



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft

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Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency



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

Deadline for submission of proposals – 24 May 2024

### Scope/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 focused on developing market-ready solutions for products, technology-based services or processes that have significant market potential for South Korea and Switzerland. The call is open to all scientific disciplines, but projects for products or services in the following areas are particularly encouraged:

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

### Eligibility criteria

All proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered:

- The project duration must be between 18 and 36 months.
- The project consortium must include at least one business entity from each country (South Korea and Switzerland) and one research institute from either South Korea or Switzerland. If the Swiss applicant is an individual start-up (pre-market and <50 FTE), the research institute requirement is waived.
- Participation of other research organisations and other commercial companies from both countries is welcome in accordance with the funding regulations of each country.
- The research organisations and commercial companies must comply with the regulations of their respective countries.
- To ensure that projects promote genuine international collaboration rather than internal company research, affiliated companies will be considered as a single entity under the parent company. Each South Korean registered organisation involved in an application must be a separate legal entity, not linked to the Swiss partners or vice versa.
- The project must demonstrate a relevant innovation content, added value and benefit from the bilateral cooperation in both countries.
- No country may contribute **more than 70% of the total person-months** to the project. Person-months is the measure of the time in months that staff will devote to the project.
- A draft consortium agreement, including intellectual property rights (IPR), must be submitted with the proposal.
- Both agencies will only consider project costs incurred in their country as eligible. Cross-border funding is not foreseen.

**Only proposals meeting all eligibility criteria** will be considered for evaluation. **There will be no opportunity to correct errors in the proposals after the application deadline.** Please note that the inclusion of an ineligible partner in a proposal will result in the entire proposal not being considered.

## Call dates

Publication of the call	07 Feb 2024
Call information webinar	21 Feb 2024
<b>Closing date for submission</b>	<b>24 May 2024</b>
Notification of decision	30 July 2024
Earliest project start date	01 Oct 2024

## Call Brokerage Event and Partnering (optional)

The **search for project partners** is supported and organised in South Korea and Switzerland by the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). EEN Korea and [EEN Switzerland](#) provide an online [business to match platform](#) with partner profiles to establish contacts between interested organisations. The platform allows easy scheduling of meetings (incl. video) until 25 April 2024. All questions related to the partner search will be handled by the country specific EEN contact listed below. Partners are encouraged to register their needs on the platform as early as possible to increase their chances of building a successful consortium.

An online **webinar** for interested parties will be organised on 21 February 2024. The webinar will provide information on funding conditions, call process, partner search and other aspects of the call. Interested parties will have the opportunity to ask questions to representatives of KIAT, Innosuisse and EEN. The link to the webinar can be found on the online [business to match platform](#) and on the [Innosuisse webpage](#).

## Submission of applications

Each project must submit a full application before the submission deadline of **24 May 2024**. The completed full application must be submitted to KIAT for Korean partners and to Innosuisse for Swiss partners as follows:

- Korean participants must submit a formal application (in English) to KIAT via their Project Management System (<http://www.k-pass.kr>).
- Swiss participants must submit a *Bilateral Cooperation Application* via the [Innosuisse submission portal](#) ([innolink.innosuisse.ch](http://innolink.innosuisse.ch)), together with the mandatory documents listed below:
  - The title of your project must match the title provided by your Korean partners in their respective national application to KIAT and the title in the common proposal.
  - Please **select** the “**South Korea**” drop-down option under “*Bilateral Call / Please select the partner country of the bilateral call you intend to submit*” in the Introduction section.
  - The completed **common proposal** must be uploaded as part of the application.
  - The Consortium Agreement (CA) is mandatory for international projects. A draft CA must be uploaded as an attachment to the application.
- Documents for financial check:
  - Implementation partners with < 250 FTE are required to submit **the annual accounts from the last two years** as an annex to the full proposal. If annual accounts are not available, the financial Excel spreadsheet available on the [Innosuisse website](#) must be sent to Innosuisse via [secured mail](#).
  - If an implementation partner with < 250 FTE applies for more than CHF 1 Mio., Innosuisse will conduct a due diligence (additional documents will be requested later). If Innosuisse has already carried out a due diligence in the context of another initiative, the result will be taken into account in an appropriate way.

## Evaluation

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 of the consortium.

### Subsidy control

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 (has the financial means to bear the planned own contribution, to complete the project and to implement the project results).

### Evaluation Criteria – Innosuisse, Switzerland

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

#### Key evaluation criteria

- Expected benefits (incl. commercial, environmental, social) of project and expected quality of project results
- The degree of technological innovation and the possibility of achieving the objectives
- The capacity of the applicants for performing the project
- The validity of strategies for successful commercialization.

## Funding rules

Applications must comply with KIAT and Innosuisse guidelines, as explained below. Detailed guidance on how to apply for funding is available to partners on request at both agencies. 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.** Successful applicants will be required to submit a **common consortium agreement** (including an IPR agreement) signed by all partners to KIAT and Innosuisse **prior to the start of the project**. Failure to submit a draft (unsigned) consortium agreement at the application stage will result in the application being disqualified.

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 is responsible for promoting science-based innovation in Switzerland. One of its main tasks is to help bring innovative products and services to the market for the benefit of the Swiss economy. Swiss implementation partners receive a non-exclusive right to exploit the project results in their specific business area.

- 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.
- The implementation partners must cover **at least 30% of the total Swiss project costs**.

#### Eligible costs:

Only costs necessary for the proper execution of the project are eligible. These include 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) and overheads (only for research institutions).

#### 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](#).

### Korea - KIAT funding regulations:

The South Korean dedicated budget provided by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) 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.

## Data Sharing

This bilateral call is jointly operated by KIAT, and Innosuisse (each an “agency”).

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 means that any information provided to or generated by one agency in relation to your application may be disclosed to the partner agency and vice versa. 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.

## Contacts for details and Partnering enquires

Contacts for Call details	
<b>KIAT</b> <a href="https://www.kiat.or.kr">https://www.kiat.or.kr</a>  Youngmin Jeong Tel: +82 2 6009 3769 <a href="mailto:wjddudals00@kiat.or.kr">wjddudals00@kiat.or.kr</a>	<b>Innosuisse</b> <a href="https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home.html">https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home.html</a>  Christoph Bigler Tel: +41 58 481 70 32 <a href="mailto:bilateral-cooperation@innosuisse.ch">bilateral-cooperation@innosuisse.ch</a>
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