



## **QATAR-SPAIN INNOVATION PROGRAM 2025**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> QRDI-CDTI CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE QATAR-SPAIN INNOVATION PROGRAM (QASIP)**

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, a 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 are developing the Qatar-Spain Innovation Program (QASIP) under this MOU.

CDTI and QRDI are pleased to announce the third 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 and respective applicants. These collaborative projects aim to enhance the market access and global competitiveness of Spanish and Qatari companies. Awardees in Qatar receive a co-funding grant from QRDI and Spanish awardees receive financial support from CDTI in Spain, for the purposes of the collaborative project. Please see Section 7, Eligible Costs and Funding, for further detail.

#### **CALL GUIDELINES:**

##### **1) SUPPORTING AGENCIES**

QRDI and CDTI are the national research funding agencies managing the QASIP call in Qatar and Spain, respectively.

- (A) The Qatar Research and Development Innovation Council (QRDI) is responsible for developing and implementing the QRDI2030 National Strategy and providing funding to strengthen and build the research and innovation ecosystem in Qatar.
- (B) The Center for Technological Development and Innovation (CDTI) is a Public Entity under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, 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 smart cities, health, resource sustainability and digital technology.

### 3) SUITABLE PROJECTS

The following kinds of projects are suitable:

- Collaborative projects whereby research and development activities are conducted in both countries by each of the awarded companies.
- Projects that address specific market needs or socio-economic challenges that are of interest to both nations and respective applicants.
- Projects that lead to the development or substantial improvement of products, processes or services.
- Eligible projects must have a duration ranging from 1 to 3 years.

The following types of projects, by way of example, are **not eligible**:

- A project which is not developmental in nature, or which does not represent an advance in the level of technical innovation relative to the companies current products/processes.
- A submission by applicants which do not have the required technical capability to undertake the project or do not have sufficient financial capability to support co-funding to project completion.
- A project which does not involve research and development activities by at least one company in Spain and at least one company in Qatar, for the purposes of the defined collaborative Project.
- Projects which have timelines for completion of less than 1 year or more than 3 years.

In general, activities are deemed **ineligible** if they:

- Lack technical uncertainty or innovation.
- Do not involve systematic experimentation.
- Are routine, repetitive, or cosmetic in nature.
- Focus solely on commercial, operational, or administrative objectives.

### 4) TIMETABLE

- Launch of Call for Proposals: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- Deadline for Submission of Applications: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025; 23:59 (Doha time)/22:59 (Madrid time)
- Eligibility Feedback to Applicants: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Deadline for submission of additional information: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- Decision of Award (estimated): February 2026

### 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 a company / companies registered in Spain.
- The Qatari applicant(s) must be a company / companies registered in Qatar.
- Both companies must be independent of one other, and not under common ownership, management or control.

- The participants must have the requisite technical and financial capacity to undertake the project.
- Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) activities must be conducted in both countries and by each of the awarded companies.
- The eligible projects must be for a duration of a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 3 years.

## 6) HOW TO APPLY?

QASIP is a collaborative innovation initiative. All companies interested in securing a partner and / or submitting a joint QASIP application, must register [here](#). Once your profile has been created, it will be visible to other companies interested in QASIP.

Registering is easy and guidelines are available in the Links and Downloads section of the [QRDI website Innolight](#).

Once a partnership has been formed and a project is scoped and agreed, a completed joint application form (Annex 1) and required documentation outlined below, must be submitted [here](#)<sup>1</sup> by the Qatari partner *and* via the CDTI website ([here](#)), by the Spanish partner, by June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The respective QASIP national managers will provide guidance and support on QASIP requirements and will assist with partner search, if necessary.

Required Documentation:

- The Qatari and Spanish co-applicants must submit one **joint project proposal** using the **Application Form Annex 1**. The application should clearly 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). Electronic signatures are valid, other formats (i.e. handwritten) will require a stamp of the company to be valid.
- The Qatari applicant must submit **Annex 2 Costing Sheet Stage 1** along with Application Form Annex 1.
- Other relevant information not expressly sought on the form may be included as Annexes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please set up a profile by choosing 'Innovation Participant' under the 'role' section.

- In addition to the Application Form and Costing Sheet, co-applicants must also submit a **draft Consortium Agreement** in English whereby the co-applicants should agree on the execution of the project and its terms, the ownership, access rights and exploitation of intellectual property, generated during the collaboration. For the purposes of the First stage Eligibility Review, 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 the [Links & Downloads](#) section on the QRDI Innolight website. A final version of the Consortium Agreement duly signed and dated must be submitted in the second stage, as per the detail below.

### First stage – Eligibility Review:

Required documentation, must be submitted to QRDI and CDTI, by 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 23:59 (Doha time) and 22.59 (Madrid time).

