

The German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program

CALL FOR JOINT PROPOSALS 2026

1. OBJECTIVES OF FUNDING AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1.1 OBJECTIVES OF FUNDING

Within the framework of the German-Israeli cooperation in Water Technology Research, the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) and the Israeli Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (MOST) invite proposals for bilateral R&D projects.

The research shall focus on solutions to the water problems in Israel and its surrounding area and/or Germany. The research should be multidisciplinary and be applicable to the needs of the water sector. In addition to scientific partners, projects should preferably include industrial partners as well as related stakeholders.

Qualifying scientific applicants in this framework may receive R&D grants, respectively, from BMFTR and MOST according to the applicable national funding procedures and regulations.

1.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Projects can be funded under the terms of this call and the agreements concluded between BMFTR and MOST. In this respect, the general regulations for funding, including the consideration of intellectual property rights formulated by the Ministries for all BMFTR-MOST research co-operations, will be applied also to this field.

Germany: In addition, for the German partners to be funded under this call, the standard BMFTR-guidelines for grant applications on expenditure or cost basis, respectively, must be followed in addition to the general regulations.

Israel: All procedures and activities under this Call or the Israeli projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST Procedures Regarding International Collaborative Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST and to the MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (both documents referred to hereinafter as "the standard terms").

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the standard terms before filing an application under this call. Filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the provisions thereof.

Submitting a proposal does not automatically entitle applicants to a grant. Rather, grants will be awarded to proposals selected after the parties to this call have assessed the proposals according to the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of this call.

It is the intention of the parties issuing this call to fund research proposals selected hereunder for the three-year duration of the project. However, MOST funding must be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second and third years to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract. The parties to this call reserve the right not to fund a second or third year of work for scientific-professional, administrative or budgetary reasons.

Funding for the approved projects depends on the availability of funds and the approval of the State budget in each country. This call is subject to cancellation in the event of unforeseen budgetary constraints.

2. SUBJECT OF RESEARCH

Research projects will be carried out in the following research area:

- **Innovations in water technologies and water systems**

The **objectives of the German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program** are as follows:

- Develop innovative solutions to water challenges in Israel and its surrounding region and/or Germany, with transferability to comparable regions.
- Catalyze industry adoption of cutting-edge water and environmental technologies.
- Support and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the water sector as well as cooperation between science and industry.

Each submitted research proposal needs to indicate how it addresses the above-mentioned objectives of the German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation. In particular, the proposals need to specify the interaction between German and Israeli research groups (e.g. using a block diagram or PERT network diagram) and how integration will be managed and maintained during the project (e.g. governance structure, joint workshops). It is recommended that working groups include academic partners, industrial partners and end users.

Proposals need to define Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) at project start and expected TRLs at completion.

Priority will be given to projects with novel concepts, strong applicability for end users and clear exploitation plans. Simple resubmissions of previous research proposals under this program may be disqualified without external reviews.

Innovation in the context of this call refers to the creation and application of novel ideas, technologies, or processes that generate measurable added value for science, industry, and society. Projects that simply combine or apply existing technologies or methods, without introducing substantial new concepts or advancements, will be rated as having low novelty. Proposals that take calculated risks to achieve breakthrough results are encouraged (high risk – high impact).

3. ELIGIBILITY

Proposals that do not meet the following preconditions will be automatically rejected and will not be passed on to the scientific committee for review and evaluation.

1. The proposed project must be submitted by Israeli researchers and German researchers to be carried out in close cooperation.
2. Proposals must focus on the main area of cooperation and meet the objectives as detailed in Paragraph 2 above.
3. Each joint research team must be led by a “Principal Investigator- Project Coordinator” (PI-PC) from each country who is responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of the research team from their country.

For Both German and Israeli Applicants:

The application must include a research plan, which will be carried out in Israel and in Germany by at least one senior researcher from each country who meets all the eligibility requirements listed below.

The project proposals must include a detailed description of the joint work-plan as well as a calculation and justification of the budget, for both the Israeli and German teams.

Additionally, applicants are referred to the general project terms found at https://www.bmfr.bund.de/DE/Forschung/International/AfrikaUndNaheOsten/Israel/israel_nod_e.html.

