
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

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,
 - energy efficient systems and processes, 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, and improvement of energy control throughout the manufacturing process,
 - intelligent solutions for manufacturing to optimize the manufacturing process, including but not limited to hyper automation, data-driven production, production optimization, 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 packaging with bio-based materials,*
 - *plastics and textile recycling,*
 - *waste treatment and recycling, and*
 - *other materials (metal, etc.) treatment and recycling.*

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,*
 - *cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases prevention and care,*
 - *digital tools to improve hospital operation and management,*
 - *patient monitoring outside medical institutions, and*
 - *health data processing and interpretation for better diagnosis and treatment.*
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. ***IVDs (In Vitro Diagnostics)**, including e.g.*
 - *molecular and immunologic diagnosis, and*
 - *POCT (Point of Care Testing).*

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 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.**

Chinese applicants are advised to **consult MoST call announcement (presumably to be given in October 2024) for further information** (please see the last year's call announcement on 31 October 2023 for reference <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/zm9uPY1l6JvkVyCm26Afpq>).

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:

- 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. **One side application only is not valid**. 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).
 - **Finnish applicants** should submit their proposals through **Business Finland's submission system** (<https://www.businessfinland.fi/suomalaisille-asiakkaille/asiointipalvelu/> or <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/online-services/>).
 - 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"**.

- **Bilateral Cooperation Form** must be attached to the application (“BF-MOST Bilateral Cooperation Form 2024” template must be used).
- **Initial deadline for applications is 29 November 2024.** The final deadline will be adjusted based on the call deadline in China, but it will not be before the given initial deadline.
- **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 is initially at the end of November,** the exact date will depend on the call announcement date (initially in October).
- 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 2025.**

6. CONTACTS

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Contacts in China:

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