



## 12<sup>th</sup> South Korea – Switzerland Call for Joint Innovation Projects

Deadline for submission of proposals – **30 June 2026**

### 1. Call Overview

#### Scope and Objectives

The **Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT)** and the **Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse)** announce a bilateral call for joint R&D project outlines aimed at developing market-ready solutions for products, technology-based services or processes that have significant **market potential** in both South Korea and Switzerland.

The call is open to **all** scientific disciplines, with particular emphasis on the following areas:

- Biotech; Medtech
- Digitalisation; Industry 4.0; IoT; Artificial Intelligence
- Additive manufacturing
- Smart Materials; Innovative Surfaces
- Augmented and Virtual Reality
- Hydrogen Technologies
- Renewable Energy & Batteries

#### Key Dates

<b>Publication of the call</b>	18 March 2026
<b>Call information webinar</b>	24 March 2026
<b>Closing date for submission</b>	<b>30 June 2026</b>
<b>Notification of decision</b>	31 August 2026
<b>Earliest project start date</b>	01 November 2026

#### Call Brokerage Event and Partner Search Support (optional)

To facilitate the search for project partners, the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) in Switzerland supports and organises partner-matching activities. [EEN Switzerland](#) and KIAT provide an online [business to match platform](#), featuring partner profiles to help organizations establish connections. The platform enables easy scheduling of meetings (incl. video calls) and will remain active until 25 May 2026. All inquiries related to the partner search should be directed to the EEN contacts listed below. The platform enables easy scheduling of meetings (including video calls) and will remain active until 25 April 2026.

An [online webinar will be held on 24 March 2026](#), offering detailed guidance on funding conditions, the call process, partner search and other aspects of the call. Early registration for the webinar is recommended to support timely consortium formation.

### 2. Eligibility criteria

To be considered for evaluation, proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- **Project duration:** The project must have a duration between 18 and 36 months.

- **Consortium Composition:**
  - Mandatory Participants:
    - At least **one business entity** from each participating country (South Korea and Switzerland)
    - At least **one research institute** from either South Korea or Switzerland
    - Exception: *If the Swiss applicant is an individual start-up (pre-market and <50 FTE), the requirement to include a research institute is waived.*
  - Additional Participants:
    - Additional research organizations or commercial companies from either country may participate, adhering to the funding rules of their respective countries.
- **Legal Status and Independence:** To ensure genuine international collaboration, rather than internal company research, **affiliated companies** within the consortium will be treated as a single entity under their parent company. South Korean entities **must not be linked** to the Swiss partners or vice versa.
- **Innovation and Collaboration Requirements:** Projects must demonstrate significant **innovation content, clear added value** and substantial bilateral cooperation benefits.
- **Resource Allocation (70/30 Rule):** No single country may contribute **more than 70%** or less than 30% of **the total person-months** dedicated to the project. Person-months refers to the cumulative time (in months) allocated by staff to the project. (Definition: One person-month = 154 hours of full-time work)
- **Mandatory Documents:**
  - Consortium Agreement (CA): A draft CA covering Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) must be submitted with the proposal.
  - Financial documents: Documents demonstrating the implementation partners' ability to finance their own contributions must be included (see Section 4 for details).
- **Eligible Costs:** Only costs incurred within the respective country are eligible. **Cross-border funding is not allowed.**

**△ Important:** Proposals that fail to meet any of the eligibility criteria will not be considered for evaluation. Errors in proposals cannot be corrected after the application deadline. Proposals that include ineligible partners will result in the entire proposal being disqualified.

### 3. Funding Rules

Applications must comply with KIAT and Innosuisse guidelines. Each country will fund its eligible participants in accordance with its national procedures and funding rules. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary between South Korea and Switzerland, however, **the bilateral joint cooperation between the partners and its added value** will be an important aspect to be considered in the evaluation.

Projects will be funded by the national funding agencies (KIAT and Innosuisse) in the order of the joint ranking list. The funding agencies will fund as many projects as their budgets allow.

#### Switzerland - Innosuisse funding regulations:

Innosuisse promotes science-based innovation in Switzerland. Swiss implementation partners receive a non-exclusive right to exploit the project results in their specific business area.