Israel:

The Israeli Principal Investigators (PIs) must be affiliated with an academic institution or a research institute ("Affiliated Institution"), and must meet the criteria for a PI in Israel, as listed below.

An Affiliated Institution is defined in Israel as follows:

- a) An accredited Institution of Higher Education, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 5718-1958; or
- b) A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization, a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purposes of this Call, a "Research Institute" in Israel is a research institute whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading peer-reviewed scientific journals, and who present their research at international scientific symposia. For the avoidance of doubt, this definition does not include publications in internal journals/scientific conferences and/or paid invited reports.

Eligibility provisions for Israeli teams:

1. All PIs in the research proposal must meet all of the following cumulative conditions:
 - a. Hold a Ph.D., M.D., DVM, or DMD degree.
A PI who does not meet this condition but meets all the other conditions (subparagraphs b-d below) and according to the procedures of their Affiliated

Institution may submit research proposals on the Institutions behalf, may submit a request for exceptional approval to submit a research proposal in accordance with the terms of the Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST . In this regard, please note the deadline for submitting requests of this nature. A request can be submitted at the following link:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/c33820fd5471ddbcf5a072fa95117c44?r=use1>

- b. A senior academic faculty member or equivalent who is permanently employed or is on track for tenure at the Affiliated Institution or may be a retired researcher with a Ph.D. or professor emeritus who continues working on research in affiliation with the Affiliated Institution.
 - c. Head of a research group at an Affiliated Institution - manages an independent research group (has a research team and infrastructure suitable for research).
 - d. Has permission to manage an independent budget in the Affiliated Institution.
2. In compliance with the updated MOST's Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST ("[MOST Regulations](#)"), there is no limit on the number of proposal submissions or active grants per PI within MOST's international cooperation programs.
 3. Accordingly, a PI-PC or PI may participate in multiple proposals submitted within the framework of this Call for Proposals.
 4. Researchers should be advised that after a proposal has been submitted, the status of the members of the research team as Principal Investigator- Project Coordinator (PI-PC) and/ or Principal Investigator (PI) may not be changed for the purpose of compliance with the eligibility requirements listed above. It will be clarified that, the aforementioned limitations regarding changing the status of the members of the research team include the addition of a PI who, at the time of submission, was defined as an external consultant or were not listed in the proposal and/or research group.
 5. The program is not intended to fund research in the Israeli industry. Industry representatives from Israel may only participate as subcontractors as detailed below or as stakeholders in case studies. It should be emphasized that within the framework of a proposal submitted to this Call, it will not be permitted to include a commercial or industrial company with an interest in or ownership of the IP created during the research. Researchers from industry or the third sector may be included in a research proposal submitted to MOST as subcontractors who will provide services to a research group at an academic institution or research institute (whether in consulting hours, or in preparing materials and facilities), but will not be recognized as a separate research group. It should be emphasized that such subcontractors, including consultants from Israel or abroad, may be used in accordance with the above only if unique expertise is required that does not exist in the Affiliated Institutions partnering in the proposal and if an explanation for this need is included within the framework of the submitted research proposal and in the justification of the budget, as follows:
 - a. The necessity for a subcontractor/external consultant and the unique expertise will be examined by the relevant representative from the Chief Scientist division who will approve/reject the use of subcontractors/external consultant accordingly. A proposal that is not approved for the use of a subcontractor/external consultant will only be passed on for further evaluation if the PI-PC agrees to conduct the proposed research without the use of a subcontractor/external consultant and within framework of research teams included in the proposal.

- b. For the purposes of complying with the terms of this eligibility requirement, subcontractors may not own the knowledge products, including IP, created during the research. A proposal that is found to include such a relationship will be rejected outright.
- c. In a proposal that includes consultants, subcontractors and/or entities outside the Affiliated Institutions included in the proposal, the appendix "Subcontractor Questionnaire" (attached in the appendices of the Call) must be submitted with the proposal.

Germany:

Research proposals may be submitted by German-based commercial companies, institutions of higher education, non-university research establishments as well as public institutions at municipal, state or federal level. The participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is expressly welcome.

