

Announcement

2nd German-Finnish Call for Proposals for joint SME R&D projects

Deadline for proposal submissions: October 25, 2013

1. Scope

Germany and Finland are announcing a Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects, focusing on developing innovative products and applications in all technological and application areas.

Applicants are expected to develop ready to market solutions for products, technology-based services or methods which have strong market potential.

Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation and the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) will provide access to public funding for joint projects provided for Germany by the BMWi's ZIM program (Central Innovation Program for SMEs).

Tekes and AiF Projekt GmbH (Project management agency for the BMWi) will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phase.

2. Call Structure

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for industrial R&D projects until October 25, 2013 according to the following procedures:

2.1 Financing

Eligible project participants from Germany and Finland will finance their costs from the national funding schemes and complementarily from their own resources.

2.2 Requirements

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and / or technical services. The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

- The consortium has to include at least one Finnish and one German SME which contribute considerably to the project. Participation of research institutes and other companies is welcomed as additional participants or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.

- Companies and/or research organisations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation is not funded in by Tekes or BMWi.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- Project duration should not exceed 3 years.

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

2.3 Submission

Before the Call Deadline on October 25, 2013 all participants file one short common proposal in English language, legally signed by all partners participating in the project and a draft Cooperation Agreement (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners in English language.

The minimum requirements for the agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners
- Description of the project aims and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their working plans with person month (for this the common application proposals can be declared as part of the agreement)
- Naming of orders to third parties or a passage that in case of orders to third parties the other partners will be informed
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (new and old)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- If research organisations from Germany are involved a passage has to be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

The proposal form is available on

www.zim-bmwi.de/kooperationsprojekte/transnationale-fue-projekte.

The common proposal and the draft consortium agreement have to be sent electronically to <http://www.tekes.fi/asiointi> and f.richter@aif-projekt-gmbh.de.

At the same time the project partners that want to apply for funding within this call file a national application according to the respective rules (see below).

Finland

Development projects of companies based in Finland are eligible for Tekes innovation funding. The funding can cover part of the project's costs. The company must always prove that it has the capacity to cover its own funding share of the project. Research organizations participate in these market oriented projects as subcontractors. The funding application is on Tekes web pages <http://www.tekes.fi/asiointi>.

For further information about financing of Finnish participants read www.tekes.fi/en - Innovation Funding or contact directly Tekes.

Germany

Every German partner files one ZIM application in the project form "KF" or "KU" in paper form to AiF Projekt GmbH. All German SMEs following the EU-definition and companies with up to 500 employees which perform R&D to develop an innovative product, process or technological service – also in cooperation with research organisations – have the right to apply. More detailed criteria can be found on the ZIM web site (<http://www.zim-bmwi.de/kooperationsprojekte> - in German only). The application has to be in line with the ZIM regulations, e.g. it has to be in German language.

Consultation in an early stage with the national funding organizations (Tekes in Finland, AiF Projekt GmbH in Germany) is highly recommended.

Contacts

Germany

Mr. Felix Richter
AiF Projekt GmbH
Tschaikowskistraße 49, 13156 Berlin
Tel. +49 30 48163-493
E-mail: f.richter@aif-projekt-gmbh.de
www.zim-bmwi.de/kooperationsprojekte

Finland

Ms. Kirsi Vähä-Pietilä
Tekes
Kyllikinportti 2, P.O. Box 69
00101 Helsinki
Tel. +358 50 5577 730
E-mail: kirsi.vaha-pietila@tekes.fi