

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020

Call for Innovation Partnership Grants with China, Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN region

Background

In 2017 the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) has renewed the Leading House (LH) mandate to ETH Zurich for bilateral collaboration with partner institutions in Asia. In the current phase 2017 - 2020, one single bilateral programme covers the entire region: China (incl. Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN member states. All activities and instruments in this phase build strongly on the activities, outcomes and experiences from the previous phases. An additional important element for this phase of the bilateral programme is fostering innovation and the application of research results to economy and society.

Goals and objectives

The third call for **innovation partnership grants** will support the establishment of cooperation between Swiss researchers from universities, universities of applied sciences or public research institutes with non-academic innovation agents in China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, South Korea¹ and member states of ASEAN² (hereafter called partner countries). These agents can be corporates, SMEs or start-ups, innovation parks or similar entities with a focus on applied sciences or technical development. The **goal of the innovation partnership grants** is to initiate long-term partnerships with mutually beneficial concrete outcomes. The project proposal must specify the expected outcomes and how they will be achieved.

Specifically, innovation partnership grants can support activities such as:

- planning a joint R&D project proposal for submission to a national or international innovation-related funding agency (e.g. Innosuisse)³
- establishing long-term consulting or training partnerships between two institutions (e.g. management training for an Asian innovation agent conducted by a Swiss university of applied sciences)
- pilot technology or product development activities (e.g. creation of a prototype integrating Swiss knowledge)
- reverse engineering projects (e.g. extraction of knowledge from Asia for educational purposes)

The applicants have to explain how the project can generate benefits for Switzerland and the partner country in the long run. Projects must go beyond one-way transfer of knowledge.

Innovation partnerships can have a duration of up to one year. The grants do not cover research projects, salaries of doctoral students or exchange of young researchers. For these activities, please refer to the bridging grants or mobility instruments of the same bilateral programme.

Eligibility

The call is open to **all scientific disciplines and fields of research**.

¹ For Swiss applicants interested in submitting a proposal with a South Korean non-academic agent based in South Korea and active in the life sciences industry (startup, hospital, private company), the Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI) will launch a unilateral call later in the year to which interested parties can also apply.

² ASEAN member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

³ Specify the call and funding agency.

All senior scientists of Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teachers' education, as well as public research institutions, are eligible to apply. The Swiss scientist is the main applicant.

Non-academic innovation agent partners must be senior staff affiliated with a company, start-up, hospital, innovation park or similar agency in one of the partner countries. Universities from the partner country can participate as third parties.

Partnership

The mutual commitment of the partners in both countries will serve as an indicator for the strength of the partnership. This includes commitment of funds and in-kind resources by all partners. The KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships⁴ shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

Funding and Budgeting

The maximum amount for an innovation partnership grant is **20 kCHF**. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant contract and 20% after approval of the final report.

A detailed budget must be provided in the project proposal. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed activities. A financial contribution of each partner is expected and must be made explicit in cash and in-kind. Industry partners must cover their own cost.

Application

The main applicant must be employed at one of the above-mentioned Swiss institutions. Applications shall be submitted **in electronic format as one single pdf document** to Elise Nardin, ETH Zurich (elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch) with Lucia Arpagaus, ETH Zurich (lucia.arpagaus@sl.ethz.ch) in copy.

Timeline

Deadline for submission:	30 July 2020
Evaluation and funding decision:	August-September 2020
Notification and project start:	October 2020
Project duration:	Up to 12 months

Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel. The evaluation is based on the following criteria:

- Innovation potential
- Technological merit of the anticipated outcomes
- Feasibility and originality of the proposed activity
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
- Expertise and complementarities of the partner institutions and the applicants
- Contributions by all involved partners, including funding and in-kind contributions
- Potential economic benefits
- Promotion of young and female researchers

⁴ https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition---2014-



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI

Reporting

The Swiss main applicant is responsible for managing the funds and reporting. He or she must submit a final technical and financial report one month after the termination of the innovation project. Latest deadline for reporting is July 2021.

Contact

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Appendice: Application form

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020**INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS APPLICATION FORM****PART 1: General information**

Partner country	
Project title (no longer than 80 characters)	
Swiss institution	
Partner institution	
Keywords	
Intended start date	
Duration ⁵ (months)	
Total funding requested (in CHF)	

I hereby confirm that all the information given in this application and the attachments is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Place, Date

Swiss main applicant

Place, Date

Main partner from partner institution

⁵ Up to 12 months

1.1. Swiss main applicant

Family name:	
First name(s):	
Academic degree:	
Position	
Gender:	
Date of birth:	
Institution:	
City:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
Phone number:	

1.2. Main partner from institution abroad

Family name:	
First name(s):	
Academic degree	
Position:	
Gender:	
Date of birth:	
Institution/company:	
City:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
Phone number:	

1.3. Budget

Please fill in the budget table below and present the contributions of each partner (financial and in-kind). Other funding sources must be mentioned as well. If necessary, the table may be adapted by the applicant.

- A roundtrip economy ticket for flights up to CHF 2,000 per trip may be granted.
- Accommodation costs and consumables or equipment for meetings can be granted. Please indicate the estimated costs in detail.
- Partial salary costs may only be granted for the author of a joint proposal to be submitted to a larger funding agency (except salary expenditures for the Principle Investigator, which are not granted in any case).

Innovation Partnership Grant	Costs in CHF
Salary contribution ⁶	
Travel	
Accommodation costs	
Project consumables and equipment	
Workshop costs	
Total requested innovation grant	
Own contributions	
Swiss Institution	
Partner Institution	
Additional partners	
Total own contribution	
Total project budget	

PART 2 - WORK PLAN (5 pages maximum, minimum font 10pt)

- Project description and objectives including innovation potential (incl. commercialization strategy if applicable)
- Relevance and innovativeness of the topic
- Anticipated partnership objectives
- Expected outcomes including technological and economic merit
- Expected mutual benefits of the projects for both partners
- Expected impact on the Swiss economy
- Follow-up activities and long-term perspectives
- Timeframe and work plan
- Agency/funding scheme to which a joint proposal shall be submitted (if applicable)
- Intended Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreements (if applicable)
- Data access, transfer and storage between parties both during and after completion of the project (if applicable)

PART 3 – ANNEX

- CVs of all involved collaborators (max. 2 page each, included into the pdf application document)

⁶ Salary cost contributions are only permitted for the preparation of a joint proposal to be submitted to a larger funding agency (i.e. National funding agencies or EU funding schemes).