

JOINT R&D COLLABORATION - KOREA & CATALONIA -

Announcement 2020 Call for Proposals

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

The Call opens in October 30th, 2020 and closes on November 24th, 2020.

ACCIÓ's total funds available under this call is 1,000,000 Euros.*

NST and ACCIÓ will provide all necessary support to interested applicants to find the partner.

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 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”](#). Please, submit the “Partner Search Form” **no later than October 31st, 2020**.

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, [under the umbrella of NST](#)**.

3. THEMATIC AREAS

The Call for proposals will be **open to collaborative R&D projects in ALL areas/sectors**. The areas with a **high potential** between Korea and Catalonia are related to addressing the societal challenges (climate, energy, mobility, and connectivity) through innovation:

Environment and Climate

- Climate change
- Air pollution
- Climate science and solutions
- Smart cities

Sustainable Transport / Mobility

- Urban transport and Smart mobility
- Clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility
- Industrial competitiveness in transport

Energy

- Hydrogen fuel cells
- Building efficiency
- Energy systems and grids
- Energy storage

Digitalization

- IoT
- 5G
- AI
- Big Data
- Cybersecurity

4. CALL STRUCTURE

In Catalonia, the Call is regulated by the “**NUCLIS d’R+D internacionals**” program, being the “Terms and Conditions” published in the Official Gazette of the Government of Catalonia ([DOGC RESOLUCIÓ EMC/2510/2020](#)).

In Korea, the Call is regulated by NST’s international cooperation program.

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 new 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 from Catalonia** (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) and **one research institute from Korea, [under the umbrella of NST](#)**, 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 36 months, starting from the proposal submission date. No extension will be granted.
- 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 programs (in Korea, following NST’s regulation; in Catalonia by “NUCLIS d’R+D internacionals” program).

ACCIÓ’s total funds available under the Program “NUCLIS d’R+D internacionals” is 1,000,000 euros.

Additionally, to Korea, other countries and regions that can apply to this Program are Germany, France, Israel and the Quebec Region in Canada. All proposals are peer-reviewed and processed on a competitive basis.

The project must clearly specify the costs of each, and all the activities about the project and determine 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 150,000 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 Agreement (English or Spanish) must be submitted once the project has been accepted and **before April 30th, 2021**.

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 by November 2020.

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:	Aug 03, 2020
Launch of Call for Proposals:	Oct 30, 2020
Submission of “<u>Partner Search Form</u>”:	Oct 31, 2020
Deadline for Submission of Applications:	Nov 24, 2020
Resolution of Call:	December 2020

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 Korea with the support of NST. Please, submit the “Partner Search Form” **no later than Oct 31st, 2020.**
- 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 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:

NST (Korea)

Ms SeoYeong Kim, Europe Coordinator

Address: Building A, Sejong National
Research Complex, 370, Sicheong-daero,

Sejong-si, Korea

+82 44 287 7312

sdudl@nst.re.kr

ACCIÓ (Korea office)

Mr Jose Serrano, Innovation Manager

#408-1 Leema Bldg, 42 Jong-no 1 gil,

Jongno-gu, Seoul, Korea

+82 2 782 8280

jserrano@catalonia.com

ACCIÓ (Catalonia HQ)

Ms Imma Vidal, Project Manager

Passeig de Gràcia, 129, Barcelona,

Catalonia

+34 93 567 69 49

imma.vidal@gencat.cat

8. USEFUL LINKS

[National Research Council of Science and Technology of Korea \(NST\) – Main Website](#)

[NUCLIS d’R+D General Information](#)

[NUCLIS d’R+D internacionals – Terms & Conditions](#)

[Partner Search Form](#)