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Circular132/CIA/2018

Date : 22.10.2018

CIRCULAR

The Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India invites to participate against 'Joint Call for Proposals - 2018' under the India-Bulgaria Scientific and Technological Cooperation Program between the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and Ministry of Education and Science (MES) of the Republic of Bulgaria. The call will be open till **November 26, 2018** to invite joint proposals from both the sides.

Objectives:

- To strengthen and to expand relations between scientific communities, making possible exchanges between Indian and Bulgarian research groups, in the framework of joint scientific and technological projects, selected by the parties.
- Promote implementation of joint projects able to bind R&D centres with enterprises from both the countries.

Who are Eligible and Subject Areas?

- Scientists/Faculty Members working in regular capacity in Government recognized Universities/Deemed Universities, Academic Institutes and National Research & Development Laboratories/ Institutes can apply as Principal Investigator (PI).
- The Indian PI should not be getting superannuated during the proposed duration of the project.
- The proposal should include research partners as PI and CO-PI from Bulgarian research institutes/ universities with clear demarcation of objectives to be carried out by both research teams.

Duration of Joint Projects:

Projects shall normally be for 2-years duration.

Detailed information regarding the call for proposals is given on the next page.

DIRECTOR

To
All Deans of campuses
All Directors and HODs (With a request to display on notice board)
PA to Registrar



**Department of Science & Technology
(International Bilateral Co-operation Division)**

India-Bulgaria Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation

JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS – 2018

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2. The Indian PI should not be getting superannuated during the proposed duration of the project.
3. The proposal should include research partners as PI and CO-PI from Bulgarian research institutes/ universities with clear demarcation of objectives to be carried out by both research teams.
4. In order to qualify for such funding, investigators are required to have a concrete and sound research proposal targeting the interest of both the nations on any of the following areas:

The priority areas for this Call mutually agreed are as given below:

- Information and communication technologies
- Materials and Material Sciences
- Physics, including laser science and technology, nuclear physics, astronomy and space and technology research
- Chemical Sciences
- Renewable energy
- Earth science, geophysics, climate studies, oceanology and environmental protection, including waste management
- Biotechnology, agriculture and food technology
- Healthcare, biomedical appliances, bioethics, pharmacy and traditional medicine
- Social studies related to science and technology

Criteria of Selection:

Funding under this procedure is only to support the realization of non-for-profit scientific work for international scientific and technological cooperation with a view to acquiring new knowledge, promoting scientific exchange between countries and to foster the development of close links and cooperation between scientific organizations from the Republic of India and the Republic of Bulgaria. Proposals will undergo a quality evaluation taking into account the following criteria:

1. *Project:* Creativity and Originality, need and importance of objectives for both the nations, coherence between objectives, methodology and work plan, realism, economy and validity of the financial plan
2. *Research Group:* Scientific and technological competence of the research group in proposed area, compliance between the competence of the team of India and the team of the partner country, background research, available scientific infrastructure and capacity of base organization
3. *Cooperation:* Relevance and Criticality of the missions, background and desirability of the cooperation

The projects should be accepted and evaluated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for the Indian side and the National Science Fund of Bulgaria (NSFB) for the Bulgarian side. The two sides should exchange the results of the project evaluation and make a joint decision on the projects to be funded.

The assessment of relevance will also be considered:

1. The overall mandate of the DST and MES.

2. The training plan targeting young researchers, specified in the project.
3. The incorporation of new groups in the cooperation program (priority will be awarded to those proposals that had not received similar kind of funding earlier).

Duration of Joint Projects:

Projects shall normally be for 2-years duration.

Components of the Grant:

The programme is to support projects for exchange visits. It is expected that participating institutes themselves provide support for the use of equipment, manpower, consumables, etc. required under the project. However, in deserving cases, incremental costs may also be considered on recommendations of the Project Assessment/ Expert Committees.

Financial provisions available for the exchange visit component is as follows:

The international travel cost for their scientists to the capital city/arrival city and medical insurance shall be provided to the visiting scientists by the sending side. However, the receiving side will make the following arrangements:

Bulgarian Side

1. The Indian Scientists visiting Bulgaria shall be provided per diem amount at the rate of 48 BGN per day in the case of short-term visits (up to 21 days) and 1150 BGN per month for a long-term visit (more than 21 days) for food, local transport and out of pocket expenses
2. Free furnished accommodation in Guest House/Hotel with reasonable amenities.
3. In country transport from Capital city/arrival city to the visiting institute by appropriate means, and Pickup from and dropping facility at the airport to all visiting researchers. In the case of a senior scientist (with the rank of director / dean or senior rank), transport should be provided for official cases.
4. Internal transport needed for the implementation of the bilateral project for the Bulgarian scientists in India from the capital to the place of the institute they will visit.

Indian Side

1. The Bulgarian Scientists visiting India shall be paid per diem amount at the rate of 2,500 Indian rupees per day in the case of a short-term visit (up to 21 days) and 50,000 Indian rupees per month in the case of a long-term visit (more than 21 days) for food and out of pocket expenses
2. Free furnished accommodation in Guest House/Hotel with reasonable amenities
3. In country transport from Capital city/arrival city to the visiting institute by appropriate means, and Pickup from and dropping facility at the airport to all visiting researchers. In

the case of a senior scientist (with the rank of director / dean or senior rank), transport should be provided for official cases.