The Qatari applicant must submit the **co-signed Application form (Annex 1)**, **Annex 2 Costing Sheet Stage 1**, and the **draft consortium agreement**, [here](#).

And

The Spanish applicant must submit the **co-signed Application form (Annex 1)** via CDTI's Sede Electrónica website ([here](#))

The documentation will be reviewed and eligibility feedback will be provided to applicants by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

### Second Stage

Proposals which pass the eligibility stage will be required to submit **additional information** in the second stage of this call. The additional information must be submitted **by September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

In Spain, CDTI requires applicants to submit the following information through the electronic services at Sede Electrónica of CDTI (<https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>):

- 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 deemed relevant in support of the application.

In Qatar, QRDI requires the following additional information to be submitted:

- Additional detail as outlined in **Annex 6 Additional Information form Stage 2**
- Completed **Detailed Costing Sheet Stage 2 (Annex 7)**
- A final version of the Consortium Agreement duly signed and dated by both parties.
- Any further information deemed relevant in support of the application.



Call details are available on the websites of [QRDI](#) and [CDTI](#).

**Applicants should make contact with the national manager at their respective funding organizations in advance of preparing a proposal.**

**Contact details:**

Qatar (QRDI)

Address: PO Box 5825 | Doha, Qatar

Ms. Sarah-Jane Hutchinson

RDI Program Manager

E-mail: [shutchinson@qrdi.org.qa](mailto:shutchinson@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

Mr. José Manuel Durán

[josemanuel.duran@cdti.es](mailto:josemanuel.duran@cdti.es)

Mr. Francisco Sánchez

[francisco.sanchez@cdti.es](mailto:francisco.sanchez@cdti.es)

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

## 7) ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

The applicant must clearly specify project expenditure and indicate the costs to be borne by the Spanish and Qatari partners.

Budgets must be provided in the local currency of the applicant, QAR for Qatari applicants and Euro for Spanish applicants. The budget for each partner must not exceed 70% of the total project budget.

The exchange rate to be used will be the official for the date of the launching of this call: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Please carefully review the funding conditions from **CDTI and QRDI, as they are different.**

CDTI will fund the Spanish company according to the conditions of International Technological Cooperation Projects', which are published on CDTI's [website](#).

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 (CAPEX)	Equipment	60%
Other Operating Expenses (OOE)	Technical Services, Material, etc.	60%, capped at 20% of total supportable budget
	Operating expenses – Travel	60% capped at 5% of total supportable budget
	Operating expenses - Indirect Cost	60% capped at 10% of total supportable budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total QRDI co-funding contribution to the budget of each funded project is capped at QR 500,000 per year for up to 3 years</li> <li>– The QRDI co-funding contribution shall be utilized for developmental activities undertaken by the awarded applicants(s) in Qatar.</li> <li>– Please refer to Annex 4 for the QRDI definitions of SMEs, LLEs and International companies (Int).</li> </ul>		

Financial support by QRDI and CDTI for QASIP is subject to budgetary availability.

## 8) REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Proposals are reviewed independently by evaluation teams from CDTI and QRDI. Once both funding agencies have independently reviewed the applications, the agencies will convene to collaboratively assess and recommend awards.

## 9) EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals which pass the eligibility checks by CDTI and QRDI will proceed to the second stage, Project Evaluation.

The documentation provided for the First stage – Eligibility Review and the additional information submitted for the second stage will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Impact Assessment.**  
The evaluation panel will consider how strongly the project aligns with industry needs, and relevance to specific market need or socio-economic challenges in Qatar and Spain. The panel will evaluate the clarity and feasibility of the commercialization strategy in addition to market size, potential barriers to entry and associated risks.
- **Innovativeness.**  
The evaluation panel will assess the project's uniqueness in the market, ensuring it doesn't duplicate existing solutions. The panel will also consider the potential for IP creation and technological advancement.
- **Project plan.**  
The evaluation panel will review the project plan for well-defined and realistic milestones and deliverables, and a reasonable budget. The panel will also evaluate resource allocation and the expertise and competencies of the project team in-country. The applicant's financial stability and capability will be assessed.
- **Partnership and Competence.**  
The evaluation panel will consider if the partnership is balanced, with meaningful contributions and project activities from each partner. The added value created by the collaboration, the proven track record of each partner, and the collaborative skills and expertise required to successfully execute the project, will be assessed.

## 10) FUNDING DECISION

CDTI and QRDI will inform successful and unsuccessful applicants in their respective countries regarding the Call outcomes, by February 2026.

## 11) REPORTING AND PROJECT OUTPUT

Funding awarded by QRDI and CDTI is governed by the general terms and conditions of each funding organization. Both parties will independently and collectively monitor the awarded projects until 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 the following link ([QRDI Intellectual Property Policy.pdf](#)). 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.