

8th EGYPTIAN-SPANISH JOINT CALL FOR R&D&I IN IT PROJECTS 2023 - 2024

ITIDA-CDTI CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE EGYPTIAN-SPANISH INNOVATION PROGRAMME (ESITIP)

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On 4th July 2016, a Joint Programme for Cooperation was established by the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), and the CDTI, E.P.E. (CDTI), to promote and fund market - driven research and technology development as well as to encourage partnerships and business-led R&D&I collaborative projects between entities from both countries. Within this Programme, CDTI and ITIDA agreed to launch joint calls for proposals.

This call for proposals aims to launch ambitious joint R&D projects of a high international standard between Egyptian and Spanish organizations. Potential projects will be funded by ITIDA in Egypt and CDTI in Spain.

CALL GUIDELINES

1) NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Information Technology Industry Development Agency, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of Egypt and the CDTI, Ministry of Science and Innovation, Government of Spain, are the nodal implementing agencies from the Egyptian and Spanish sides, respectively.

The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) was created in 2004 under the initiative of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) in order to support the national strategy through applied research and innovation. The aim is to ensure fast-track technology transfer and translation of research results into innovative products in the fields of Information Technology (IT).

The CDTI is a Public Entity under the Ministry of Science and Innovation, Government of Spain, which fosters the knowledge-based research and innovation of Spanish Companies.

2) THEMATIC AREAS

This Call for proposals is open to collaborative R&D projects in all areas of Information Technology (IT) but a bigger weight will be to:

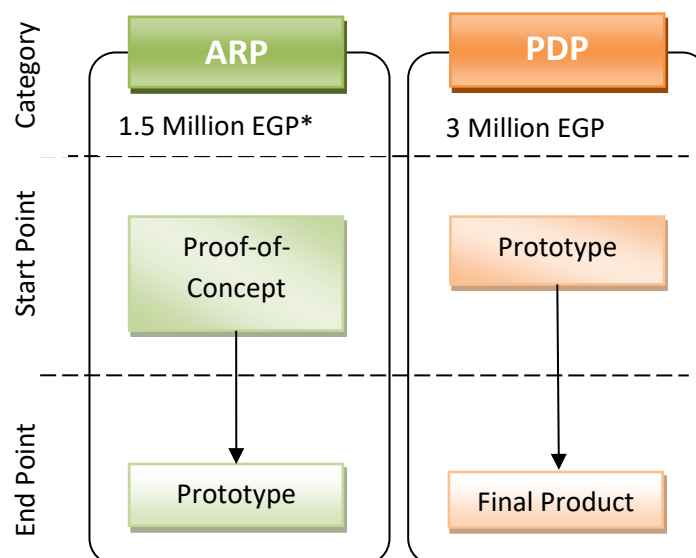
Strategic Areas: Industry 4.0, Digital transformation, Wireless and Cyber Security, Electronics and Embedded Systems for ICT Applications, ICT for Transportation, ICT for Health, ICT for Agriculture, ICT for the Disabled, ICT for Education, and ICT for Energy.

Technology-Trend Areas: Mobile Applications and Computing, Cloud Computing, Data Analytics and Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), Gamification, Cognitive Computing, Smart Machines, Blockchain, Virtual and Augmented Reality, Artificial intelligence and machine learning, Hyper automation and robotics and Quantum computing.

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3) TYPE OF PROPOSALS

- Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects, joint technological cooperation projects between Egyptian and Spanish entities consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services will be considered.
- Beneficiaries from both countries are defined in the point 5) of this Call.
- Duration of projects: from 1 year up to 2 years.
- The proposals have to cover the thematic areas of Information Technology to enhance bi-regional cooperation and develop new partnerships as well as strengthen existing ones.
- ITIDA will fund Product Development Projects (PDP) and the Advanced Research Projects (ARP). Each of these projects has its conditions on the entry point and the final output as summarized in the figure shown above.



**The funding conditions from ITIDA are set in EGP and explained in ITIDA Financial Guide. They refer to the value of both currencies on the date of the launch of the Call (20th of November 2023). ITIDA*

will fund Egyptian entities with the maximum amount expressed (EGP 1.5 million for ARPs projects, EGP 3 million for PDPs projects) and any extra amount should be funded by the Egyptian company. Additional fund of EGP 250,000 will be offered to IC Fabrication and Circuit Prototyping.

