

Deadline for submission of proposals: Tuesday 1 december 2009

International Network Programme – First call for proposals for bilateral network activities in R&D with China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil

With a view to boosting collaboration on science and innovation between Denmark and China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil, respectively, Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation now launches the first call of its “International Network Programme” and invites for applications for the following grant types:

- Exploratory bilateral scientific workshops and conferences with participation of researchers and scientists from Denmark and from one or more of the following countries: China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil.
- Travel between Denmark and China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil, respectively, in order to identify collaborative projects and partners.

1. Danish network activities with China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil

Scientists employed at Danish universities and research institutions and also R&D intensive companies in Denmark are invited to submit applications for financial support for initiatives linking scientists and companies in Denmark and China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil, respectively, in order to prepare joint research and innovation activities and boost the exchange of knowledge and talent between Denmark and the countries in question.

1.1. Application deadline

Grant applications must be submitted no later than:

Tuesday 1 December 2009 at 1 pm

1.2. Research areas

Bilateral scientific collaboration will be supported in the following areas:

China

- Renewable Energy and Environment
- Biotechnology and Biomedicine, including Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)
- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

2 October 2009

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Ref. 09-057480

Doc id. 977895

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- Health and TCM application
- Information and Communication Technology
- Agricultural and Food Technology
- Design and Architecture
- Culture and Language
- Management and Organisational Development
- Research in Welfare and Social Sciences

India

- Biotechnology, including animal, agriculture, plant, food, nutrition, medical programmes, nanoscience, nanotechnology, bioengineering, bioinformatics
- Information and Communication Technology

Israel

- Renewable Energy and Environment
- Life Sciences
- Information and Communication Technology

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Japan

- Renewable Energy and Environment
- Information and Communication Technology, including Robotics
- Life Sciences

USA

- All scientific areas.

Brazil

- Renewable Energy and Environment

1.3. Project period

The network activity must be carried out in 2010. The start date of the project can be 1 March 2010 at earliest.

1.4. Grant types and budget items

The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation wishes to boost research collaboration between Denmark and China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil, respectively, to the benefit of both Denmark and the countries in question. Hence, support will be provided to networking and matchmaking initiatives seeking to identify potential for bilateral research collaboration.

Financial support will be granted to the following activities:

- Exploratory scientific workshops and conferences with participation of Danish and foreign researchers and scientists from one or more of the countries in question.
- Visiting Scientist Grants

Applications for funding can be made for one or more of the following budget items:

- Operating expenses for:
 - Workshops and conferences.
 - International travel including airfare and accommodation.
- Overhead/administration expenses.

An amount of DKK 12 million has been reserved for the call for applications. Depending on the quality of the applications received, Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation reserves the right to allocate only part of the funding.

Each application can be supported up to a maximum amount of DKK 250.000 exclusive overhead/administration expenses.

Universities and governmental research institutions can be granted 44 % of the total amount applied for to cover overhead expenses.

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Other public owned institutions, for instance university hospitals, can be granted 3.1 % of the total amount applied for to cover administration expenses.

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Cover of overhead or administration expenses will not be granted to private persons or companies.

Financial support for companies are granted and administered in accordance with the EU regulation and De minimis aid, cf. Commission Regulation (EC) No 1998/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to De minimis aid. This implies that financial support is granted on the assumption the company is familiar with and apply by the rules of De minimis aid. For further detail on De minimis aid please refer to the application form section 11.8.

1.5. Evaluation procedure

Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation has set up a Network Programme Committee which consists of appointed representatives from The Danish Council for Independent Research (DFR), The Danish Council for Strategic Research (DSF), The Danish Council for Technology and Innovation (RTI) and also representatives from the Steering committees on Danish-Sino, Danish-Indian and Danish-Israeli R&D collaboration.

The task of the Network Programme Committee (NPC) is to evaluate the applications and to give advice to the Agency regarding which projects should be supported.

Based on NPC's advice the Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation will make the final decision regarding supported projects.

1.6. Evaluation criteria

The call for network activities is open to scientists from Danish universities and public research institutions and also to Danish R&D intensive companies. The

scientist from Denmark must have identified a foreign partner from a scientifically/technically recognized institution/company from either China, India, Israel, Japan, USA or Brazil. The main applicant and the foreign partner must be recognized scientists in the relevant field of research with endorsement to the project from their respective institution.

