**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

# Call for Proposals for the establishment of a virtual

# Joint Italian - Israeli Laboratories

# Submission by Thursday, January 4, 2018

## A. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Within the framework of the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Research and Development Cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter: the “**Agreement**”) and in particular under the Subcommittee for Scientific Cooperation, the Ministry of Science and Technology (hereafter: **MOST**) is providing financial support for a virtual joint Italian-Israeli Laboratory project, established and carried out jointly by research institutes and scientists from both countries. Italian-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit Joint Laboratory proposals in the area of **Bio Robotics.**

**Bio robotics** covers the fields of cybernetics, bionics and genetic engineering as a collective study. Bio robotics is a real subfield of robotics: studying how to make robots that emulate or simulate living biological organisms mechanically or chemically**.**

The goal of the joint laboratory is to promote the long-term cooperation between the two countries, by upgrading an existing laboratory to a platform for joint projects, exchanges of students and researchers, sharing knowledge and ideas.

## B. MODE OF COOPERATION

The Joint Israeli – Italian Laboratory, once established, will have to enhance the cooperation among the two Countries’ Academic and/or Research institutions, whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific and technological knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and employ researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their field of research in leading scientific journals and present their research at international symposia.

The researchers should elaborate on their research activities and indicate the type of planned joint activities with their Italian partners, including joint research projects.

The Joint Laboratory main facility shall be located in Israel:

## C. ELIGIBILITY

1. Both Israeli and Italian teams will be headed by a Principal Investigator.
2. The Principal Investigator must be member of an academic or research institution or a professor emeritus who continues working on research in academic or research institution (hereinafter: “**Affiliated** **Institution**”);

 In Israel, the "Affiliated Institution" must be one of the following:

1. An accredited institution of higher learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958;
2. A Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF);
3. A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization;
4. A Research Institute which is a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purpose of this Call, a "Research Institute" is a research institute whose significant portion of activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, possessing appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and employing researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals in the world, and who present their research at international symposia.

In Italy, a research institution must be a public or private University, a public or private Research Institute, acting under Italian law.

1. Italian and Israeli industrial partners or other research institutions are encouraged to collaborate with the institutions sponsoring the Laboratory, and can be associated with it by providing financing, personnel, equipment or facilities to the activities carried out in the Lab.
2. The Israeli Principal Investigator and the Israeli research institution promoting the Laboratory will both be accountable to MOST for the execution of the research activities and the financial reporting of the project.
3. Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Committee for Experimentations on Animalsbefore the project can commence.

Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human beings, must submit the approval of the relevant IRB/Helsinki Committee before the project can commence.

## D. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

It is suggested that the Israeli and Italian research teams and their respective research institutions will sign a “Cooperation Agreement”, regarding Intellectual Property Rights arising from the activity of the Joint Laboratory as well as all the relevant cooperation issues related to the project (technical and scientific cooperation, financing, personnel exchange, funding allocation) .

## E. FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

MOST will provide the selected Laboratory with a maximum total funding up to 880,000 NIS for the three year start-up phase, on the basis of the program and the budget plan submitted.

The budget plan will have to show the financing plan for the expenses of establishment, management and development of the Laboratory. The financing plan should include the following items:

* financing requested from MOST to promote the Laboratory
* direct financing of the Israeli institution promoting the Laboratory;
* direct financing of the Italian institution promoting the Laboratory;
* financing from others institutions and companies – if exists.

Proposals of Joint Laboratory projects will have to include a perspective of financial self-sustainability allowing the continuation of the Joint Laboratory’s activities even after the end of the three year grant received from the Israeli side.

New research institutions and private companies, that were not part of the proposal, shall be able to join the Laboratory only under a written approval of MOST, and only after one year from the activation of the Laboratory.

Amendments to the budget plans must be authorized in accordance to MOST standard rules and procedures.