4) TIMETABLE

- Launch of Call for Proposals: 20th November 2023
- Deadline for Submission of completed applications: 18th April 2024; 24:00 Spanish time.
- Eligibility feedback to applicants: May 2024
- Label concession (estimated): October 2024

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5) WHO CAN APPLY?

Minimum eligibility criteria:

1. one Egyptian ICT academic institution,
2. one Egyptian ICT industrial partner and
3. one Spanish private company.

For PDP only, Egyptian company can apply without the academic partner, as long as:

- the prototype was developed by the company R&D team,
- the prototype has an innovation that can be patented or published, and
- the company has a research team that is capable of filling in the research institutes role within the submitted project. In such a case, the purchase of fixed assets is not allowed.

Eligible Spanish Applicants: Spanish consortia should include at least one company. Participation of research institutes/universities and other organizations is welcome as self-funded participants or subcontractors.

Eligible Egyptian Applicants: ITIDA Eligibility criteria for Egyptian companies and ICT academic institutes are:

1. Egyptian companies have to be an established company:
 - Operating and registered in Egypt.
 - Registered in ITIDA Database.
2. Research team must be:
 - Working in an Egyptian university or research institute.
 - PI holds PhD.

- PI should have publication/patent in the proposal topic

6) HOW TO APPLY?

First stage - Common International phase:

Joint R&D&I proposals must be submitted to CDTI, by the 18th of April 2024 in order to consider the eligibility. Unilaterally submitted proposals shall not be considered.

Consortia (Spanish and Egyptian applicants) shall submit the common application and all the required documents following CDTI's normal guidelines and using CDTI's electronic services at <https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>

The complete details of the Call are available on ITIDA's and CDTI's websites: <http://www.itida.gov.eg> and <http://www.cdti.es>

Further information on ITIDA funding is available in English and Arabic and further information on CDTI funding is available in Spanish. For further details visit ITIDA's website <http://www.itida.gov.eg> or/and CDTI's website <http://www.cdti.es>, or/and contact your funding agency (point 12 of this call).

Documents:

- Egyptian and Spanish co-applicants must elaborate a single project proposal application (Annex 1 – ESITIP Application Form). The Bilateral Cooperation Form must emphasize how the proposed collaboration adds value, main technology highlights and innovations, activities to be developed by the Parties involved underlining the collaborative work being carried out on each side, their expertise, etc.

Please note that this ESITIP Application Form must be sealed and signed by all co-applicants at the end of the document, expressly indicating name and designation of the authorized signatory in the organisation. Any other relevant information not expressly mentioned on the form and that the applicants consider relevant may be included as Annexes.

- In addition to the Application Form, co-applicants have to submit the following documents as relevant appendices:
 - **Consortium Agreement in English** whereby the co-applicants should agree upon the ownership, access rights and exploitation of intellectual property generated during the cooperation, to be submitted to CDTI. The Consortium Agreement needs to be sealed and signed by all co-applicants.
 - **Additional specific documents required by ITIDA:** In the case of the Egyptian applicants: Team profile, Company profile and Key Success Indicators, signed and stamped cover page and Disclosure statement. These documents must be submitted to CDTI.
 - **Additional specific documents required by CDTI:** In the case of Spanish applicants, for certain specific types of financing it will be necessary to present the documents specified in the regulations applicable to the requested aid.

Second Stage - National level

Only those proposals which have positive eligibility by CDTI and ITIDA will be able to submit the individual R&D&I proposal established by each agency:

- Funding Proposal in English language required by ITIDA: The proposal and the other documents in English language for the ITIDA must be submitted on its due date established by ITIDA.
- Funding Proposal in Spanish required by CDTI: Only industrial partners, individually, are able to submit the funding proposal and other required documents through the electronic services at [Sede Electrónica del CDTI](#). Application must be submitted within 20 working days after receiving the notification of eligibility. The complete details of the Call are available on ITIDA's and CDTI's websites: <http://www.itida.gov.eg> and <http://www.cdti.es>

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7) ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

The project must clearly specify the costs of each and all the activities pertaining to the project and delineate the costs to be respectively borne by the Spanish and Egyptian partners. The cost of the Egyptian and Spanish partners must be eligible under the laws that may be applicable in each country and under internal regulations of CDTI and ITIDA, respectively.

