

QATAR-SPAIN INNOVATION PROGRAM 2023

1st QRDI-CDTI CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE QATAR-SPAIN INNOVATION PROGRAM (QASIP)

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On 18th May 2022, an MOU was signed between the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council (QRDI) and Spain's Centre for Technological Development and Innovation (CDTI) to support partnerships in research and innovation between companies from both countries. CDTI and QRDI have developed the Qatar-Spain Innovation Program (QASIP) under this MOU.

CDTI and QRDI are pleased to announce the first call for proposals under the QASIP program. The QASIP program supports joint research and innovation projects between Qatari and Spanish companies in areas of interest to both countries. These collaborative projects aim to enhance the global competitiveness and increase the market access of Spanish and Qatari companies. Awarded projects will be funded by QRDI in Qatar and CDTI in Spain.

CALL GUIDELINES:

1) NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

QRDI, and CDTI, are the nodal implementing agencies from the Qatari and Spanish sides, respectively.

- (A) The Qatar Research and Development Innovation Council (QRDI) is responsible for developing and implementing the QRDI2030 National Strategy, and provides funding to strengthen and build the research and innovation ecosystem in Qatar
- (B) CDTI is a Public Entity under the Ministry of Science and Innovation, Government of Spain, which fosters the innovation of Spanish Companies.

2) THEMATIC AREAS

This Call for proposals is open to collaborative R&D projects in all areas, with preference given to the priority areas of energy, health, resource sustainability and digital technology.

3) SUITABLE PROJECTS

The following kinds of projects are suitable:

- Projects that address specific market needs or socio-economic challenges that are of interest to both nations.
- Projects that lead to the development or substantial improvement of products, processes or services

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The grant will support projects with a duration of 1-3 years.

4) TIMETABLE

- Launch of Call for Proposals: 26 May 2023
- Deadline for Submission of applications: 7 Sep 2023
- Eligibility Feedback to Applicants: 21 Sep 2023
- Decision of Award (estimated): Feb 2024

5) WHO CAN APPLY?

An application must involve at least one qualified participant from Spain and one from Qatar.

- The Spanish applicant(s) must be companies registered in Spain.
- The Qatari applicant(s) must be companies registered in Qatar.
- Both companies have to be independent of each other
- Research institutes/universities and other organizations may participate as self-funded participants or subcontractors.

The participants must have adequate technical and financial capacity to undertake the project and the resources to deploy or commercialise the project after successful completion.

6) HOW TO APPLY?

The Call for applications will be available on the QRDI Portal (<https://connect.qrdi.org.qa/>), as well as on CDTI's website (<http://www.cdti.es>).

The respective QASIP national managers will provide guidance and support on QASIP requirements to applicants. They will also assist applicants to find suitable partners, if necessary.

First stage – Eligibility Review:

- Joint proposals must be submitted to CDTI and QRDI, by 7th September 2023:

In Qatar, applications must be submitted via the QRDI Portal

(<https://connect.qrdi.org.qa/>)

In Spain applications must be submitted via CDTI's Sede Electrónica

(<https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>)

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Documents:

- The Qatari and Spanish co-applicants must submit one joint project proposal using the Application Form in Annex 1. The application should describe the innovativeness of the project, the role of each party and explain how the proposed collaboration adds value.
- The Application Form must be signed by the authorized signatories of the co-applicant companies (with their names and designations shown). Other relevant information not expressly sought on the form may be included as Annexes.
- In addition to the Application Form, co-applicants must submit a draft Consortium Agreement in English whereby the co-applicants should agree on the ownership, access rights and exploitation of intellectual property generated during the cooperation, to be submitted to CDTI and QRDI. At this point an unsigned draft version of the agreement can be provided. A guideline indicating the suggested contents of a Consortium Agreement is available to applicants in Annex 2.

Second Stage – Project Evaluation

- Applicants whose proposals pass the eligibility checks by CDTI and QRDI will be required to submit additional information in the second stage of project evaluation. The additional information must be submitted within 20 working days after receiving the notification of eligibility.
- QRDI requires additional information to be submitted via the QRDI portal using the additional information form in Annex 3. CDTI requires applicants to submit the funding proposal and other documents through the electronic services at Sede Electrónica of CDTI (<https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>).

In Spain, companies must submit:

- A funding Proposal in Spanish, in accordance with the requirements set by CDTI.
- A final version of the Consortium Agreement duly signed and dated.
- Any further information if required.

