



## 2<sup>ND</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR AUSTRIA-JIANGSU JOINT R&D AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME

*Table 1: Call Timeline*

Call Opens	14 June, 2023
Submission Deadline	11 October, 2023
Bilateral Funding Decision	End of November, 2023

**Austrian Research Promotion Agency (“FFG”) and Jiangsu Science and Technology Department (“JSTD”)** have announced the call for proposals for joint R&D and Innovation projects between Austria and Jiangsu.

This joint call follows the MoU signed between the two government entities in March 2022. It aims to establish connection among enterprises and research institutions from Jiangsu Province and Austria, to promote win-win S&T cooperation between them in the spirit of mutual equality and benefits, and to share knowledge in intellectual property management and technology transfer.

Interested companies from Austria and Jiangsu are invited to submit their joint project proposals in the research and development of innovative products and applications with a strong market potential.

### 1 PROJECT PRIORITIES

This call for proposals focuses on innovative solutions in the field of circular economy, including:

- 1. Intelligent and preferably regional use and production of products and infrastructure / intensifying the utilization of resources - “Refuse, Rethink, Reduce”**

R&D projects in the areas of intelligent product design and process engineering must foster a reduced demand for primary resources, their substitution through secondary or renewable resources as well as the reduction of waste. The goal is the reduction of energy and resource consumption in production processes while maintaining significant product properties.

## **2. Prolonging the lifespan of products, components and infrastructure / intensifying the use of products – “Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose”**

R&D projects contribute to a significant prolongation of the product life time as well to the upgrading of product functionality through the implementation of reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture and repurpose strategies. Innovative business models may be part of projects that contribute to this goal.

## **3. Recycling of materials / creating systems to close material circles – “Recycling, Recover”**

R&D projects explore, develop and test systemic innovations, which contribute to the conservation of value of products through their whole life cycle. While developing innovative circular systems, the participation of stakeholders of the whole supply chain (manufacturers, logistics, end-user and waste management etc.) is crucial and has to be considered by the projects either by integrating them in the project consortium or through involving experts of the respective fields.

In addition to the call topics, all submitted project proposals must consider the availability of adequate resources, especially including secondary and waste materials, for the developed processes and products. Furthermore, considerations regarding the impact of the project on the United Nations Sustainability Goals (SDGs) have to be made.

## **2 ELIGIBILITY**

### **2.1 A consortium must be formed by the partners both from Austria and Jiangsu to develop a project proposal.**

- The consortium must involve at least one company from Austria and one company from Jiangsu as lead organizations. Both organizations must be independent from each other.
- Academic/research entities and additional companies are welcomed as additional cooperation partners according to each country’s funding regulations.
- Individual enterprises of the project consortium account for a maximum of 70% of the eligible project costs with shares of affiliated companies counting as one enterprise.
- If the consortium involves research institution(s), research institution(s) bear(s) at least 10% and a maximum of 80% of the eligible costs (relates to the total share of Austrian and Chinese research institutions).

- In addition to that, a collaboration with other non-commercial institutions is possible. In this case, the requirements to the consortium still have to be fulfilled.

#### **For Austrian Companies**

In addition to one Austrian company as the lead applicant, the project consortium must include:

- At least 1 small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) (details see SME definition)  
OR
- 1 research and knowledge dissemination organisation (research organisation – see GBER 2014)

#### **For Jiangsu Companies**

- The lead organization must be a R&D performing company, registered and operating in Jiangsu.
- The lead organization must be registered in Jiangsu before 31 December 2021.

Interested Jiangsu-based companies should refer to JSTD's notice on its website (<http://kxjst.jiangsu.gov.cn>) for more information regarding eligibility criteria.

## **2.2 The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:**

- The cooperative R&D and Innovation projects must be highly innovative and business oriented.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between participants from the two countries (e.g., increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- The proposals should demonstrate the applicants' resources for international collaboration, in case of the Austrian applicants especially capacities for follow-up technology export to China.
- The proposal should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries and the project must be balanced between participants and be significant to all partners.
- The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialization strategy of the product or process with a draft Consortium Agreement.
- The duration of submitted projects should be 6-24 month.
- Contract research and research services are not considered as collaborative R&D and Innovation Projects.

Any partners whose joint R&D and Innovation project is consistent with the above criteria can apply to the current call for proposals in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

## **3 FUNDING AVAILABLE**

### **3.1 For Austrian Companies**

Austrian funding is intended for Austrian companies registered in Austria.

- The [FFG technical guidelines for cooperative R&D projects](#) apply.
- For cooperative R&D and Innovation Projects the available funding is max. EUR 600.000 per project.
- Total Funding available from Austria for this Call is EUR 1.2 Mio.
- The funding rate for enterprises is based on the research category and company size.
- The funding rate for research institutions and other institutions is based on the research category only, provided that the contribution involves a non-commercial activity.
- If the contribution to the project of a research institution or other institution involves a commercial activity, the funding rates are the same as those for enterprises.
- The funding ratio depends on the type of organization and research category and must not exceed 85% for industrial research and 60% for experimental development.

### **3.2 For Jiangsu Companies**

Projects will be funded through JSTD's International S&T Cooperation Programme. The total grant amount will not exceed 1.5 million RMB per approved project, and will not exceed 50% of the total eligible and approved budget of the R&D costs, in accordance with the national laws and regulations in Jiangsu, China.

## **4 SUBMISSION**

Both Austrian and Chinese sides must both submit their respective applications to their own countries and funding organizations. One sided applications are not valid. Furthermore, both sides should also fill in the "*FFG-Jiangsu Bilateral Cooperation Form 2023*" including general details of the project. ("*FFG-Jiangsu Bilateral Cooperation Form 2023*" template must be used, which can be found in Annex).

### **4.1 For Austrian Companies**

Austrian applicants should submit their proposals through FFG's submission system [eCall](#)

- Reference data requested in call for applications
- Bilateral Cooperation Form must be attached to the application

## 4.2 For Jiangsu Companies

Interested Jiangsu companies will be required to submit the Jiangsu application form in accordance with JSTD's notice on its website (<http://kxjst.jiangsu.gov.cn>), along with signed *FFG-Jiangsu Bilateral Cooperation Form 2023* (with a Chinese version) and other supporting documents.

Jiangsu companies should note that the application portal will be open for submission from 8 August 2023, 0830 CST to 11 October 2023, 1730 CST.

## 5 EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

All applications are assessed against the eligibility criteria of the call before being put forward for the national assessment according to the national evaluation criteria.

FFG and JSTD will carry out independent national assessments and will select the eligible projects to be financially supported in accordance with their national laws and regulations. Only projects that are selected and approved by both FFG and JSTD will receive funding support under this call.

## 6 BILATERAL FUNDING DECISIONS

The bilateral funding decisions are expected to be made by the end of November 2023.

## 7 MAIN CONTACT POINTS

For further queries regarding this joint call, please contact the representatives below:

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## **8 ANNEX**

FFG-Jiangsu Bilateral Cooperation Form 2023