# China-Israel Scientific Research Program

# Call for Joint Project Pre-Proposals

# For the Years 2021-2022

Within the framework of the Chinese-Israeli scientific cooperation, the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST-CH) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel (MOST-IL) are glad to invite researchers and scientists to submit joint proposals for research projects carried out by scientists from both countries.

## Objectives

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Chinese 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 Chinese and Israeli scientists.

MOST-CH and MOST-IL are providing financial support for joint research activities carried out by scientists from both countries. Chinese-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for research projects in any of the following areas:

1. **Medical Devices**
2. **Resilient and adaptation of agricultural to climate changes**

## Mode of Cooperation

Cooperation will take the form of planning and conducting joint research as well as conducting mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research.

Each joint research team may submit one project only.

## Level of Funding

It is the intention of the Parties to this Call to fund research proposals selected hereunder for a term of two years. However, funding must be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract.

It is the intention of the program's sponsors to support **10 joint projects**. However the final number of projects to be sponsored will be determined based on such factors as scientific evaluation and budgetary considerations. Research projects should be planned on a two-year basis. Contracts will be signed accordingly.

The total maximum project funding for all research projects approved under this Call is 4,000,000 NIS for the Israeli side, and RMB ¥20 million for the Chinese side, over a two-year period. The allocation for each approved research proposal will be up to 400,000 NIS for the Israeli side and RMB ¥2 million for Chinese side for the two-year project period.

**Expected starting date of the approved projects is the last quarter of 2021.**

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

## Eligibility

Proposals must meet the following preconditions. Proposals that do not meet 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 Chinese and Israeli scientific research teams.
2. Each joint research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country.
3. The Principal Investigator (PI) on each side must be affiliated with an academic institution, meaning – **in Israel:**
4. An accredited institution of higher education in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Act, 1958.
5. A research institute, which is a nonprofit organization.
6. A research institute, which is a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purposes of this Call a "research institute" means an 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.

 In China, PI must be affiliated with Chinese institute/organization，the detailed requirements for Chinese PI and Chinese institute/organization are defined in the Call For Proposal (CFP) to be published by MOST-CH.

Industrial partners are encouraged to participate in research teams headed by Principal Investigators from an academic institution.

1. Submission: For the Israeli side, the application should be submitted through the Science Forefront Site, <https://kf.most.gov.il> .

In order to apply the applicant needs to fill an "account  request" in the  Science Forefront Site. The request should be approved by the research authority of the Institute. once approved, the applicant will be notified by email that the account is approved.

For the Chinese side, the applicants will use online submission system of MOST-CH to submit the proposals. The system will be open for application on [exact date tbc, around end of September], and the link of the system is: <http://service.most.gov.cn>；

1. Each PI and each affiliated institution is accountable to MOST-IL or MOST-CH, respectively, for the execution of the project.
2. Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Committee for Experimentations on Animals before the project can commence.
3. 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.

### D1. Additional Provisions

It is strongly recommended that the Chinese and Israeli research teams and their institutions enter into agreements regarding intellectual property rights prior to the start of collaborative activities.

### D2. Submission of Research Pre-Proposals

**Joint deadline for applications: Thursday, 26.11.2020, by 15:00. Please note that in Israel** the pre-proposals must be submitted by the **researchers** to the relevant official in the Institut's research authority, through the online system by **24.11.2020 at 15:00 (local Israel time)**.

**Pre-Proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.**

This is a two-steps process:

First step - Pre-proposal (of up to 2 pages) – The full instructions will be fund in the Science Forefront Site

Second step – After evaluation of pre-proposals, the teams of the selected projects will receive notice and required to submit Full proposal (of up to 8 pages).

The submitted proposals, in China and Israel, should be identical.

**For Israeli research teams:**

Israeli Principal Investigators (PI) should submit the pre-proposals in **English**: on MOST-IL online submission system.

1. The online system will be closed for submissions by the specified date and hour and no submissions will be accepted under any circumstances after the due date. A researcher who submitted his application may edit his proposal with an approval by the relevant official in the research authority in his institute, until the last submission date **(Tuesday, 24.11.2020 at 15:00)**. It should be emphasized that an Israeli researcher who will not submit his pre-proposal on time with an approval by the research authority in his institute will not be able to do so at a later date.
2. The **institute** will submit the final application no later than **Thursday, 26.11.2020 at 15:00 (local Israel time)**. This is the final formal phase for submitting the pre-proposals. Pre-proposals which will not be submitted by the institute by the due date, through the online system, will be disqualified.

Please pay attention, as technical problems are possible, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline**. **For Chinese research teams:**

Chinese Principal Investigators (PI) should submit the pre-proposals in Chinese on MOST-CH online submission system (http://service.most.gov.cn). The deadline of application is [date tbc, around end of November of 2020] by 16:00. There may be a first round review depending on the number of applicants, and the submission of formal full proposals will be notified accordingly at a later time.

