

**The Republic of Tunisia**

**Ministry of Higher Education and  
Scientific Research**

**The Republic of Korea**

**&**

**Ministry of Science, ICT and  
Future Planning**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2016**

**Under the framework of**

**Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation**

According to the Agreed Minutes of the Fourth Tunisia-Korea Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed in Seoul December 22, 2015, the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, invite Tunisian and Korean Universities, Research Centres and Institutes to submit joint proposals for Scientific and Technological research.

**1- OBJECT OF FUNDING**

This announcement aims at supporting Joint research & development projects.

Both sides agreed to implement 4 joint research projects in the 4<sup>th</sup> areas listed below:

**2- PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS**

Implemented Projects will cover the following areas:

1. Engineering,
2. ICT,
3. Energy,
4. Biotechnology.

Participation of SMEs from both countries is recommended. Korean experts will assist the research teams in the Technology Transfer/Intellectual Property/Industrialization and Commercialization aspects.

**3 – WHO CAN APPLY?**

The proposals should involve one or preferably more research entities from both sides. The joint application must include one Tunisian and one Korean Principal Investigator (PI), who would be responsible for technical as well as administrative coordination of the project and its periodic scientific and financial

reporting to the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (General Directorate of Scientific Research) and the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning.

The lead applicants should be scientists/ faculty members working in regular capacity in universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/institutes.

The SMEs couldn't be a Principal Investigator. The SMEs are supposed to fund their participation.

#### **4 – THE DURATION OF PROJECTS**

The duration of the project is 2 years with annual assessments to decide on its continuation.

The renewal for the second year depends on optimum use of the budget (more than 50%) and the mandatory submission of an annual report of activities by the coordinators.

#### **5 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Funding for each project will be maximum USD 100 thousand per annum, funded equally by each country (up to USD 50 thousand from each side). Financial support for the selected projects covers fees for implementation the joint research project, namely:

- Exchange visits of project team members
- Contract provide services (personal subcontracting)
- Small equipments, Consumables and Minor accessories.

Infrastructure equipment, project management fees, permanent staff contract and consultant fees will not be accommodated under this programme.

- Publication costs,  
All publications issued under this program (articles in magazines or journals, papers and posters at conferences and seminars, reports, oral presentations ...) should explicitly mention the support of the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning.
- Organization of joint scientific events.
  - Participation of international forums/conferences(costs can only be covered when visiting Tunisia/Korea)
  - Participation of SMEs and social-economic partners is recommended;

## 6 - GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Tunisian and Korean applicants shall write common application to be submitted to the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (DGRS) and to the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning.

The common application must be written in English.

### 6.1 Implementation Schedule

- Open Call: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Deadline of submitting the application : by June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Exchange the application lists : by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Evaluation of proposals: June/ July
- Exchange of evaluation results : by end of July, 2016
- Agreement on selected projects from both sides : by mid of August, 2016
- Announcement of Selected Projects : by the end of August, 2016
- Launch the selected project : October, 2016

### 6.2 Proposals

Submission must include the following:

- Duly filled relevant application forms available on the websites [www.mes.rnu.tn](http://www.mes.rnu.tn) in Tunisia and [www.moe.go.kr](http://www.moe.go.kr) in Korea.
- Curriculum vitae of each research team member.
- Letter of intent exchanged between the Principal Investigators of the project.
- The field of the SMEs activity and the expected impact of the project on its productivity/competitiveness.

### 6.3 Submission

The deadline for the submission of proposals on the both countries is by by **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

#### For Tunisian side:

- Principal Investigators should submit required number of copies of the identical proposal to Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (2 hard copies + 1 digital copy).

Electronic submission by the same deadline should be sent to the following address: [tuncor2016@gmail.com](mailto:tuncor2016@gmail.com)

Proposals should be submitted to the following address:  
General Directorate of Scientific Research, Avenue Ouled Haffouz -  
1030 Tunis, Tunisia.

### **For Korean side:**

- Principal Investigator should submit the proposal electronically to <https://ernd.nrf.re.kr>.

Sending hard copies of proposals is not needed.

Submission of proposal should be done by **June 8th 18:00** and approval of the PI's organization should be done by **June 9th 18:00**.(Korean local time)

## **7 – EVALUATION**

Proposals will be evaluated separately by experts designated by Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning on the basis following criteria:

- Compliance of the project with content-related focus areas and with the involved SMEs activity,
- Scientific excellence of research teams and **innovative aspect** of the project,
- Quality of the planned utilisation of the results,
- Potential scientific impact,
- Prospects for the realisation of the targeted objectives,
- Quality of the previous cooperation between the two teams,
- Initiation of new partnerships and promoting young scientists
- Adequacy of research activity with funding.

Funding decisions will be made after a final review of the applications' evaluation based on the aforementioned criteria. Only the applications deemed to be relevant by both sides will be funded.

Applicants will be informed in writing about the result of the selection process.

## **8 – LEVEL OF FUNDING**

It is the intention of the program's sponsors to support **4 joint projects**. However, the final number of projects to be sponsored will be determined based on factors such as scientific merit and budgetary considerations.

## **9- FOLLOW UP**

Each side shall submit to his Ministry an annual progress report, Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (General Directorate for Scientific Research) and Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning will ensure the monitoring of the project, its evaluation and the facilitation of technology transfer, patenting, industrialization and commercialization procedures.

## 10- CONTACT POINTS

For further information, please contact:

<b>Tunisian side</b>	<b>Korean side</b>
<p>Awatef SOLTANE MARZOUKI, Director of programs and scientific partnership, General Directorate of Scientific Research.</p> <p>e-mail addresses: - <a href="mailto:awatefsoltane@gmail.com">awatefsoltane@gmail.com</a> - <a href="mailto:tuncor2016@gmail.com">tuncor2016@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Phone : +216 71 835 351</p>	<p>Leehyen Cho Researcher, Center for International Affairs National Research Foundation of Korea</p> <p>- <a href="mailto:leehyencho@nrf.re.kr">leehyencho@nrf.re.kr</a></p> <p>Phone : +82 2 3460 5723</p>