Business Finland and MoST (Ministry of Science and Technology of China)

Joint Innovation Call in 2026

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

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

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

1. *Green and sustainable **energy**, including, e.g.*
   - *smart grid technologies,*
   - *clean technologies for energy production,*
   - *renewable energy, including hydrogen economy,*
   - *CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage),*
   - *energy efficient systems and processes in industries, and*
   - *waste to energy and bio-based energy production (e.g. biofuel and biogas).*
2. *Green and sustainable **mobility**, including e.g.*
   - *electrification of vehicles and mobile machines including green and smart solutions, and*
   - *green and smart transportation and mobility services.*
3. *Green and sustainable **manufacturing**, including e.g.*
   - *carbon neutral solutions for manufacturing, including but not limited to green and smart factories, resource and energy efficient production processes, and research on energy efficiency measurement, evaluation methods, and information management systems, flexible energy management for manufacturing companies, energy value chain management for industrial parks, lean energy and carbon emission control for manufacturing companies, improvement of energy control throughout the manufacturing process, and remanufacturing,*
   - *intelligent solutions for manufacturing to optimize the manufacturing process, including but not to limited to hyper automation, data-driven production, production optimization, industrial collaborative robots, and advanced solutions to empower the sustainable development of manufacturing, and*

- *testing and measurement solutions for manufacturing to enhance the environmental protection and improve the production efficiency.*

4. *Green and 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, sustainable building materials and electrification efficiency of buildings.*

5. *Green and sustainable **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.*

Circular Economy

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

1. ***Bio and circular economy**, including e.g.*
   - *sustainable and bio-based materials (especially sustainable packaging with bio-based materials),*
   - *waste treatment and recycling, industrial water treatment, and materials (plastics, textile, metal, etc.) treatment and recycling (especially rare earths),*
   - *AI-driven autonomous circular systems, and*
   - *foodtech and agritech.*

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,*
   - *digital tools to improve patient care or hospital operation and management, and*
   - *patient monitoring.*

2. ***Agetech**, including e.g.*
   - *rehabilitation equipment,*
   - *health monitoring for home and care home use,*
   - *smart technologies to support care workers and doctors working in elderly care,*
   - *digital tools to improve care home operation, and*
   - *senior-friendly technology products and devices.*

3. ***Medical devices and drugs**, including e.g.*
   - *molecular diagnosis,*
   - *companion diagnosis,*

- *advanced implants and next-generation medical technologies, and*
- *biomedical therapeutics and preventive vaccines.*

4. ***Life sciences area**, including e.g.*
   - *precision medicine,*
   - *early diagnosis,*
   - *cancer treatment and care,*
   - *medicine research and development.*

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 eligibility and funding criteria are applied. For more information, see

- for individual small and medium-sized companies: Research, development, piloting for SMEs and midcaps (https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/research-and-development-funding/research-and-development-funding/),
- for individual large companies: Research, development, piloting for large companies (https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/research-and-development-funding/research-and-development-funding-large-corporation/), and
- for joint actions of research organizations and companies: Co-Innovation (https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/cooperation-between-companies-and-research-organizations/co-innovation/).

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 2-3 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**.

Chinese applicants are advised to **consult MoST call announcement (released on 30 October 2026) for further information**: https://service.most.gov.cn/kjjh_tztg_all/20261030/5920.html.

5. ELIGIBILITY, SUBMISSIONS AND DEADLINES

Eligibility:

1. Project consortia must include at least **one Finnish company** and **one Chinese partner**. **One side application only is not valid**.
2. The proposals should **demonstrate applicants' resources and capacity (regarding both financials and personnel) 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 **signed 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 but has to be at least 2 years**. Personnel exchanges are encouraged within a project.

Submissions and deadlines:

- The call is implemented as a **one-phase application process** in both countries.
- Both Finnish and Chinese sides must submit their **own applications** to their **own countries** and funding organizations. 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 **signed Consortium Agreement** including, e.g., IPR remarks (additionally, also a separate more detailed IPR agreement is possible).
    - **Finnish applicants** should submit their proposals through **Business Finland's online submission system** (https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-e-service/).
        - At the "**Programmes and other connections**" section in the digital application, select the "**Suomi-Kiina haku**" (in English "**Finland-China call**") option and write to the "**Other campaign or reference information**" field the name of the call, i.e., "**MOST call**".
        - **(1) Bilateral Cooperation Form** (a dedicated "BF-MOST Bilateral Cooperation Form 2026" template must be used), **(2) signed Consortium Agreement** covering especially IP issues and **(3) normal Business Finland application with its attachments must be included** in the submission; all these materials are needed as prerequisites for application evaluation.
        - **Deadline for applications in Finland is 18 December 2026 at 23:59 (local Finnish time).**
    - **Chinese partners** should submit their application **together with the Bilateral Cooperation Form**, **Consortium Agreement,** and other required attachments as described in the call announcement (please see the call announcement on 30 October 2026 for reference: https://service.most.gov.cn/kjjh_tztg_all/20261030/5920.html).
        - **Deadline for applications in China is 18 December 2026 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 2027.**

6. CONTACTS

Contacts for Finnish partners:

Contacts in Finland:

Mika KLEMETTINEN (Finnish, English; China context, general (all areas))

Head of International Innovation Collaboration

Tel: +358 50 483 6661

E-mail: mika.klemettinen@businessfinland.fi

Harriet GULLSTÉN (Finnish, English; Health and Wellbeing, Life Science, Biotech, Medtech)

Chief Advisor

Tel: +358 45 137 4809

E-mail: harriet.gullsten@businessfinland.fi

Renne KASEVA (Finnish, English; Health and Wellbeing)

Chief Advisor

Tel: +358 40 073 9883

E-mail: renne.kaseva@businessfinland.fi

Jari SEILONEN (Finnish, English; Bio and circular economy, Built environment)

Chief Advisor

Tel: +358 40 731 1187

E-mail: jari.seilonen@businessfinland.fi

Contacts for Chinese partners:

MoST Contacts:

Office responsible for project management (Chinese, English)

Tel: +86 10 58881083

E-mail: zfj@istcc.most.cn

ZHANG Ye (Chinese, English)

Program Officer

Tel: +86 10 58881352

E-mail: zhangye@most.cn