

Bpifrance – ACCIÓ Catalonia Trade & Investment 1st Call for Proposals for Research and Development (R&D) Projects between French and Catalan companies

Deadline for proposal submissions: March, 1st 2018

1. Scope

Bpifrance and ACCIÓ Catalonia Trade & Investment are announcing a call for proposals for joint R&D projects focusing on developing innovative products, technology-based services or methods in all technological and application areas which have strong market potential.

The Catalan agency for competitiveness of the Catalan ministry of industry (ACCIÓ) and Bpifrance will provide access to public funding for joint selected projects. Minimum requirement concerning project consortium is the participation of at least two companies from the participating countries (one each).

ACCIO and Bpifrance will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during the project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phases. In addition, Bpifrance and ACCIO will facilitate the application process and will accompany the progress of the respective projects.

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for industrial R&D projects until 01/01/2018 according to the following structures and procedures. Please contact your local funding agency as soon as possible and before submitting an application.

2. Call Structure

The call for applications invites partners to present joint proposals for industrial R&D projects according to the following procedures:

2.1 Financing

French and Catalan eligible project participants will finance their costs from the national funding schemes (in France ADI, in Catalonia by “Nuclis d’R+D internacionals unilaterals¹”) and complementarily from their own resources.

¹ Program funded by the ERDF funds within the Catalan Operational Program 2014-2020.

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 two independent enterprises, one from Catalonia (Spain) and one from France which contribute considerably to the project. Participation of research institutes and other companies is welcome as additional participants or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two jurisdictions (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- Project duration should not exceed 2 years. An extension of 1 year could be accepted by both countries if sufficiently justified.
- 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, including the European Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation. (2014/C 198/01)

2.3 Guidelines for initial check and application

Before the call deadline all participants file one short common proposal in English language, legally signed by all partners participating in the project.

The **common proposal application form** is available for download at: www.bpifrance.fr and <http://catalonia.com/en/innovate-in-catalonia/innovation-services/international-technological-cooperation.jsp>

This document has to be submitted before the deadline electronically, online through a form or by email to both odile.henin@bpifrance.fr and m.lemoine@catalonia.com

2.4. Guidelines for final application

Simultaneously, all applicants must file national applications according to the following rules. Please contact your local funding agency as soon as possible and before submitting an application.

Submissions from Catalonia

All the Catalanian partner files jointly one application following the templates and instructions available [on the ACCIÓ website](#). Catalanian enterprises are welcome to apply if they meet the regional call conditions as found on the “Nuclis d’R+D internationals unilaterals” program.

Submissions from France

Every French project partner files one individual application in paper form to Bpifrance. All French SMEs, following the guidelines of the European Union definition which perform R&D to develop an innovative product, process or technological service – also in cooperation with research organizations – have the right to apply. More detailed criteria can be found on the Bpifrance website: www.bpifrance.fr. The application has to be in line with the Bpifrance regulations, e.g. it has to be in French language.

Each entity will finance its eligible partners according to its own criteria.

The main aspects of the criteria are briefly described below:

France

ADI (Aide pour le développement de l’innovation) requirements :

- Partnerships: Two or more industrial partners (a Foreign company and a French company)
- No country or partner representing more than 70% of the total budget of the project.
- Eligible Beneficiaries: French companies up to 2000 fulltime equivalents (FTE)
- Eligible costs: Industrial research and experimental development (industrialization and commercialization costs are not eligible)
- Funding amount: from € 50,000 up to € 3 Million (submitted to financial analysis of the company and financial conditions)
- Duration: maximum of 3 years
- Funding: zero interest rate loan reimbursable in case of technical success, up to 65% of the eligible costs for an SME and up to 50% for midcap companies
- According to Bpifrance financial assessment process, the participants need to demonstrate sufficient financial capacity to support the cooperative R&D projects (50% of the project budget – subcontracting not included – should be covered by company equity).

Collaborative project regulated by a consortium agreement signed before any payment
(check list will be provided to participant to help them setting up the consortium agreement)

Catalonia

- Minimum of 2 unrelated entities (1 with its operative base in Catalonia + a French one)
- No company shall support more than 70% of the project's budget.
- Project's minimum budget: 150,000 euros.
- Direct and non-refundable grant of up to 200,000 euros.
- Grant intensity: up to 25-50%, depending on the company's size and the nature of its activities.
- Projects shall not start before the application form is officially submitted
- Projects framed within RIS3CAT sectors and defined KET.
- The Catalan part of the projects must be developed in Catalonia.

Collaborative project regulated by a consortium agreement.

The minimum requirements for the Cooperation Agreement are:

- Naming all project partners
- Description of the project aims and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their working plans with effort estimates in man months (Short common proposal annexed)
- Identifying and naming any 3rd party contractors required in the project
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (new and old)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- If research organizations from France are involved the publishing rights of each part need to be agreed by the parts

Timeline

Launching of the first call for Proposals	1st January 2018
Deadline for joint application	1 st March 2018

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