

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

by

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

and

INNOVATION FUNDING AGENCY BUSINESS FINLAND

The call is open between 01st November 2023 and 16th February 2024

1. Preamble

In the framework of the Protocol on Cooperation in Research, Development and Innovation between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) and Innovation Funding Agency BUSINESS FINLAND, TÜBİTAK and BUSINESS FINLAND are launching a joint call for R&D and innovation projects executed jointly by Finnish and Turkish partners. Participants from Türkiye and Finland are invited to submit joint R&D and innovation project proposals with a strong market potential aiming to produce a new product, increase product quality or standards, develop new techniques to reduce costs and increase standards, and develop new production technologies.

There must be at least one industrial enterprise from Türkiye and one industrial enterprise from Finland in a joint project.

Universities and research centers/institutes can participate in in project consortia together with industrial enterprises according to the specified rules in this document.

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. Thematic Areas

This call is especially targeting applications in sustainability of manufacturing in automotive or textile industries. Sustainability improvements can be sought for, e.g., reduction of emissions, energy efficiency, circular economy (digitalization, material efficiency and new business models), and use of novel sustainable raw materials. Applications from other thematic areas will not be considered to be within the scope of this joint call.

Automotive manufacturing related topics include, but are not limited to, the following themes: higher levels of production automations (e.g. collaborative robotics, off-line programming, autonomy in production environments such as reconfiguration of production lines or its parts), innovative value adding applications based on wireless connectivity (especially 5/6G), creating internal value from data (e.g. real-time situational awareness, demand driven operations, etc.), and utilization of AI in production (such as machine vision, production control etc.)

Topics related to textiles include product data traceability through digitalization, material efficiency through launching new alternative biomaterials (replacing petrochemicals) or commercialization of biobased or/and textile waste, designing high value products for circularity. Business models can be related to provide products as services or manufacturing by demand. Circular economy thinking pushing to include also energy, water and heat recovery.

4. Duration of the Projects

The duration of the projects should not exceed three years (36 months).

5. Scope of the Call

Acquired technological knowledge and experience serve as accelerating and guiding factors in the internalization of industrial enterprises, enabling them to develop original technologies and contribute to their participation in international markets. Basic research projects are not supported within the scope of this call. Instead, the projects, focusing to research and experimental development (R&D), technologically new or improved product and technological process innovation, are expected.

Within the framework of this call, projects with the following objectives are planned to be supported:

- Producing a new product;
- Raising the product quality of standards;
- Developing new techniques to reduce costs and increase standards;
- Developing new production technologies.

The project should have an obvious benefit and added value resulting from the technological cooperation between the participants from the both countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure etc.).

6. Eligibility Criteria

- Each proposal for a joint R&D project must be submitted by a consortium that includes at least two (for profit) organisations that are independent from each other, one eligible enterprise based in Finland and one eligible enterprise based in Türkiye.
- Turkish and Finnish-based teams must each be led by a Lead Principal Investigator (LPI).
- Each proposal should have a Project Coordinator who will be selected from the one of industrial enterprise LPIs of the proposal and this person is responsible for coordinating the whole consortium.

Finland

- The general BUSINESS FINLAND eligibility criteria and rules for funding apply for this call. Different rules apply for small and medium-sized enterprises, midcap companies (large companies with turnover < 300 M€), large companies, and research organisations. The impact of the international cooperation should be clear, and the participating companies should have a credible internationalization plan and business goals including export targets. If public research organisations are involved in a Co-innovation project, minimum three companies must also participate, at least two of which apply for BUSINESS FINLAND funding. The applicants will be advised in detail about the applicable rules by BUSINESS FINLAND contact persons prior to submitting the application.

Türkiye

- There must be at least one industrial enterprise from Türkiye, and universities and research centers/institutes can participate in a project as a partner of industrial enterprises.
- For Turkish side, in case there are two or more institutions within the same project, Turkish institutions should submit a single joint proposal. Researchers can serve as principal investigator in more than one project application within the scope of this call.

More information:

- Eligibility for Turkish team, please visit [the link](#).
- Turkish team will receive funding through TÜBİTAK 1071 Program. All Turkish researchers who apply for this Program should be registered to TÜBİTAK ARBIS (Researcher Information system) through the following link: <https://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr>.

7. Financial Issues

Financial contributions must be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations.

Finland

- There is no maximum budget limit for the project proposals, but each cost item of the project plan must be motivated, and the proposers need to have the financial capacity to execute the project. Funding from BUSINESS FINLAND is intended for challenging and innovative research, development, and innovation projects. For information on eligible costs and funding rates, please see <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding> and, e.g., <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/research-and-development/research-development-and-piloting> thereunder.

Türkiye

- There is no maximum budget limit for the project proposals, but each cost item of the project plan must be motivated, and the proposers need to have the financial capacity to execute the project,
- Turkish small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) can receive 75% of the approved budget; Turkish large-scale enterprises can receive 60% of the approved budget. Higher education institutions, their institutes, public R&D centers can receive %100 of the approved budget.

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

- The Sending Party will cover all related costs connected with travel, accommodation and daily allowances according to their own regulations and allowances.

8. Proposal Submission

- Joint Call will be open between 1 November 2023 and 16 February 2024.
- Turkish partners will make their application via TÜBİTAK's online system <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/>.
- Finnish partners will make their online application by [Business Finland online service](#). Always contact BUSINESS FINLAND first. Consultation before submitting your funding application will help you move forward faster.
- Turkish partners will use e-signature for their applications. Applications whose e-signature process has not been completed will not be evaluated. Detailed information can be achieved via: http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/281/ardeb_e-imza_yardim_dokumani.pdf.
- Applications which are not submitted on both sides will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/ Finnish project leaders should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching application.
- Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present call in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations

and procedures in effect in each of the two countries, on a non-exchange of funds basis, and subject to budgetary availability. The amount of funding available per project partner is subject to national rules and regulations.

- The proposals should be prepared in English.
- 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.

9. The Evaluation Procedure

Applications will be evaluated by the funding authorities TÜBİTAK and BUSINESS FINLAND. Each proposal received within the designated submission deadline shall pass through an administrative/eligibility check by each of the funding authorities. The administration/eligibility check procedure is defined in the respective National Rules & Regulations set forth by each funding authority. Eligible applications are moved forward to evaluation stage. Each funding authority will follow their own strategic and scientific evaluation process as defined in the National Rules & Regulations. The funding authorities will share the results of their strategic and scientific evaluation processes with each other.

The basis for the national evaluation is 1-STAGE.

A consensus meeting between BUSINESS FINLAND and TÜBİTAK will agree on which projects will be jointly approved for funding in the call. After a joint list of approved projects has been agreed, the national funding bodies will inform the applicants about the results.

Only proposals that have a signed consortium (cooperation/IPR) agreement will be eligible for funding. **TÜBİTAK and BUSINESS FINLAND do not match the collaborating partners.**

10. Key Dates

ACTIONS	PERIODS
Application Announcement	1 st November 2024
Deadline for Applications	16 th February 2024
Deadline for E-Signatures for TÜBİTAK	22 th February 2024
Announcement of the Results	July 2024

11. Contact Points from each participating country

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