
Business Finland and MoST (Ministry of Science and Technology of China) Joint Innovation Call

1. AGREEMENT

Memorandum of Understanding for China-Finland Science & Technology Innovation Cooperation between the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, and Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland of the Republic of Finland.

2. PRIORITIES

Carbon Reduction and Circular Economy

For example, including but not limited to cooperation areas such as:

1. *Smart and green energy solutions, including, e.g.*
 - *smart grid technologies,*
 - *clean technologies for energy production,*
 - *hydrogen and Power-to-X technologies,*
 - *resource and energy efficient production processes, and*
 - *research on energy efficiency measurement, evaluation methods, and information management systems, and improve energy control throughout the manufacturing process.*
2. *Sustainable construction, including e.g.*
 - *carbon neutral solutions for the building and construction sector, including but not limited to wood construction, green and smart building, healthy building technologies, technologies and equipment for low-carbon heating and cooling, and sustainable building materials.*
3. *Bio and circular economy, including e.g.*
 - *sustainable packaging with bio-based materials,*
 - *plastics and textile recycling,*
 - *waste treatment and recycling, and*
 - *other materials (metal, etc.) treatment and recycling.*
4. *Green industry parks, including e.g.*
 - *solutions of carbon emission reduction, including, e.g., systemic planning, digital solutions for clean energy, digital and sensor technologies for measurement and monitoring, distributed energy production, energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste handling, and waste to energy.*

Health and Agetech

For example, including but not limited to cooperation areas such as:

1. *Digital health, including e.g.*
 - *AI assisted imaging, AI for drug discovery and development, AI in pathology, AI for prediction and diagnosis, and AI in precision medicine, and*
 - *DTx (Digital therapeutics).*
2. *Agetech, including e.g.*
 - *rehabilitation equipment, and*
 - *medicine adherence hardware and software solutions.*
3. *IVDs (In Vitro Diagnostics), including e.g.*
 - *molecular and immunologic diagnosis, and*
 - *POCT (Point of Care Testing).*
4. *Life sciences area, including e.g.*
 - *genomics,*
 - *precision medicine,*
 - *medicine research and development, and*
 - *disease treatment.*

Industrial Digitalisation and Renewal

For example, including but not limited to cooperation areas such as:

1. *Intelligent vehicle and mobility, including e.g.*
 - *connected vehicle, autonomous driving, and V2X,*
 - *electrification of vehicles and mobile machines, and*
 - *smart transportation and mobility services.*
2. *Smart and green ships, shipping and ports, including e.g.*
 - *intelligent navigation and autonomous ships,*
 - *ship greenhouse gas emission reduction, and*
 - *fully automated ports.*
3. *Utilization of digital technologies in order to create smart and efficient solutions, systems and processes, including e.g.*
 - *digital backbone and platform (e.g., 5G, industrial IoT and edge cloud),*
 - *digital technologies and solution for processing and production optimization, such as AI, AR/VR, digital twins, and sensor technologies,*
 - *AI/data driven flexible automation software and system, and*
 - *digital technologies for measurement and monitoring.*
4. *Applying similar topics as above in different industries to drive carbon neutrality, sustainable development and manufacturing, and industrial renewal.*

3. NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

Max 15 projects

4. FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding for Finnish partners:

Business Finland funding is intended for Finnish

- **companies** (individual) or
- **co-innovation projects** including (a) two or more Finnish companies or (b) at least three Finnish companies (at least two applying and eligible for Business Finland funding) and one or more research organizations.

Business Finland **funding is not fixed** and depends on the number of qualified applications.

Normal Business Finland funding principles are applied. For more information, see

- <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/>.

Applicants are strongly advised to **consult Business Finland in advance.**

Funding for Chinese partners:

MoST funding is intended for Chinese

- **companies,**
- **universities** and
- **institutes.**

MoST is to provide the **following funding** for Chinese consortium partners:

- Max 4M RMB per project for 3 years (altogether max 60M RMB)

Companies in a project are required to provide **at least the same amount of funding to that of MoST's grant.**

Applicants are advised to **consult MoST call announcement on 31 October 2023 for further information** (<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/zm9uPY1l6JvkVyCm26Afpg>).

5. ELIGIBILITY, SUBMISSIONS AND DEADLINES

Eligibility:

1. Project consortia must include at least **one Finnish company** and **one Chinese partner**.
2. The proposals should **demonstrate applicant's resources for international collaboration**, in case of the Finnish applicants especially for **entering the Chinese markets**.
3. This call encourages both **enterprise participation** and **academia-industry cooperation**.
4. Chinese and Finnish partners are asked to collaborate based on **complementarity, equality** and **mutual benefit**. Both sides should have balanced inputs and work packages in the projects.
5. The proposal must include a **Bilateral Cooperation Form** with a joint Finland-China project plan, clearly describing the main contents and objectives of the project as well as the roles of each partner.
6. The proposal must include a **Consortium Agreement** that describes, e.g., **confidentiality** and **IPR protection** issues. Additionally, if needed, a separate IPR Agreement can be made.
7. In principle, the **implementation period of the project shall not exceed 3 years**. Personnel exchanges are encouraged within a project.

Submissions and deadlines:

Finnish partners need to submit their applications to Business Finland and Chinese ones to MoST. Applications submitted only to one side are not regarded. Applications **must include** a joint project plan using a **Bilateral Cooperation Form** where the work of each consortium partner is clearly described as well as a **Consortium Agreement** including, e.g., IPR remarks (additionally, also a separate IPR agreement is possible).

The call is implemented as a **one-phase application process** in both countries.

Finnish partners should submit their application **together with the Bilateral Cooperation Form** and **Consortium Agreement** through the Business Finland submission system: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/suomalaisille-asiakkaille/asiointipalvelu/> or <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/online-services> (Note! Reference information requested in the application / Huom! Hakuilmoituksessa pyydetty viitetieto: "MOST-haku").

Chinese partners should submit their application **together with the Bilateral Cooperation Form, Consortium Agreement**, and other required attachments to <https://service.most.gov.cn/>.

Deadline for applications in both countries is 20 December 2023. Please note that the deadline is on the Finnish side at 23:59 (local Finnish time) and on the Chinese side at 16:00 (local Chinese time).

Finnish applications will be evaluated by Business Finland and Chinese applications by MoST. Those applications that are approved in both countries are eligible for funding. The **bilateral funding decisions** are expected to be made **by summer 2024**.

6. CONTACTS

Contacts for Finnish partners:

Contacts in Finland:

Ilmari ABSETZ (Finnish, English)

Ecosystem Lead

Tel: +358 50 5577 837

E-mail: ilmari.absetz@businessfinland.fi

Maarit KOKKO (Finnish, English)

Ecosystem Lead

Tel: +358 40 761 9555

E-mail: maarit.kokko@businessfinland.fi

Contacts in China:

Mika KLEMETTINEN (Finnish, English)

Trade and Innovation Consul; Head of Innovation, China

Tel: +86 134 8274 6884

E-mail: mika.klemettinen@businessfinland.fi

Elisa YU (English, Chinese)

Innovation Advisor

Tel: +86 138 0174 4271

E-mail: elisa.yu@businessfinland.fi

Contacts for Chinese partners:

MoST Contacts:

YU Sha (Chinese, English)

Program Officer

Tel: +86 10 68581760

E-mail: yus@cstec.org.cn

LIAN Jiacan (Chinese, English)

Program Officer

Tel: +86 10 58881358

E-mail: lianjc@most.cn