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1. /EU HORIZON 2020*/ EU-China Co-Funding Mechanism for Research and Innovation, Deadline Preapplications: 15 May 2018

The Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) published a new call for proposals under the EU-China Co-funding Mechanism for Research and Innovation (CFM). The call seeks applications by China-based partners in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018 proposals. Two groups of Horizon 2020 topics are specifically targeted:

1) topics linked to the joint flagship initiatives on food, agriculture and biotechnologies (FAB), sustainable urbanisation and surface transport, for which 4-5 projects are expected to be funded for a total budget of CNY60 million; and

2) topics addressing nine broad areas of new generation information network; intelligent and green manufacturing; safe, clean and efficient energy; advanced, effective, safe and convenient health technologies; marine equipment; space; new materials; large research infrastructures; and public security. For this second group of topics around 15 projects are expected to be funded for a total budget of CNY50 million. Applications are to be submitted in two stages.

Chinese participants in Horizon 2020 proposals are encouraged to contact MOST to seek financial support for their participation in Horizon 2020.

More information

o http://www.most.gov.cn/mostinfo/xinxifenlei/fgzc/gfxwj/gfxwj2018/201803/t20180326_138789.htm

o http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/most_notice_en.pdf

o http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/most_application_guidelines_en.pdf

o http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/most_admin_check_requirements_en.pdf

o http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/most_faq_cfm_en.pdf

o http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020_localsupp_china_en.pdf

Further information:

o <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=china>

2. /EU HORIZON 2020*/ Individual Fellowships for Postdocs, Deadline: 12 September 2018, 17 CET

Die Europäische Kommission hat am 12. April 2018 die Ausschreibung der Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowships geöffnet.

MSCA-IF-GF Global Fellowships

MSCA-IF-EF-ST Standard European Fellowships

MSCA-IF-EF-SE Society and Enterprise panel

MSCA-IF-EF-RI Reintegration panel

MSCA-IF-EF-CAR Career Restart panel

Mit den Individual Fellowships (IF) wird die wissenschaftliche Karriere von Antragstellenden durch die

Förderung von Forschung, Mobilität und Training unterstützt. Unter der Ausschreibung 2018 sollen insgesamt 273 Mio. EUR für IF-Projekte ausgegeben werden; davon entfallen 45 Mio. EUR auf Global Fellowships und 220 Mio. EUR auf European Fellowships. Im Rahmen der European Fellowships sind 8 Mio. EUR für Projekte vorgesehen, die an einer nichtakademischen Gasteinrichtung durchgeführt werden sollen (Society and Enterprise, SE). Das Ende der Einreichungsfrist für Anträge ist der 12. September 2018, 17 Uhr Brüsseler Zeit.

Objective:

The goal of the Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility.

Individual Fellowships provide opportunities to researchers of any nationality to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in Europe (EU Member States and Horizon 2020 Associated Countries) and beyond. The scheme particularly supports the return and (re)integration of European researchers from outside Europe and those who have previously worked here, as well as researchers displaced by conflict outside the EU and Horizon 2020 Associated Countries. It also promotes the career restart of individual researchers who show great potential.

Scope:

Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers of any nationality, for employment in EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries. It is based on an application made jointly by the researcher and the beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sectors.

Only one proposal per individual researcher per call will be evaluated.

Fellowships take the form of European Fellowships or Global Fellowships. European Fellowships are held in EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries and are open to researchers either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the European Fellowship is held.

Direct return to and long-term reintegration of researchers in Europe, including in their country of origin, is supported via a separate multi-disciplinary reintegration panel of the European Fellowships. For the reintegration panel, there must be direct mobility to the country of the beneficiary in Europe from a third country (compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account).

Support to individuals to resume research in Europe after a career break, e.g. after parental leave or due to recent migration, is ensured via a separate multi-disciplinary career restart panel of the European Fellowships. To qualify for the career restart panel, researchers must not have been active in research for a continuous period of at least 12 months within the 18 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission.

Researchers seeking to work on research and innovation projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector will be supported via a separate multi-disciplinary society and enterprise panel of the European Fellowships. The objective of this panel is to facilitate career moves between the academic and non-academic sectors, to stimulate innovation, and to open attractive career opportunities for researchers outside academia.

The Widening Fellowships implemented through Work Programme part 15, Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation, provide specific support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a widening country[1]. This will help spread excellence and close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.

Global Fellowships are based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the Global Fellowship secondment takes place, not for the country of the return phase.

Researchers receiving an Individual Fellowship may opt to include a secondment phase in Europe, notably in the non-academic sector, within the overall duration of their fellowship. For a fellowship of 18 months or less, the secondment phase may last up to three months. For a fellowship of more than 18 months, the secondment phase may last up to six months. The secondment phase can be a single period or be divided into shorter mobility periods. The secondment should significantly add to the impact of the fellowship. In the Global Fellowships, such a secondment can also take place at the start of the action at the beneficiary

or a partner organisation in Europe for a maximum of 3 months, allowing the researcher to spend time there before moving on to a partner organisation in a third country.

A Career Development Plan should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher. In addition to research or innovation objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences.

Researchers participating in the Individual Fellowships may opt to work part-time in order to pursue supplementary activities. These might include creating a company, or engaging in advanced studies not related to the MSCA grant. Any supplementary activities carried out part-time in parallel with the MSCA action must be agreed upon by the researcher and the beneficiary.

Expected Impact:

At researcher level:

- o Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia
- o Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- o Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- o Enhanced cooperation and stronger networks
- o Better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- o Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations

At system level:

- o Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- o Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I with more entrepreneurial and better trained researchers
- o Better communication of R&I results to society
- o Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- o Better quality research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/msca-if-2018.html>

3. /EU HORIZON 2020*/ SPACE 2018-2020: Call for expression of interest for IOD/IOV Experiments is open. First cut-off date: 22 May 2018

One of the main objectives of the Space strategy for Europe is to foster a globally competitive and innovative European space sector in particular by improving support to technological maturity, for sub-systems, equipment and technologies, including in-orbit demonstration and validation activities, to reduce time to market.

