

11th EGYPTIAN-SPANISH JOINT CALL FOR R&D&I PROJECTS 2026

STDF-CDTI CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE EGYPTIAN-SPANISH INNOVATION PROGRAMME (ESIP)

On 30th of June, 2016, a Joint Program for Cooperation was established by The Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority (STDF) 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 program, CDTI and STDF 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 STDF in Egypt and CDTI in Spain.

CALL GUIDELINES:

1) NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Government of Egypt, and the CDTI, E.P.E., Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Government of Spain, are the nodal implementing agencies from the Egyptian and Spanish sides, respectively.

The Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority is the nodal agency for the promotion of research, development, and innovation in the valued areas of Egypt's long-term competitiveness and development strategy. STDF funds and supports affiliated Egyptian universities and research organisations (collaboration permitted with other entities).

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

2) THEMATIC AREAS

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

1. Agriculture and Sustainable Food Production

- Climatic and extra-climatic factors affecting sustainable crop production
- Improvement of productivity and quality of livestock, aquaculture and fisheries
- Innovative solutions for combatting emerging infectious livestock diseases
- Agricultural waste management and biofuel production
- Advanced trends to improve plant and livestock productivity
- Food processing, safety, and food security

2. Sustainable water management

- Water management and treatment
- Water desalination
- Water sanitation technology

3. Affordable & Inclusive Healthcare

- Cancer and stem cells
- Chronic diseases
- Geriatric medicine

4. Renewable Energy

- New trends in renewable energy
- Advances in energy storage systems
- Biofuel/biogas production

5. Environment sector

- Sanitation
- Waste treatment

6. Construction

- Advanced construction technology and materials
- Hybrid Concrete Construction (prefabrication plus in-situ)
- Energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings
- Applications of informatics to construction
- Advanced construction management and methods

7. Transportation sector

- Railways infrastructure
- Railways management

8. Tourism and Antiquities sector

- Tourism industry and management of tourist places

9. Strategic Industries sector

- Pharmaceutical sector
- Electric car sector
- Manufacturing industries sector: textile, clothing, paper, wood, petroleum materials, chemicals, plastics, metallurgy and electronics sector
- Computer Hardware, Machinery and Electrical Appliance sector

3) TYPE OF PROPOSALS

Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects, as well as joint technological cooperation projects between industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs, and large companies) and Universities or Research Centers in Egypt, and industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs, and large companies) in Spain, consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services, will be considered.

Duration of projects: up to 2 years.

The proposals have to cover the thematic areas of agricultural and sustainable production, sustainable water management, affordable and inclusive healthcare, renewable energy, environment sector, construction, transportation sector, tourism and antiquities sector, and strategic industries sector to enhance bi-regional cooperation and develop new partnerships as well as strengthen existing ones.

4) TIMETABLE

- Launch of Call for Proposals: 3rd of September 2026.
- Deadline for Submission of completed applications: 3rd of December 2026.
24.00 Cairo time.
- Eligibility feedback to applicants: 21st of December 2026.
- Label concession (estimated): September 2027.

5) WHO CAN APPLY?

Minimum eligibility criteria: The project partners should include at least one qualified researcher from Egypt (Ph.D. holder, affiliated to an Egyptian university or research institution), with an Egyptian industrial partner (with or without R&D units), and one qualified partner from Spain (1 company from Spain with or without an R&D department).

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

Eligible Egyptian consortia should include a partner (the Egyptian applicant) who is a Ph.D. holder, affiliated to an Egyptian University or research Institution. Collaboration with other entities such as companies, governmental partners, other research centres, technological centres, universities, and other R&D-performing organisations is permitted under STDF's regulations.

Only projects with an industrial or governmental partner from the Egyptian side will be funded. Consortia with industrial or governmental partners having R&D units will have a higher priority.

Egyptian applicants should submit a business and financial plan to manage the IPR for the Egyptian side. According to Egyptian laws, the IPR belongs to the funding agency (the STDF), unless the industrial or governmental partners share in the project funding. In this case, the IPR for the Egyptian side will be shared between the STDF and the project partners according to their financial contribution.