In Qatar, companies must submit:

- A funding proposal as outlined in the 'Additional Information Form' in Annex 3, which will be shared by the National Manager.
- A final version of the Consortium Agreement duly signed and dated.
- Any further information if required.

The complete details of the Call are available on the websites of QRDI (<https://connect.qrdi.org.qa/innovation/p/opportunities/p/30>) and CDTI (<http://www.cdti.es>)

Applicants are advised to contact the national manager at their respective funding organizations whose contact details are given below:

Qatar (QRDI)

Address: PO Box 5825 | Doha, Qatar

Phone: +974 3014 3482

Mr. Amir Neihoum

RDI Program Expert

E-mail: amneihoum@qrdi.org.qa

Website: <https://connect.qrdi.org.qa/>

Spain (CDTI)

Unit of Foreign Technological Action

Address: Cid 4 – 28001 Madrid, Spain

Phone: +34 91 581 56 07

Mrs. Cristina Gracia

cristinateresa.gracia@cdti.es

and

Mr. José Manuel Durán

josemanuel.duran@cdti.es

Website: <http://www.cdti.es>

7) ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

The applicant must clearly specify the cost of each, and every, activity pertaining to the project and indicate the costs to be borne by the Spanish and Qatari partners. The costs of the Spanish and Qatari partners must be eligible under the laws that are applicable in each country and under the internal regulations of CDTI and QRDI, respectively.

Budgets must be given in the local currency of the applicant, QAR for Qatar and Euro for Spain. The budget for each side must not be more than 70% of the total project budget.

Funding agencies can only provide funding to the companies subject to budget availability.

The Spanish company will be funded according to the International Technological Cooperation Projects' conditions identified on CDTI's website <http://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=100&MS=802&MN=2>.

QRDI will fund qualifying expenditure on manpower (EOM), capital expenditure (CAPEX) and other operating expenses (OOE) based on the table below.

Cost Category	Description	QASIP Support Level
Expenditure on manpower (EOM)	Personnel costs (Salaries)	SMEs 90% LLEs 80% Int 70%
Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)	Equipment	60%
Other Operating Expenses (OOE)	Technical Services, Material, etc.	60%
	Operating expenses – Travel	60% capped at 5% of total budget
	Operating expenses - Indirect Cost	60% capped at 10% of total budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Total QRDI contribution to the budget of each funded project is capped at QR 500,000 per year for up to 3 years– Please refer to Annex 4 for the QRDI definitions of SMEs, LLEs and International companies (Int).		

8) REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Proposals are reviewed independently by evaluation teams from CDTI and QRDI. The 2 sides will meet to discuss their assessment and recommend awards. The Steering Committee for QASIP will approve the awards.

9) EVALUATION CRITERIA

Projects which meet the eligibility checks will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Impact.**
The project addresses some specific market need or socio-economic challenges in Qatar and/or Spain, demonstrates high industry relevance and commercial potential.
- **Innovativeness.**
The project demonstrates sufficient novelty and innovativeness and is not duplicating something available in the market.
- **Project plan.**
The project plan is well thought through, with good milestones and deliverables and a reasonable budget.
- **Partnership and Competence.**
The joint project team (and partners) have the skills and expertise needed to successfully execute the project, the partnership is well balanced and cooperation delivers added value to both sides.

10) FUNDING DECISION

CDTI and QRDI will inform the awardees in their respective countries about the funding decisions.

11) REPORTING AND PROJECT OUTPUT

Funding granted by QRDI and CDTI are governed by the general terms and conditions of each funding organization. Both parties will monitor the awarded projects until completion and inform each other about the success or failure of the projects at completion.

Each co-applicant is required to submit financial and technical reports to their respective national funding agency as specified in the funding agreement.

12) Intellectual Property:

QRDI follows the QRDI Intellectual Property (IP) Policy. For further details, refer to the QRDI IP policy at link ([Link](#)). If any Intellectual Property is jointly created by QRDI Awardees and CDTI beneficiaries, the terms for such IP will be outlined in the Consortium Agreement executed between the funded beneficiaries. Additionally, the beneficiaries are encouraged to establish an Intellectual Property Management Agreement, which will outline the protection, management, and exploitation of any jointly owned IP.

Link to IP policy:

<https://qrdiconnect.blob.core.windows.net/downloads/QRDI%20Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf>