



CALL FOR PROJECTS
2015/16 CANADA/GERMANY JOINT PROGRAM
DEADLINE: 15TH JANUARY 2016

1) SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

The main goal of the Canada/Germany joint program is to strengthen research in Canada and Germany by aligning scientific resources and expertise. This collaborative program gives the opportunity for private and public organizations based in Canada and Germany to develop new expertise and to expand into new markets.

This program is meant to finance the development of novel and potentially transformative next-generation technologies or tools with the potential to **improve, enhance or accelerate the state of the art and/or development process**. For Canada the program is focussed on biomedical research aimed at developing tools and technologies to improve, accelerate or enhance the drug discovery process. The German funding system is generally technological open.

This program is **not intended to fund research on new drugs** for specific therapeutic segments.

This program promotes creativity, innovation, multi-disciplinarity and collaborative efforts between academic institutions and private organizations (Small Medium Enterprises or SMEs) from Canada and Germany.

SPONSORS OF THE PROGRAM

This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Central Innovation Program of BMWi in Germany (coordinated by AiF Projekt GmbH) and CQDM consortium in Canada.

ZIM (Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand / Central Innovation Program for SMEs) is a funding program from the Federal German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) aimed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) with business operations in Germany which want to develop new or significantly improve existing products, processes or technical services. Public and private non-profit research and technology organisations (RTO) acting as a cooperation partner of a SME are also eligible for ZIM-funding. The aim of ZIM is to sustainably increase the innovative capacity and competitiveness of SMEs including craft businesses and independent professions. Thus the programme contributes to economic growth and the generation of new jobs. It offers many funding opportunities among which the COOP program aimed toward cooperative R&D projects between SMEs or SMEs and RTOs. AiF Projekt GmbH, Project management agency of BMWi is in charge of the ZIM cooperation projects.

CQDM is a pharma-based consortium active in pre-competitive research whose mission is to fund the development of innovative tools and technologies to accelerate drug

discovery and development. Unique in the world, CQDM's business model is based on a collaborative approach where all stakeholders share the costs of biopharmaceutical research and benefit from its results. CQDM also provides a common meeting ground where academia, governments, biotechs and the pharmaceutical industry converge to address numerous complex medical challenges. CQDM is supported by 9 leading pharmaceutical companies (Merck, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly Canada, Janssen, Novartis Pharma Canada and Sanofi Canada), as well as from Quebec's Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Exportations (MEIE) and the Government of Canada under the Business-Led Networks of Centres of Excellence program (BL-NCE).

2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Each research proposal must:

- Include a strong collaboration between at least one research entity (public or private) in Canada and at least one private entity in Germany.
 - Please note that in Germany, a private entity (SMEs) is mandatory to apply. Public and private non-profit research and technology organisations (RTO) acting as a cooperation partner of a SME are also eligible for ZIM-funding.
 - In Canada, the participation of a private organization is highly encouraged and preferred, but not mandatory; universities are eligible.
- Generate clear deliverables with immediate applications and/or development process, in Canada focused at improving or enhancing the drug discovery process.
- Be highly innovative with a strong and wide potential impact in all technological areas, in Canada focused on impact in biopharmaceutical research.

3) RESEARCH AGENDA

The research agenda is broad open to all branches and technological sectors. The program covers all fields and all research areas that could bring new tools that can accelerate the state of the art, in Canada to enable the discovery or development of new drugs for biopharmaceutical research, such as engineering, nanotechnologies, medical devices, diagnostics, translational medicine and imaging. This program is **not** meant to fund fundamental research projects. Investigators working on applied research projects are strongly encouraged to apply.

Only projects with a well-defined near-term application deemed to significantly impact biopharmaceutical research will be funded under this program.

4) FUNDING SPECIFICS

CQDM/ZIM plan to select up to 3 projects in this competition.

Duration: Minimum 2 years, maximum 3 years.

Total funding budget per projects: min \$500,000 – max \$1,000,000, with a maximum budget of 380,000€ for each applying SME with max. 55% funding rate in Germany and \$500,000 for each applying partner in Canada. Research institutions in Germany may participate as additional partners with a maximum budget of 190.000€ and 100% funding rate.

General financing terms:

- The project contributions from Canada and Germany should be comparable (in terms of resources and/or budget);
- In Canada a maximum of \$500,000 could be awarded to the Canadian arm of the project, with a minimum of \$250,000;
- The research done in Canada will be directly financed by the CQDM as a grant while the research done by the German partners will be financed by ZIM cooperation projects.
- German specificities;
 - All German SMEs up to 499 employees are eligible for funding.
 - The research performed in Germany will be funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). The financial package will depend on the amount budgeted and, importantly, on the number of partners involved.
 - Both universities and SMEs are eligible for this program (matching funds are required when involving SMEs).
 - The subsidy rates for R&D projects can be found in the table in section 5.2.1 (page 6) of the ZIM guideline. For international projects the subsidy rate will be increased up to 10%-points for companies with at least one foreign partner compared to cooperation projects with domestic partners. However, the maximum is 55%. Hence, matching funds are mandatory for German partners.
- Canadian specificities:
 - Both SMEs or Universities are eligible. Participation of an SME is not mandatory but strongly encouraged.
 - Matching funds for Canadian partners is not mandatory.
 - SMEs up to 499 employees are eligible for funding

Further details will be provided by CQDM and AIF GmbH upon request.