Joint German-Israeli Cooperation is Obligatory;

The proposed project **must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the German project partners**. For this purpose, BMFTR and MOST will consider providing a grant that covers the travel expenses for one short visit of one of the potential research partners to either Israel or Germany, for the purpose of preparing the joint proposal. Such grants will not exceed 1,500 Euro.

Potential research partners interested in such a travel grant may submit their informal request by e-mail to the relevant contacts in Germany or Israel (see paragraph 12).

4. REGIONAL COOPERATION

Israeli partners may include researchers from neighboring states and areas in their proposed research teams if the relevance of the expected project results may be increased thereby.

5. DURATION OF PROJECT

The research should be planned for a period not exceeding three years.

6. BUDGET

In Israel:

- Proposals submitted to MOST must include a detailed project budget for the Israeli team. The maximum budget size for the Israeli team for each project proposal is limited to 250,000 Euro (equivalent to 950,000 NIS based on the conversion rate of 3.8 NIS/ 1 Euro). BMFTR will contribute two-thirds of the funds required by the Israeli partners.

- Please see full funding provisions on MOST [Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST \("MOST Regulations"\)](#). All activities and funding pursuant to this Call must be in accordance with MOST Regulations unless otherwise specified.
- According to the MOST Regulations, requests for exceptional approval for additional funding for use of subcontractors must be submitted no less than one week before the deadline for submission by researchers determined in paragraph E(a) above. A request submitted after this date may not be answered in time for submission.

A request to allocate up to 50% of the overall budget for this use may be submitted, in accordance with the requirements of the online form, using the link below: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/d85ce1c52e0aa4dbdaaacdb2ced1c0cd?r=use1>.

Please note, notwithstanding the above, the final approval regarding the need for use of subcontractors and approval of the funding allocated to the use of subcontractors, is subject to the other terms of the evaluation and judging process as determined in this Call and the MOST Regulations.

In Germany:

Funds for German partners will be awarded as non-repayable project grants. The grants can be spent to cover the cost of staff, materials, and equipment. No funding can be provided for building investments. No formal budget cap applies in Germany; however, proposal budgets should be reasonably balanced with those of the Israeli partners unless additional industry partners justify a larger share.

Grants for universities, research and science institutions and similar institutions are calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related expenditure.

German research institutes which are already part of a government-based funding scheme may receive project related funds only under specific circumstances and are advised to contact the Project Management Agency Karlsruhe in advance of submission.

Grants for German commercial companies are calculated based on the project-related costs that are eligible for funding. Typically, up to 50% of these costs can be covered by grants, depending on the project's nearness to application. In the case of collaborative research projects, the European Union's Community Framework allows differentiated rules on extra percentage points for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which may result in a higher rate of funding.

7. KEY DATES

Final date for submission of proposals: **July 8th 2026 at 15:00** (local time). Please note the instructions and deadlines for specific phases of the submission process listed below (**Deadline for researchers' submission in Israel: July 1st 2026 at 15:00 local time** (Israel)).

8. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF JOINT RESEARCH PROPOSALS

All proposals must be submitted in both Germany and Israel. If only one partner organization receives the proposal, it will not be considered for funding. The proposal should be written in English.

The basis for a proposal is the "Joint Research Part", jointly written by the project partners in accordance with the application form. The application form is **obtainable at the MOST website (www.most.gov.il)**, from the Research Authorities of the universities in Israel and from the **website of the German-Israeli Cooperation (www.cogeril.de)**. The use of the updated forms is obligatory.

