

The German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program

CALL FOR JOINT PROPOSALS for 2015

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, Technology and Space (MOST) invite proposals for bilateral R&D projects.

The research shall focus on solutions to the water problems in Israel and its direct neighbourhood and/or Germany. The research should be multidisciplinary and be potentially 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. 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. **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.

For the Israeli Researchers:

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.

2. Subject of research**Research projects will be carried out in the following research areas:**

- Organic micro-pollutants and pathogens: treatment technologies and fate in the subsurface
- Aquifer management, groundwater recharge and remediation
- Storm water: Harvesting, treatment, storage and control
- Treatment of wastewater brines and other reject streams

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 its direct neighbourhood 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. Thus the integration of Israeli partners in BMBF's relevant international projects is also desired.

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 how the interaction between German and Israeli research groups will foster innovation (e.g. block diagram or PERT network diagram) and how integration will be managed and maintained during the project (e.g. governance structure, joint workshops).

BMBF and MOST further agreed that future projects may also deal with water problems in third countries particularly in the arid, semi-arid, and tropical regions, enabling both countries to make a joint contribution to the goals defined by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. For that purpose, both countries want to pool their water technology expertise for developing appropriate technologies and know-how, for example, in the areas of sea water desalination, reuse of waste water, drinking water and waste water technology, irrigation, and river basin management.

Priority will be given to projects based on novel ideas. 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, meaning those accredited institutions of higher learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, or public research institutes with experience in the relevant fields. For the purposes of this call, a "public research institute" means a research institute whose main 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 and who present their research at international symposia.

Israeli industry partners are encouraged to participate in research projects at their own cost but are not eligible to apply for grants.

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, are excluded from submitting and participating in a new proposal and project (either as PI or CI) within the frame of this call, 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, and non-university research establishments. 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 neighbouring 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.

In Israel:

Eligible institutions in Israel may receive grants covering up to 100% of the additional, eligible, research-oriented expenses incurred by the project (e.g. travel, personnel, equipment, expendable materials, not including salaries for permanent staff and principal investigators).

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.

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.

In the event of any inconsistency between the terms of this Call and the standard terms, the terms of this Call shall prevail.

In Germany:

Subject to the prior recommendation of the mutual Israeli-German research proposal by both Ministries under **this** call, the German partner **must file a legally binding full proposal** to BMBF for their part of the work-plan in the joint project. Approval of the joint 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.

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.

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: 14 May 2015 at 15:00 (local time).

8. Guidelines for the Submission of Joint Research Proposals

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

Proposals, including all the required application materials, **must be received by MOST in Israel and the Project Management Agency in Germany by the time as specified above**, in English and on the appropriate application forms in electronic format and for Israeli applicants in hard copy as well. **If only one of the parties to this call receives the proposal, or it is not submitted as required it will not be considered for funding.**

Duly signed proposals may only be submitted via the Research Authorities or the management of the eligible institutions by which the projects are to be carried out.

To MOST - 2 copies including one signed original, and the electronic version as e-mail attachment to the following address:

The Israeli partner should submit the joint full proposal to:

Mr. Roni Goldberg

Deputy Director, Division of International Relations
Ministry of Science, Technology and Space
P.O. Box 49100
(Bldg. 3, HaKiriya HaMizrahit)
Jerusalem 9149002
E-mail: Germany@most.gov.il

The German partner should send only the electronic version of the joint proposal to:

Dr. Leif Wolf
Project Management Agency Karlsruhe
Resources and Sustainability (PTRN)
Water Technology and Waste Management (PTKA-WTE)
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1
76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen
Tel.: ++49-721-608- -28224
Fax: ++49-721-608-928224
E-mail: leif.wolf@kit.edu
Internet: www.ptka.kit.edu/wte

9. Evaluation and Selection

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

- Relevance to the topics and objectives as mentioned above;
- The soundness of the proposed approach;
- Originality, novelty, multi-disciplinarity, and scientific quality;
- The adequacy of the facilities;
- The capability of the investigator(s) to carry out the proposed research;
- Added value of the cooperation;

Priority will be given to projects in which industrial partners, stakeholders, problem owners and end users participate.

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.

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

For additional information contact the following local offices:

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

Dr. Leif Wolf
Project Management Agency Karlsruhe
Resources and Sustainability (PTRN)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1
76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen
Tel.: ++49-721-608- 28224
Fax: ++49-721-608-928224
E-mail: leif.wolf@kit.edu
Internet: www.ptka.kit.edu/wte

in Israel:

Ministry of Science, Technology and Space
P.O.Box 49100
Jerusalem 9149002

on scientific matters:

Dr. Oren Shelef
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Orens@most.gov.il
Phone: +972 (2) 5411859

on administrative matters:

Mr. Roni Goldberg
Deputy Director,
Division for International
Relations
Tel.: ++972-2-5411812
Fax: ++972-2-5825725
E-mail: ronig@most.gov.il

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, 16 February 2015

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

Jerusalem, February 2015

Mr. Roni Goldberg,
Ministry of Science, Technology and
Space (MOST)