

Announcement

7th German-Catalan Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Cooperation Projects

Deadline for proposal submission: June 2023

1. Scope

The Catalan Agency for Competitiveness of the Catalan Ministry of Industry (ACCIÓ) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) intend to support joint German-Catalan research and development projects (R&D projects) in order to develop innovative products, processes or technical services from all technology and application areas.

Funding will be available for R&D projects in which new products, services or processes with a high market potential are developed and subsequently transformed into marketable products.

In Germany, funding is provided through the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM). In Catalonia, funding is provided through the “Nuclis d’RD” programme.

ACCIÓ and AiF Projekt GmbH (ZIM project management agency on behalf of the BMWK) support the applicants in the phase of submission of project proposals, in the evaluation and in the implementation phase.

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

Eligible project participants from Germany and Catalonia will finance their costs from the national funding schemes (in Germany ZIM, in Catalonia by “Nuclis d’R+D”), and complementarily from their own resources.

Eligible project participants from Germany and Catalonia will finance their costs from the funding schemes applicable for this call set by ACCIÓ and the German funding programme ZIM and complementarily from their own resources. Provision of funding from one funding agency will neither indicate that funding from the other funding agency will be provided, nor bind the other national scheme in its provision of funds to the eligible project participants.

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 Catalan company and one German SME.
- Participation of further research organisations and other companies are welcome as additional partners or subcontractors according to each country's funding schemes.
- Companies and/or research organizations from other countries may also participate. However, these partners will neither be funded by ACCIÓ nor BMWK. Instead, they follow the financing rules including procedures and the funding regulations of these partners' countries of origin.
- 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.).
- Total project duration should not exceed 3 years. According to the German guidelines projects must last 2 years existing the possibility to extend the project 1 year 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.

3. Submission

Before the call deadline all participants file one **common proposal** to each of their respective funding agencies and a draft Consortium Agreement (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners in English.

The proposal application form is available for download at: www.zim.de/international and www.accio.gencat.cat/nuclis

The minimum requirements for the Consortium 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
- Identifying and naming any 3rd party contractors required in the project
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (background and foreground)

- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- If research organizations from Germany are involved, the publishing rights of each part need to be agreed by the parts
- This document have to be submitted before the deadline electronically to both zim-international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de and www.accio.gencat.cat/nuclis website 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.

3.1. Catalonia

All the Catalanian partners file jointly one application following the templates and instructions available at www.accio.gencat.cat/nuclis. Catalanian enterprises are welcome to apply if they meet the regional call conditions as found on the same website. Catalanian enterprises are defined as profit companies, sole proprietorships or partnerships with an office and employees in Catalonia. More details and criteria can be found on the ACCIÓ, Nuclis d'RD website www.accio.gencat.cat/nuclis

3.2. Germany

Each German project partner submits an individual ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH. Every German SME, in accordance with the relevant EU regulations, as well as medium-sized companies with less than 500 employees (full-time equivalents), which carry out R&D for the development of innovative products, processes or technical services, are eligible to apply. Other medium-sized companies with less than 1,000 employees are eligible to apply for funding if they cooperate with at least one SME (in accordance with EU regulations) whose project is funded. Research and technology organizations are eligible to apply as cooperation partners of eligible companies.

Detailed criteria for submitting applications and the ZIM application form can be found on the ZIM website (www.zim.de); you may also contact AiF Projekt GmbH directly as described below. The application must be written in German and comply with the regulations of the ZIM guideline.

Timeline

Launch of the 7 th Call for Proposals	March 2023
Deadline for joint application	June 2023
Final decision for funding	December 2023

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