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**Indo-Belgian Research and Technology Cooperation**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SUPPORT OF NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

**The call concerns the following areas:**

* Space, including astronomy, solar physics and remote sensing;
* Marine sciences, including marine biotechnology (organisms for industrial use, bioprospecting for bio-actives compounds from marine microorganisms, algae, seaweeds, fish and crustacean farming);
* Life sciences with focus on micro-organisms (Anti-Microbial Resistance with One Health approach and environmental-bioremediation);
* Geology;
* Cybersecurity.

Call launched on **the 24th of June 2021** (projects' period: 2022-2025)

**SUBMISSION DOSSIER**

Deadline for submission of proposals: the **17th of September 2021, 15:00 (C.E.T)**

**Context and objectives**

Within the framework of the Agreement between Belgium and India on cooperation in the fields of science and technology, it was decided in the fifth 'Joint Commission' meeting, organised on 18th January 2021, to organize a 4th call for proposals for networking activities, issued by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (hereinafter: BELSPO) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (hereinafter: DST).

This Networking call co-funded by both parties aims at supporting exchanges that leverage long term research cooperation between Belgian and Indian Research institutions, with significant impact, on a priority research area and based on existing facilities and equipment.

**Thematic foci**

The call concerns the following areas Space (including astronomy, solar physics and remote sensing), Marine sciences in particular marine biology, Life science focused on micro-organisms, Geology, Cybersecurity,

The Marine Biotechnology focus is on organisms for industrial use, bioprospecting for bio-actives compounds from marine micro-organisms, algae, seaweeds, fish and crustacean farming; The area 'Life sciences focused on micro-organisms' aims networking on anti-Microbial Resistance with One Health approach and environmental-bioremediation. At Indian side, DBT (Department of Biotechnology, also part of the Indian Ministry of Science) will handle the proposals related to these 2 areas.

Interdisciplinary networks are particularly welcomed.

**Who can apply?**

- **For BELSPO,** networking proposals can be submitted by Belgian higher education institutions, public scientific institutions, non-profit research centres. The participation of Federal Scientific Institutions is encouraged.

For equal scientific quality of submitted proposals, the preference will be given to consortia with participation of Federal Scientific Institutions. List of Federal Scientific institutions: see annex 1.

- **For India**, academician and scientists from public or non-profit research centers who already have grants for research projects with national/state funding agencies can submit proposals. In case of need, partner search may be supported by the following tool: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/india>.

**What kind of activities will be supported?**

The networking activities may include the organisation of a joint seminar or workshop, experts' visits, joint lab or joint field exchanges. They should aim to enhance the scientific cooperation between the researchers of the partnering institutions in both countries and to contribute to a sustainable cooperation (e.g. via joint research projects) beyond the period of networking.

It is proposed to limit the number of partners to 5, with a balance between Indian and Belgian partners (if relevant).

Duration of projects: 2 to 3 years maximum.

Start of the networking activities: January 2022.

End of the networking activities: December 2025. (at latest).

**How will support be granted?**

The funding of the bilateral networking activities is based on the **principle of reciprocity.** Each country finances the costs for activities carried out on its territory (e.g. the organisation of study visits, seminars, workshops, setting up of joint experiments), whereas the international travel costs are borne by the respective sending country.

Research activities as such will not be supported by this call; the funding should be used exclusively for networking activities. The maximum budget per proposal to be granted to the **Belgian partner** is **35.000 EUR** and Rs.30 Lakhs to the Indian partner**.**

On the Indian side, DST/DBT will provide funding support to the Coordinating Indian institute. Funds to other Indian nodes would be provided through the Coordinating Indian Institute. Institutional Overhead and contingency support will be determined in accordance with the specific norms of DST/DBT.

**How will the proposals be selected?**

Once the call is closed and all proposals are examined according to the eligibility criteria the eligible proposals are subjected to an evaluation process. You find the checklist for eligibility in annex 2.

Proposals will be evaluated both in Belgium and in India; BELSPO and DST/DBT will organize parallel evaluations.

The following **evaluation criteria** will be applied:

* Quality of the network including scientific excellence of individual network members
* Suitability and feasibility of the work plan
* Budget fitting to the work plan (value for money)
* General added value and potential of the networking activities leading to long-lasting sustained partnerships

From the Indian side emphasis will also be placed on the clear definition of the research domain, with wide perspectives and potential applications.

