

Call for Indo-Danish proposals for strategic research collaboration within biotechnology

- a collaboration between the Indian Department of Biotechnology and the Danish Council for Strategic Research 2010

Background

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding of October 25, 2004, the Indian Department of Biotechnology and the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation have decided to further develop and strengthen the Danish-Indian research collaboration within the biotechnological area.

This call is managed jointly by the Indian Department of Biotechnology and the Programme Commission on Health, Food and Welfare under the Danish Council for Strategic Research.

The call for proposals

Hereby, the Indian Department of Biotechnology and the Danish programme commission invite researchers from universities, research institutions and private companies in India and Denmark conducting research within the biotechnology area to apply for funding of joint Indo-Danish strategic research collaborations.

The aim of this call is for the funded project to be able to deliver considerable and tangible results at the end of the project period. Hence the *joint proposals must be based on existing collaborations* e.g. in the form co-publication, PhD exchange, project collaboration or other relevant research related activities in order to be of significant strength and importance within the field of biotechnology. The project proposal must be written jointly by an Indian and a Danish research group and specify unison and close collaboration. A responsible principal investigator, Indian or Danish, must be identified. Multi institutional networked projects with lateral partnerships clearly defined will be encouraged on the Indian side.

Projects for a period of 3 to 5 years

The Department of Biotechnology and the programme commission will support a joint strategic research project for a period of 3 to 5 years covering direct project costs e.g. research activities, research training (PhDs and post docs), courses and international conferences. The total economical frame is approx. € 2 million.

Objective

For both of the countries it is of major importance to provide solutions by means of biotechnology in order to accommodate challenges related to health, food and bioresources in a sustainable way. The objective is thus through the present joint strategic research programme to strengthen and intensify the research effort within these areas and to integrate the specific competencies of the Indo-Danish research groups involved.

Theme

Funding can be applied for within biotechnology. This includes (not in any order of priority):

- Bioresources, biological manufacturing and biological products
- Biotechnology aspects of nanoscience, nanotechnology, bioengineering, and bioinformatics
- Agriculture
 - Plants and animals
- Healthy lifestyle
 - Foods and nutrition

For general information regarding the Department of Biotechnology and the programme commission see:

Department of Biotechnology:

<http://dbtindia.nic.in/index.asp>

Programme Commission on Food, Health and Welfare:

English website: <http://en.fi.dk/councils-commissions/the-danish-council-for-strategic-research/calls>

Selection criteria and evaluation

Final decision on which project to fund will be made jointly by the Department of Biotechnology and the programme commission. When selecting proposals for funding the Department of Biotechnology and the programme commission will focus on (not in any order of priority):

- The relevance of the project (societal as well as commercial relevance), the project's effect and the quality of research, as well as the correlation between relevance, effect and research quality as three, equally weighted criteria
- The strength of the Danish and Indian research groups involved, the quality of the existing Indo-Danish collaboration, and the potential for providing added-value deliverables in a joint collaborative research project
- Integration of the Indo-Danish research activities as specified in the work plan
- Managerial and scientific qualifications and experience of the principal applicants, head of research and other key team members
- Feasibility of the research project (including management and organisation, timetable, milestones, resources and risk and contingency plans)
- The research project's strategic significance for the participating parties and the ability to leverage the collaboration expertise for expansion within the respective countries
- Form and content of the proposal

Application form, budget form and guidelines can be found via the Danish and Indian web sites:

<http://en.fi.dk/councils-commissions/the-danish-council-for-strategic-research/for-applicants/forms>

http://dbtindia.nic.in/news_management/PressreleaseDetails.asp?PressId=114&button=Edit.

Deadline and submission

Joint proposals must be received no later than September 7 2010. The jointly prepared proposals must be written in English, and should be electronically submitted as one PDF file **both** to the programme commission **and** the Department of Biotechnology:

Programme Commission on Health, Food and Welfare

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The final decision on which proposal to support will be made public simultaneous by the PCHFW and the DBT in December 2010. The funded research project is expected to start early 2011.