



Announcement

1st German-Chilean Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Project applications and national funding applications will be accepted until August 15th 2023

1. Scope

Corfo and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) intend to support joint German-Chilean 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, technical services or processes will in subsequent steps generate sustainable solutions with high market potential.

In Germany, funding is provided through the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM). In Chile, funding is provided through Innova Chile from Corfo, using the “Crea y Valida - ZIM” instrument.

Innova Chile and AiF Project GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of the BMWK, will assist the project partners with basic information during the submission of project proposals, in the evaluation and in the implementation phase. All results will be announced within 3 months after the submission deadline.

2. Call Structure

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for R&D projects until August 15th 2023 according to the following procedures used by Innova Chile and ZIM, specified in the respective guidelines of both funding programmes (“Innova Chile” in Chile and “ZIM” in Germany).

2.1. Financing

Eligible project participants from Germany and Chile will finance their costs from the funding schemes applicable for this call (through Innova Chile's "Crea y Valida – ZIM" instrument/Chilean applicants and through ZIM/German applicants) 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. Minimum requirements

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/ or technology-based services. The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

- Naming of all project partners
- The partners must include at least one Chilean company and one German SME. Chilean companies should be legally constituted in Chile, be at least 18 months old (since the start date of business activities in Chilean Internal Revenue Service), and show proof of sales in the last 18 months (not necessarily in all months).
- 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 organisations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation is neither funded by Innova Chile nor ZIM. They have to be included into the Proposal Application Form
- The project should focus on the development of new products, services or processes of industrial application, which are based on the international state of the art, leading to commercialisation in the domestic and/or global markets.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- Project duration should in principle not exceed 2 years, or 3 years if the project involves biological cycles.
- The project should demonstrate a balanced technological contribution by the participants from both countries and must be equally significant to all participants. In a project with two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute with more than 70% of total person months to the project. In a project with more than two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute with more than 50% of total person months. All research organizations involved in the consortium may altogether not contribute with more than 50% of the total person months.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria may apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

3. Submission

Between the opening of the call on June 6th 2023 and the call deadline on August 15th 2023 all participants are asked to file one short common proposal in English language (Proposal Application Form), legally signed by all organisations participating in the project and a draft Consortium Agreement (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners (also in English). These documents have to be submitted electronically to Innova Chile from Corfo via www.corfo.cl (Chilean applicants) and to zim-international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de (German applicants).

The minimum requirements for the Consortium Agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners
- Description of the project aims, scope, role division and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their working plans with person months (for this the common application proposals can be declared as part of the agreement)
- A clause that provides for all partners to be informed if third parties are involved in the project
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (background and foreground)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- Joint final reporting is to be done according to the regulations set by ZIM and Innova Chile from Corfo.
- If research organisations from Germany are involved, a passage has to be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

The Consortium Agreement shall be consistent with Innova Chile and ZIM's terms and conditions for funding.

In addition to the common proposal, project partners who want to apply for funding within this call must submit a national application according to the respective rules (see below).

The Proposal Application Form as well as additional country-specific information and requirements are available at www.zim.de/quebec and at Corfo's homepage www.corfo.cl.

3.1 Chile

- Each Chilean project partner must submit an application for funding to the “Crea y Valida – ZIM” instrument through Corfo’s website. This grant supports the development of new or significantly improved products, processes and/or technology-based services, from low-resolution prototypes, until validation at an industrial and/or commercial scale.
- Only firms that are 18 months old (since the start date of business activities in the Chilean Tax Office) and that show proof of sales in the last 18 months are eligible to receive funding from Corfo. Universities and research organisations are welcome to participate as company collaborators, and can be hired as subcontractors only.
- The matching grant covers up to CLP \$220 million (€ 250.000 approx.) of the project costs in total. The percentage covered varies depending on firm size (according to sales): 40% large; 60% medium; and 80% small. The project is expected to be developed within 24 months, extendable to 30 months. If the project involves biological cycles, an extension between 36-42 months is allowed.
- Additional documents or clarifications may be requested by the Corfo.
- Partners involved in a joint project will be requested to provide information during the execution of the project to ensure that the project has been developed as expected. Additionally, partners will have to provide information regarding the impact of the project once ended.

All information about this call, the guidelines detailing application procedures and the corresponding application forms can be found in Corfo’s website (www.corfo.cl). You are highly encouraged to contact Innova Chile from Corfo if you have any questions. The application can be written in Spanish or English and comply with the regulations contained in Corfo’s Innova Chile guidelines.

3.2 Germany

Each German project partner submits an individual ZIM application to the ZIM Project Management Agency AiF Projekt GmbH. Every SME with an establishment or branch in Germany, 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.

An instruction on how to receive the ZIM application form and detailed criteria for submitting applications 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.

The national funding organisations Innova Chile from Corfo in Chile and AiF Projekt GmbH in Germany will be available to supply all interested parties with all relevant information.

3.3 Decision and project start

Projects should be submitted to each national agency by August 15th 2023, after which the technical assessment by each national authority will take place. Funding decisions will be communicated no later than November 15th 2023. Joint projects are expected to start between December 2023 and January 2024.

Consultation with the national funding organizations is highly recommended at an early stage.

Contact



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