



Ninth Call for Proposals

For Joint R&D Projects – 2010

Submission by 20/05/10

In the framework of the activities foreseen by the Agreement on industrial, scientific and technological research and development cooperation between Italy and Israel (hereinafter called “Agreement”) *the Middle East Department of the “Directorate General for Mediterranean and Middle East Countries” of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* for the Italian Party, and MATIMOP - The Israeli Industry Center for R&D for the Israeli Party on behalf of *the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) of the Ministry of Industry Trade and Labor*, are starting the procedures for the selection of projects eligible for financial support as in Article 4 of the Agreement.

1. Program scope

Joint Italian-Israeli R&D projects can be presented in the following areas, as listed in Article 2 of the Agreement:

- medicine, public health and hospital organization;
- biotechnology;
- agriculture and food science;
- new energy sources and use of natural resources;
- applications of informatics to education and scientific research;
- environment;
- communication;
- innovation production processes;
- space;
- information technologies, data communication, software;
- any other area of mutual interest.

The projects approved by the Italian and Israeli Authorities, which will be selected in the framework of the present Call, will be financed by both the contracting Parties of the Agreement. The support will be given to each partner by its own Authorities in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

2. Qualifications

The criteria to be followed in order to apply to the present Call are:

- The Israeli partner must be industrial entity (company) which may be technologically and scientifically assisted by non industrial entity (eg: university, research institute etc.) as subcontractor.
The Italian partner can be an industrial entity (company) or a non industrial entity (eg: university, research institute etc.). In case of a non industrial entity, it has to be assisted by an industrial entity.
- The Italian and Israeli partners must express the will to cooperate, on a balanced basis, towards the development of a new product, industrial process or service.
- The product, process or service must be innovative and there must be a technological risk involved.
- The project must be equally significant for participants from both countries.
- The participants are required to have preliminarily signed a partnership agreement on the commercialization of the product, process or service once the phase of research and development has been completed and the ownership and use of know how and IPR settlements (“Partnership Agreement”).

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present Call in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

3. Submission of the project proposals

The project application must be sent simultaneously to the competent Italian Authorities (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Middle East Department of the “Directorate General for Mediterranean and Middle East Countries”*) and Israeli Authorities (*Ministry of Industry Trade and Labour - Office of the Chief Scientist – OCS, through MATIMOP, the Israeli Industry Center for R&D*) by means of the attached application form in English language. The application must be filled in all its parts and signed by the person responsible for the project.

In Israel, the applicants will be required to mandatory submit a funding request to the OCS, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor according to the rules and regulations of the OCS no later than 10/06/10.

Final Submission must be completed electronically and forms must be received by May 20, 2010.

4. Evaluation and selection of the projects

The competent Authorities (as in Article 8 of the Agreement) will carry out an evaluation process of the received projects and will select the proper project to be financially supported in accordance with their national laws and regulations. The Italian - Israeli Joint Commission will receive the selected projects by the two national authorities, to be endorsed as projects supported under the bi-national agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will sign, with the Italian partner selected for the financial support, a contract containing the details of the conditions and the terms of the financial support that will be granted as well as the rules for eligibility of costs and procedures for technical and financial reporting. The Israeli Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) will sign a similar document with the Israeli partner. In addition to the above-mentioned documents a Partnership Agreement signed by the counterpart, will be added as an annex.

The Criteria of evaluations are:

For the Italian side, evaluation will be conducted according to the following criteria:

1. Novelty of the proposal and possible impact on the industrial activities.
2. Qualifications of the applicants in performing the specific tasks.
3. Expected economic results from the realization of the project.
4. Relevance of the proposal to the main strategic objectives in industrial R&D of the Italian Government.

For the Israeli side, applications submitted to the OCS will be evaluated according to OCS rules and the following criteria:

1. Technological innovation.
2. Economic potential of the proposed product/service.
3. The added value of the cooperation between project partners.
4. The capability of the partners (R&D personnel, infrastructure, finance, marketing).

5. Modalities for the financial support of the projects

Projects in the frame of this Call will be financed by the respective national and/or regional authorities in Italy & Israel, in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations & procedures in effect. Every selected project can be financed up to 50% of the documented and eligible costs of research and development. When the project is successful, repayment of royalties may apply according to applicable rules and procedures. No repayment is due when the project does not reach the stage of the commercialization.

In Israel:

The Israeli industrial partner will have to comply with the procedures, rules and regulations of the OCS/MOITAL (the Law for the Encouragement of Industrial R&D).

Adding to the application form, the eligible Israeli industrial partner will submit a national application for funding.

In Italy:

Support to the Italian successful applicants will be given at the end of the projects upon presentation of a financial report of eligible expenses.

6. Publicity of the Results

Project partners whose projects have been selected will be informed of the result by means of letter. The list of the selected projects will be published on the Website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Israel, For the Israeli party, MATIMOP, on behalf of the *Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)* will inform the Israeli companies by means of a letter and publication on the Website of the Israeli Ministry of Industry Trade and Labour.

For further information:

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