## Funded expenses

Generally, funding may be assigned to 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.). It is recommended that funding will be dedicated also to support the mobility of young researchers between the institutions involved in the approved projects and joint labs.

**For the Israeli side only,** project funds may be used to finance monthly salaries of research staff members retained specifically for the project. Specific provisions regarding permissible use of project funds are set out in the research contract.

**For Chinese researchers:** the specific provisions of the fund expenses are referred to in the MOST-CH Call for Proposal and relative regulations.

Participating scientists are encouraged to plan extended visits to their counterparts’ institutions. As long as the visits are an integral part of research collaboration, international travel and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists should be included in the project's budget. International travel costs should be included in the budget of the visiting side, while in-country living expenses should be included in the budget of the Chinese side for both visits to China or to Israel. The visits must take place in China or in Israel only. Visits to third countries may not be financed by project funds.

## Renewal of funding

Renewal of project funding for a second year is subject to the submission, separately by the Chinese and Israeli PIs, of the relevant documents. Israeli PIs must submit these documents in English to the MOST-IL two months before the end of the first year's contract. The Israeli team should submit the application on the appropriate forms together with the annual scientific report. The applications should be submitted by the Israeli PIs to: Applications@most.gov.il

Chinese PI should submit the required documents and reports accordingly as required in the relative regulations of MOST-CH, but does not need to submit another application form separately.

## Evaluation and selection

A scientific committee on each side will evaluate the pre and full proposals. Subsequently, the project selection will be determined via discussion and agreement between the two Ministries. Researchers whose pre-proposal will be selected will be notified accordingly and will submit a full proposal.

***For the Israeli side:***

**Pre-proposals** will be assessed by a scientific committy according to the following evaluation criteria:

* + - 1. Matching the research subject with the subject of the call for proposal
			2. Scientific merit
			3. Scientific innovation
			4. Level of cooperation between Chinese and Israeli teams

**Full proposals** will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

1. Conformity with the definition of the program research topics presented above;
2. Significance (quantitative whenever relevant) of the problem being addressed, and the potential impact of the proposed approach on solving it. Proposals should address these issues explicitly and provide as much evidence as possible;
3. Scientific merit, with emphasis upon the originality and novelty of the proposed research;
4. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives, presentation of research methodology and detailed program of work;
5. Feasibility of the research program;
6. Practical applicability of expected research results;
7. Extent of genuine collaboration between the Chinese and Israeli research teams;
8. Level of involvement of young researchers (PhD students and/or post-doctorates);

***In China***, the assessment of proposal will be based on similar standards.

## Contracts, Payments and Reports

1. **Contracts**

Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed in China and Israel respectively, between MOST-CH and the institution of the Chinese PI and between MOST-IL and the institution of the Israeli PI.

1. **Payments**

In principle, the project's period is two years. However, funding must be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract. MOST-IL and MOST-CH reserves the right not to fund a second year of work for scientific-professional, administrative, budgetary or policy reasons.

An application for the continuation of research funding for the second year must be submitted by the institution of the Israeli PI to MOST-IL on the appropriate forms at least two months prior to the end of the first year of the project together with the annual scientific report.

In keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above, on the Israeli side, payments will be made by MOST-IL to the PI's institution, and on the Chinese side, payment will be made by MOST-CH to the PI’s institution.

1. **Final Reports**

Within three months of the conclusion of the project, Israeli PIs must submit a final report in English to MOST-IL at: Reports@most.gov.il

Chinese PIs must submit final reports in Chinese to MOST-CH accordingly as required in the project contract and relative regulations.

These 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.

##  Special Provisions Regarding the Israeli Applicant

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST-IL Procedures regarding Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST-IL and to the MOST-IL Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (the document 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.

Please refer to MOST-IL Procedures appendix on MOST website.

     ("נהלי עבודה – פרויקטים ומלגות הממומנים על ידי משרד המדע והטכנולוגיה")

## Additional Information in China

Additional **information** may be obtained from:

**+86-10-58882999；**

**program@istic.ac.cn**

## Additional Information in Israel

Additional scientific information on **Medical Devices**:

**Dr. Sharon Yagur-Kroll**

Director of Biomedical Research

Ministry of Science and Technology

02-5411862‏

SharonYK@most.gov.il

Additional scientific information on

**Resilient and adaptation of agricultural to climate changes.**

**Dr. Moshe Ben-Sasson**

Director of Water, Agriculture and Environment

Ministry of Science and Technology

02-5411134

moshebs@most.gov.il

Additional **administrative information** may be obtained from the following:

**Mrs. Meira Binyamin**

Head of Scientific Assistance

Department for General for Planning & Control

Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411170/173/800/829

meirab@most.gov.il

**Mrs. Yehudith Nathan**

Director of Asia and Africa Department
Division for International Relations
Ministry of Science and Technology

Tel: 02-5411145

yehudith@most.gov.il

##  Application Forms

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

For the Israeli team: <https://kf.most.gov.il>. For the Chinese team: [http://www.most.gov.cn](https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/maimonide)