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## Joint funding for China-Finland R&D collaboration projects with Business Finland and Zhejiang Science and Technology Department

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Business Finland is announcing a China-Finland call together with Zhejiang Science and Technology Department (ZSTD) for proposals for joint research, development & innovation projects.

The call is intended for Finnish companies or co-innovation projects together with companies from Zhejiang province in China. Applicants are expected to focus on larger scale cooperation projects.

### I Areas of Cooperation

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The aim of this call is to facilitate larger scale R&D&I cooperation, preferably in the following areas:

1. **Life Sciences and Health Technologies**
  - Especially precision medicine, personalized health and digital services/solutions
2. **Information and Communication Technologies**
  - Especially IoT, big data, cloud computing and AI
3. **Circular economy, carbon neutrality and green technologies**
  - Especially energy efficiency, emission reduction, bio-based solutions and waste to value

### II The procedure for the participants and eligibility

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#### **For Finnish companies:**

- It is strongly advised to consult Business Finland in advance and to participate possible information/match-making meetings. Please check Business Finland news and events regarding these.
- Finnish participants should submit their proposal through Business Finland's electronic submission system:
  - <https://www.businessfinland.fi/suomalaisille-asiakkaille/asiointipalvelu/>
  - <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/online-services/>
- Reference data requested in call for applications (in Finnish “Hakuilmoituksessa pyydetty viitetieto”):
  - Zhejiang-haku (in English “Zhejiang call”)
- Eligible applicants will be R&D performing Finnish registered companies that operate in Finland.

- The results of the projects shall contribute to the Finnish economy. The participants must have evidence of profitable business and sufficient resources for conducting the project and commercializing the results.
- The applicants should not have unpaid taxes or disturbances in payments.
- The projects funded are company projects or co-innovation projects including at least three companies and one or more research organizations.
  - In certain selected cases, also smaller co-creation projects including only research organizations can be considered – in these cases Business Finland must be consulted in advance.
- In case of a co-innovation project, the proposal must include a joint project plan for all partners, clearly describing the roles of each partner; one company must be the lead applicant.
- The proposals will be evaluated according to Business Finland's normal funding criteria. The proposal should demonstrate applicant's resources to enter the Chinese markets. Business Finland funding is not fixed and depends on the number of qualified applications.
  - Maximum funding percentage of the project costs for SME's and Midcaps is generally 50 % grant or 50-70 % loan and for large companies 40 % grant or 50 % loan depending on the type of project. Project costs are not limited, but must be in line with the resources and targets of the company. Typically projects range from 100 k€ to 1 M€. For more information see:
    - <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/in-brief/>
  - Maximum funding percentage of the project costs for research organizations is 70 % in co-innovation projects. In co-creation projects, the maximum budget is limited to 100 k€ and the funding percentage is 60 %.

**For Chinese applicants:**

- Chinese applicants should follow the guidelines issued by the Zhejiang Science and Technology Department related to cooperation projects with partner company from Zhejiang province.
- For more information see: <http://kjt.zj.gov.cn>.

### **III Project content and requirements**

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The proposals should comply with the following criteria:

- By default, partners should include at least one company from Zhejiang province and one Finnish company participant. The project may involve more than one company from each side. The lead applicant of each party must be a company. Universities or other research organizations can only join as the participants or subcontractors of the project.
  - On the Finnish side, co-innovation projects including also research organizations are acceptable. In special cases, even short co-creation projects (research organizations) may be considered in areas where opportunities for future company collaboration should be surveyed. Please consult Business Finland in advance.

- The joint industrial R&D&I project must be highly innovative and industrialization-oriented; they should aim at development of competitive products/processes, services or knowhow leading to commercialization in the global market and the proposal must clearly demonstrate this. Projects designing and conducting pilots and/or demonstrations are preferred.
- The proposal should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries and the project must be balanced between participants and be significant to all partners.
- The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialization strategy of the product or process.
- Both Chinese and Finnish sides must submit their application. One side application is not valid. Furthermore, both sides should also fill in a **Bilateral Cooperation Form** including general details of the project.

## IV Deadline for Proposals

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**Applications together with the Bilateral Cooperation Form** for Finnish projects with partner(s) in the Zhejiang province should be submitted by **15.10.2021**. Please note that the deadline on the Zhejiang side is end of July 2021 and refer to the notice on ZSTD official website. After the Finnish deadline a separate joint decision will be made and later on communicated to the applicants on both sides.

## V Contacts

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