The submission process differs in both countries and proceeds as follows:

Submission instructions for Israeli research teams:

1. The Israeli PI-PC shall submit the proposal through the Science Forefront system, at <https://kf.most.gov.il>.
2. In order to apply for the first time, the applicant needs to fill an "account request" at the Science Forefront system. The request should be approved by the Research Authority of the Affiliated Institution. The research authority will approve a new user only after verifying that the applicant meets all the relevant threshold conditions for a PI. Once approved, the applicant will be notified by email that the account is active. The approval process may take time and therefore should be done well in advance of the application deadline.
3. **Deadline for researchers' submission:** The PI-PC must submit the proposal in English via the Science Forefront system by **July 1st 2026 at 15:00 local time (Israel)**. **The online system will be closed for submissions after the said date and hour and no submissions will be accepted after that time. Israeli researchers who have not submitted their proposals by July 1st 2026 at 15:00 local time (Israel) will not be allowed to submit their proposal.**
4. A proposal that has been submitted by the researcher before the researchers' submission deadline can be edited by the PI-PC, in coordination with the Affiliated Institution, until the final joint submission deadline.
5. The Affiliated Institution must submit the proposal not later than by the final submission date, **July 8th 2026 at 15:00 local time (Israel time)**. Proposals that are not submitted by the Affiliated Institution through the Science Forefront system by this time, **will not be accepted.**
6. For the application, the required data is entered into the Science Forefront system. The Joint Research Part (according to the application form) and the associated files are uploaded as attachments.
7. After successful submission, the output file (Research Proposal) from the Science Forefront system must be downloaded and sent to the German partner for submission on the German side (see instructions below).
8. Please be advised that as technical problems are possible, and the submission process may take a significant amount of time, **it is strongly recommended to fulfil the above steps well in advance of the applications deadlines.**

Submission instructions for German research teams:

1. The German PI-PC shall submit the proposal through the Easy Online system at <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>. The provision of an abstract in German language and indicative budget figures are required.
2. The German partner receives the final Research Proposal Form as the output of the Israeli Science Forefront Online system from the Israeli Partner and shall submit it as an attachment (“Projektskizze”) through the electronic submission system easy-Online in Germany.

9. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING THE JOINT RESEARCH PART OF THE PROPOSALS

Please note that upon submission, the submitting researcher takes full responsibility for all content included in the proposal and the attached documents, even if technological means and/or artificial intelligence tools were used in preparing the proposal. If it is found that a submitted proposal includes information, facts, or data that are not accurate, reliable, or trustworthy, the proposal may be rejected.

The project proposals are composed of the form “Joint research part” plus the accompanying mandatory documents.

The Joint research part should be up to 10 pages including figures (not including abstract and bibliography) and include the following sections (Font: Times New Roman 11; line spacing: 1.5):

1. Abstract (max 1500 characters including spaces) (1) Objectives, (2) Methods and plan of operation, and (3) Significance (uniqueness, innovative aspects) of the proposed research.
2. Objectives and expected contribution to the water technology program.
3. Novelty and ambition beyond the state of the art
4. Methodology and plan of operation
5. Pathway to impact (applicability for industrial partners, stakeholders, problem owners and end users)
6. Brief account of each partner's contribution to the proposed research
7. Preliminary (unpublished) results relevant to the proposal.
8. Relevant bibliography on the research area. The five most relevant items for the proposed research should be marked with an asterisk
9. Budget Overview

The mandatory documents will be uploaded as **attachments** and designed as follows:

1. **CV:** A short CV for each researcher involved in the research of up to 2 pages each, including: personal statement (brief description of why the investigator is well-suited for the role on the proposed project); list of ongoing and completed research projects from the last three years that the investigator wishes to highlight; citation of up to five publications or research products that highlight the investigator’s experience and qualifications for the proposed project; positions, scientific appointments, and honors (**only last 5 years and relevant to the topic of proposal**).

2. **Additional authorizations needed depending on the type of research** (e.g. Helsinki Committee, animal experiments) shall be submitted along with the proposal. In case the required authorization is still not available at the time of submission, a statement in free text should be attached including the researcher's commitment that if their proposal is approved, the required authorization will be submitted as soon as possible.

