

1st KOREAN-SPANISH JOINT CALL FOR R&D&I PROJECTS 2026 IN INFRASTRUCTURES

KOREA-SPAIN CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE SPAIN-KOREA INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (SKIT)

On November 6th, 2025, a Joint Program for Co-operation was established by the Korea Agency for Infrastructure Technology Advancement (KAIA) and the Spanish Centre for the Development of Technology and Innovation (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. With this program, CDTI and KAIA 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 Korean and Spanish organizations. Potential projects will be funded by KAIA in Korea and CDTI in Spain.

CALL GUIDELINES:

1) IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Korea Agency for Infrastructure Technology Advancement (KAIA), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Korea and the Centre for the Development of Technology and Innovation (CDTI), Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Government of Spain, are the implementing agencies from the Korean and Spanish sides, respectively.

KAIA is an R&D funding agency under Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport which undertakes roles in planning, evaluating, and managing national infrastructure related R&D projects.

The CDTI is a Public Entity under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities which fosters technological development and innovation of Spanish Companies.

2) THEMATIC AREAS

GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑAMINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN
Y UNIVERSIDADES

This Call for proposals is open to collaborative R&D projects in the following areas/sectors:

Theme	Sub-theme
1. Advanced Mobility	1-1. Mobility Innovation
	1-2. Future Mobility Infrastructure
	1-3. Cooperative Autonomous Driving
2. Hydrogen	2-1. Future Hydrogen Ecosystem
	2-2. Hydrogen Production-Storage-Transport
	2-3. Hydrogen Utilization
3. Low-carbon City/ Architect	3-1. Energy Efficiency Improvement
	3-2. Green Remodeling
	3-3. Carbon-Neutral City
4. Eco-Plant	4-1. Energy Storage and Use
	4-2. Overseas Plant Demonstration
5. Eco-Mobility Infrastruct ure	5-1. Eco-Transport System
	5-2. Safety Assessment & Certificate System
6. Safe/Convenient Living Environment	6-1. Establishing National Transport Safety Net
	6-2. Lifestyle Improvement Services
7. Construction 4.0 (SOC Construction/ Management Efficiency)	7-1. Robotization & Autonomous Collaborative Robots
	7-2. Smart Maintenance
	7-3. Improving Digital Productivity
	7-4. High-Efficiency Smart Materials

3) TYPE OF PROPOSALS

Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects, joint technological co-operation projects between industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs and large companies, universities and research institutes) in Korea and industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs and large companies; universities and research institutes can participate as subcontractors) in Spain consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services will be considered.

Duration of projects: 30 months

The proposals must cover the thematic areas indicated in section 2 to enhance bi-regional cooperation and develop new partnerships as well as strengthen existing ones.

4) TIMETABLE

- Launch of Call for Proposals: January 12, 2026
- Deadline for Submission of applications: February 26, 2026
- Project Approval (estimated): June 30, 2026

5) WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible Spanish Applicants

Spanish consortia should include at least one company. Participation of research institutes, universities and other research organizations are welcome as self-funded participants or subcontractors.

Eligible Korean Applicants

Consortiums comprised of a lead research institution, a joint research institution can be comprised of industry, academia and research institutes. Since the goal is to achieve field application and commercialization, at least one company (regardless of size) must be included within the Consortiums.

6) HOW TO APPLY?

First stage - Common International phase:

- Joint R&D&I proposals must be submitted to CDTI and KAIA, by February 26, 2026, in order to consider the eligibility. Unilaterally submitted proposals shall not be considered.

In Spain the participants will have to submit a formal R&D international project application (SKIT) through CDTI's website (<https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>)

In Korea, the participants will have to submit a formal R&D International project application (SKIT) through KAIA and national R&D website (<https://www.iris.go.kr>)

Documents:

- Korean and Spanish co-applicants must elaborate a single **project proposal application**. The SKIT Application 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 SKIT Application Form must be signed by all co-applicants, expressly indicating name and designation of the authorized signatory in the organization. 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 SKIT 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 co-operation, to be submitted to CDTI and KAIA. The Consortium Agreement needs to be signed by all co-applicants.

