

**STDF - IRD
JOINT INNOVATIVE PROJECTS FUND
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
2010**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
31ST OF JULY 2010**

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

By the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD).

1. BACKGROUND

On April 2009, a framework agreement on scientific corporation was signed between STDF and IRD in the presence of H.E Minister Hany Helal, the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and H.E. Minister Valerie Pecresse, the French Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Under the framework of this agreement, Prof. Aly El -Shafei, Executive Director of the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF), and Prof. Michel Laurent, CEO of the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD), signed “an agreement of implementation to the framework agreement between the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD)”, at the launch of the French-Egyptian year of S&T on the 24th January 2010 in Cairo.

This agreement aims to conduct joint research, training and innovation programs in priority scientific fields defined jointly by the two institutions. A joint fund of €1.8 million year for the period of 4 years is set up to support cooperation between French and Egyptian institutions.

Jointly, STDF and IRD issue this joint call for proposals to support the following cooperation mechanisms:

- Research Projects developed by joint Egyptian-French research teams;
- Chairs of Excellence;
- Scientific Mobility Grants.

2. OBJECTIVES AND THEMES

The aim of this announcement is to support innovative and application-oriented joint projects in all fields of science and the fields that correspond to the specific research priorities defined by the STDF and the IRD.

These priorities are:

- A. Environment and Water Technologies;
- B. Agriculture and Food;
- C. Health and Life Sciences;
- D. Space Science and space applications; and
- E. Human and Social Sciences.

3. JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.1 TYPES OF PROJECTS TO BE AWARDED UNDER THIS CALL:

- Type (a) with a maximum of 100000 Euros per project
- Type (b) with a maximum of 300000 Euros per project

3.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be awarded under this grant scheme, the following criteria should be met:

- Joint research team should be consisting of at least one Egyptian Principle Investigator (PI) and one French PI
- On the Egyptian side, the PI should be affiliated to a research organization, a private or public higher education institution, private sector (in particular SME), or civil society organization
- On the French side, an eligible PI should be a member of an organization related to IRD/AIRD
- The duration of the project should not exceed 36 months

3.3 ELIGIBLE COST

Egyptian researchers will be paid by the STDF in Egyptian pounds and French researchers will be paid by the IRD in Euros according to official exchange rates and depending on the project financial needs. The project budget covers the following:

- Equipment and materials necessary for the work
- Field-work expenses
- Travel costs
- Publication costs and outreach activities

• **On the Egyptian side:**

- Salaries are allowed
- 20% of the (total other direct cost – equipment) is paid as indirect cost.

• **On the French side:**

- Researchers extra-remunerations or expatriation cost if applicable
- Trainees or research assistants remunerations
- 20% of the project budget is paid as indirect cost

3.4 RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The submitted research proposals must include the following topics in the same order:

- Cover Page with project title in Arabic and English on the Egyptian side and in French and English on the French side.
- Abstract in Arabic and English on the Egyptian side and in French and English on the French side
- Project objectives
- Background
- Context and relevance to the call
- Project description and methodology
 - State of the Art
 - Scientific methodology to be adopted
 - Added value of the proposed project
 - Nature and extent of proposed collaboration
 - Expected results and prospects of commercializing/profiting from the envisaged project results
 - Information Dissemination

- Project Management
 - o Project management structure
 - o Description of work activities, deliverables and milestones
 - o Work plan: schedule, deliverables, milestones
 - o Assumptions, risks and contingency planning
 - Consortium Description
 - o Qualification of the team
 - o Relevant experience of the PIs as project coordinators at each side
 - o Relevant experience and role of individual partners
 - o References: Most important relevant publications/patents
 - Structured financing plan
 - o A detailed budget (in Euros) with breakdown of expected expenditure which should be justified and relevant to the proposed activities
 - o Details of the candidates' own funding contributions and of the total volume and funding volume of the proposed project
 - o **For Egyptian applicants, use the [budget format](#)**
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- [LFM](#)
 - [GANTT Chart](#)
 - Bibliography (latest relevant publications for the field of the proposal)
 - Appendices

For Egyptian applicants, refer to STDF “Guide for Preparing STDF Proposals”, available at www.stdf.org.eg

For French applicants, the “model submission document for research projects”, available at www.ird.fr, will guide you through the proposal writing process.

3.5 MONITORING REPORTS

The following reports should be submitted simultaneously to STDF and IRD/AIRD:

- A three-month report (three months after the official start date of the project) Annual reports to be submitted November of each year
- Final report (one month after the end of the project)
- Quality financial reports

* The “Guide for Preparing STDF Proposals” is a general guide and the text of this call for proposals is prevailing over the text of the guide.

4. CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE

Chairs of Excellence is a collaborative project where an eminent professor agrees to work in the partner country for a pre-determined period of time to form a team of researchers in a specific field of science. This might include training of research assistances at Masters or PhD levels, who are working as part of the formed team.

4.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be awarded under this grant scheme, the following criteria should be met:

- The candidate must be an eminent scientist affiliated to a university/ research institution linked to the French IRD/AIRD. Preference will be given to mid-career candidates
- The candidate must have a high level of competence in his/her field of specialization, proven by outstanding publication record
- A proposal detailing the planned activities and expected results must be submitted
- The duration of the chair of excellence is for a maximum of four years and could only be extended upon consent from both the Egyptian side (represented by the STDF) and the French side (represented by the IRD)
- A joint application must be submitted simultaneously by a researcher working in an Egyptian university or research center to STDF and by the French scientist affiliated to the French IRD/AIRD

4.2 ELIGIBLE COST

The project budget covers the following:

- All expenses related to residence of the beneficiary (including housing and wages) and travel expenses.
- On the Egyptian side, STDF will cover the travel expenses.
- On the French side, IRD will cover eminent professor salary and his expatriation cost if his/her presence in Egypt is justified.
- The STDF will cover travel expenses, subsistence and the costs of scientific research, and IRD will cover his salary and his early expatriation cost if his presence in Egypt is justified.