## F. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Laboratory project proposal should be submitted - in English - by the Israeli Principal Investigator to MOST by **Thursday, January 4, 2018 by 23:59 Israeli time.** The proposal should include both the Italian and the Israeli proposals. The Italian and Israeli Principal Investigators (PIs) should declare by underwriting the proposal that the scientific project and its preliminary budget are agreed upon, including all the financing provisions related to the laboratory.

**The Israeli Principal Investigators (PI) should electronically submit the proposals in English using the attached Application Form and the required documents to the following email address:**

**italy-labs@most.gov.il** **(in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures).**

Because of technical constraints, an email over 20 megabytes will not be received. If the email and its attachments exceed **20 MB**, it is must be split.

Shortly after submitting the email the applicants should receive an automatic reply acknowledging its receipt. If an email confirming receipt is not received, the applicant must approach MOST contact persons detailed below to make sure the email was duly received. It is solely the sender's responsibility to receive confirmation that the email was received, whether by automatic reply or personal confirmation. As technical problems may occur, it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline. A valid project application consists of the Application Form duly filled in and signed, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to MOST.

In addition, Israeli Principal Investigators should send also **2 hard** copies of their proposals by **Tuesday 9 January 2018** to the following MOST address:

Avi ANATI

Deputy Director General for Planning &Control

Ministry of Science & Technology

Call for Proposals for Israel-Italy Laboratories 2018

Government Offices, Kiryat Begin

Clermont Ganneau St. 1

Kiryat Begin, Building 3, 3rd floor

Room 309

Jerusalem 91490

## G. FUNDED EXPENSES

All budget items and expenditures must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant.

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate together. It will therefore be provided mainly to support and integrate the financial, technical and human resources mobilized for the cooperation with the counterpart.

Note: The contract will be made with Israeli institution, which will be responsible for the execution of the work program and the budget for both sides (Italian and Israeli).

## H. MUTUAL VISITS

Participating researchers are encouraged to spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts’ institutions. As long as the visits are an integral part of the joint research, international travel and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists of both countries should be included in the project's budget. The visits must take place in Italy or in Israel.

## I. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

1. Conformity with the definition of the program research topics of this Call;

2. Scientific Qualification of the Principal Investigators (one for each country per research project): The Principal Investigator should have experience, appropriate expertise and ability to manage the collaboration and carry out the Laboratory goals within the project’s time frame;

3. Relevance of the research topics and innovation impact of the methodology adopted.

4. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives and the joint research activities with the Italian partners,, presentation of research methodology and detailed work plan, to be assessed also taking in account the financial impact of the project;

5. Ability to develop research and growth of the existing research centers and their capacity to access to further sources of funding.

6. Added value of the bilateral scientific cooperation

7. Involvement of young researchers;

The evaluation process will be operated by MOST.

## J. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

**Contracts**

Upon approval of a project proposal, contracts will be signed in Israel between MOST and the Principal Investigators' institution in Israel.

Payments will be made by MOST to the Israeli PI's institution, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above.

Renewal of project funding for a second and third year is subject to the submission of an application for continuation of the project on the appropriate forms two months prior to the end of the first and second year. The applications should be submitted by the Israeli PIs to: Shai Israeli: shai@most.gov.il.

**Final Reports**

Within three months of the conclusion of the project, the Israeli and Italian PI's must submit a joint final report t in English to MOST at:

Shai Israeli: shai@most.gov.il
The report must include a final scientific and financial report covering the work and cooperation carried out during the entire three-year project period, in accordance with the contract's requirements.

## K. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional scientific information on Bio Robotics may be obtained from

 Dr. Andrey Broisman,

Director, Applied Sciences and Engineering,

Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411835

andreyb@most.gov.il

Additional administrative information may be obtained from the following:

Mr. Avi ANATI

Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

Ministry of Science & Technology

Tel: 02-5411170/173/800/829

E-mail: avi@most.gov.il

Mrs. Claire Levaton

Director for Western European Countries
Division for International Relations
Ministry of Science & Technology

E-mail: claire@most.gov.il

## L. APPLICATION FORMS

This call for proposals and application forms are available at the following internet addresses:

<http://www.most.gov.il/>