7th KOREAN-SPANISH JOINT CALL FOR R&D&I PROJECTS 2026

KOREA-SPAIN CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE KOREA-SPAIN ENERGY INNOVATION PROGRAMME (KSEI)

On November 14th, 2017, a Joint Programme for Co-operation was established by the Korean Institute of Energy Evaluation and Planning (KETEP) 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 KETEP 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 KETEP in Korea and CDTI in Spain.

CALL GUIDELINES:

1) IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Korea Institute of Energy Evaluation and Planning (KETEP), Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE), Government 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.

KETEP is an energy R&D funding agency under Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment which undertakes roles in planning, evaluating, and managing national energy 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

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

- Renewable energy (PV and Wind)
- Hydrogen
- Power Grid

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: 3 years.

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: November 26, 2026
- Deadline for Submission of applications: February 2, 2027
- Project Approval (estimated): Junio 9, 2027

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

Korean consortia should include at least one company. Participation of research institutes, universities and other organizations are welcome as participants

6) HOW TO APPLY?

First stage - Common International phase:

- Joint R&D&I proposals must be submitted to CDTI and KETEP, by February 2, 2027, in order to consider eligibility. Unilaterally submitted proposals shall not be considered.

  In Korea, the participants will have to submit a formal R&D International project application through IRIS (Integrated R&D Portal Service)'s website (https://www.iris.go.kr) including the Application form (in English) with the Full Project Proposal in Korean.

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

Documents:

- Korean and Spanish co-applicants must elaborate a single **project proposal application**. The KSEI 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 KSEI Application Form must be signed by all co-applicants at the end of the document, 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 KSEI 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 KETEP. 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 KETEP 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 KETEP:

  The Full Project Proposal in Korean must be submitted on its due date established by February 2, 2027.

- The funding Proposal in Spanish required by CDTI:

  Only industrial partners, individually, can summit 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 February 9, 2027.
  CDTI will finance industrial research and/or technological development activities of Spanish companies. The full funding proposal and necessary attachments must be submitted before February 9, 2027, 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 KSEI call are available on KETEP's, IRIS's and CDTI's websites: http://www.ketep.re.kr, https://www.iris.go.kr, and http://www.cdti.es

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

Spain (CDTI)
Ms. Merced Perez, KSEI 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 Taepyong 20Fl, 55, Sejong-daero, Jung-gu, Seoul, South

Korea
Phone: +82 (0)7041170888
E-mail: jordi.espluga@cdti.es

Korea (KETEP)
Ms. Haye Kim, Researcher
Address: 06175 14, Teheran-ro 114-gil, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, South Korea
Phone: +82 2 3469 8436
E-mail: hamoyeah@ketep.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 KETEP, 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 global budget.

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

In Korea, companies should participate in the consortium, whereas universities and government research institutes may participate in the consortium. KETEP will only finance industrial research and/or technological development activities to companies, universities, and research institutes legally established in Korea.

KETEP will fund to Korean participants KRW 500 million/project maximum annum, up to 3 years. KETEP will award its first-year funding in 2027, and the subsequent funding will be awarded on a yearly basis according to the annual evaluation result. No government funding will be awarded if the project is found to be disqualified. The Korean participants will have to provide the matching

fund with their own source of fund, cash and in-kind, following “The Operation Guidelines For Projects For Innovation of Industrial Technology”

Korean tasks in the project can only start after submitting the funding application to KETEP. More information is available at www.ketep.re.kr and https://www.iris.go.kr.

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, KETEP 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

All Korean applicants are subject to initial screening which examines the SME’s capability to carry out the project. Examination criteria include, but are not limited to, bankruptcy history, disposition for tax delinquency, default history of the head of the company, debt ratio, review of the recent financial statement in terms of capital erosion, etc. Failure in any of the criteria will disqualify the applicant and the respective proposal will not proceed to the next step of proposal evaluation.

KETEP 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, KETEP and CDTI will jointly select the final consortia on June 9, 2027 (tentative).

10) FUNDING DECISIONS

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

11) REPORTING AND PROJECT OUTPUT

Funding granted by KETEP 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.