

Strategic Indo-Swedish Cooperative Innovation Programme between Department of Biotechnology, DBT, Government of India, and The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, VINNOVA, Sweden

Under the agreement in Science & Technology between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the 9th December 2005

Joint call for proposals in the field of Health

Summary

The present document announces the third joint call for proposals between The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT) and the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA). The document provides applicants with information on the bilateral cooperation programme and its procedures. Last date for submitting proposals: 16th January 2017, 17.00 CET.

1. Programme

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems has agreed to launch a joint call for proposals during 2016-2017 to promote Indo-Swedish research and innovation cooperation. DBT and VINNOVA hereby invite Indian and Swedish industry and researchers in both private and public sectors to submit joint project applications for collaborative research and innovation projects.

This joint call will stimulate R&D projects in companies and at universities, to long-term development of strong research and innovation environments in a number of broad scientific areas presented in paragraph 2 below. Project proposals are requested to include a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and a societal challenge perspective in their application. The programme encourages cooperation between industry, academia and the public sector to ensure maximum relevance and impact.

1.1 Programme goals and objectives

Innovation is essential for meeting economic and societal challenges and for ensuring prosperity and quality of life. DBT and VINNOVA, invests in R&D to strengthen innovative capacity for competitiveness, sustainable development and growth.

The goal of the programme is to support long-term Indo-Swedish research and innovation collaboration in the field of Health. The approach is to establish and strengthen collaborative industry and research networks between India and Sweden by funding joint research and innovation projects, exchange visits, demonstration and proof of principle.

1.2 Projects

The cooperative project period shall be 3 to 4 years in total, counting from start date of the project. Projects are required to include at least one actively involved industrial stakeholder and one academic partner on the Swedish side. Projects on the Indian side are encouraged to include industry participation but is it not mandatory.

An important evaluation criterion is that the proposed project should build on and reinforce already ongoing research activities or an existing product or service which will be developed in a new context or similar, to build a solution that has the potential to come into practical use and create sustainable growth and/or societal benefits. The collaborative research between Indian and Swedish groups shall contribute significant added value to these activities.

The application shall clearly describe the project goals and how to reach them (by deliverables and milestones) for each collaborating team as well as the added value for Indian and Swedish industry and society. Each proposal shall include a description on long term collaborating effects after the project funding period.

The application shall also take into account the user perspective and social impact of the proposed research activity, for example through the inclusion of relevant user, customer or similar actor that can specify requirements of the end solution.

1.3 Applicants

The programme is open to Indian and Swedish industry, researchers and public or private nonprofit institutions that develop and perform R&D activities. This includes universities and other academic institutions, research institutions, hospitals, non-governmental organisations and public foundations.

All applicants must fulfil eligibility rules applied by each funding agency. These rules are found on the respective webpages of each funding agency.

2. Scientific Areas in the call for proposals

Collaborative research and innovation projects should be set up under one or more of the following health areas, address a societal challenge, and should provide economical, societal and environmentally sustainable solutions.

- **Medical diagnostics:** Addressing and improving needs of understanding health, disease and disease processes at all ages including pre-natal, to develop new and more effective medical diagnostics. Innovative and existing technologies can be developed so that they can be adapted to different environmental and socio-economic conditions in both pre-hospital as well as in hospital settings.
- **Medical devices:** Addressing innovative solutions for diagnosis, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, that could improve health and quality of life for patients, disabled persons and their families and contribute to addressing the sustainability of healthcare systems. Support will be provided for generating appropriate and affordable

health technologies by development of new innovative and existing technologies, by integration and use of methods in both pre-hospital and hospital settings.

- **Antimicrobial resistance – Innovative treatment, diagnostics and preventive strategies:** Development of agents with novel antibacterial mechanisms or which re-sensitize resistant bacteria to conventional antibiotics. Addressing the need for point-of-care testing (POCT) to improve treatment outcomes and efficient utilization of health resources. Development and evaluation of antimicrobial resistance control strategies to reduce the risk of acquisition, transmission and infection by antimicrobial-resistant pathogens in inpatient and community settings.
- **eHealth for OneHealth:** Novel IT-based solutions for patient's ability to monitor and track health status, to easier connect and communicate with health care services or to better comply with treatment. Innovative solutions should be highly aware of the patient's perspective and his/her experience of a holistic and integrated health care.
- **Innovative food, improving health promotion and disease prevention:** Addressing sustainable solutions for a changing life style, disease prevention and nutritional demands or new innovative foods by relating to behavioral, metabolic, epidemiological and nutritional needs. Improved innovative behavioural (life style) interventions, prevention and education programmes can be developed including those pertaining to health literacy in nutrition, vaccination and other primary care interventions.

3. Application, Time schedule and Budget plan

The joint call opens on the 23rd of September 2016 and the call deadline is 16th January 2017. The expected time for announcing granted proposals are on the 24th April 2017.

VINNOVA reserve a budget of 20 million SEK over a period of three to four years (2017-2020). Different rules apply regarding the level of funding to SMEs from the respective funding agencies. Applicants are requested to seek information regarding national rules. Universities and other public sector participants can receive funding up to 100% of eligible costs. Large industry participants are encouraged to participate as formal project partners but will not receive any funding.

3.1 Application

The collaborative research period for which funding is applied shall be 3 to 4 years in total. The application shall however demonstrate a sustainable long-lasting collaborative ambition beyond the end of the project period.

Proposed projects shall build new collaborations or substantially strengthen established collaborations. Collaboration shall, in both instances, build significant added value for the planned or ongoing activities.

