



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

India-Slovenia 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-Slovenia 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 Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia. The call will be open from **March 10, 2020 to July 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 Slovenia 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 from the same or different institutions 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 Slovenian 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:

- a) Health, biomedicine and biotechnology;
- b) New materials, including polymers;
- c) Information and communication technologies;
- d) Renewable energy sources;
- e) Urban areas (smart cities);
- f) Artificial intelligence;

All projects related to S&T solutions against COVID-19/ Pandemic which falls under the above given subjects will be encouraged and considered.

- g) Other areas could be added by mutual consent between the coordinating agencies

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 Slovenia. 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 Slovenian Research Agency for the Slovenian 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 the Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia.
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 only. 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 sending Party shall cover all international travel costs including travel via economic class, VISA fee, silver class medical insurance, and per diem as per the DST norms for persons sent under this program according to its regulations and allowances.

How to Apply:

Joint research projects in the prescribed format (Annexure I, available on 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 Slovenia Project Investigator to the Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia.

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 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)
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.

Indian applicants must submit online proposals to DST through the e-application system provided at www.onlinedst.gov.in on or before closing dates with copy to sharma.jyoti@nic.in. To avoid last minute load on the system, applicants are encouraged to apply well in advance. Please note email queries regarding this call would be entertained till **15 July 2020**.

Indian PIs are not required to send the hard copies due to the current pandemic.

Important Deadlines

Announcement of Call: March 10, 2020

Closing date to receive Joint Projects through Online portal: 31 July 2020

Indicative evaluation period: October 15, 2020

Indicative deadline for financing decision by the Joint Committee: November-December, 2020

Launch of Projects: January, 2021

Information for Slovenian researchers:

The Information about the India-Slovenia call for Proposals - 2020 containing detailed information for Slovenia PIs can be seen on: <http://www.arrs.si/sl/medn/dvostr/drzave/Indija/razpisi/20/razp-indija-21-23.asp>

Whom to Contact in DST, India

Dr. Jyoti Sharma

Scientist E

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Format for Application

(Proforma for Submission of Joint Projects Proposals – 2020)

**INDIA–SLOVENIA PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY****A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

1. Title of the Project:
2. Duration of the Project:
3. Main research/thematic area, of the project (Ref. field from subjects mentioned in call):
4. Field of science and technology covered by the Proposal (4 Keywords qualifying the scope of proposal)
5. Project Investigators (PI) and Collaborating Institutions:

	Indian Side	Slovenia Side
Name of PI: Designation: Institution's Address: Tel: Mobile: Fax: E-mail: Date of Birth:		
Name of Co-PI Designation: Institution's Address: Tel: Mobile: Fax: E-mail: Date of Birth:		

Other Research Team (including young researchers/ Ph.D. students):**B. TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

1. Abstract (max. 250 words)
2. Objectives of the Project (max. 4-5 in numbers)
3. Expected Major Outcomes:
4. Justification for collaboration & brief information about national and international scenario in the proposed area of research (max. one page)

5. Scientific & technical description of the project (up to 500 words)

6. Methodology

7. Plan of work

Time Schedule	Responsibilities of Indian Research Team	Responsibilities of Slovenian Research Team
1 st Year		
2 nd Year		
3 rd Year		

8. Infrastructural facilities related to the project activities available in the institutes where the project work will be carried out:

At the Indian Collaborating Institute	At the Slovenian Collaborating Institute

9. Number of exchange visits required to achieve the Project Objectives (Year wise)

Period	India to Slovenia		Slovenia to India	
	Number	Duration	Number	Duration
1 st Year				
2 nd Year				
3 rd Year				

10. Expected results of this cooperation (e.g. joint publications, patents etc.). Are any of the expected results likely to have commercial value? (up to 150 words)

11. Research History of both PIs:

Indian PI

National Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

International Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

Slovenian PI

National Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

International Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

12. Bio-data of Indian and Slovenian investigators to be attached. [The description should highlight the expertise of the PI(s) and CO-PIs in the proposed field of work supported by citing relevant publications only (to be appended in about 2 pages only)]

C. ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Project Cost (Indian side)

Heads	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Total
Exchange Visits (including VISA and Medical Insurance) Two visits/ year				
Contingency				
Overhead Charges				
Total				

Project Cost (Slovenian side)

Heads	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Total
Exchange Visits (including VISA and Medical Insurance)				
Contingency				
Overhead				

Charges				
Total				

D. OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT

1. Is this research currently being supported by other sources? YES NO If yes, please indicate the sources, amounts and periods of support.

Indian side	Slovenian side

2. Has this project been submitted to other agencies for financial support? YES NO If yes, please indicate which agencies, and when.