##### Funding Coverage:

- Innosuisse covers a **maximum of 70%** of the **total Swiss project costs** as follows:

Funding rate for research organisations:	100% of eligible costs
Funding rate for start-ups* and SMEs or other implementation partners < 250 FTE	max. 50% of eligible costs
Funding rate for large companies or other implementation partners > 250 FTE	max. 25% of eligible costs
<i>*Swiss start-ups that have not yet entered the market and that only collaborate with foreign companies can receive up to 70%</i>	

- If the commercial entity in Switzerland is a single start-up (before market entry and <50 FTE), the requirement for a research institute in the project consortium is waived.
- **⚠ Own Contribution Requirement:** Implementation partners must cover **at least 30% of the total Swiss project costs**. Swiss implementation partners with fewer than 250 FTE are required to demonstrate their financial capacity to cover their own contribution. The list of mandatory financial documents to be submitted is provided in the Submission Section.

**Eligible costs:**

Only costs necessary for the proper execution of the project are eligible:

- Personnel costs (salaries + employer’s social contributions)
- Material costs
- Coordination costs (management of the consortium, if not covered by personnel or material costs)
- Travel costs (covers international travel to project partners)
- Overheads (only for research institutions)

**Payment Schedule**

**⚠ Important Notice:** Please note that the **new tranche allocation**, applicable across all Innosuisse instruments, is structured as follows:

- First installment: 35%
- Interim installment: 35%
- Final installment: 30%

**Project reviews, reporting:**

Innosuisse can request reviews or interim reports on project progress, content and schedule them as needed. At the end of the project, a plan must be submitted showing how the results will be implemented. More details can be found on the [Innosuisse webpage](#).

**South Korea - KIAT funding regulations:**

The South Korean dedicated budget provided by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources (MOTIR) and managed by KIAT is open to all type of applications from Korean companies with registered R&D laboratories, Korean research institutes and universities.

Project funding consists of government contributions and civilian dues (cash and in-kind). The amount of government contributions will vary depending on the type of executing organizations and project in accordance with Article 24 (Funding criteria) and Article 25 (Civilian dues) of the Common Operational Regulations for the Industrial Technology Innovation Programs.

KIAT covers the total Korean project costs as follows:

Funding rate for research organisations:	100% of eligible costs
Funding rate for small companies	max. 66.6% of eligible costs
Funding rate for medium companies	max. 50% of eligible costs
Funding rate for large companies	max. 33.3% of eligible costs

\* self-fundings will be consisted of In-kind(Cash and goods or inventories)

\*\* For detailed self-funding ratio, please check regulations mentioned above

For detailed funding rules, Korean applicants must check regulations via Korean text call.

## 4. Submission Process

All consortia must submit a complete application by the submission deadline of **30 June 2026 (EOD)**.

### South Korean participants

Submit a formal application (in Korean & English) via the KIAT Project Management System (<http://www.k-pass.kr>). Korean participants must check required documents via Korean text call.

### Swiss participants

- Submit a *Bilateral Cooperation Application* via the [Innosuisse submission portal](http://innolink.innosuisse.ch) (innolink.innosuisse.ch). Ensure the following steps are completed:
  - The **project title** must match the title provided by the Korean partners in their KIAT application and the title in the joint common proposal.
  - In the Introduction section, **select “South Korea”** under the drop-down menu for “*Bilateral Call / Please select the partner country of the bilateral call you intend to submit*”.
  - Upload the completed [joint common proposal](#) as part of the application.
  - Attach a draft of the **Consortium Agreement (CA)**, which is mandatory for international projects.
  - As Swiss implementation partners must cover an own contribution of at least 30% of the total Swiss project costs, financial documents are required to demonstrate their financial capacity to finance the own contribution. These requirements apply to Swiss implementation partners with fewer than 250 FTE.
  - **For funding requests < CHF 500'000:**
    - Signed financial statements (Income statements & Balance Sheet) of the last two business years or since incorporation
    - Completed “Financial Table” template ([download from Innosuisse website](#))
    - Bank account statements (last year-end and most recent month-end)
    - Final auditors’ letters (if applicable)
    - Latest official debt enforcement extract (Betriebsauszug, if applicable).
  - **For funding requests ≥ CHF 500'000** (in addition to the documents listed above):
    - 5-year financial forecast ([download from Innosuisse website](#))
    - Latest shareholder register (including disclosure of beneficial owners controlling more than 25% of share capital or voting rights)
    - Organisational chart (including parent entities/holding structures and all subsidiaries, in Switzerland and abroad)
    - Copies of loan agreements (including shareholder loans)
    - Self-declaration explaining how the project share will be financed, including funding sources and their current status

**IMPORTANT:** Failure to demonstrate the required own contribution or to submit the mandatory financial documents by 30 June 2026 may result in the application being deemed incomplete and formally rejected.

