

**National Science and Technology
Council (NSTC)
Taiwan**

**Ministry of Innovation, Science
and Technology (MOST)
Israel**

Taiwan-Israel Scientific Research Program

CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS

For the Years 2024-2025

Deadline for Submissions: April 27, 2023

INDEX

A. MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION	2
B. MODE OF COOPERATION	2
C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND DURATION OF PROJECTS	3
D. ELIGIBILITY	3
E. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS	4
F. FUNDED EXPENSES	6
G. RENEWAL OF FUNDING	6
H. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING JOINT PROPOSALS.....	6
I. PROPOSALS REVIEW	8
J. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS.....	8
K. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	8
L. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	9

**Taiwan-Israel Scientific Research Program
CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS
For the Years 2024-2025
Deadline for Submissions: April 27, 2023**

Within the framework of the Taiwan-Israel agreement on scientific cooperation, the Agreement between the Economic and Cultural Offices of Israel and Taiwan, Taiwanese and Israeli research teams are hereby invited by the National Science and Technology Council of Taiwan ("NSTC") and the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology of the State of Israel (MOST) have decided to provide financial support and are glad to invite researchers and scientists to submit joint proposals for research projects carried out jointly by researchers from both countries.

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Taiwanese and Israeli researchers and to strengthen the scientific partnership between research groups from both countries, by establishing bilateral research networks, enhancing research cooperation and promoting the exchange of knowledge between Taiwan and Israeli scientists.

The joint research shall focus on one of the main areas of cooperation and its subtopics as detailed in Section A, and concentrate on applied research which could lead to technological applicability and the development of new products (Technology Readiness Level [TRL] 2-4).

Qualifying scientific applicants in this framework may receive research grants from NSTC and MOST, respectively, according to the applicable national funding procedures, regulations, and the requirements as detailed in this Call.

A. MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION

Taiwan-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for applied research projects in any of the following areas:

- 1. Information Security**
- 2. Medical Bio-Engineering**

B. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation will take the form of planning and performing joint research as well as conducting mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research. Each joint research team may submit only one project within this program.

Cooperation may also take the form of:

- a) Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in Taiwan and Israeli laboratories;

- b) Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
- c) Joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists;
- d) Mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research.

C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND DURATION OF PROJECTS

It is the intention of the Parties to fund research proposals selected hereunder for a term of **two years** and contracts will be signed accordingly. However, funding shall be approved annually, with the funding for each consecutive year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contracts and protocols in each country.

The Parties intend to support **up to six joint projects**. The final number of projects to be funded will be determined based on such factors as merits of the proposals upon scientific evaluation, and budgetary considerations.

The total maximum funding for all research projects approved under this Call for Proposals (CFP) is NIS 1,428,000 (equivalent to approx. US\$ 420,000) for the Israeli side, for a two-year period. On the Taiwan side, the total maximum funding for all research projects approved under this CFP is US\$ 70,000 per project (US\$ 35,000 per year), for a two-year period.

The maximum funding for each project will be up to NIS 238,000 (equivalent to approx. US\$ 70,000), for a two-year period. On the Taiwan side, the maximum funding for each single project will be up US\$ 70,000 per project (US\$ 35,000 per year), for a two-year period.

In accordance, research projects should be planned on a two-year basis beginning on January 1st, 2024. Contracts will be signed accordingly in each country.

Funding for the approved projects depends on the availability of funds and the approval of the State budget in each country.

D. ELIGIBILITY

Proposals must meet the following preconditions. Proposals not meeting the preconditions will be automatically rejected and will not be passed on to the scientific committee for review and evaluation.

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Taiwanese and Israeli scientific research teams.
2. Proposals must be for research projects in one of the main areas of cooperation and its subtopics as detailed in Section A, as well as meet the required Technology Readiness Level (TRL2-4).
3. Each joint research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country.
4. The PI on each side must be affiliated with an academic institution or a research institute ("Affiliated Institution"), or be a professor emeritus who continues

working on research in affiliation with the Affiliated Institution. An Affiliated Institution is determined in each country as follows:

In Israel:

- a) An accredited Institution of Higher Education, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 5718-1958; or
- b) A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization, a government company or a governmental unit. For the purposes of this Call, a "Research Institute" in Israel is a research institute whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals, and who present their research at international symposia.

In Taiwan:

- a) In accordance with the regulations of NSTC Call for Proposals.