6) HOW TO APPLY?

First stage - Common International phase:

- **Identical joint R&D&I proposals must be submitted to CDTI and STDF, starting the 3rd of September 2026 to the 3rd of December 2026, in order to consider the eligibility.** Unilaterally submitted proposals shall not be considered.

Egyptian Applicants should upload an electronic version (soft copy) of the proposal on the STDF's website (<http://www.stdf.eg>).

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

Documents:

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

A plagiarism check will be applied to all proposals. Accordingly, the proposal must be submitted in a readable PDF format (i.e. not scanned), to facilitate plagiarism checks.

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

- In addition to the Joint Application form, co-applicants have to submit the following documents to STDF and CDTI as relevant appendices:
 - **Consortium Agreement in English (Annex 2)** 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 STDF. The Consortium Agreement needs to be sealed and signed by all co-applicants.

- **Any additional specific documents required by STDF and CDTI, as per their respective guidelines and internal rules.**
- 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.
- Egyptian applicants shall submit applications as per STDF guidelines. Supportive documents should be submitted from the Egyptian PI, including the Acknowledgment Form (**Annex 3**) and Endorsement Letter of the industrial partner (**Annex 4**). Supportive documents should be stamped and signed by the PI's institution.

Second Stage - National level

Only those proposals which have positive eligibility by CDTI and STDF will be able to submit the individual R&D&I proposal in its own language established by each agency.

- The funding Proposal in English language required by STDF: The proposal and the other documents in English language for the STDF must be submitted on its due date established by STDF.
- The funding Proposal in Spanish is 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 STDF's and CDTI's websites: <http://www.stdf.eg> and <http://www.cdti.es>

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

Egyptian side (STDF)

Mrs. Mariam Abdelghany
Science, Technology & Innovation
Funding Authority - STDF
101 Kasr Al-Ainy St., Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: mariam.abdelghany@stdf.eg
Website: <http://www.stdf.eg>

Spanish side (CDTI)

Unit of Foreign Technological Action
Address: Cid 4 – 28001 Madrid, Spain
Phone: +34 91 581 56 07
egipto@cdti.es
Website: www.cdti.es

Mr. José Manuel Durán
North Africa and Middle East Delegate
Phone: +212 666 17 21 51
E-mail: josemanuel.duran@cdti.es

Mr. Francisco Sánchez
Phone: +34 91 581 04 89
E-mail: francisco.sanchez@cdti.es

7) ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

The project must clearly specify the costs of each and all activities pertaining to the project and specify 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 the internal regulations of STDF and CDTI, respectively.

The funding conditions from STDF and CDTI are set in €. Budgets must be expressed in €.

None of the countries' budget (namely the budget of its entities participating in the proposal) can have more than 70% of the global budget. Besides, STDF cannot fund more than 50 % of the global Budget. This information will be also included in point 1.8 of the Application Form document.

- CDTI can only provide funding to Spanish companies subject to budget availability. The Spanish company will be funded according to the '[International Technological Cooperation Projects](#)'-PCTIs conditions identified on CDTI's website.
- STDF will fund each project with 75,000 Euros – 150,000 Euros, to be disbursed in the local currency (Egyptian Pounds) according to the exchange rate at the time of contracting. As per STDF's regulations, eligible project expenditures will include:
 - Salaries for the team (not to exceed 25% or up to 2,000,000 LE, whichever is less)
 - Equipment, Expendable supplies, and Materials
 - Travel (not to exceed 20% or up to 1,000,000 LE, whichever is less)
 - Publication costs and workshops
 - Indirect costs [not to exceed 20% of the (Total Direct Cost – Total Equipment Cost) or up to 150,000 LE, whichever is less].

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, STDF 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 organizations. The evaluation criteria are the following:

- 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, financing structure, and Financing commitment of each Partner
- **Technology and Innovation**
 - **Technological Advances**
 - 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

STDF 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 STDF will inform the beneficiaries about the funding decisions according to their normal practice.

11) REPORTING AND PROJECT OUTPUT

Funding granted by STDF 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.