



TUNISIA/SOUTH KOREA JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2022



Under the framework of Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation

According to the Agreed Minutes of the Fifth Tunisia-Korea Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held on June 23, 2021, the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT, invite Tunisian and Korean Universities, Research Centres, and Institutes to submit joint proposals for Scientific and Technological research.

1 –PURPOSE

This announcement aims at supporting joint research & development projects.

Korea and Tunisia have agreed to implement three joint research projects in the priority research areas.

2 – PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

The joint research project should be on any of the following areas:

1. Bio safety,
2. ICT and digitalisation
3. Artificial Intelligence

3 – WHO CAN APPLY?

The proposals should involve, one or preferably more research entities, from both sides. The joint application must include one Tunisian and one Korean Principal Investigator (PI), who will be responsible for technical as well as administrative coordination of the project and its periodic scientific and financial reporting to the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (General Directorate of Scientific Research) and the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT.

Korean PI must be affiliated to a Korean institute/organization eligible under Article 14(1) of the Basic Research Promotion and Technology Development Support Act.

The lead applicants should be scientists/faculty members working in regular capacity in recognised public research institutions like Universities, Academic Institutes and National Research & Development Centres/Institutes.

Participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and social enterprises is highly recommended.

Likewise, projects with high tech transfer and commercialization potential will be prioritised.

As SMEs are to fund for their own participation, SMEs cannot be listed as a PI.

4 –DURATION OF PROJECTS

The duration of the projects is maximum of three years with an annual assessment to determine their continuation.

Each project's potential renewal for a second year depends on an assessment for optimum budget management (more than 50%) and a review of the annual report of activities which the coordinators are mandated to submit each year.

Expected starting date of the approved projects **is July 1, 2022.**

5 – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For the Tunisian research entities: Each project will be funded up to TND **60,000** per year for a duration of maximum three years (maximum total budget of TND**180,000**).

For the Korean research entities: Each project will be funded up to KRW **50M** per year for a duration of maximum three years (maximum total budget of KRW**150M**).

The provided financial support can be used to cover following expenses for the implementation of the selected joint research projects:

- Exchange visits of project team members
- Contracting (personal subcontracting)
- Small equipment, consumables, and small accessories
- Printing expenses - All publications and printed material produced by the proposed project (e.g. articles in magazines or journals, papers, reports, posters and flyers for conferences and seminars, etc.) must indicate that the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT sponsored the project.
- Organizing joint scientific events.
- Participation fee for international forums/conferences (costs will only be covered when project team members visit either Tunisia or Korea)

Infrastructure equipment, project management cost, permanent staff contracting, and consulting fees will not be accommodated under this programme.

6 – GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

6.1 Proposals

- Tunisian and Korean applicants shall jointly write an application to be submitted to the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (DGRS) and to the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT).
- Tunisian PI should submit the application written in English to DGRS and Korean PI should submit the application written in Korean to the National Research Foundation (NRF) of Korea.
- The applications must include the following documents:
 - Duly filled in application forms.
 - Curriculum vitae of each research team member.
 - Letter of intent exchanged between the project's PIs.
 - The participating SMEs' field of business and the expected outcomes of the project in terms of productivity/competitiveness (if applicable).

6.2 Submission

The deadline for the submission of proposals from both countries is by **March 24, 2022.**

For Tunisian applicants:

- Applicants can apply by accessing the link: [Application](#)
- The Tunisian PI should submit the proposal electronically to partenariat.scientifique@gmail.com in a **single PDF file.**
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
- Sending hard copies of proposals is not needed.

For Korean applicants:

- Applicants can apply by accessing the link: <https://ernd.nrf.re.kr>
- The Korean PI should submit the proposal and other requirements electronically to the NRF
- Incomplete applications will not be considered

- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered
- Sending hard copies of proposals is not needed
- The Korean PI must submit the proposals via e-R&D system ahead of the deadline, by March 24 2022,16:00 (KST).
- The submitted proposals can be edited by the researcher, in coordination with the institute, until March 24, 2022, 18:00 (KST).
- The institute must approve the final proposals by March 24, 2022,18:00 (KST).

7 – EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated separately by experts designated by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the National Research Foundation of Korea based on the following criteria:

In Tunisia:

- Compliance of the project with content-related focus areas and with the involved SMEs activity.
- Scientific excellence of research teams and **innovative aspect** of the project.
- Quality of the planned utilisation of the results.
- Potential scientific impact.
- Prospects for the realisation of the targeted objectives.
- Quality of the previous cooperation between the two teams.
- Initiation of new partnerships and promoting young scientists.
- Adequacy of research activity with funding.

In Korea:

- Relevance to the objectives of Korea-Tunisia Scientific Research Program.
- Scientific and technological excellence of the project.
- PI's qualifications and past accomplishments.
- Quality and efficiency of the project's implementation.
- Potential impact and expected outcomes.

Funding decisions will be made after a final review of the applications' evaluation based on the above-mentioned criteria. Only the applications deemed to be fully qualified by both sides will be eligible for the funding.

Applicants will be informed in writing of the result of their application.

8 – SELECTION

Selection priorities for each research area will be given according to the rankings of each proposal separately by both Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the National Research Foundation of Korea.

The top selection priority will be selected for each research area. If the priorities between both sides are different, the highest priority will be selected in the order of the smallest sum of the rankings of both sides. If necessary, it will be considered to sum the scores of both sides.

9 – CONTACT POINTS

For further information, please contact:

| Tunisia | Korea |
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