4.3 CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE PROPOSALS

The submitted Chairs of Excellence proposals must include the following topics in the same order:

- Cover Page recapitulating details of the project
- Abstract in Arabic and English on the Egyptian side and in French and English on the French side
- Context and relevance to the Call
- Scientific and technical project description
- Expected outcome
- CVs of Candidates
- Structured financing plan

4.4 MONITORING REPORTS

The following reports should be submitted simultaneously to STDF and IRD:

- One annual report
- One final report

5. SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY GRANTS

5.1 TYPES OF OFFERED MOBILITY GRANTS

a. Support for the preparation of research projects: _____

Support for research teams composed of at least one Egyptian institution and one related to the French IRD/AIRD, willing to cooperate to prepare a research proposal that might be funded later in the framework of STDF-IRD cooperation.

b. Support for Chairs of Excellence: _____

In support of the chairs of excellence mechanism, a member of the Egyptian formed team or a French researcher who might be willing to join the team for a short period of time could be awarded a mobility grant.

5.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be awarded under this grant scheme, the following criteria should be met: _____

a. For the support of the preparation of research projects _____

- Candidates must be affiliated to a public or private Egyptian university or research center and a body related to IRD/AIRD;
- The visit should not exceed three (3) months;

b. For the support of Chairs of Excellence: _____

- Candidates must be affiliated to a public or private Egyptian university or research center and a body related to IRD/AIRD;
- The total number of visits should not exceed four (4) visits for a total of (6) months for the whole duration of the project.

5.3 ELIGIBLE COST

Grants will be offered only towards travel and living costs within the framework of a well-defined and approved research project. The sending side will bear the travel cost (including overseas medical insurance) between the place of work of the scientists/students in their own country and the place of work in the host country. Living and accommodation expenses of the participants will be provided also by the sending side, in accordance with a predefined scale that is approved by the Scientific Follow-up Committee.

Mobility grant will not cover any other cost rather than those indicated above.

Grants will not be provided for study purposes or for attending conferences, workshops, meetings etc.

The total funding requested from the Egyptian and the French side respectively must not exceed 10.000 EURO per grant per year and it will be distributed as follows:

For Egyptian Scientists:

- For senior and post- doctoral scientists:
- Up to 1840 EURO per month or 90 EURO per day (if the stay is for less than 21 days) will be paid for living and accommodation expenses.
- 700 EURO will be granted as travel allowance.

For junior scientists (Master and PhD candidates):

- Up to 1035 EURO per month or 60 EURO per day (if the stay is less than 21 days) will be paid for living and accommodation expenses.
- 525 EURO will be granted as travel allowance.

5.4 SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY GRANT PROPOSALS

The submitted Scientific Mobility Grants proposals must include the following topics in the same order:

- Cover Page recapitulating details of the project
- Abstract in Arabic and English on the Egyptian side and in French and English on the French side
- Context and relevance to the Call
- Description of the project ideas (valid only for “support for the preparation of research projects”)
- Scientific and technical project description (valid only for the “support of Chairs of Excellence” mobility grant)
- CV of the Candidate
- Structured financing plan

5.5 MONITORING REPORTS

The following reports should be submitted simultaneously to STDF and IRD:

- a. For the support for the preparation of research projects:
 - One final report, one month after the end of the visit including the developed research proposal
- b. For the support for research projects or Chairs of Excellence:
 - One final report, one month after the end of each visit

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

6.1 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

- For a research team, two perfectly identical copies of the proposal must be submitted simultaneously by the Egyptian PI to the STDF and the French PI to the IRD/AIRD
- Proposals submitted by one team must be signed by both, the Egyptian PI and the French PI
- Proposals must be simultaneously uploaded to the STDF website (www.stdf.org.eg) and sent to the IRD email address (egypte@ird.fr)
- Endorsement letters stamped from the PIs institution should be scanned and integrated to the research proposal to be uploaded to the STDF website and sent to the IRD email address. Only proposals uploaded on STDF website **AND sent to the** IRD email address will be considered

The deadline for receiving the online applications is 31st of July.

Original endorsement letters with necessary signatures will be required at the contracting process.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

Funding will be allocated to high quality proposals which will be selected in accordance with the objectives of the Framework Agreement between the IRD and the STDF.

Applications will be evaluated separately by French and Egyptian experts. Only applications that are approved by both sides and endorsed by the Scientific Follow-up Committee will be funded.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Relevance of the research topic to the research policy objectives and priorities of STDF and IRD;
- Quality and originality of the envisaged research projects;
- Scientific and practical relevance of the expected results / outcomes;
- Skills and previous experience of PIs and their teams;
- Quality of the planned collaboration and recognized added value for partner institutions;
- Prospects of commercializing the envisaged project results;
- Quality of the budget plan and its justification, as well as strategy of project management.

Candidates will be informed in writing about the results of the evaluation.

8. CONTRACTING AND REPORTING

The STDF and the IRD will conclude the grant agreements under the relevant governing laws with the awarded candidates. Contracts signature is envisaged before the end of December 2010.

The projects starting date shall be within 3 months after the contract signature.

9. GENERAL RULES:

- STDF pays for Egyptian side costs in Egyptian Pounds.
- IRD pays for French side costs in Euros.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, candidates may refer to the following contact points:

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