Special eligibility provisions for Israeli Researchers:

1. In compliance with MOST's Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST ("[MOST Regulations](#)"), an Israeli PI that has or will have an active grant from any of MOST's international cooperation programs, whose funding will be concurrent to the funding of this program, is not eligible to apply. No parallel funding is allowed in the bilateral program. A researcher who is not eligible to submit a proposal as PI due to an active grant may submit one additional proposal in the international cooperation program as co-PI, if he does not have an active grant in the international program in which he acts as co-PI.
2. A researcher who has submitted a proposal for any MOST international cooperation call for funding in the 2024 calendar year **may not submit another proposal for any other MOST international cooperation call for funding in 2024.**
3. Please be advised that after a proposal has been submitted, the status of the members of the research team as PI and/or Co-PI may not be changed for the purposed of compliance with the eligibility requirements listed above.

Special eligibility provisions for Taiwan teams:

In accordance with the regulations of NSTC Call for Proposals.

E. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Joint project proposals must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the Taiwanese project partners and should be submitted simultaneously by both the Taiwan and Israeli PIs, to NSTC in Taiwan and to MOST in Israel. Each joint proposal should be written in English and must be identical for both PIs.

The **Final Joint Deadline** for applications: **Thursday April 27th at 15:00** (Local time in each country). **Proposals will not be accepted under any circumstance after the said date and hour.**

Further submission instructions for Israeli research teams:

- c) The Israeli PI shall submit the proposal through the Science Forefront system, at <https://kf.most.gov.il>.
- d) First time applicants need to fill an "account request" at the Science Forefront system. The request should be approved by the Research Authority of the Affiliated Institution. Once approved, the applicant will be notified by email that the account is active. **The approval process may take time and therefore should be done well in advance of the application deadline.**
- e) **Mandatory Pre-submission:** The PI must pre-submit the proposal in English via the Science Forefront system no later than one week prior to the Final Joint Deadline by **Thursday, April 20th on 15:00 Israel time. The online system shuts down for pre-submissions on this deadline. No pre-submissions will be accepted after this deadline. Proposals of Israeli researchers who failed to pre-submit their proposals by the deadline will not be accepted.**
- f) A proposal that has been pre-submitted can be edited by the PI, in coordination with the Affiliated Institution, until the Final Joint Submission deadline.
- g) The Affiliated Institution must submit the proposal by the Final Joint Deadline on **Thursday April 27th at 15:00 Israel time.** Affiliated Institution that fail to submit their proposal through the Science Forefront system by Final Joint Submission deadline, **will not be accepted.**
- h) Please be advised that as there may be technical problems, and the submission process may take a significant amount of time, **it is strongly recommended to complete the submissions well in advance of the application deadlines.**

Further submission instructions for Taiwanese research teams:

In accordance with the regulations of NSTC Call for Proposals.

For both countries:

A valid project application consists of the appropriated application form **duly filled in and signed**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team as detailed above, submitted respectively to NSTC in Taiwan and to MOST in Israel. **If the applications are not duly received both in Taiwan and in Israel by the deadline indicated above and in accordance with the submission instructions, the proposal will be rejected.**

F. FUNDED EXPENSES

Funding provided by this CFP is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Taiwanese and Israeli researchers. Therefore funding may be assigned to costs related to support of the collaboration vectors, such as costs related to the bilateral nature of the project (travel expenses of the researchers, scientific meetings, etc.) as well as to defray costs incurred by the approved research projects (disposables, publication costs, etc.).

In any case, each budget item or expenditure for which reimbursement is requested must conform to the respective national rules of each applicant.

Participating researchers are encouraged to plan visits to their counterparts' institutions and labs, given that such visits are an integral part of the research collaboration. International travel costs and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists, including accommodation, per diem and any other relevant expenses for each visiting scientist, should be included in their project's budget. In this regard when preparing the budget for each team, please note that each side funds their own travel expenses and should budget accordingly. Funding provided under this Call may only be used for visits taking place in Taiwan or Israel; visits to third countries are not eligible for financing by project funds.

Further funding provisions for the Israeli side:

Please see full funding provisions on MOST [Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST](#) ("[MOST Regulations](#)"). All activities and funding pursuant to this Call must be in accordance with MOST Regulations unless otherwise specified.

Further funding provisions for the Taiwan side:

In accordance with the regulations of NSTC Call for Proposals.

G. RENEWAL OF FUNDING

Renewal of project funding for a subsequent year is subject to the submission of the relevant documents and reports, separately by the Taiwanese and Israeli PIs. Taiwan and Israeli PIs must submit these documents to NSTC and to MOST, respectively, two months before the end of the previous year's contract, according to each country's regulations.

H. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING JOINT PROPOSALS

Each joint proposal should be written in English and must be identical in both countries. The proposal should be submitted using a unified form, available at each side's websites.

Font: Times New Roman 11; **line spacing:** 1.5.