Israel only instructions (Additional data for the Science Forefront system):

1. Short abstract up to 1500 characters in Hebrew and English.
2. Applicability up to 1000 characters in Hebrew
3. Relevance of the research to the sub-themes defined in the call up to 500 characters in English
4. **Budget request** - enter the requested budget in NIS. It should be noted that the budget request will be evaluated by the German side based on the conversion rate of 3.8 NIS/ 1 Euro The budget of the researcher from abroad must be entered in a general way in the section designated for this purpose.
5. Please specify 5 researchers (5 researchers from abroad). All the researches need to have expertise in the field of the proposal, who could serve as potential external reviewers (with no conflict of interest: Joint research, from the same department or supervisor/student relationship).
6. Other Sources of Support Related to Proposed Research by Israeli Principal Investigator(s): Additional supports received for the proposed research must be detailed in a separate (attached) document in accordance with the published format, and this is in addition to the questions that exist in the advance of science system.
7. Do not add additional documents beyond what is specified above and in the attached guidelines for submission to the Science Forefront system.
8. **Letter of intent** from the project partners in both countries affirming their intent to collaborate on the proposed research (As attachment).

Germany only instructions (Additional data for the Easy Online system):

1. Provision of an abstract in German language (up to 1500 characters)
2. Contact details for the German PIs
3. Budget requested

10. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Evaluation of the project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the topics and objectives as mentioned under section 2 of this call
- Originality and novelty
- The soundness and scientific quality of the proposed approach
- The adequacy of the facilities
- The capability of the investigator(s) to carry out the proposed research
- Added value for the German-Israeli cooperation
- Potential applicability for industrial partners, stakeholders, problem owners and end users

The proposals will be pre-evaluated and rated by international external reviewers. In accordance with the procedures of the Cooperation Program, all the proposals will be evaluated for final ranking by the Joint Advisory Committee of the program.

The number of proposals to be approved by Ministries under this call will be determined after evaluating the project proposals in view of budget requirements and constraints.

Applicants of proposals, which are positively evaluated and which complement one another, may be requested to collaborate and prepare a joint project proposal.

If a joint German-Israeli research proposal is recommended by both ministries under this call, the **German partner** will be requested to **file a full proposal** with detailed budget justification **according to the national German regulations** for their part of the work-plan in the joint project. The approval of the joint German-Israeli research proposal is contingent upon the German partner's full proposal being approved by BMFTR. The use of the electronic application system easy-online is obligatory for the application to BMFTR.

11. CONTRACTS

Upon approval of a research grant by the official authorities in Germany and in Israel, a research contract will be signed between MOST and the institution of the Israeli PI-PC (example of the contract can be found on the MOST website – www.most.gov.il).

In Israel, A PI who intends a vacation or absence of more than three months should request permission from MOST in advance (through the relevant R&D Authority).

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons:

In Germany on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR):

Dr. Leif Wolf / Ms Anika Sibler

Project Management Agency Karlsruhe (PTKA)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1

76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen

Tel.: +49-721-608-28224 (Wolf) / +49-721-608-24812 (Sibler)

E-mail: leif.wolf@kit.edu / anika.sibler@kit.edu

Internet: www.ptka.kit.edu; www.cogeril.de

In ISRAEL:

On Scientific matters:

Dr. Moshe Ben Sasson

Scientific Director Water, Agriculture and Environment

E-mail: mosheBS@most.gov.il

On administrative matters:

Israeli researchers should consult administrative matters directly with the Research Authority at their Affiliated Institution. The Institution will contact the Ministry in case of necessity.

Representative of the International Division for this CFP:

Ms. Claire Levaton
Head of Department
Division for International Relations
E-mail: Claire@most.gov.il

MOST website: www.most.gov.il

13. YOUNG SCIENTISTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (YSEP)

Young scientists are encouraged to participate in the exchange program that was initiated by BMFTR and MOST in the framework of the German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program. This is an open call for young Israeli and German scientists for a training period in the partner country for up to 6 months, but not less than 1 month. Funding will be provided to cover all necessary expenses of the applicant's visit abroad, according to the provisions of the YSEP.

Applications for YSEP must be submitted in accordance with the terms and information provided on the following websites:

www.cogeril.de

Bonn, April 2026
Dr. Rainer Müssner,
Deputy Head of Division F26.
Federal Ministry of Research,
Technology and Space (BMFTR)

Jerusalem, April 2026
Ms. Shani Edri,
Director of International Relations
Ministry of Innovation, Science and
Technology
(MOST)