

JOINT R&D COLLABORATION - KOREA & CATALONIA -

Pre-Announcement of the Upcoming 2019 Call for Proposals

ACCIÓ pre-announces the upcoming call for joint R&D projects in collaboration with NST in Korea.

The Call is expected to open in June 2019 and close in October 2019.

*The applicants from Korea and Catalonia may submit their [“Partner Search Form”](#)
no later than July 31st, 2019.*

1. BACKGROUND

Korea and Catalonia have established a very close collaboration framework with the promotion of technological cooperation between companies and technology centres through an agreement between the National Research Council of Science and Technology of Korea (NST) and the Catalan Agency for Competitiveness of the Catalan Ministry of Business and Knowledge (ACCIÓ).

NST is an organization providing policy support for national research projects and driving the development of knowledge industries by supporting, fostering, and systematically managing science and technology government-funded research institutes in the Republic of Korea.

ACCIÓ is an entity belonging to the Catalan Ministry of Business and Knowledge, specializing in innovation development, internationalization, and foreign investment attraction. ACCIÓ's objectives are increasing Catalan companies' productivity and efficiency in innovation, technology and talent; increasing the number of Catalan companies abroad and improving the positioning of Catalonia's products and services in the international markets and promoting investments in Catalonia that generate wealth and economic and social development and quality employment.

2. SCOPE

NST and ACCIÓ will announce a **Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects** focusing on developing innovative products, technology-based services or methods in all technological and application areas which have strong market potential.

NST and ACCIÓ will provide all necessary support to interested applicants to find the partner for their project through the attached [“Partner Search Form”](#).

NST and ACCIÓ will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during the project proposal and monitoring phases. Also, NST and ACCIÓ will facilitate the application process and will accompany the progress of the respective part of the projects.

NST and ACCIÓ will provide access to funding for selected projects. The minimum requirement concerning project consortium is the participation of at least one industrial partner from the Catalan side (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) and one research institute from the Korean side.

3. THEMATIC AREAS

The Call for proposals will be **open to collaborative R&D projects in all areas/sectors**. Priority will be given to the high impact and differential R&D projects in these sectors (RIS3CAT): food, energy and resources, industrial systems, design, sustainable mobility, health and experience-based industries. And with these key technologies (KET): ICT, nanotech, photonics, advanced materials, biotech and advanced manufacturing.

The areas with a **high potential** between Korea and Catalonia are:

Smart Mobility:

- Electric vehicles, hybrids, fuel cells and connected vehicles are the four pillars of future mobility in Korea.
- Korea is also the ideal place to develop Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) because it has a fast internet infrastructure and many companies related to the automotive industry.

Digital Cities (IoT and 5G):

- Korea is committed to Smart Cities, test bench projects that include solutions based on IOT and projected architecture in the cloud, aim to make life more comfortable for the inhabitants of the cities.
- Korea is also leading the development of next-generation wireless broadband technologies and aims to deploy 5G before any other country.

4. CALL STRUCTURE

The Call will invite Catalan partners to present joint proposals with Korean partners for industrial R&D projects according to the following procedures:

4.1 Requirements

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/or technical services. The project proposals must comply with the following guidelines:

- The consortium must include at least **two independent entities**, one industrial partner (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) from Catalonia and one research institute from Korea which contribute considerably to the project. Participation of research institutes and other companies is welcome as additional participants or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.
- The project should have a distinct advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- R&D activities (the Catalan part) must be developed in Catalonia.
- Project duration should not exceed 30 months. An extension of 50% could be accepted by both countries if sufficiently justified.
- Projects shall not start before the application form is officially submitted.

4.2 Financing

Korean and Catalan eligible project applicants will finance part of their costs from the national funding schemes (in Korea, following NST's regulation; in Catalonia by "NUCLIS d'R+D internacionals").

The project must clearly specify the costs of each and all the activities pertaining to the project and specify the costs to be respectively borne by the Korean and Catalan partners.

The **main financing conditions** for the Catalan partners are:

- No entity shall support more than 70% of the project's budget.
- Project's minimum budget: 150,000 euros.
- **Direct and non-refundable grant of up to 200,000 euros.**
- Grant intensity: up to 25-70%, depending on the partner's size and the nature of its R&D activities.

4.3 Submission Guidelines

One-phase application process: All applicants must file applications according to the following rules and the regulations of ACCIÓ and NST, respectively.

4.3.1 Submissions from Catalonia (ACCIÓ)

All the Catalan partners file jointly one application following the templates and instructions available on the ACCIÓ website. The proposal must include the following documents:

- Technical Proposal Document (Catalan / Spanish).
- International Proposal Application Form (English).

A legal Consortium Agreement will rule the collaborative project. The Consortium Agreement (English or Spanish) must be submitted once the project has been accepted.

The minimum requirements for the Consortium Agreement are:

- Must include and be signed by every partner's role.
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (new and old).
- Authorization to ACCIÓ to do the follow-up of the international part of the project.

4.3.2 Submissions from Korea (NST)

All the Korean partner files their application following the instructions provided by NST.

4.4 Review Process and Evaluation

All proposals are peer-reviewed and processed independently by both sides on a competitive basis.

The grant will be awarded in a unilateral scheme by ACCIÓ. ACCIÓ will evaluate the whole project, the Catalan part but also the part that is carried out by the Korean partner. ACCIÓ will do the follow up the part of the project carried out by the foreign partner.

The **evaluation criteria** are:

(40%) Scientific and technological quality of the project.

(20%) Technical capabilities of the companies, the structure of the project and the roles of each company or entity (international consortium organization).

(40%) Impact of the project.

5. TIMETABLE IN CATALONIA

Pre-Announcement of Call for Proposals:	May 06, 2019
Launch of Call for Proposals:	June 2019 (TBC)
Submission of “Partner Search Form”:	July 31st, 2019
Deadline for Submission of Applications:	October 2019 (TBC)
Resolution of Call:	December 2019 (TBC)

6. HOW TO APPLY

- 1. Define your idea according to the thematic areas for the Call.** From ACCIÓ we can provide advice for companies with projects on how they fit in the program.
- 2. Find a partner through the attached “Partner Search Form”.** From ACCIÓ we can identify the most suitable partner in Catalonia and in Korea with the support of NST.
- 3. Prepare the Proposal Application jointly with your partner.** NST and ACCIÓ will facilitate the application process and will accompany the progress of the respective projects. We will provide support for the structuration of the partnership, an initial evaluation of the project’s viability.
- 4. Submit the Proposal Application to your own agency.** NST and ACCIÓ will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during the project proposal and monitoring phases.

7. CONTACTS

Applicants are recommended to contact the following representatives:

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