To ensure European non-dependence and competitiveness in technologies, there is a clear need for a regular, sustainable, cost-effective and responsive In Orbit Demonstration/Validation (IOD/IOV) service in Europe. Space flight heritage in real conditions and environment is often required to de-risk innovations such as new technologies, products, concepts, architectures, and operations techniques are they for unique or recurrent, institutional or commercial missions.

Although flight opportunities do exist, these are often difficult to find ad hoc at affordable cost and/or in the required timeframe, and at an acceptable risk for the main mission.

The main challenge of the overall IOD/IOV activities is to provide a regular and cost-effective solution for common flight ticket actions (management, spacecraft design including reuse of existing solutions, assembly, integration and tests, launch and operations) based on European solutions both for the spacecraft (i.e. platform and aggregate of experiments) and for the ground and launch services.

Indicatively, support is envisaged, through Horizon 2020 SPACE-18-TEC-2019-2020: In-orbit validation/demonstration - Mission design, integration and implementation, for all the necessary tasks to prepare, provide and operate spacecraft(s), together with the related ground segment, which accommodates the selected IOD/IOV experiments. The activities include:

- o System studies, at ground and space level, including the compatibility with the available launchers;
- o Input to the launch mission analysis performed by the launch service provider;
- o Selection, assembly, integration and testing of the spacecraft(s) and related ground segment;
- o Management of interfaces with and between the different IOD/IOV experiments, between the spacecraft and the launcher and between the spacecraft and the ground segment;
- o Preparation of the spacecraft(s) for the flight;
- o In-orbit testing and operations including data provision.

The purpose of the Call is to gather feasible experiments (e.g. instrument, part of instrument, equipment, technologies, system experiment, mission concept) which could be considered for IOD/IOV actions. Only experiments which have reached a sufficient maturity level would be considered to proceed as IOD/IOV experiments. It shall be noted that experiments will have to bear the costs of their own development up to and including the flight models.

Experiments will be self-standing with simple and direct mechanical, thermal, electrical and data interfaces with the host spacecraft (i.e. carrier). Direct interfaces means that it is not required a space unit to be developed around each proposed experiment.

Experiments shall comply with the following constraints and requirements:

- a) The launch of the dedicated IOD missions will be performed with European manufactured launcher solutions (i.e. VEGA/VEGA C, Ariane 6 for the first cut-off).
- b) The candidate experiment providers are expected to perform all Product Assurance (PA) activities (including Configuration Management, Quality Assurance, Safety, EEE Components, Materials, Mechanical Parts and Software Product Assurance), according to plans drawn up by the provider, during all phases of the project to ensure that the experiment will perform its functions as intended with a high probability of success.
- c) Beside the delivery of the flight model, the experiment provider will support, for its experiment(s), the integration and testing of the spacecraft and as required with engineering analysis, engineering models and adaptations to interface requirements.
- d) The approach for the achievement of the experiment qualification (TRL 7) from the current TRL level (preferably 5/6) shall also be part of the providers' response.
- e) In order to establish the full Technical Dossier (description and interfaces requirements) of the experiment, the experiment provider shall engage a dialogue with ESA at the request of the Commission.
- f) At the project implementation stage, Interface Document(s) including all technical and programmatic interfaces will be established by the spacecraft integrator with the support of experiment(s) provider(s) and the Launch service provider and will be applicable to the experiment provider(s). Experiment (s) provider(s) and other concerned entities shall provide adequate visibility to ESA given its role to ensure the overall coherence of interfaces.
- g) Indicative overall planning respectively to the envisaged calls for proposals:
 - o Mission phase CD : early 2020 (call 2019) and early 2021 (call 2020)
 - o Flight model delivery: late 2020 (call 2019) and late 2021 (call 2020)
 - o Indicative launch: 2021 - 2023

The Call for Expression of Interest shall be open throughout the duration of Horizon 2020 with a first cut-off date on 22 May 2018.

Applicants are invited to submit their proposal for one or several experiments. Each experiment shall constitute a separate candidature file.

All proposals submitted by the first cut-off date shall be assessed in view of preparing a guidance document to be published at the opening of the call for proposals¹.

All correspondence and documentation shall be sent in English.

Applications shall be sent to GROW-I1-IOD@ec.europa.eu with "Call for Expression of Interest - IOD/IOV experiments" in the subject line, together with the completed annexed forms.

Applicants are kindly invited to register by email to GROW-I1-IOD@ec.europa.eu their intention to apply. The Commission will inform applicants of the outcome of the assessment.

Any requests for additional information must be made in writing to the Commission using the following e-mail address GROW-I1-IOD@ec.europa.eu.

Further information:

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/call-expression-interest-orbit-demonstrationvalidation-iodiov-experiments_en

<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/28762>

4. /AvH/ Alexander-von-Humboldt Stiftung: Sofia Kovalevskaja Preis, Termin: 31.7.2018

Submit an application if you are a successful top-rank junior researcher from abroad, only completed your doctorate with distinction in the last six years, and have published work in prestigious international journals or publishing houses. The Sofja Kovalevskaja Award allows you to spend five years building up a working group and working on a high-profile, innovative research project of your own choice at a research institution of your own choice in Germany.

Scientists and scholars from all disciplines may apply online 31 July 2018 to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The Humboldt Foundation plans to grant up to six Sofja Kovalevskaja Awards annually. The award is valued at up to €1.65 million.

Further information:

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/kovalevskaja-award.html>