The funding conditions from ITIDA are set in EGP and the ones from CDTI in €. Budgets must be expressed in the local currency of each applicant. All figures and budgetary conditions in this Call refer to the value of both currencies on the date of the launch of the Call (20th November 2023).

IMPORTANT: None of the countries' budget (namely the budget of its entities participating in the proposal) can have more than 70% of the global budget.

CDTI's funding. The Spanish company will be funded according to the International Technological Cooperation Projects' conditions identified on CDTI's website. CDTI can only provide funding to Spanish companies subject to budget availability.

As per CDTI's regulations, project expenditure eligible costs will include amortisation of assets, outsourced technical collaborations, material costs, technical personnel and other costs (indirect costs, audit costs).

ITIDA's funding

ITIDA funding conditions are explained in ITIDA Financial Guide. ITIDA can only provide funding to Egyptian Researchers or Egyptian Companies subject to the amounts indicated in the table below.

Project Category	ITAC Fund Limit (EGP)	Additional Fund to IC Fabrication and Circuit Prototyping (EGP)
PDP	3,000,000	250,000
ARP	1,500,000	250,000

- ITIDA support may be used towards eligible budget items as explained in ITIDA Financial Guide. Extra project budget that apply to the maximum imbalance from the European Union imposition regarding participation in R&D International Projects must be provided by the Egyptian company.
- The budget covers only ICT components. Securing separate fund for non-ICT components is a prerequisite (for e.g. components related to agriculture, health... etc.)
- As per ITIDA's regulations project expenditure eligible costs will include: Equipment costs (capital assets), salary cost towards research manpower employed for the project, consumables, contingency, travel and overheads (for universities up to 20% only of the total budget). That does NOT include:
 - Rental
 - Furniture
 - Electricity bills
 - Stationary
 - Salaries for administration jobs (accountant or legal departments within the company)

8) REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION

All received proposals are peer reviewed and processed independently by both sides. After having received the recommendations of the respective evaluation panels, ITIDA and CDTI will jointly arrive at a mutual understanding on the projects to be funded.

9) EVALUATION CRITERIA

The joint projects must meet the general requirements of the funding organisations.

The projects to be funded are chosen by evaluating them as a whole. The evaluation is based on the points listed in the guidelines for writing the project plan. Special emphasis will be on:

- Crucial Criteria:
 - Financial capacity of Partner
 - Formal Agreement between Partners

- Basic Assessment Criteria
 - Partnership and Partners:
 - Well balanced partnership
 - Added Value through co-operation
 - Technology Capacity of all Partners
 - Managerial Capacity of all Partners
 - Project Structure
 - Methodology and Planning Approach
 - Milestones and deliverables
 - Cost and financing structure
 - Financing commitment of each Partner
- Technology and Innovation
 - Technological Advance
 - Degree of technological maturity and risk
 - Technological Achievements
 - Innovation
 - Degree of innovation
 - Geographical / sector impact
- Market and Competitiveness
 - Market and profitability
 - Market size
 - Market access and risk
 - Return on investment
 - Competitive advantages
 - Strategic importance of the project
 - Enhanced capabilities and visibility

10) FUNDING DECISIONS

ITIDA and CDTI will, after having formed their mutual understanding on the projects to be funded, make their funding decisions according to their normal procedures and rules and on a non-exchange of funds basis.

CDTI and ITIDA will inform the beneficiaries about the funding decisions according to their normal practice.

11) REPORTING AND PROJECT OUTPUT

Funding granted by ITIDA and CDTI will be governed by the general terms and conditions of each funding organization, respectively. Both parties will carry out an international follow-up until the completion of the projects and inform the counterpart about the success or failure of the international cooperation at the end of the project.

If required, each participant should submit financial and technical reports to their national funding organisations, according to national regulations. The progress and final results of each individual contract/letter of grant will be monitored by the respective national funding organisations.

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12) CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL FUNDING AGENCY:

Applicants in both countries are recommended to contact the nodal representatives at their national funding organizations whose contacts details are given below:

Egyptian side (ITIDA)

ITAC ESITIP

Information Technology Industry
Development Agency - ITIDA

Smart Village, B121, Cairo – Alexandria
Desert Road 6 October, Egypt

Tel: +202 3534 5200

Email: ESITIP@itida.gov.eg

Website: <http://www.itida.gov.eg>

Spanish side (CDTI)

Unit of Foreign Technological Action
CDTI, Calle Alfonso XI 6, Madrid
Website: www.cdti.es

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