

| MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGYP.R. CHINA | MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STATE OF ISRAEL |
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# CHINA-ISRAEL COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

# Call for Project Proposals - Flagship Projects

# 2018-2020

# Submission by 11/02/2018

## AREAS OF COOPERATION

In accordance with the decisions of the China-Israel Innovation Commission and the MOU signed by the Israeli Minister of Science and Technology, MK Ofir Akunis, and the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Wan Gang, the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (referred to as "MOST-CN”) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel (referred to as “MOST-IL”) are providing financial support for joint Flagship Projects carried out by Chinese and Israeli researchers. Chinese-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint research proposals for flagship projects in the area of Brain Research.

## MODE OF COOPERATION

A flagship project should focus on one main cutting-edge problem in Brain Research. Research teams from both countries are encouraged to include other research groups in the project, which can conduct studies relating to this main problem. **On the Israeli side, participation of at least 3 groups from different research institutions is required, though the agreement will be signed with one group – the coordinator.**

Submission of joint research projects by researchers of both countries is requested with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological co-operation between China and Israel. Financing will be granted exclusively for joint flagship projects by Chinese researchers and Israeli researchers.

## LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

MOST-CN shall grant a funding of no more than RMB ¥5 million per flagship project, for China-based PIs. MOST-IL shall grant a funding of up to 12 million NIS for the entire flagship projects' programfor Israel-based PIs. The budget allocated for each flagship project will depend on the needs of each project as approved by MOST-IL.

It is the intention of the two ministries to support **up to two** joint projects at the initial stage. However, the final number of projects to be supported will be determined based on scientific merits of the proposals and budgetary considerations. Research projects should be planned on a **three** year basis.

Funding depends on the availability of funds in the State Budget of both countries.

Please Note: This Call is dependent upon joint decisions of both China and Israel and is subject to changes and periodic updates with regard to various details.

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Chinese and Israeli scientific research teams.

2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country.

3. Each proposal should be led by two coordinators – one from each country.

4. The PI must be a member of an academic or research institution or a professor emeritus who continues working on research in academic or research institution (hereinafter called the “Affiliated Institution”);

 In Israel, the "Affiliated Institution" must be one of the following:

1. An accredited institution of higher learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958;
2. A Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF);
3. A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization;
4. A Research Institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.

 For the purpose of this Call, a "Research Institute" is a research institute whose significant portion of activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, possessing appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and employing 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.

4. The project may include the use of sub-contractors from the private sector, if necessary.

5. Each Coordinator and affiliated institution is accountable to MOST-CN or MOST-IL, respectively, for the execution of the project.

6．Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must
 submit the approval of the relevant Committee for Experimentations on Animalsbefore the
 project can commence.

6． Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human beings, must submit the
 approval of the relevant IRB/Helsinki Committee before the project can commence.

## ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

It is strongly recommended that the Chinese and Israeli research teams and their
 institutions enter into agreements regarding intellectual property rights after their research proposals are approved and prior to the initiation of collaborative activities.

## SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

In Israel, the submission of research proposals will be done in two-step process:
First step – joint pre-proposals.
Second step – full joint proposals, after a selection procedure of the pre-proposals.

For Chinese research teams:

Chinese applicants should submit the proposals according to the call for proposals on the Chinese side.

Contact person:

Wang He

Department of International Cooperation,

 Ministry of Science and Technology, P. R. China |

Tel: +86 10 58881347 | Fax: +86 10 58881344 |

<http://www.most.gov.cn/>

The projects' pre-proposals shall be submitted jointly by the Chinese and Israeli Coordinators to both addresses (MOST-CN and MOST-IL) that are specified below. Each of the two Coordinators shall fill out the Application Forms in accordance with the regulations in his/her country.

For Israeli research teams:

The Israeli Coordinator should submit the pre-proposal by e-mail in English, using the attached Application Form and the required documents to the following email address: China-jrfp@most.gov.il ((in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures).

Final Submission Date

**The pre-proposals should actually reach the abovementioned email address by 11/02/2018 at 23:59 local Israeli time (the "Submission Date"), and will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.**

Because of technical constraints, an email over 20 megabytes will not be received. If the email and its attachments exceed 20 MB, it must be split. Shortly after submitting the email the applicants should receive an automatic reply acknowledging its receipt. If an email confirming receipt is not received, the applicant must approach MOST-IL contact persons detailed below to make sure the email was duly received. **It is solely the sender's responsibility** to receive confirmation that the email was received, whether by automatic reply or personal confirmation. As technical problems are possible, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.**

A valid project application consists of the Application Form **duly filled in and signed**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to MOST-CN and MOST-IL. **If the applications are not duly received by both MOST-CN and MOST-IL by the date and hour indicated above, the project will not be accepted.**

**In addition, Israeli Principal Investigators should send also 2 hard copies of their pre-proposals by 14/02/2018 to the following MOST address:**

Avi ANATI

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

Ministry of Science and Technology

Call for Proposals for Israel-China Flagship Projects 2017-2018

Government Offices, Kiryat Begin

Clermont Ganneau St. 1

Building 3, 3rd Floor, Room 309

Jerusalem

## FUNDED EXPENSES

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Chinese and Israeli scientists on interdisciplinary research. Funding will therefore be provided for the local research work of the participating groups as well as for supporting the collaboration vectors. In any case, each budget item or expenditure for which reimbursement is requested must conform to the respective national rules of each applicant.

**For Chinese researchers,** funding can be provided by MOST-CN according to related regulations and guidelines on the Chinese side.

**For Israeli research teams**, funding can be provided by MOST-IL for the following types of expenses:

1. Stipend or salary for PhD students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians and/or laboratory workers (i.e. a temporary position up to 3 years) retained specifically for the purpose of the project, not including salaries for permanent staff and PI's;
2. Consumables. In case they exceed 1,000 USD, a detailed explanation regarding their necessity and quantities is required ;
3. Small scale equipment which is only needed for the specific research project; MOST-IL will enable purchase of computers or laptops only in special cases in which the computer or laptop is part of the research project or are of unique capacities needed for the specific research
4. Large scale equipment needed specifically for the joint laboratory, with detailed explanation for the required equipment.
5. Travel and visiting costs;
6. Joint seminars and workshops;
7. Overhead expenses up to 15% of the total amount of the research project inclusive of the funds provided on the basis of this Call.

## MUTUAL VISITS

 Participating researchers are encouraged to spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts’ institutions given that such visits are an integral part of the research collaboration.

All costs for travel, accommodation, per diem and any other visiting expenses for each visiting scientist will be included in the budget of that scientist's research team. (i.e. "Visiting side pays all"). Funding provided under this Call may only be used for visits that take place in China or Israel.

## PROPOSAL REVIEW

The pre-proposals will initially be evaluated separately by each Ministry. After joint discussion, the two ministries will decide on 8 pre-proposals, whose applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. The full proposals will be evaluated by each Ministry. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Sub Joint Committee of the two Ministries in order to select the projects admitted for funding.

The proposals will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

* + - 1. Conformity with the definition of the program research topics of this Call;
			2. Scientific Qualification of the Principal Investigators : The Principal Investigators should have experience, appropriate expertise and ability to manage the collaboration and carry out the project goals within the two years project period;
			3. Significance of the problem being addressed, and the potential impact of the proposed approach on solving it. (Proposals should address these issues explicitly and provide as much evidence as possible.);
			4. Scientific merit, with emphasis upon the originality and novelty of the proposed research;
			5. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives, presentation of research methodology and detailed program of work;
			6. Feasibility of implementation of the proposed research and access to relevant resources;
			7. Added value of the cooperation between all research groups and of the bilateral scientific cooperation; extent of genuine collaboration between the Chinese and Israeli research teams;
			8. The level of involvement of young researchers;
			9. Justification of the requested project budget.

## CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

The expected starting date for approved projects is **fourth quarter of 2018.** The expected completion date is three years after the starting date of the approved projects.

Contracts:

Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed in China and Israel respectively, between MOST-CN and the institution of Chinese Principal Investigator and between MOST-IL and the institution of Israeli Principal Investigator.

In Israel – although the contract is approved in principle for a three-years period, a renewal of the second and third year must be requested and approved by MOST-IL. An application for the continuation of research funding for the second and third year must be submitted by the institution of Israeli Principal Investigator to MOST-IL on the appropriate forms at least two months prior to the end of the first year of the project together with the annual scientific report.

Payments:

Payments will be made by MOST-CN and MOST-IL to the institution of each Principal Investigator, respectively, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

Reports
Scientific and Financial reports will be submitted to MOST-IL and MOST-CN respectively by the institutions of each PI as specified in the research contract.

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI APPLICANT

 All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST-IL Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST-IL and to the MOST-IL 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.

## INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following:

ISRAEL:

On administrative matters:

Mr. Avi Anati

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

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E-mail: avi@most.gov.il

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On Scientific matters:

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