Indian side	Slovenian side

Signatures of the Project Investigators & Co – investigators

Indian

Slovenian

1. Declaration from the Heads of the Collaborating Institutions:

It is certified that

- i) the Institutions agree to participate in this Joint Research Project;
- ii) the Institutions shall provide infrastructure & necessary facilities for implementing the joint project;
- iii) the Institutions assume to undertake financial & other management responsibility for the part of the project work to be carried out at their institution; and
- iv) The back-up funding for manpower, consumable etc. is available to support this project.

Signature & Seal of the Head of the Institutions

Indian

Slovenian

ENDORSEMENT FROM THE HEAD OF INSTITUTION
(TO BE GIVEN ON LETTER HEAD)

PROJECT TITLE: _____

1. Certified that the Institute welcomes participation of Dr./Shri/Smt./Km. _____ as the Principal Investigator and Dr./Shri/Smt./Km. _____ as the Co-Investigator for the project and that in the unforeseen event of discontinuance by the Principal Investigator, the Co-Investigator will assume the responsibility for the fruitful completion of the project (after obtaining consent in advance from DST).
2. Certified that the equipment, other basic facilities and such other administrative facilities as per terms and conditions of the grant, will be extended to investigator (s) throughout the duration of the project.
3. Institute assures financial and other managerial responsibilities of the project.
4. Certified that the organization has never been blacklisted by any department of the State Government or Central Government.

Name and Signature of Head of Institution

Date:

Place:.....

REMARKS: In regard to research proposals emanating from scientific institutions/laboratories under various scientific departments the Head of the institution is required to provide a justification indicating clearly whether the research proposals falls in line with the normal research activities of the institution or not and if not, the scientific reasons which merit its consideration by DST.

CERTIFICATE FROM THE INVESTIGATOR

PROJECT TITLE: _____

1. We agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the DST grant.
2. We did not submit this or a similar project proposal elsewhere for financial support.
3. We have explored and ensured that equipment and basic facilities will actually be available as and when required for the purpose of the project. We shall not request financial support under this project, for procurement of these items.
4. We undertake that spare time on permanent equipment will be made available to other users.
5. We have enclosed the following materials:

ITEMS	NUMBER OF COPIES
(a) Endorsement from the Head of the Institution (on letter head)	One
(b) Certificate from Investigator	One
(c) Certificate from Investigator regarding conflict of interest	One
(d) Name and address of experts/institution interested in the subject/ outcome of the project	One
(e) Copies of the proposals	Three hard Copy

Name & Signature of
Principal Investigator

Name & Signature Of
Co-Investigator(s)

Place:

Date:

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

POLICY ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**FOR REVIEWER & COMMITTEE MEMBER or APPLICANT or DST OFFICER ASSOCIATED/ DEALING
WITH THE SCHEME/ PROGRAM OF DST**

Issues of Conflicts of Interest and ethics in scientific research and research management have assumed greater prominence, given the larger share of Government funding in the country's R & D scenario. The following policy pertaining to general aspects of Conflicts of Interest and code of ethics, are objective measures that is intended to protect the integrity of the decision making processes and minimize biasness. The policy aims to sustain transparency, increase accountability in funding mechanisms and provide assurance to the general public that processes followed in award of grants are fair and non-discriminatory. The Policy aims to avoid all forms of bias by following a system that is fair, transparent and free from all influence/ unprejudiced dealings, prior to, during and subsequent to the currency of the programme to be entered into with a view to enable public to abstain from bribing or any corrupt practice in order to secure the award by providing assurance to them that their competitors will also refrain from bribing and other corrupt practice and the decision makers will commit to prevent corruption, in any form, by their officials by following transparent procedures. This will also ensure a global acceptance of the decision making process adopted by DST.

Definition of Conflict of Interest:

Conflict of Interest means "any interest which could significantly prejudice an individual's objectivity in the decision making process, thereby creating an unfair competitive advantage for the individual or to the organization which he/she represents". The Conflict of Interest also encompasses situations where an individual, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics, could exploit his/her obligatory duties for personal benefits.

1. Coverage of the Policy:

- a) The provisions of the policy shall be followed by persons applying for and receiving funding from DST, Reviewers of the proposal and Members of Expert Committees and Programme Advisory Committees. The provisions of the policy will also be applicable on all individuals including Officers of DST connected directly or indirectly or through intermediaries and Committees involved in evaluation of proposals and subsequent decision making process.
- b) This policy aims to minimize aspects that may constitute actual Conflict of Interests, apparent Conflict of Interests and potential Conflict of Interests in the funding mechanisms that are presently being operated by DST. The policy also aims to cover, although not limited to, Conflict of interests that are Financial (gains from the outcomes of the proposal or award), Personal (association of relative / Family members) and Institutional (Colleagues, Collaborators, Employer, persons associated in a professional career of an individual such as Ph.D. supervisor etc.)