Eligible costs (for both CQDM and AIF):

Eligible costs are defined as reasonable costs for items that directly support the objectives of the project:

- Salaries of research personnel (students, post-doctoral fellows, technical/professional assistants) and support staff (e.g. project managers) needed for the completion of the project;
- Material and laboratory supplies required to achieve the project;
- Subcontracting.

Eligible costs (for CQDM only)

- Travel expenses (field work, collaborations, conferences);
- Up to 15% administrative costs or overheads

Non eligible costs:

- Equipment and facilities (purchase or rental);
- Salary of the principal investigator and co-investigators.

Further details will be provided by CQDM and AIF GmbH upon request.

5) REVIEW AND DECISION PROCESS

Canadian applicants must submit an Application (using the form available on our website www.cqdm.org) no later than **15th December TBD, 2015 at 5 PM EST** via the CQDM secure website (<https://cqdm.firmex.com>). The content of this proposal must be developed in collaboration between Canadian and German partners.

All German ZIM applicants need to file a separate ZIM application form in German language. Submission of the ZIM cooperation projects from is to be done according to ZIM guidelines on ZIM secured web site.

Both partners will also jointly complete a short call that summarises the project to be submitted to both CQDM and AIF.

Funding will be awarded following a competitive **evaluation process:**

- The Applications will be evaluated by the respective organisations, *AiF's Scientific and Economic Committees* for the German applications and CQDM for the Canadian applications.
- The scientific excellence, applicability and feasibility of the project will be evaluated jointly by the AiF and CQDM Committees. Evaluators are chosen for

- their specific scientific and/or industrial expertise in the field of the submitted projects. In parallel, a risk analysis will be conducted by the funding agencies.
- The applicants may be asked to submit additional information to AiF and CQDM based on recommendations and comments of the evaluation committees.

Application evaluation criteria:

In Germany, all applications will be evaluated with respect to the ZIM guidelines.

In Canada, applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- potential applications and impact in drug research and ability to improve, enhance or accelerate the drug development process:
 - immediate impact on drug discovery or development;
 - capacity to address important unmet biopharmaceutical needs;
- Scientific excellence;
- Creativity and innovation;
- Socio-economic impact of the project for the collaborators;
- Positioning and competitive edge;
- Feasibility to execute the project within allocated time and budget;
- Well-defined deliverables, milestones and schedule;
- Track record of the participants (principal investigator/lead and co-investigators/co-leads);
- Multi-organizational aspects of the research candidates;
- Complementarity between partners and quality of the synergy.

Final selection

The final selection of projects will be carried out independently by CQDM's Strategic Orientation Committee and by AiF's Scientific and Economic Committees.

Approval by both parties is necessary to obtain funding.

6) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) AND LICENSING POLICY

- A research agreement must be signed by all research entities involved in the project within 3 months after the funding confirmation;
- Intellectual property generated under this funding program will be managed according to the policies of the financial partners involved;
- A license option will be granted to the CQDM industrial sponsors (the parent organizations and their subsidiaries) for the use of the results for R&D purposes

only. The main conditions of the end-user license option will be negotiated before the beginning of the project and will take into account pre-existing IP as well as contribution from each party;

- CQDM industrial sponsors will have no rights to commercialize the IP resulting from the project or the pre-existing IP.

7) PHARMA MENTORS & MONITORING OF FUNDED PROJECTS

Mentors from the participating pharmaceutical CQDM members with experience in the drug discovery and development process will be assigned to each funded projects. Mentors are senior and experienced scientists from CQDM's corporate pharmaceutical members who provide expertise and access to useful resources. Their role is to ensure that the project is progressing so that its output remains in line with the agreed project and is applicable and of interest to the industry drug discovery/development programs. CDQM organises bi-annual meeting with the research teams and the assigned mentors.

For all funded projects, one project manager in Canada and one project manager in Germany must be identified by successful applicants. These people will be responsible for co-ordinating all financial and scientific reports. CQDM and AiF will monitor the progress of the project, and continuation of funding will be dependent on satisfactory progress against agreed milestones and budget.

8) TIMETABLE

To facilitate the preparation of the joint application, an information and networking session on during Bio-Europe 2015 in Munich, Germany. Please consult our sites for more info.

Call for projects - kick-off	October 5th, 2015
Information and networking session, Munich, Germany	Bio Europe, November, 3 rd , 8 am Canada/Germany networking breakfast
LOI Application deadline	January 15th, 2016 at 5 PM EST
Evaluation process by the Partners	March 2016
Final selection announcement	May, 2016
Signature of the Research Agreement	August 2016

9) SUBMISSION PROCEDURE FOR FULL APPLICATIONS

An electronic version must be submitted on CQDM's secure site **no later than December 15th, 2015 at 5 PM EST** (<https://cqdm.firmex.com>). Applicants must contact Eugénie Bergeron-Côté at ebergeron@cqdm.org before December 1st, 2015 to obtain their username and password.

The electronic applications must include the following documents:

- The signed PDF version of the short common application form. The document must be labelled as follows: *Name of the principal investigator in Canada_Name of the principal investigator/lead Germany_common call*
- The electronic PDF version of the CV of all principal investigators and co-investigators. The document must be labelled as follows: *Name of the principal investigator in Canada_Name of the principal investigator/lead in Germany_CV*
- For the CQDM full application for Canadian application the document must be labelled as follows: *Name of the principal investigator in Canada_Name of the principal investigator/lead in Germany*

Please disable all security parameters of the PDF documents to be submitted.

All German project partners need to file their own ZIM application to be submitted individually as a paper version including all signatures to AiF Projekt GmbH before December 15th, 2015. The common proposal application form can be submitted electronically to the contact details mentioned further down.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

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