



CALL FOR PROPOSALS
by
**The Scientific and Technological Research Council of
Türkiye
and
The National Natural Science Foundation of China**

The Call is open between July 8th and August 23rd 2024

1. Preamble

In the framework of the Protocol of Scientific and Technical Cooperation between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), universities, public research centers/institutes and companies (only for Türkiye) are invited to submit joint proposals for “Research and Development (R&D)” projects. A R&D project should focus on producing new knowledge; making new scientific interpretations or solving technological problems based on scientific principles.

2. Objectives of the Call

The aim of the call is to allow partners to collaborate internationally, and gain access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge, and expertise, in order to enhance the quality of their research and enable them to translate research and innovation into economic and societal benefit.

3. Main Thematic Areas:

Research on the following topics will be supported under the Call:

1. Chemistry (Green Chemistry)

- Use of Clean Energy and Increasing Energy Efficiency in Energy-Intensive Processes; Use of Sustainable Raw Materials
- Biorafineries;
- Blue/Green Ammonia Production;
- Blue/Green Methanol Production;
- Green Chemicals (such as Esters, Oleochemicals, Epoxies) and Synthetic Fuels;
- Advanced Separation Technologies in Green Chemistry-Membranes and Adsorbents;
- Alternative Substances That Can Be Used in the Rubber Industry;
- Production of Critical Raw Materials from Domestic Resources and Waste

2. ICT

- Artificial Intelligence;
- Mobile Communication Technologies;
- Big Data;
- Internet of Things

4. Financial Issues

Project partners will be funded by the funding institutions of the respective partner countries (Türkiye and China). The projects will be supported with grants from the national budget in accordance with the respective national funding regulations.

TÜBİTAK-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK in accordance with the rules of TÜBİTAK 1071 Programme - Support Programme for Increasing Capacity to Benefit from International Research Funds and Participation in International R&D Cooperation.

As a rule, Turkish partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 2.000.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) approximately) per project.

Chinese partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 1.500.000 RMB per project (direct cost). NSFC-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by NSFC according to its funding guidelines and procedures.

Maximum 8 projects will be funded and the duration of the projects should be maximum three

years (36 Months).

For Turkish partners, total duration of international visits should not exceed two months (60 days) per year for the each supported joint research project. In the case of bilateral travel, economic class air tickets and daily allowance shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the per diem Law No. 6245 for the Turkish partners.

The costs of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists will be covered on the following basis:

- The sending Party will meet all related costs connected with travel, lodging and allowances according to their own regulations.
- The sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists.

The projects will be monitored through progress reports and the final report by both TÜBİTAK and NSFC for its content and progress.

5. Proposal Submission

The Joint Call will be open for applications between July 8th and August 23rd of 2024 through online application systems of TÜBİTAK and of NSFC.

Turkish partners will make their joint online application via TUBITAK's UIDB-PBS online system, <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr> . For Turkish partners the system will be closed on August 23rd 2024 at 23:59 (Turkish time) and they should finalize the e-signatures until August 29th 2024 at 23:59 (Turkish time).

Chinese partners will make their joint online application via NSFC system, <http://grants.nsf.gov.cn/egrantweb/>. For Chinese partners the system will be closed on August 23rd 2024 at 16:00 (Beijing Time).

- The partners should come to an agreement with each other using their own means of communication and jointly develop and complete their project proposal before submitting it to TÜBİTAK and NSFC. **TÜBİTAK and NSFC do not match the collaborating partners.**
- The proposals should be prepared in **English**.
- Additional proposal in Chinese is required for the Chinese partners.
- Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.
- Turkish partners will make their joint online application via TUBITAK's online system:

<http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>

- Turkish partners will use E-Signature for their applications. Detailed information can be achieved via http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/281/ardeb_e-imza_yardim_dokumani.pdf. There is no need to send any hard copy to TÜBİTAK.
- Chinese partners should submit their application via NSFC grants online system, <http://grants.nsf.gov.cn/egrantweb/>. The details for the submission can be found in the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC official website <https://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab434/module1146/more.htm>.

6. The Evaluation Procedure

6.1. Eligibility Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated according to the national regulations of the funding institutions based on jointly agreed rules and criteria of evaluation. Only projects that fit to the call topics mentioned in Article 3 of this document can be funded.

For Turkish researchers, further information available at: [National Rules Document](#)

Chinese partners should follow the relevant rules and requirements of NSFC. The details for the eligibility of Chinese partners can be found in the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC official website <https://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab434/module1146/more.htm>.

6.2. Evaluation Criteria

The project proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific and Technological Excellence
- Methodology
- Project Management
- Importance of Bilateral Cooperation
- Impact

6.3. Evaluation Method

Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended timetable and the proposed budget. Project proposals shall be submitted for evaluation and approval simultaneously to TÜBİTAK and to NSFC. Each proposal shall comprise

an Application Form prepared in English and further formal and financial information according to the required form, which should be submitted to the both funding agencies respectively.

Applications which are not submitted on both sides will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/ Chinese project leaders should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching Application.

Eligible proposals will be subject to the independent evaluation by the funding agencies. Each funding agency will first establish its respective ranking list of proposals according to the evaluation result. Then a common ranking list will be developed based on a joint panel meeting organized by NSFC and TÜBİTAK with panelists recommended by the two funding agencies. The final decisions on max. 8 projects to be supported will be made by the TÜBİTAK and NSFC based on the common ranking list and within available budget.

7. Key Dates

ACTIONS	PERIODS
Application Announcement	July 8 th 2024
Deadline for Applications	August 23 rd 2024 (at 23:59 Turkish time, TUBITAK) August 23 rd 2024 (at 16:00 Beijing time, NSFC)
Deadline for E-Signatures for TÜBİTAK	August 29 th 2024 (at 23:59 Turkish time)
Announcement of the Eligible Proposals List	September 13 th 2024
Independent Evaluation Period	Beginning of November, 2024
Jointly deciding the final result (panel meeting)	Mid November, 2024
Announcement of the Results	Beginning of December, 2024

8. Contact Persons of TUBITAK and NSFC:

For Turkish Side:

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