## 5. Evaluation Process and Criteria

Applications are evaluated separately by both agencies and ranked jointly. In order to be funded and to continue as a viable project, the proposal **must be successful on both sides**.

### Subsidy control (Switzerland)

Innosuisse cannot award grants to organisations that are considered to be in financial difficulty. After the application phase, Innosuisse carries out eligibility checks (entry in the Swiss Commercial Register; not on [SECO's sanctions list](#)) and financial viability checks (financial means to bear the planned own contribution, to complete the project and to implement the project results).

### Evaluation Criteria – Innosuisse, Switzerland

**Note:** Research where downstream application is for national defence or security purposes, as well as research that poses a threat to public health and misuse of personal data will not be supported.

#### Project Quality

- Clear and well defined project
- Realistic and quantifiable objectives and milestones
- Justification of the proposed approach and resources

#### Project Consortia

Project partners should demonstrate:

- Complementary technological excellence, expertise
- Added value of international collaboration
- Strong partnership base and commitment to continue working together beyond the duration of the project
- Management capacity to successfully complete the project and implement the results
- Mutual enhancement of R&D through the transfer of knowledge and expertise

#### Degree of Innovation

The innovation aspect of a project **must go beyond the international state of the art**. The innovation project should be scientifically based and aim to achieve advances in technology or service aspects. The main objectives in terms of product, process or service performance and cost issues (in terms of competitiveness) must be presented in a comprehensive manner.

#### Market Value Creation

The project aims to create a new value chain, or to integrate into an existing one. There must be a **market and implementation plan** for the proposed product, process or service.

### Evaluation Criteria – KIAT, South Korea

- Market Expansion Potential
  - Need for Technological Development
- Feasibility of Technology Strategy
  - Clarity of Development Goals
  - Appropriateness of Development Content and Implementation Strategy
  - Feasibility of Goal Setting
- Feasibility of Research Implementation Capability
  - Appropriateness of Consortium Composition and Implementation Plan
- Feasibility and Effectiveness of Market Entry
  - Feasibility of Commercialization Strategy

- Social and Economic Ripple Effects
- Appropriateness of Budget Composition

## 6. Data Sharing

This bilateral call is jointly operated by KIAT, and Innosuisse. All relevant information submitted and generated during the application process may be shared by one agency with the other for their individual storage, processing and use.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- the information provided in the application, including the personal details of all applicants
- evaluation and feedback on the application
- information received during the management and administration of the grant

KIAT and Innosuisse are directly accountable to you for the holding and processing of your data, including all personal data and confidential information. Data will be held in accordance with their own policies ([KIAT's Privacy Policy](#) / [Innosuisse's Data Protection Policy](#)). Accordingly, KIAT, and Innosuisse will be the data controllers of personal data submitted as part of the application process.

## 7. Contacts for details and Partnering enquires

Contacts for Call details	
<p><b>KIAT</b>  <a href="https://www.kiat.or.kr">https://www.kiat.or.kr</a></p> <p>Youngmin Jeong            Tel: +82 2 6009 3769  <a href="mailto:wjddudals00@kiat.or.kr">wjddudals00@kiat.or.kr</a></p>	<p><b>Innosuisse</b>  <a href="https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home.html">https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home.html</a></p> <p>Prabitha Urwyler            +41 58 343 60 87  <a href="mailto:bilateral-cooperation@innosuisse.ch">bilateral-cooperation@innosuisse.ch</a></p>
Partner Search Support	
<p><a href="#">EEN Switzerland</a>            Inès Rossetti            Tel: +41 58 343 60 53  <a href="mailto:ines.rossetti@innosuisse.ch">ines.rossetti@innosuisse.ch</a></p>	