In the assessment of applications, importance will be attached to:

- The main applicant and the foreign partner(s)' academic background and excellence.
- Description of the main foreign partner institution.
- The scientific focus and quality of the activity.
- The applicant's experience in international scientific collaboration.
- The value added by collaborating with a foreign partner.
- The commitment of the chosen foreign partner(s).
- Potential for future scientific collaboration e.g. the formulation of joint project applications to Danish and foreign funding authorities, the EU framework Program etc.

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1.7. Requirements and procedures for applications

Applicants must use the application form and budget template located at "Internationalt Netværksprogram": <http://www.fi.dk/internationalt/globalt-samarbejde> for the present call with the following appendices:

- CV of the applicant, the foreign collaborating partner and (when applied for) keynote speakers (if more than five submit CV from the applicant and four key persons).
- Expression of interest from the foreign partner(s).
- Overall budget for the network activity using the budget template for the present call, incl. a detailed budget for the amount applied for.

The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation will only accept the incited appendices.

The application must be co-signed by the head of department at the university/research institution/company. The budget template must be co-signed and stamped by the head of the administrative department of the institution.

1.8. Final report and financial account

Upon completion of the activity, the main applicant is required to submit a debriefing report (maximum five A4 pages) to Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation which, among other things, describes the achieved outcomes and the long term perspective for further collaboration.

Furthermore the main applicant is required to submit a financial account using the account template which must be signed and stamped by the head of the administrative department of the institution or company. Any unused funding must be refunded by the grantee to the disperser.

1.9. Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted in English:

- On paper, as one unstapled original with original signature by regular mail and
- Electronically, as one continuous PFD-file by e-mail.

Applications should be sent to:

Forsknings- og Innovationsstyrelsen
Att.: Sekretær Anne Lise Krarup-Christensen
Bredgade 40
1260 København K
Tel.: +45 33 92 97 11
E-mail: alkc@fi.dk

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Applications must reach the Agency (Forsknings- og Innovationsstyrelsen) no later than the time and date specified on the cover of this call for applications.

Applications may be rejected without substantive consideration if the deadlines and requirements set out in this Call for Applications are not met or if the application form is not completed correctly.

As soon as possible after receiving the application, the main applicant will receive an acknowledgement.

1.10. Announcement of decision

The final decision regarding supported projects will be notified to the applicants at the end of February 2010.

2. Background and purpose

In today's increasingly competitive environment, ensuring access to the best and most advanced knowledge in the world – no matter whether it is located in Copenhagen or in Tokyo – has become an ever more urgent demand on companies and research institutions in order to preserve a competitive edge on the global scene. Since only a fraction of the world's total knowledge is actually produced within Danish borders, it has more than ever become urgent for Denmark to orient itself towards internationally oriented research communities and growth areas.

Therefore, it has become a central focus to further Denmark's position as an active player in international cooperation projects and networks, ensuring an internationalisation of Danish research and innovation by engaging in cooperation with foreign partners. This is reflected not only in the Danish government's glob-

alisation strategy “Progress, Innovation and Cohesion - Strategy for Denmark in the Global Economy” (May 2006), but also in its Government Platform “The Society of Possibilities” (November 2007) as well as in Denmark’s innovation strategy “Innovation Denmark” (February 2007, Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation).

In line with this, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has initiated a whole range of internationalisation initiatives and programmes with the aim to increase the rate of knowledge exchange between Danish and foreign knowledge communities. Among these, “Bilateral agreements about research cooperation with countries outside the EU in areas where both countries demonstrate strong capabilities” is an important government initiative.

Till now Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has entered into bilateral agreements (Memorandums of Understandings) on R&D with five countries: China, India, Israel, Japan and USA. In addition Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation wants to facilitate collaboration between scientists and researchers in Denmark and vice versa in Brazil.

With the aim of supporting this bilateral framework Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation now launches “The International Network programme” with a call on bilateral network activities between Denmark and one or more of the following countries: China, India, Israel, Japan, USA and Brazil.

Further information

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