The application is expected to be set up as a collaboration between the research and the private sector, with a minimum of one private/industrial partner and one research partner on the Swedish side and one research partner on the Indian side. Industry participation on the Indian side is however strongly encouraged. It is also encouraged to include formal partners from the public sector. Actors representing user or customer can be included as a formal project partner.

The application shall clearly describe the outcome of the proposal, including an exploitation plan, and the deliverables for each collaborating team. It should clearly describe added value for Indian and Swedish collaboration and/or added value for Indian/Swedish industry and/or societal benefits.

The application shall clearly describe mobility of researchers in both directions (India – Sweden, and Sweden – India) with a minimum of 4 months in both directions. Shorter staff-exchanges (researchers, technical or administrative staff) shall also be described. In both instances of mobility the applicants needs to show a receiving capacity and plan (workspace, housing, subsistence etc.)

3.2 Applicants

The programme is open to Indian and Swedish partners from public, private and nonprofit organizations that perform R&D and innovation activities. This includes universities and other academic institutions, research institutes, hospitals, care providers, public foundations, industry and SMEs.

Applicants must be able to show an engagement and track record in advanced innovation and R&D activities.

3.3 Intellectual Property Rights

Any IPR arising from cooperative activities under this joint call shall be regulated in a Consortium Agreement (CA) in accordance with the relevant laws of the two countries. The CA shall be signed by all formal project partners no later than 6 months after the starting date of the project.

All details shall be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation between the project participants.

3.4 Financial support

Funding provided within this call is intended to enhance the project participants' capacities to collaborate. The program is designed to support additional expenses related to cooperation with a Swedish counterpart for an Indian project partner or with an Indian counterpart for a Swedish project partner. This includes for example funding to carry out the joint research and innovation/development activities, mobility of researchers with a main emphasis on leading-edge researchers and the dissemination of results. Different principles of eligible costs and cost calculations may apply on the Indian and Swedish sides, respectively. Funding contracts of individual project partners will be concluded with the national funding authority.

Each host institution is expected to extend basic facilities to its visiting researchers. The proposed activities shall be supported by the applicants' use of their own available resources.

Principles for financial support for the exchange visits outlined in the project plan and budget will be as follows: the sending party will provide round-trip economy-excursion class airfare to the relevant entry city of the host country as well as medical insurance. The receiving side will arrange local hospitality (meals, lodging expenses, per diem and local travel) for the visitors. Host institutions must be informed in advance of planned visits in accordance with their specific regulations.

4. Application

4.1 Common proposal

The Indian and Swedish applicants must write a common proposal (format provided at national agency's website) that shall be submitted to both DBT (by Indian applicant) and VINNOVA (by Swedish applicant). The same application shall go to the respective funding agencies.

4.2 Submission of applications

To be eligible for consideration, the joint project proposal must be submitted to both DBT and VINNOVA on the call deadline 16th January 2017, 1700 CET.

The proposal shall use the following headings:

1. Background
2. Impact
3. Implementation
4. Actor constellations
5. Work plan (schedule, milestones and deliverables)
6. Budget
7. Annexes (CVs etc.)

Project proposals shall include a:

- a) Project description and work plan based on work packages, milestones and deliverables
- b) Project budget
- c) Description of ongoing activities and specific collaborative advantages of the Indian and Swedish participants respectively
- d) Description of the expected outcome and added value of the proposed project, including societal benefits relating to a societal challenge
- e) Description of mobility of project participants in both directions (India – Sweden, and Sweden – India) including duration of stays. Shorter staff-exchanges (researchers, technical or administrative staff) shall also be described.
- f) Names and CVs of both the Indian and Swedish PIs. Names and a shorter curriculum for all other participants

5. Evaluation of project proposals

5.1 Evaluation procedure

DBT and VINNOVA together manage the evaluation for all received project proposals. Two independent expert groups perform the evaluation, one in each country. Experts are drawn from academia, public sector and industry. Their professional background allows assessing the quality of the proposed work as well as other facets, as the proposed business case and the user dimension of the work. Based on the recommendations of the two groups, DBT and VINNOVA will then make a common decision regarding funding of selected proposals.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

Accomplishment of coherence to programme goal and scientific field, respectively, will be evaluated, as well as performance and suitability of mobility activities as well as planned solutions; products, services or processes.

The following criteria will be applied in the evaluation:

Impact

- Relevance and Scope
- Potential impact of the solution which the consortium develops
- Novelty
- Positive sustainable effects, such as societal, economic or environmental

Implementation

- The project plan will be assessed based on its pragmatism in relation to objectives, budget, mobility, schedule etc.
- Scientific and Technical Quality
- Efficiency of the Implementation

Actor constellations

- Quality and relevance of the consortium partners
- Involved actors' experience of research and innovation activities in an international context

6. Responsibilities of PI and project partners after proposal is approved

After the proposal has been approved, project partners shall observe national rules for progress reports and report whether the project is following the financial plan. This includes annual reports and financial reports, on the activities of the project, to DBT as well as VINNOVA, respectively.

PIs must be able to adhere to a possible mid-term evaluation and/or to participate at Vinnova/DBT-organized meetings concerning the programme. Costs for travels to these meetings are eligible costs.

After completion of the project, PI shall promptly submit a final report, including

- Objectives
- Project Work Plan
- Concept and methodology
- Resources (expertise, infrastructure, etc.) needed
- Demonstration of the objectives and pilot application
- Work plan (organisation of the project)
- Individual work package (WP) description
- Deliverables
- Milestones
- Summary overview of staff effort in person months
- Intellectual property rights
- Exploitation of project outcomes
- Exploitation capability and time-to-market

and financial reports, on the activities of the project, to DBT as well as VINNOVA, respectively.

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