

The German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program

CALL FOR JOINT PROPOSALS for 2021

1. OBJECTIVES OF FUNDING AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1.1 OBJECTIVES OF FUNDING

Within the framework of the German-Israeli cooperation in Water Technology Research, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) invite proposals for bilateral R&D projects.

The research shall focus on solutions to the water problems in Israel and its surrounding area and/or Germany. The research should be multidisciplinary and be applicable to the needs of the water sector. In addition to scientific partners, projects should preferably include industrial partners as well as related stakeholders.

Qualifying scientific applicants in this framework may receive R&D grants, respectively, from BMBF and MOST according to the applicable national funding procedures and regulations.

1.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Projects can be funded under the terms of this call and of the agreements concluded between BMBF and MOST. In this respect, the general regulations for funding, including the consideration of intellectual property rights formulated by the Ministries for all BMBF-MOST research co-operations, will be applied also to this field.

Germany: In addition, for the German partners to be funded under this call, the standard BMBF-guidelines for grant applications on expenditure or cost basis, respectively, must be followed in addition to the general regulations.

Israel: All procedures and activities under this Call or the Israeli projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST Procedures Regarding International Collaborative Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST and to the MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (both documents referred to hereinafter as "the standard terms").

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the standard terms before filing an application under this Call; filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the provisions thereof.

Submitting a proposal does not automatically entitle applicants to a grant. Rather, grants will be awarded to proposals selected after the parties to this call have assessed the proposals according to the criteria set out in paragraph 9 of this call.

It is the intention of the parties issuing this call to fund research proposals selected hereunder for the three-year duration of the project. However MOST funding must be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second and third years to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract. The parties to this call reserve the right not to fund a second or third year of work for scientific-professional, administrative or budgetary reasons.

This call is subject to cancellation in the event of unforeseen budgetary constraints.

2. SUBJECT OF RESEARCH

Research projects will be carried out in the following research areas:

- Multiresistant pathogens, genes or virus loads in waste water and surface water: tracking and counter-measures
- Quantifying and mitigating the impact of persistent mobile pollutants and/or microplastics on drinking water resources and freshwater systems

Each submitted research proposal needs to indicate specifically to which of the above research areas it is related.

The **objectives of the German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program** are as follows:

- To improve the water situation in Israel and the surrounding area and/or Germany. Transferability of the results to comparable regions should preferably be ensured.
- To facilitate access to new markets for Israeli and German enterprises in the water and environmental sector.
- To support and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the water sector as well as cooperation between science and industry.

Each submitted research proposal needs to indicate how it addresses the above mentioned objectives of the German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation. In particular, the proposals need to specify the interaction between German and Israeli research groups (e.g. using a block diagram or PERT network diagram) and how integration will be managed and maintained during the project (e.g. governance structure, joint workshops).

Priority will be given to projects based on novel ideas and potential industrial applicability. It is recommended that working groups include academic partners, industrial partners and end users.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Israel: Grants can be awarded to applicants from academic institutions, namely:

- i. An accredited institution of higher education in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Act, 1958.
- ii. A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization.
- iii. A Research Institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purposes of this call, a "Research Institute" means a research institute which a significant portion of its activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals in the world, and who present their research at international symposia.

A researcher who intends a sabbatical leave in the first year of the project cannot be approved as a principal investigator (PI) of the research proposal. A PI who intends a vacation or absence of more than three months should request permission from MOST in advance (through the relevant R&D Authority). A substitute to the PI will not be approved in the course of the first year.

According to the procedures of the Water Technology Cooperation Program, **Israeli scientists who serve as investigators (Principal Investigators (PI's) or Co-Investigators (CI's)) in ongoing projects within this program, will not be funded in an additional project within the frame of this call, either as PI or CI, until their ongoing project is finished.** In such a case, the results achieved in their ongoing projects shall be attached to the new proposals and will be used to evaluate their abilities to accomplish the tasks and achieve the goals of their new proposals.

Germany: Research proposals may be submitted by German-based commercial companies, institutions of higher education, non-university research establishments as well as public institutions at municipal, state or federal level. The participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is expressly welcome.

For Both German and Israeli Applicants:

The application must include a research plan in one of the areas of research specified in this call, which will be carried out in Israel by at least one senior researcher who is a permanent employee of the applying institution or on track for tenure in the applying institution.

The project proposals must include a detailed description of the joint work-plan as well as a calculation and justification of the budget, for both the Israeli and German teams.

Additionally, applicants are referred to the general project terms found at <http://www.bmbf.de/de/1531.php>

Joint German-Israeli Cooperation is Obligatory

The proposed project **must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the German project partners.** For this purpose, BMBF and MOST will consider providing a grant that covers the travel expenses for one short visit of one of the potential research partners to either Israel or Germany, for the purpose of preparing the joint proposal. Such grants will not exceed 1,500 Euro.

Potential research partners interested in such a travel grant may submit their informal request by e-mail to the relevant contacts in Germany or Israel (see paragraph 11).

4. REGIONAL COOPERATION

Israeli partners may include researchers from neighboring states and areas in their proposed research teams if the relevance of the expected project results may be increased thereby.

5. DURATION OF PROJECT

The research should be planned for a period not exceeding three years.

6. BUDGET

The overall BMBF/MOST budget for the Israeli participation in this call for proposals is up to EURO 1,000,000 of which MOST will contribute up to EURO 250,000, subject to the approval of the State budget and the availability of funds. Within each call of the German-Israeli water technology research cooperation, typically 3-5 projects are funded.

In Israel:

Eligible institutions in Israel may receive grants covering up to 100% of the additional, eligible, research-oriented expenses incurred by the project, which may be used for the following purposes:

- (1) Stipend or salary for PhD students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians and/or laboratory workers (i.e. a temporary position up to 2 years) retained specifically for the purpose of the project, not including salaries for permanent staff and PI's;
- (2) Consumables. In case they exceed 750 Euro, a detailed explanation regarding their necessity and quantities is required;
- (3) Small scale equipment which is only needed for the specific research project. MOST will enable purchase of computers or laptops only in special cases in which they are part of the research project or are of unique capacities needed for the specific research;
- (4) Travel and visiting costs;
- (5) Joint seminars and workshops.

Subject to the overall budget of this Call, there is no formal cap in regard to the total cost of individual proposals. Proposals submitted to MOST must include a detailed project budget for the Israeli team. The maximum budget size for the Israeli team for each project proposal is limited to 250,000 Euro for a duration of 3 years.

In Germany:

Funds for German partners will be awarded as non-repayable project grants. The grants can be spent to cover the cost of staff, materials, and equipment. No funding can be provided for building investments.

Grants for universities, research and science institutions and similar institutions are calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related expenditure.

German research institutes which are already part of a government based funding scheme may receive project related funds only under specific circumstances and are advised to contact the Project Management Agency Karlsruhe in advance of submission.

Grants for German commercial companies are calculated on the basis of the project-related costs eligible for funding, up to 50% of which can as a rule be covered by grants, depending on the project's nearness to application. In the case of collaborative research projects, the European Union's Community Framework allows differentiated rules on extra percentage points for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which may result in a higher rate of funding.

7. KEY DATES

Final date for submission of proposals: October 7th 2021 at 15:00 (local time).

Please note the instructions and deadlines for specific phases of the submission process listed below (pre-submission in Israel October 3rd 2021).

8. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Application forms are obtainable at the MOST website (www.most.gov.il), from the Research Authorities of the universities in Israel and from the website of the German-Israeli Cooperation (www.cogeril.de). The use of the updated forms is obligatory.

Instructions for Israeli research teams:

In Israel, proposals must be prepared in English. Israeli applicants will use the new online submission system of MOST for submitting their proposals, through the following link-
<https://kf.most.gov.il>.

In order to apply the applicant needs to fill an "Account Request" on the Science Forefront Site. The request should be approved by the research authority of the institute. Once approved, the applicant will be notified by email that the account is approved.

If you encounter any technical problem, please send an email to kmada@most.gov.il

The submission process includes two phases:

1. The proposals must be submitted by the **researchers** to the relevant official in the Institute's research authority, through the online system **by October 3rd 2021 at 15:00**

(local Israel time). The online system will be closed for submissions by the specified date and hour and no submissions will be accepted under any circumstances after the due date. **It should be emphasized that an Israeli researcher who will not submit his pre-proposal on or before October 3rd, 2021 at 15:00 will not be able to do so at a later date.** A researcher who submitted his application may edit his proposal with an approval by the relevant official in the research authority in his institute, until the last submission date **(07.10.2021 at 15:00)**.

2. The **institute** must submit the final application no later than **07.10.2021 at 15:00 (local Israel time)**. This is the final formal phase for submitting the pre-proposals. **Pre-proposals which are submitted by the institute by the due date, through the online system, will be disqualified.**

Please pay attention, as technical problems are possible, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.**

Instructions for German research teams:

The German partner should use the electronic submission system „easy-Online“ to submit the electronic version of the joint proposal before the deadline mentioned above:

<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>

9. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Evaluation of the project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the topics and objectives as mentioned under section 2 of this call
- Originality and novelty
- The soundness and scientific quality of the proposed approach
- The adequacy of the facilities
- The capability of the investigator(s) to carry out the proposed research
- Added value for the German-Israeli cooperation
- Potential applicability for industrial partners, stakeholders, problem owners and end users

The proposals will be pre-evaluated and rated by international external reviewers. In accordance with the procedures of the Cooperation Program, all the proposals will be evaluated for final ranking by the Joint German-Israeli Program Committee.

The number of proposals to be approved by Ministries under this call will be determined after evaluating the project proposals in view of budget requirements and constraints.

Applicants of proposals, which are positively evaluated and which complement one another, may be requested to collaborate and prepare a joint project proposal.

If a joint German-Israeli research proposal is recommended by both ministries under this call, the **German partner** will be requested to **file a full proposal** with detailed budget justification **according to the national German regulations** for their part of the work-plan in the joint project. Approval of the joint German-Israeli research proposal hereunder is subject to the approval of the German partner's full proposal by BMBF. Use of the electronic application system "easy-online" is obligatory for the application to BMBF only in this second stage of the application process.

10. CONTRACTS

Upon approval of a research grant by the official authorities in Germany and in Israel, a research contract will be signed between MOST and the institution of the Israeli principal investigator (example of the contract can be found on the MOST website – www.most.gov.il).

11. CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons:

In Germany on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF):

Dr. Leif Wolf

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12. YOUNG SCIENTISTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (YSEP)

Young scientists are encouraged to participate in the exchange program that was initiated by BMBF and MOST in the framework of the German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program. This is an open call for young Israeli and German scientists for a training period in the partner country for up to 6 months, but not less than 1 month. Funding will be provided to cover all necessary expenses of the applicant's visit abroad, according to the provisions of the YSEP.

Applications for YSEP must be submitted in accordance with the terms and information provided on the following websites:

www.cogeril.de

www.most.gov.il

Bonn, **July 2021**

Dr. Helmut Löwe,
Federal Ministry of Education
and Research (BMBF)

Jerusalem, **July 2021**

Dr. Moshe Ben Sasson,
Ministry of Science and Technology
(MOST)