2. Specifications as to what constitutes Conflict of Interest.

Any of the following specifications (non-exhaustive list) imply Conflict of Interest if,

- (i) Due to any reason by which the Reviewer/Committee Member cannot deliver fair and objective assessment of the proposal.
- (ii) The applicant is a directly relative# or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or personal friend of the individual involved in the decision making process or alternatively, if any relative of an Officer directly involved in any decision making process / has influenced interest/ stake in the applicant's form etc..
- (iii) The applicant for the grant/award is an employee or employer of an individual involved in the process as a Reviewer or Committee Member; or if the applicant to the grant/award has had an employer-employee relationship in the past three years with that individual.
- (iv) The applicant to the grant/award belongs to the same Department as that of the Reviewer/Committee Member.
- (v) The Reviewer/Committee Member is a Head of an Organization from where the applicant is employed.
- (vi) The Reviewer /Committee Member is or was, associated in the professional career of the applicant (such as Ph.D. supervisor, Mentor, present Collaborator etc.)
- (vii) The Reviewer/Committee Member is involved in the preparation of the research proposal submitted by the applicant.
- (viii) The applicant has joint research publications with the Reviewer/Committee Member in the last three years.
- (ix) The applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics followed in scientific research has a direct/indirect financial interest in the outcomes of the proposal.
- (x) The Reviewer/Committee Member stands to gain personally should the submitted proposal be accepted or rejected.

The Term "Relative" for this purpose would be referred in section 6 of Companies Act , 1956.

3. Regulation:

The DST shall strive to avoid conflict of interest in its funding mechanisms to the maximum extent possible. Self-regulatory mode is however recommended for stake holders involved in scientific research and research management, on issues pertaining to Conflict of Interest and scientific ethics. Any disclosure pertaining to the same must be made voluntarily by the applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member.

4. Confidentiality:

The Reviewers and the Members of the Committee shall safeguard the confidentiality of all discussions and decisions taken during the process and shall refrain from discussing the same with any applicant or a third party, unless the Committee recommends otherwise and records for doing so.

5. Code of Conduct

5.1 To be followed by Reviewers/Committee Members:

- (a) All reviewers shall submit a conflict of interest statement, declaring the presence or absence of any form of conflict of interest.
- (b) The reviewers shall refrain from evaluating the proposals if the conflict of interest is established or if it is apparent.
- (c) All discussions and decisions pertaining to conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (d) The Chairman of the Committee shall decide on all aspects pertaining to conflict of interests.
- (e) The Chairman of the Committee shall request that all members disclose if they have any conflict of interest in the items of the agenda scheduled for discussion.
- (f) The Committee Members shall refrain from participating in the decision making process and leave the room with respect to the specific item where the conflict of interest is established or is apparent.
- (g) If the Chairman himself/herself has conflict of interest, the Committee may choose a Chairman from among the remaining members, and the decision shall be made in consultation with Member Secretary of the Committee.
- (h) It is expected that a Committee member including the Chair-person will not seek funding from a Committee in which he/she is a member. If any member applies for grant, such proposals will be evaluated separately outside the Committee in which he/she is a member.

5.2 To be followed by the Applicant to the Grant/Award:

- (a) The applicant must refrain from suggesting referees with potential Conflict of Interest that may arise due to the factors mentioned in the specifications described above in Point No. 2.
- (b) The applicant may mention the names of individuals to whom the submitted proposal should not be sent for refereeing, clearly indicating the reasons for the same.

5.3 To be followed by the Officers dealing with Programs in DST:

While it is mandatory for the program officers to maintain confidentiality as detailed in point no. 6 above, they should declare, in advance, if they are dealing with grant applications of a relative or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or thesis/ post-doctoral mentor or stands to benefit financially if the applicant proposal is funded. In such cases, DST will allot the grant applications to the other program officer.

6. Sanction for violation

3.1 For a) Reviewers / Committee Members and b) Applicant

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action as decided by the Committee.

3.2 For Officers dealing with Program in DST

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action under present provision of CCS (conduct Rules), 1964.

7. Final Appellate authority:

Secretary, DST shall be the appellate authority in issues pertaining to conflict of interest and issues concerning the decision making process. The decision of Secretary, DST in these issues shall be final and binding.

8. Declaration

I have read the above "Policy on Conflict of Interest" of the DST applicable to the Reviewer/ Committee Member/ Applicant/ DST Scheme or Program Officer # and agree to abide by provisions thereof.

I hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant *

I hereby declare that I have conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant *

* & # (Tick whichever is applicable)

Name of the Reviewer/ Committee Member or Applicant or DST Officer

(Strike out whichever is not applicable)

(Signature with date)