BELSPO will inform the Belgian applicants of the selection.

**How to apply?**

Applications are to be submitted to BELSPO by the Belgian coordinator **and** to DST/DBT by the Indian coordinator via the grant submission dossier - **Application form**, by e-mail (in 'Word' and in 'pdf', with signatures).

Indian applicants seeking for funding from DST (on specific themes Space, including astronomy, solar physics and remote sensing; Marine sciences (except Biotechnology), Geology; Cybersecurity) can download the proposal formats from website <https://onlinedst.gov.in> and should submit completed application form and all relevant information through e-PMS portal of the DST. The proposal must be submitted to DST through the e-application system provided at https://onlinedst.gov.in with deadline of 17th September 2021 by 5 p.m. Additionally, Indian Applicants are also requested to send hard copies to DST. Applications, having identical title and acronym, have to be submitted by his/her Belgian counterpart by due date.

Indian applications seeking for funding from DBT (on specific themes related to DBT) are required to submit the complete application by e-mail to Abhishek Singh via ‘abhishek.singh02@dbt.nic**.in**’ as well as in hard copy (in 'Word' and in 'pdf', with both side signatures).

**Deadline for submission: 17th September, 2021 at 15:00 (C.E.T) in Belgium and at 5:00 pm in India.**

Both sides have different formats. Belgian side applicant should fill the format from Belgian website. Indian applicant should fill the format from Indian website.

**Contact persons**

Belgium: India ( DST)

Brigitte DECADT Sibashisa DASH

E-mail : brigitte.decadt@belspo.be E-mail: [sdash.dst@gov.in](mailto:sdash.dst@gov.in)

India (DBT)

Abhishek SINGH

E-mail : abhishek.singh02@dbt.nic.in

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**Compliant policy**

BELSPO has a global procedure to handle complaints. If, at any time, in the course of the call, you have the feeling that your application is not handled properly, please fill in the complaint form that you will find on this webpage:

<http://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/complaints_en.stm>.

Your complaint will be treated independently and with strict confidentiality.

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**APPLICATION FORM**

**to be filled-in in English**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Acronym** of the network (maximum 8 letters): |  | |
| **Full title of the research proposal** |  | |
| **Area focus**  **(**please indicate at least one of the areas with a x ) | Space |  |
| Marine sciences     Marine biotechnology |  |
| Life sciences |  |
| Geology |  |
| Cybersecurity |  |

**Applicants**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C  **Gender**  **M   F** | Name and surname of the **Belgian Proposal's Coordinator (C)** |  |
| Telephone |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Institution |  |
| Unit |  |
| Address (incl. website) |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C  **Gender**  **M   F** | Name and surname of **Indian Proposal's Coordinator (C)** |  |
| Telephone |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Institution |  |
| Unit |  |
| Address (incl. website) |  |
|  |  |

**Other partner(s) - (P)**, duplicate if necessary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| P 1  **Gender**  **M   F** | Name and surname |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Institution |  |
| Unit |  |
| Address (incl. website) |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Selected area for networking** (indicate x or 0) | |  |
| Space |  | (specify subdomain) |
| Marine sciences |  | (specify subdomain) |
| Life sciences |  | (specify subdomain) |
| Geology |  |  |
| Cybersecurity |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PROJECT already supported by India** | |
| Title of the PROJECT+ acronym |  |
| Code of the research contract |  |
| Total budget of the project |  |
| Abstract of Indian project (max 140 words) |  |

**Requested grant**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grant** | | | | |
| Proposed starting date |  | | End date |  |
| 4 Keywords  (2 related to the thematic area) | |  | | |
| Scientific argumentation (**max. 600 words[[1]](#footnote-1)**)  Paragraphs to be included: project objectives, added value of the proposed network (including quality and the scientific excellence of individual Network members), national and international relevance/novelty, specific R&D cooperation topic(s), expected results of the Network. | | | | |
|  | | | | |

**Grant Detail**

**(Activities, planning and budget)**

Applicants are requested to use the tables below by doing the following:

1. Fill in the table with the information required:
2. Add all the necessary rows.

**ACTIVITIES**

(B: Belgian, I: Indian)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity code** | **Activity name** | **Description** | Partner  (B/I/) |
| **A** | **...** | | |
| A1 | ... | ... |  |
| A2 | ... | ... |  |
| A3 | ... | ... |  |
| **B** | **...** |  | |
| B1 | ... | ... |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity Code** | **Activity Name** | **Period in which the activity is carried out**  **(by semester)** | | | | | |
| **2022** | | **2023** | | **2024** | |
| **S1** | **S2** | **S1** | **S2** | **S1** | **S2** |
| **A** |  | | | | | | |
| A1 | ... |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A2 | ... |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A3 | ... |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **B** |  | | | | | | |
| B1 | ... |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(S = Semester)

**BUDGET** (requested budget by the Belgian AND the Indian partner)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity**  **Code** | **Activity Name** | **Budget**  **Belgium** | **Budget India** | **total**  **budget** |
| A |  |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |  |
| ... |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL  (in euros) | | € | € | € |

(Belgian coordinators have to include at the submission a detailed Budget form, in Dutch or French.)

**The Belgian CO-ORDINATOR The Indian CO-ORDINATOR**

**Name: Name:**

**Signature: Signature:**

**The General Director of the Federal Scientific Institute**

(if relevant)

**Name:**

**Signature:**

**DEADLINE** (BELSPO)**: 17.09.2021 at 15:00 C.E.T**

**Annex I**



**The Belgian Federal Scientific Institutions relevant for this call**

| **Institution** | Website |
| --- | --- |
| **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (KBIN-IRSNB)** | [www.naturalsciences.be](http://www.naturalsciences.be/) |
| **Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA)** | [www.kikirpa.be](http://www.kikirpa.be/) |
| **Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB)** | [www.aeronomie.be](http://www.aeronomie.be/) |
| **Royal Observatory of Belgium (KSB-ORB)** | [www.astro.oma.be](http://www.astro.oma.be/) |
| **Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium (KMI-IRM)** | [www.meteo.be](http://www.meteo.be/) |
| **Royal Museums of Art and History (KMKG-MRAH)** | [www.kmkg-mrah.be](http://www.kmkg-mrah.be/) |
| **Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (KMSKB-MRBAB)** | [www.fine-arts-museum.be](http://www.fine-arts-museum.be/) |
| **Royal Museum for Central Africa (KMMA-MRAC)** | [www.africamuseum.be](http://www.africamuseum.be/) |
| **Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)** | [www.kbr.be](http://www.kbr.be/) |
| **National Archives and State Archives in the Provinces (ARA-AGR)** | [www.arch.be](http://www.arch.be/) |
| **Sciensano** | [www.sciensano.be](http://www.sciensano.be) |
| **National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC-INCC)** | [www.nicc.fgov.be](http://www.nicc.fgov.be) |
| **War Heritage Institute (WHI)** | [www.warheritage.be](http://www.warheritage.be) |

**Annex 2**



**Check list**

**Eligibility of proposals**

**Indo-Belgian research and technology cooperation**

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BELSPO checks if the proposals fulfil the eligibility criteria listed below.

The eligibility of each proposal is checked on the basis of the information provided by the applicants in the application file.

Promotors of proposals that are not eligible are informed by BELSPO.

**List of criteria**

All proposals are checked on the following criteria. Only proposals fulfilling all criteria will be evaluated.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * The application file is received at latest on 17 September 2021 at 3h PM CE time[[2]](#footnote-2) |  |
| * The application file is transmitted in electronic format, (Word AND Pdf with signatures) |  |
| * The part of the application form addressed to BELSPO includes the 2 requested correctly filled in parts (English form + form regarding the budget in Dutch or French) |  |
| * The network consists of participants from universities and/or public scientific institutions, and/or non-profit research centres |  |
| * The network is composed of at least one Belgian partner and one Indian partner. |  |
| * The proposal concerns networking activities. |  |
| * The budget requested from BELSPO does not exceed 35.000 EUR |  |
| * The duration of the proposal is maximum 3 years |  |

1. Please respect the maximum length of the text. If more than **600** words are provided, only the first 600 will be considered.

   . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. An acknowledgement of receipt will be delivered. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)