotechnology;
- Energy and Energy Efficiency;
- Information and communication technologies;
o Human Health;
o Biotechnology including food technology and food security

Criteria of Selection:

Funding under this procedure is only to support the realization of non-for-profit scientific work for international scientific and technological cooperation with a view to acquiring new knowledge, promoting scientific exchange between countries and to foster the development of close links and cooperation between scientific organizations from the Republic of India and the Republic of Serbia. Proposals will undergo a quality evaluation taking into account the following criteria:

1. **Project**: Creativity and Originality, need and importance of objectives for both the nations, coherence between objectives, methodology and work plan, realism, economy and validity of the financial plan
2. **Research Group**: Scientific and technological competence of the research group in proposed area, compliance between the competence of the team of India and the team of the partner country, background research, available scientific infrastructure and capacity of base organization
3. **Cooperation**: Relevance and Criticality of the missions, background and desirability of the cooperation

The projects should be accepted and evaluated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for the Indian side and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD) of the Serbian side. The two sides should exchange the results of the project evaluation and make a joint decision on the projects to be funded.

The assessment of relevance will also be considered:

1. The overall mandate of the DST and MESTD.
2. The training plan targeting young researchers, specified in the project.
3. The incorporation of new groups in the cooperation program (priority will be awarded to those proposals that had not received similar kind of funding earlier).

Duration of Joint Projects:

Projects shall normally be for 3-years duration.

Components of the Grant:

The programme is to support projects for exchange visits. It is expected that participating institutes themselves provide support for the use of equipment, manpower, consumables, etc. required under the project. However, in deserving cases, incremental costs may also be considered on recommendations of the Project Assessment/Expert Committees.

Financial provisions available for the exchange visit component is as follows:

The international travel cost for their scientists to the capital city/arrival city and medical insurance shall be provided to the visiting scientists by the sending side. However, the receiving side will make the following arrangements:
**Serbian Side**

The Indian Scientists visiting Serbia shall be provided per diem amount at the rate of 80 Euro per day in case of short-term visits (up to 10 days) and 800 Euro per month for a long-term visit for accommodation, local transport and out of pocket expenses.

**Indian Side**

1. The Serbian Scientists visiting India shall be paid per diem amount at the rate of 2,500 Indian rupees per day case of a short-term visit (up to 10 days) and 60,000 Indian rupees per month in case of a long-term visit for local transport and out of pocket expenses.

2. Free furnished accommodation in Guest House/Hotel with reasonable amenities.

**How to Apply:**

Joint research projects in the prescribed format (Annexure I, available on [www.onlinedst.gov.in](http://www.onlinedst.gov.in)) duly forwarded by the respective Heads of the Institutes are to be submitted simultaneously, by the Indian Project Investigator to the Department of Science and Technology, India, and by the Serbian Project Investigator to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD) of the Republic of Serbia.

Proposals must be submitted to both organisations in parallel in accordance with the proposal preparation requirements of each side, respectively. Proposals missing to fulfil all formal requirements shall be rejected. Unilaterally submitted projects shall not be considered. The project proposal must include one Principal Investigator (PI) and a Co-PI each in India. The PIs/Co-PIs would have the main responsibility for scientific and financial reporting which must be done annually before the next disbursement of funding. They will also be responsible for the technical as well as administrative coordination of the project. The project duration would be of 3 years.

Indian applicants must submit online proposals to DST through the e-application system provided at [www.onlinedst.gov.in](http://www.onlinedst.gov.in) on or before closing date with a copy to sharma.jyoti@nic.in. The following documents need to be uploaded with the Annexure I.

1. Description of available research resources, including short CV’s of research team members and inventory of relevant equipment.
2. Certificate for Conflict of interest (Indian PI, available on [www.onlinedst.gov.in](http://www.onlinedst.gov.in))
3. Letter of Agreement for all kinds of cooperation, signed by all PIs and duly forwarded by the Head of the host institutes
4. Declaration from the Indian PI about ongoing projects under the International Division of DST.

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Indian PIs are also required to submit 03 hard copies (including 1 original) along with a softcopy in a single pdf file (not scanned) to undersigned before or on May 31, 2020:
Important Deadlines

Announcement of Call: February 24, 2020
Closing date to receive Joint Projects: May 31, 2020
Indicative evaluation period: September 30, 2020
Indicative deadline for financing decision by the Joint Committee: November, 2020
Launch of Projects: January, 2021

Information for Serbian researchers:

The Information about the India-Serbia call for Proposals - 2020 containing detailed information for Serbia PIs can be seen on: http://www.mpn.gov.rs/medjunarodna-naucna-saradnja/bilateralna-saradnja-sa-indijom/

Whom to Contact in DST, India

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