4. Internal transport needed for the implementation of the bilateral project for the Bulgarian scientists in India from the capital to the place of the institute they will visit.

How to Apply:

Programme is open to scientists, engineers, institutions engaged in advanced research in the above referred areas in India and Bulgaria. Joint research projects in the prescribed format (Annexure I) duly forwarded by the respective Heads of the Institutes are to be submitted simultaneously, by the Indian Project Investigator to the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, and by the Bulgarian Project Investigator to the National Science Fund i.e. NSFB, Bulgaria. NSFB will be implementing agency on behalf of MES, Bulgaria.

Proposals must be submitted to both organisations in parallel in accordance with the proposal preparation requirements of each side, respectively. Proposals missing to fulfil all formal requirements shall be rejected. Unilaterally submitted projects shall not be considered. The project proposal must include one Principal Investigator (PI) and a Co-PI each in India and Bulgaria. The PIs/Co-PIs would have the main responsibility for scientific and financial reporting which must be done annually before the next disbursement of funding. They will also be responsible for the technical as well as administrative co-ordination of the project. The project duration would be of 2 years.

The results of these projects must be widely disseminated under non-exclusive and non-discriminatory conditions, through teaching, free access databases, open publications or open source software, etc. mentioning the support provided by the Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science and Technology) of the Republic of India and the NSFB of Republic of Bulgaria.

Indian PIs will submit 03 hard copies (including 1 original) along with a softcopy in a single pdf file (not scanned) to undersigned before November 26, 2018.

Important Deadlines

- Announcement of the competition: October 2018
- Closing date to receive Joint Projects: November 26, 2018
- Indicative evaluation period: March 28, 2019
- Indicative deadline for financing decision by the Joint Committee: April 18, 2019
- Launch of Projects: May 2019

Information for Bulgarian researchers:

The Information about the India-Bulgaria call for Proposals - 2018 containing detailed information for Bulgarian PIs can be seen on: <http://www.fni.bg>

Whom to Contact in DST, India?

Dr. Jyoti Sharma

Scientist E

International Bilateral Cooperation Division

Department of Science and Technology

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Format for Application

(Proforma for Submission of Joint Projects Proposals – 2018)

INDIA–BULGARIA INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1. Title of the Project:
2. Duration of the Project:
3. Expected Date of Commencement
4. Main research/thematic area, of the project (Ref. field from subjects mentioned in call):
5. Field of science and technology covered by the Proposal (4 Keywords qualifying the scope of proposal)
6. Project Investigators (PI) and Collaborating Institutions:

	Indian Side	Bulgarian Side
Name of PI: Designation: Institution's Address: Tel: Fax: E-mail: Date of Birth:		
Name of Co-PI Designation: Institution's Address: Tel: Fax: E-mail: Date of Birth:		

B. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

1. Abstract (max. 250 words)
2. Objectives of the Project (max. 4-5 in numbers)
3. Justification for collaboration & brief information about national and international scenario in the proposed area of research (max. one page)

4. Scientific & technical description of the project (upto 500 words)
5. Methodology
6. Plan of work

Time Schedule	Indian Responsibilities	Bulgarian Responsibilities
1st Year		
2nd Year		

7. Infrastructural facilities related to the project activities available in the institutes where the project work will be carried out:

At the Indian Collaborating Institute	At the Bulgarian Collaborating Institute

8. Number of exchange visit required to achieve the Project Objectives (Year wise)

Period	India to Bulgaria		Bulgaria to India	
	Number	Duration	Number	Duration
1st Year				
2nd Year				

9. Expected results of this cooperation (e.g. joint publications, patents etc.). Are any of the expected results likely to have commercial value? (upto 150 words)

10. Bio-data of Indian and Bulgarian investigators to be attached. [The description should highlight the expertise of the PI(s) and CO-PIs in the proposed field of work supported by citing relevant publications only (to be appended in about 2 pages only)]

C. ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Project Cost (Indian side)

Year	Exchange Visits	Local Hospitality to Bulgarian scientists visiting India	Contingencies	Total
	Indian Scientists to Bulgaria (international travel from place of work in India to place of work in Bulgaria including local travel, medical insurance, visa fee etc.)			
1st Year				
2nd Year				

Overheads (@10%)				
Total				

Project Cost (Bulgarian side)

Year	Exchange Visits	Local Hospitality for Indian Scientists visiting Bulgaria	Contingencies	Total
	Bulgarian Scientists to India (international travel from place of work in Bulgaria to place of work in India including local travel, medical insurance, visa fee etc.)			
1st Year				
2nd Year				
Overheads (@10%)				
Total				

1. Signatures of the Project Investigators & Co – investigators

INDIAN

Bulgarian

2. Declaration from the Heads of the Collaborating Institutions:

It is certified that

- i) the Institutions agree to participate in this Joint Research Project;
- ii) the Institutions shall provide infrastructure & necessary facilities for implementing the joint project;
- iii) the Institutions assume to undertake financial & other management responsibility for the part of the project work to be carried out at their institution; and
- iv) the back-up funding for manpower, consumable etc. is available to support this project.

Signature & Seal of the Head of the Institutions

INDIAN

Bulgarian