SOUTH AFRICA / TAIWAN JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH COLLABORATION

2015 JOINT CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

CLOSING DATE: 30 June 2015

ONLY A MAXIMUM OF SIX (6) JOINT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED FOR THIS CALL

Background

Following the bilateral agreement on cooperation between South Africa and the Republic of China (Taiwan) in science and technology, a second Joint Committee Meeting was held in Taipei, Taiwan, on 22 May 2014. During the meeting specific areas of cooperation were identified and the modalities for cooperation were agreed upon. The principle objective of the cooperation between the Parties is to foster scientific and technological collaboration by facilitating brain circulation between the two countries.

The Parties intend to support research and development activities and other forms of scientific and technical cooperation between South African and Taiwanese universities and research institutions. The cooperative programmes, projects, and research and development activities will be aimed at the implementation of joint research projects, human capital development, and students and staff exchanges.

Aims of the Programme

- To contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities in specified research fields;
- To provide an opportunity for young researchers in the two countries to meet and interact;
- To support the advancement of basic research; and
- To contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

Areas of Cooperation

Funding will be made available for conducting joint research projects only, and only in the following identified priority areas:
- E-learning
- Innovation Enablers
- Biosciences; and
- Nanotechnology.

In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of three years.

Who may apply?

South Africa:
This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.
Taiwan:
This call is open to working researchers residing in Taiwan with a ROC nationality and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university or an academic institution.

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Taiwan, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme.

How do I apply?

South Africa: Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted electronically on the NRF Online Submission System at https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/
- Register/Login using your ID/Passport number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying for: SA-Taiwan 2015 Joint Call for Proposals.
- Remember to complete all sections of the application as indicated on the online application form.
- Please attach the necessary documents in PDF file in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and the signed page of the partner.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the applicant’s institution for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to the call document for details on eligibility).
- Please contact your institution’s research office if you have any queries.

Please note: Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission system will not be accepted. No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF. Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.

Taiwan:
Taiwanese Principal Investigators should submit proposals by the deadline to MOST-Taiwan via the online research application system, using the grant application form (in Taiwanese or English) and the attached application form (in English). The institution shall also deliver the official applications (applicants list) to MOST-Taiwan.

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. Proposals must be received in both South Africa and Taiwan. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Taiwan, but not both, will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive; therefore submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The availability of funds and the evaluation of applications from both countries should be positive for them to be considered for funding. Both the NRF and the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

Which activities may I apply for?
The purpose of this call is to support the research projects and mobility of researchers, scientists, post-docs and doctoral students between the two countries. Funding will be made available for the following joint research activities undertaken as part of the joint research project:

- Workshops, seminars or networking events: holding meetings alternately in South Africa and Taiwan.
- Joint research: this collaboration includes visits and exchanges of leading and young scientists, technical personnel or other experts on general or specific subjects.

In the case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects and the attendance of seminars, symposia and other
meetings funded under this agreement, the sending side will be responsible for financing international travel, visas, and medical insurance, while the receiving party will be responsible for financing the accommodation and subsistence of their international partners. Local travel and fees relating to the organisation of events (venue, catering, audio-visual equipment etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the host investigator which is to be paid from his / her allocation of the joint funding.

The following may NOT be funded from the funds allocation:

- Consultant’s fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

All other expenses, including operational running costs and research materials, may be financed from the allocation accorded in terms of this call. Up to 10% of the funds may be used for consumables. Should the allocated funds allow – researchers may also make use of these for joint publication costs.

Funding Modalities

Funding will be available for a maximum of three years for 3-year collaborative research projects jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will get funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above. Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

How much may I apply for?

South Africa:
The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R570 000. Funding will be made available for a maximum of three years, to be paid in annual installments (R190 000 per year) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2016. Note that a commitment to both scientific and financial reporting on the project following its completion is an obligatory condition of funding. Please also note that the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding.

Taiwan:
The total amount requested from MOST should not exceed US$60,000. Funding will be made available for three years, to be paid in annual installments (a maximum of US$20,000 per year).

Please do take note that:
- should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines;
- a maximum of 6 joint projects will be funded for this call; and
- scientific and financial reporting on the project is an OBLIGATORY condition of funding in subsequent years.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to both a postal and a panel review. The panel will include recognised local experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility
- International significance
- Value addition by the collaboration / national priority
- Possible impact of the research / national priority
- Potential for promoting equity and redress / capacity building
- Student involvement.
Particular emphasis is to be placed on the training of students and young researchers achieved through research and the transfer of knowledge and know-how aimed at socio-economic development. The integration of young researchers and students, and the exchange of post-doctoral researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of students and researchers from previously-disadvantaged communities.

Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the NRF and the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. Please note that, although the two Parties undertake to execute the evaluation and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results as soon as possible, the nature of the bilateral process requires the alignment of the commencement of each phase of the process with the partnering country, whose schedules may differ significantly.

Projects follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report will be submitted in English by both the South African and the Taiwanese project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The report will mention the outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The joint publications by the researchers will mention the support from the NRF and the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology.

Intellectual property

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

When is the closing date for applications?

Applications for both South Africa and Taiwan must be submitted by 30 June 2015. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the NRF or the Taiwan Ministry of Science and Technology will not be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners’ applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

Where can I obtain more information?

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<th>For Taiwan</th>
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