Second Stage - National level

Only those proposals which have positive eligibility by CDTI and KAIA are allowed to submit the individual R&D&I proposal in its own language established by each agency.

- The funding Proposal in Korean language required by KAIA:

The Full Project Proposal in Korean must be submitted on its due date established by February 26, 2026.

- The funding Proposal in Spanish required by CDTI:

Only industrial partners, individually, can submit the funding proposal and other required documents through the electronic services at <https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>. The Application must be submitted with a deadline of March 10, 2026.

CDTI will finance industrial research and/or technological development activities of Spanish companies. The full funding proposal and necessary attachments must be submitted before March 10, 2026, at the latest. These documents are crucial, and

their quality will determine the funding granted to the project. A funding proposal for the international project submitted within this call will only be approved if it complies with the aforementioned minimum conditions. Otherwise, the international project will be rejected.

The complete details of the SKIT call are available on KAIA's and CDTI's websites: <https://www.kaia.re.kr> and <http://www.cdti.es>

Applicants are recommended to contact the representatives of their national funding organizations whose contact details are given below:

Spain (CDTI)

Ms. Merced Perez, SKIT Program Coordinator
Address: Cid, 4 – 28001 Madrid, Spain
Phone: +34 91 581 56 07
E-mail: merced.perez@cdti.es

Korea (CDTI)

Mr. Jordi Espluga, Representative in South Korea
Address: Booyoung Taepyeong 20Fl, 55, Sejong-daero, Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea
Phone: +82 (0)7041170888
E-mail: jordi.espluga@cdti.es

Korea (KAIA)

Mr. Seong-II Kim, General Manager / Head of Global Expansion & Cooperation Division
Address: 286 Simin-daero, Dongan-gu, Anyang-city, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
Phone: +82 (0)31 389 6338
E-mail: slkimi@kaia.re.kr

Korea (KAIA)

Ms. Jeri Lee, Chief Researcher / International Cooperation Team Lead
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E-mail: jeri@kaia.re.kr

7) ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

The project must clearly specify the costs of each and all the activities

pertaining to the project and specify the costs to be respectively borne by the Spanish and Korean partners. The cost of the Korean and Spanish partners must be eligible under the laws that may be applicable in each country and under internal regulations of CDTI and KAIA, respectively.

The funding conditions from Korea are set in Korean Won and the ones from CDTI in Euro. 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.

None of the countries' budget (namely the budget of its entities participating in the proposal) can have more than 70% of the total R&D budget.

In Spain, companies will be funded according to the International Technological Cooperation Projects' conditions identified on CDTI's website: [Programas de Cooperación Tecnológica Internacional \(PCTI\) | CDTI](#). The modality of funding is either preferential loans with a non-reimbursable tranche or grants (only for those eligible regions specified in the national grant call). CDTI can only provide funding to Spanish companies subject to budget availability.

In Korea, the maximum government support available for any one R&D project is KRW 1.525 billion over three years, with a maximum total of KRW 138million available for 2026. None of the countries' budget (namely the budget of its entities participating in the proposal) can have more than 70% of the total R&D budget (public and private funds combined from both countries).

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, KAIA and CDTI will jointly arrive at a mutual understanding on the projects to be funded.

9) EVALUATION CRITERIA

Both parties evaluate with their own evaluation criteria at least:

- Partnership and Partners (including financial capacity)
- Project Structure
- Technological Advance
- Innovation
- Market

- Competitive advantages

KAIA and CDTI will independently evaluate the submitted proposals in accordance with the respective national rules and regulations. Evaluation results for the top candidates will be shared and discussed between two organizations. Finally, KAIA and CDTI will jointly select the final consortia on June 30, 2026 (tentative).

10) FUNDING DECISIONS

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

11) REPORTING AND PROJECT OUTPUT

Funding granted by KAIA and CDTI will be governed by the general terms and conditions of each funding organization, respectively. Both parties will carry out 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.