1. Proposals should be limited to 10 pages, including figures (not including bibliography) and should include the following sections:
 - a) Abstract (max 1,500 characters including spaces)

- b) Scientific background and state of the art: scientific background, including an overview of the field of research around the world, noting the relative advantage of the proposed research;
 - c) Research objectives and specific aims: the purpose of the research;
 - d) Detailed description of the proposed research: working hypothesis, research program and methods, and preliminary results;
 - e) Significance, importance, innovation, and potential benefits of the proposed research;
 - f) Applicability: expected use and future technological development;
 - g) Cooperation vectors between the research groups: proposed modes of cooperation, their benefits and how they contribute to the research;
 - h) Work plan and Gantt: a list of stages and milestones, each with a short verbal description. Each stage should be plotted on a Gantt schedule diagram, clearly indicating the planned start time and an end times.
2. **Bibliography**: A complete bibliographic list should be attached to the proposed research. The five most relevant items to the proposed research should be marked with an asterisk.
 3. **CV**: A short CV (up to two pages) for each researcher involved in the research, including: a personal statement (briefly describing the suitability of the investigator to his/her role in the proposed project); a list of ongoing and completed research projects from the last three years that the investigator wishes to highlight; a citation of up to five publications or research projects that highlight the investigator's experience and qualifications for the proposed project; a list of positions, scientific appointments, and honors.
 4. **Letter of intent** from the research PIs in both countries affirming their intent to collaborate on the proposed research.
 5. **Additional authorizations needed depending on the type of research** (e.g. Helsinki Committee, animal experiments) shall be submitted along with the proposal. In case the required authorization is still not available at the time of submission, a statement in free text should be attached including the researcher's commitment that if their proposal is approved, the required authorization will be submitted as soon as possible.
 6. **In Israel only**:
 - a. Please specify 5 researchers from outside Israel with expertise in the field of the proposal, who could serve as potential external reviewers.
 - b. **Applicability**: describe the applicability of the proposed research in up to 5,000 characters in Hebrew.
 - c. **Significance**: describe the importance of the research in up to 500 characters in Hebrew or English.
 - d. Do not add additional documents beyond those specified above and in the attached guidelines for submission to the Science Forefront system.

I. PROPOSALS REVIEW

The parties will establish a Joint Taiwanese-Israeli Scientific Committee, comprising 3-7 expert scientists from the academia and industry from each country ("The Committee"). The Committee will review the proposals, and when appropriate, may select proposals to be sent to external reviewers for evaluation. The Committee will evaluate the proposals and formulate recommendations as to which of the proposals will be funded.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific level (20%): scientific and technological excellence, the scientific basis of research;
2. Innovation (20%): the degree of innovation and originality of the proposed research in comparison to the state of the art;
3. Methodology (20%): the extent to which the proposed method of conducting the research is qualitative, feasible and consistent with the proposed objectives;
4. Applicability potential (30%): the research contribution to the development of new applied scientific and technological advancement in the field;
5. Capability of the researcher and level of bi-national cooperation (10%): based on the experience, previous achievements and skills of the researchers and level of collaboration and compatible skills of partners.

J. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Contracts:

Upon approval of a particular project proposal, separate contracts will be signed in Taiwan and Israel, between NSTC and the Affiliated Institution of the Taiwan PI and between MOST and the Affiliated Institution of the Israeli PI.

2. Payments:

Payments will be made by NSTC and MOST to the Affiliated 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.

3. Final reports:

Within three months of the conclusion of the project, Israeli PIs must submit a final report in English to MOST at Reports@most.gov.il or through the Science Forefront system. It should include a final scientific and financial report covering the work and cooperation carried out during the entire two-year project period, in accordance with the contract's requirements.

Taiwanese PIs must submit a final report via Academic Research Service Portal of NSTC.

Each PI and each Affiliated Institution is accountable to NSTC or to MOST, in their respective countries, for the execution of the project.

K. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

For both sides:

It is strongly recommended that the Taiwanese and Israeli research teams and their Affiliated Institutions enter into an agreement regarding Intellectual Property rights from

the output of the financed project prior to the commencement of the collaborative activities.

For Israeli Applicants:

All procedures and activities under this CFP or the projects approved hereinafter, including the eligibility of Affiliated Institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to MOST Regulations and to MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects ("[Standard Terms](#)").

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the Standard Terms before filing an application under this CFP. Filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the Standard Terms' provisions thereof. Please note any updates made to the standard terms made before the final submission date will apply to proposals submitted to this CFP.

For Taiwan applicants:

In accordance with the regulations of NSTC Call for Proposals.

L. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following contacts:

ISRAEL:

On administrative matters:

Israeli researchers should consult directly with the Research Authority at their Affiliated Institution regarding administrative matters. The Institution will consult the Ministry as required.

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